



STICHTING KACEMA MUSUMA

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Board: M.A. Snoep, L. Kromkamp, N.J.M. Lige-de Bone, J.J. Snoep

Newsletter September 2024

Dear, highly valued reader,

First of all, we would like to sincerely thank all donors for their contributions! Thanks to YOUR financial support, we are able to continue the children's home and above all, make the children happy. Thanks to your donations, we can carry out projects and ideas and give the children a good education! Many thanks for that!!

You will also see QR codes in the headings of the newsletter, which makes donating even easier.

We would like to tell you what has happened in New Kacema Musuma Children's Home since the previous newsletter'23 (can be found on kacema.nl) and how the students are doing!

You will also find an extensive report of the visit Marlien Burgers, granddaughter of our board member Legien Kromkamp, did to the children's home. As an educational psychologist, she has provided us with extremely valuable information, which we can really get to work with, implement great development.



General

The maize harvest in Zambia was much lower than previous years, due to drought. The maize yield from the land of the children's home itself (normally always sufficient for a year) was also much less, forcing Sr. Maria to have to purchase more maize and of course at the now increased prices. Maize is the most important food component for Zambia, after all, their main meal, nsima (maize porridge) is made from it.

This year's drought has also impacted the electricity supply in entire Zambia. Most of the electricity is generated by hydroelectric power stations. Due to the drought, the water in the reservoirs (including Lake Kariba) is very low and this limits the amount of electricity generated.

As a result, in large parts of Zambia and therefore also Kacema Children's Home, the power supply regularly fails and/or there is only electricity at certain times.

The electricity that we generate ourselves with our solar panels, can only compensate for the "gaps" in the power supply to a limited extent. However, we have made some technical adjustments to be able to compensate for the power failure a bit better.

Irrigation project

Since a **part** of the drip irrigation in the vegetable garden became unusable due to fire, a few years ago, we have decided to have a new irrigation system installed throughout the garden and orchard. Two water wells had already been drilled on our property, from which clean water is pumped. This water is used in the house and in the garden. Vegetables and fruit are a necessary addition to the traditional food menu in Zambia, which contains too few vitamins, fibers and proteins.



A Dutch couple with a close bond with Zambia, made a generous donation to our Kacema foundation, on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary and also asked all their friends to make a contribution. Our board member Legien Kromkamp, a family of gardeners, also approached her family for a contribution. Thanks to these donations, this irrigation project could largely be financed.

The Dutch contact person of Holland Greentech, a Dutch company with a branch in Lusaka, together with Sr. Maria drew up a plan, provided clear budgets, supplied all the materials as well as good advice but above all, a knowledgeable employee who took care of the installation AND taught the two Kacema gardeners all the tricks of

the trade for using drip irrigation and sprinklers.

As well as donating a quantity of free seeds, specially developed for African conditions, increasing the variety of cultivated vegetables.

The Dutch couple also visited New Kacema Musuma Children's Home. However, this was before the new irrigation project had been realized.



Playground renovation.

A couple, friends of the sisters from the congregation, visited the children's home. Apparently impressed by what they saw, they offered to have all the playground equipment renovated and also to donate some new playground equipment so the children can enjoy themselves in their free time!



Books for the library and sportswear.

The Dutch organization **Biblionef**, which aims to provide English-language books for children, has prepared a box of books for the children of Kacema. Thanks to a couple of friends in Lusaka, the box can be sent in a container to Zambia. The transport will take place in October. The aim is to set up a good library for the children in Kacema. It is also important to teach the children to handle the books carefully and responsibly. This requires some guidance, especially in the beginning!



An acquaintance of Marlien has donated a whole range of (new) sportswear in all sizes. A Dutch sports club has merged with another sports club and the old sports outfit became redundant. This will certainly be appreciated by the children in Kacema. This package will also be sent to Zambia in the same container.

The children's well-being.

Fortunately, almost all of our New Kacema Musuma children are very healthy! That is wonderful and provides much daily enjoyment and a bright future. But unfortunately, not everyone has good health.



Bupe, a girl, one of a **conjoined twin**, is very much behind in her mental development and also has physical abnormalities. She has had an examination in Lusaka. A good plan for the future is still in the works.

Loveness had a difficult year; first a lot of eye pain, which fortunately could be solved with glasses, but then also very sick with Malaria, which caused her to rush to the emergency room. Fortunately everything is stable again and she is doing well.



Jonathan has had problems with his heart the past few weeks. He has undergone many examinations and remains at a secondary school closer to home, so that Sr. Maria can monitor him better. He will also be examined in the capital Lusaka next.

Seraphim, a deaf bright girl, is doing very well and enjoys translating the church service at her boarding school for the deaf, in sign language!

Brian has had surgery for a hernia.

Fernando, with Down syndrome, is at a boarding school, where he receives good guidance,

instead of staying at home, where there is not enough special education being able to be provided for him.

Mineva, with emotional trauma, did not do well at her secondary boarding school and now lives at home, under Sr. Maria's wings. Sr. Maria has had a customized learning program drawn up for her and she has passed her states exams.

Report on Kacema Musuma's visit to Zambia, 24-07-2024 to 09-08-2024

(By Marlien Burgers)



At the end of the afternoon I arrive at the children's home. I am enthusiastically welcomed by all the children and Sr. Maria. The children want to introduce themselves and sing a song for me. My first impression of the children is that they like to make contact with new people. They do not hesitate to touch you and to want to play with you and hang around you. It helps that I clearly indicate my own boundaries. In addition, it is very important to learn the names quickly.

The somewhat older children withdraw a bit to their own room and do their own thing. The younger kids, primary school age, want to experience everything. As soon as I take some distance, they accept this and leave me alone. I quickly notice that the children have a lot of energy and sometimes also come across as somewhat impulsive and limitless.

In the morning, the children get up on time to go to school. The little ones of kindergarten age are brought by the aunts. The other children get ready independently and walk to the school across the street. My visit to the school is incredibly interesting and educational.

It is a completely different education system than I am used to in the Netherlands.



There is one class of each 'grade' and there are on average 35 students in a classroom. The teachers teach in both Bemba and English. They use a blackboard and teach the material from the front of the class. The students then write answers in their notebooks and the teacher checks them.



I also have many conversations with people in and around Kacema Musuma, such as older children, the social worker auntie Maryanne and of course the sisters. Through the information I get from the conversations in combination with what I see and experience myself, I can increasingly form a picture of the daily routine.

One of the important things I quickly learn is that the children are not used to dealing with material in the form of games and puzzles. I have brought a number of things with me and they are very interested in them. Some want to get started right away, while others have more patience to listen to the explanation. None of the children know how to handle the materials, which results in many conversations and corrective remarks from me and auntie Maryanne. During the days that I am there, I see growth in sense of responsibility and associated behavior of (some) children. The group dynamics come across as very collective and family-oriented. The children interact with each other as brothers and sisters. This means that there are occasional quarrels or disagreements, and this can sometimes be expressed in an awkward way towards each other. But on the other hand, there is a lot of love, involvement and solidarity among each other. Everyone can and does interact with each other. The different age groups have fun interactions with each other, with older children also regularly having a caring or guiding role towards younger children.

Many games are played, the children can entertain themselves. They are very inventive in using the few materials that are available. This varies from bottle caps to making cars from bottles. At the same time, they also have moments of boredom. They then hang around and come to me full of expectation, asking what we are going to do. There is no program, outside of school. Auntie Maryanne occasionally does something with the children, such as practicing reading or with the games and puzzles that I brought along.

The children are enthusiastic about sports such as football and netball. There is a netball match on Sunday evening, in which Sr. Maria and Sr. Beatrice also participate. Furthermore, films are regularly watched, if there is electricity. This is at the initiative of the older children. They watch them in the recreation room and the atmosphere is generally friendly. When I am there, the Zambian women's team played at the Olympic Games. Unfortunately, they are not very good at this, but we watch them in the office on the large TV of the sisters. This is also a pleasant activity.



Normally, school is from eight in the morning until about half past three/four in the afternoon with an hour's lunch break in between. Unfortunately, there is no form of extra lessons after school for children who need them. During the holiday period, James, a teacher who can support with homework supervision and learning, comes. He focuses mainly on the secondary school children.

Saturday is a completely free day. In the morning, the children do household chores, such as washing clothes, tidying up and cleaning. In this, they come across as independent and responsible for maintaining the building and the surroundings. Some are more involved in this than others. After the chores, there is free time. Playing unknown games such as Fruitshake, Annemaria Koekoek and Stand in de Mand is interesting for a short time, about 10 minutes.



Dealing with the material of the games such as memory, mikado, domino and puzzles requires a lot of dedication and guidance. Everyone dives in and gets started without strategy or coordination. There are a number of kids who play sweetly and quietly, while others come across as chaotic. There is little correction by supervisors or by children among themselves. I have given a lot of time and attention to this and have tried to teach the children that if they are careful, they can play with the material for a longer period of time. In the afternoon, card games are also played occasionally, with an auntie or sister joining in every now and then.

In the second week, there are tests for the end of the semester. The school days are therefore half, until 12:30. After lunch we regularly practice with the lesson material and study together with a group. Occasionally others join.

Social worker Maryanne, works as a counselor, mental and physical health professional for the children. She indicates that there are many children who do not know how to read or write and that she is concerned about this. At school this is apparently difficult to learn because there are (too) many children in the class. The emphasis of learning at school is still very old-fashioned and focused. At school there is a lot of focus on facts and cramming. Little room for creativity indicates that it is necessary to invest in good study guidance. She also confirms my view that more attention is needed in practicing and making agreements.





STICHTING KACEMA STUDY FUND

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Board: I.C. Heining-Janss, M.A. Snoep, J.J. Snoep

Great donation!

At the end of 2023, a sympathetic donor pointed out to us the possibility of qualifying for a subsidy from the foundation "Mensen in de knel". The financial need was particularly high at the Study Fund because there are currently several students who are following a tertiary education. And it is expected that in the coming years even more young people will follow who are eligible for higher or vocational education. We immediately submitted a subsidy application to this foundation and to our great joy it was honored to receive a fantastic donation! This has contributed significantly to the aid, so we now can offer education to the young adults from Kacema, so they can stand on their own two feet afterwards. Although it is not always easy to find a job in Zambia.

Students

At the end of 2023, Zambia had to deal with a cholera outbreak and this resulted in schools and universities being closed to prevent further spread. This was extremely annoying for our two students in Lusaka and caused a learning deficit. Fortunately, we have been able to limit the damage with the necessary extra lessons, we arranged for the students.

Our students are generally doing well! We keep in good contact with the students by WhatsApp-phone. The results are also proudly shared with Sr. Maria and us, as well as the sponsor foundations.

The 3 girls, Claudina, Josephine and Hellen, who studied Health Science in Lusaka, have all completed their training in 2023-24. But apparently they still have to go to Lusaka for 2 months to pass their Professional Licensure Examination. For reasons that are unclear to us, these have been postponed for all students for the time being! As soon as they have their license certificate in their possession, they will be starting to look for a real job.

Josephine writes:

"Good morning! I'm doing great, thanks for asking! I'm excited to be back in Lusaka for the final stretch of my studies. However, I have some updates to share with you - the HPCZ exams have been suspended, so we're not proceeding with them as planned. But don't worry, we're not letting that hold us back! We're now waiting for the graduation ceremony, and I couldn't be more thrilled! It's been a long journey, but we've made it this far, and I'm ready to cross that finish line with flying colors! Thanks for your encouragement and support"

Hellen writes:

"Regarding job prospects, I must admit that the Zambian job market is tough. I'm confident that with perseverance and faith, we'll secure jobs sooner rather than later. I envision myself working in any health sector. I'm open to exploring various opportunities, from government institutions to NGOs or private healthcare facilities."



Jameson, who has chosen to join the army, has successfully completed his first training. Sr. Maria, and Sr. Mable have been to his swearing-in ceremony. He wants to become a pilot in the Zambian Air Force. He is stationed in the north of Zambia.

Kennedy and Moses started their studies this year. They both study in Lusaka. Moses studies computer science and Kennedy studies sociology. Kennedy is doing well in his studies, but Moses, although he studies hard, is having a bit more difficulty. Fortunately, he is taking advantage of extra (private) lessons.

Kennedy writes: *"My studies are actually going very well and I enjoy my studies. My hope is to work abroad after the studies are finished."*

Moses writes: *"During my secondary education I was in an ICT club where they taught us the computer basics which included computer programming and cyber security, I chose to learn computer science especially cyber security because I really want to know how certain people break into computers and mobile phones and learn how to prevent or protect them."*

