

If you have looked at our Facebook page recently (<https://www.facebook.com/SWTzkids>) you will have seen the photos from our Easter celebrations - a beautiful sunny day, and lots of fun while we celebrate the true Christian meaning of Easter.

Riziki and Fatuma made it home for the holidays from boarding school, and it was great to see how well they looked and hear how they are doing.



We had Easter-chick hunts, balloon games, elastic-band races, and plenty to eat...all in all a great day!



In the past few weeks we have had a huge amount of rain with frighteningly spectacular thunderstorms night after night. This is the time of year when we have our "long rains" - prolonged rains that the entire country relies on to fill water reservoirs and water newly planted maize crops. However, this year has seen the heaviest rains for at least 7 years and there have been several rain-related disasters around the country such as flooding, and bridges and quarries collapsing.

At SWTz we have had to shore up our walls as flooding in one of the fields to the rear of the compound was seeping through the bottom of the wall in several places, destroying the cement and threatening to bring the whole wall down. In addition the vegetable garden was flooded for several days and as a result we have lost our papaya trees and many plants. The ground was so saturated, our septic soak-away tanks filled from below and needed pumping out on a daily basis and the compound became quite stinky... The soil here is cotton soil, or "vertisol", and once saturated has poor drainage, hence the flooding problems around here (interesting article on vertisols at [www.vetiver.org/TVN\\_Black%20Cotton.pdf](http://www.vetiver.org/TVN_Black%20Cotton.pdf)).

Finally, on the road to centre, raging rivers appeared where there were none previously, and these have made the road almost unusable...if you thought they were bumpy before, driving along them now is like being on a bucking bronco!!

Thankfully, the rains have subsided and we have had a few days to dry out! Sadly we didn't take any photographs...we were so consumed with trying to control the waters and drive through the rivers without destroying our vehicle engines, we simply forgot to take pictures.

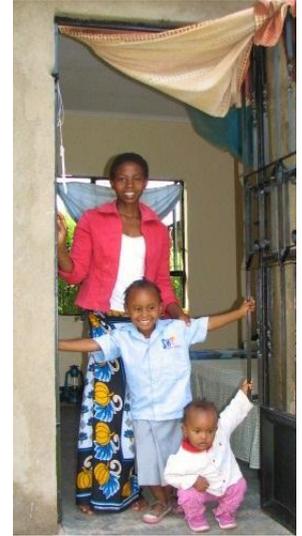
### Focus on our staff member Dorthie:

SWTz doesn't just look after children; we help our staff in many ways too. Our youngest staff member, Dorthie, who has two small children (2yrs old; 4yrs old), lives with her parents. Sadly her dad is abusive, and over the weekend she was badly beaten in an unprovoked attack and he threatened her with further serious actions. Last month we had given her a small loan so she could purchase a mattress, and in time she was planning to buy a bed frame. Her dad cut up her new mattress and burnt it.



She is too scared to report him to the authorities, and she has no option but to leave home.

Our other staff rallied together and we are all trying to help her start life afresh in her own home. Right now that means renting a single room, close to the SWTz compound, where she can start to collect the equipment she needs (bed linen, cooking pans etc etc...). A neighbour has already given her a bed frame and mattress.



She has worked at SWTz for a few months now but it is her first real job, she is very young (and as an unskilled apprentice she doesn't get a huge salary), plus she is supporting her two children and doesn't have any savings.



So, SWTz has agreed to purchase the basic equipment she needs, with the agreement that as she can, she will repay the amount we have spent on her. SWTz has paid the rent for 3 months for the room she is going to rent. We know it is a big challenge for her to be able to pay for the things she needs for her house...

Dorthie is starting life afresh in her new home. She will face many challenges over the next few months, but we know she can make it, and she has a great support system within SWTz to make sure she succeeds.

Dorthie's elder daughter, Rhianna, who attends SWTz Nursery School, is thrilled with the new accommodation and has told he mum that she is happy they are safe now and grandpa can't beat her mum anymore...

Birthdays in March & April: James (7); Faidha (10); Frida (5); Asha (3); Fatuma (16); Kanuti (23)

Finally, we have news of two SWTz alumni:

Hamis returned home to live with his father two years ago. He has now completed primary school and is studying at secondary level.

Johnson left our care last year and is now studying gemstone cutting which he hopes will lead to employment (Arusha is the world HQ for the tanzanite gem trade, the stones being mined in the hills near here). He still wants to be a pilot, but knows he needs to save a lot of money before he can begin pilot-training. He is doing really well - we caught up with him at his sister Careen's visiting day at Star High boarding school.

*Johnson with Careen (and Riziki) at Star High*



**Thank You for helping to make a difference in Tanzania!!!!**