

May was unusual in that not very much happened! That's good! Children went to their schools daily, staff came to work, the chickens laid eggs, vegetables and fruit grew, and the weather stayed consistently dry with just a few rain showers. June has been a more normal SWTz month with small building projects happening, and some of our children home for school holidays

Our only blip in May was that little Frida needed surgery for a prolapse, an existing condition she had come to SWTz with, and which was becoming serious. This turned into quite a traumatic time for her, as she is terrified of needles, and she struggled with all her might when the doctors and nurses tried to take a blood sample, or give her anesthetic. Staying in hospital in Tanzania is a little different than going to hospital in a 1<sup>st</sup> world country. Family members are expected to stay overnight with children (sleeping either in the same bed or on an uncomfortable chair), and are expected to take patients to the toilet, to bathe them, and help them eat etc. Wendy volunteered to spend the two nights in hospital with Frida, but got little sleep (the cleaners work at night, so there was a lot of noise in the corridors), and Frida's room looked out onto the hospital generator which ran during the night when the mains power went off!

On a positive note, the surgery went well and Frida recovered quickly, though for a few weeks she was very afraid to use the toilet, to the point she was choosing NOT to go to the toilet if at all possible, and that all became rather messy as you can imagine... After huge efforts by staff, other children, and volunteers, to encourage Frida, she is now completely over her anxieties and back to her usual relaxed, happy, laughing self.

Our building work has included guttering being installed around the main buildings in our compound to stop rain erosion and enable us to harvest rainwater, financed by Rotary International; installing noise-reducing ceiling boards and repainting classes in the nursery school (thanks to funding from the UK); installing an additional fun swing set in the nursery (funded by a visitor!).

The highlight of June was taking our younger children to the annual Andre de Kock Memorial Horse Show, where they not only had the opportunity to see some beautiful horses at close quarters, but also had a short ride on a very friendly pony. Quite a big thing if you have never seen a horse except in pictures...

Many of you may have heard about the recent bombings in Arusha. One at a Catholic church, and one a month later at a political rally. Several people were killed including children. Tanzania has a reputation of being one of the most peaceful countries in Africa, and that is still the case. However, there are some factions who are inciting violence. SWTz children and staff are safe in our peaceful compound in our peaceful village, and do not feel under any threat. We are staying away from large crowds, and praying for peace, especially as the country starts gearing towards national elections in 2015.

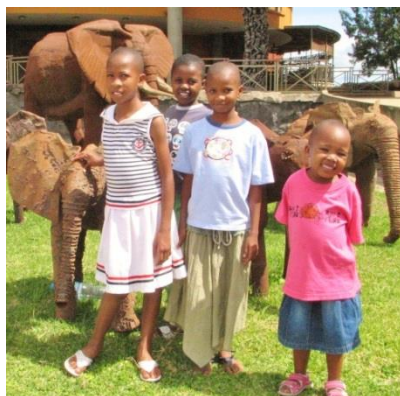
Birthdays in May & June: Riziki (15); Neema (8); Joshua (21); Anderson (14); David (11); Sandekei (6)



*"My first horse ride"*



*Right: A visit to Cultural Heritage Art Gallery; the new swing set being tested!*



*Below: Mariam and her favourite food, chicken and chips; Fatuma with Mahija and staff member Amina at a school visit; A visit from Project's Abroad Volunteer Agency*



*Left: When the rains came...a river where there wasn't one before. It has since disappeared again and we are back to dust everywhere...*

*Right: new guttering, whoo hoo!! Come on rain!!*



### **Medical Insurance...**

One of the big issues of being in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country is healthcare. This year we have had one child needing an operation which cost \$300/£200. A couple of weeks ago, another child had suspected appendicitis - thankfully this turned out to be a different problem and didn't need surgery. We take our children to the better clinics and hospitals, because they deserve a proper diagnosis and good, caring treatment. But it can be expensive (relatively, for here), especially if a child does need an operation.

In our search for an affordable medical insurance scheme (actually we were looking for a scheme for our employees, as we don't like them choosing cheaper clinics and being mis-diagnosed), we have found a provider who will give complete cover for our children at a cost of \$30/£21 per child per annum. Now, that's a bargain! We will have access to the best hospitals in town, and we will be assured that the diagnoses and treatment we get are accurate. We have 17 children we need to cover (as some are already under different schemes through their education providers), so we need an additional \$510/£357 in our annual budget for this. You know we don't ask for help very much...just a thought...

Finally, SWTz is one of the founder members of a new Arusha-based network of NGOs caring for children in Tanzania in areas such as education, residential care etc... The network is called CCON (Child Care Organisations' Network), and our vision is to have a greater voice together to see positive change in Tanzania, as well as pooling our skills, ideas, and other resources to help one another become more excellent at what we do. SWTz is on the board - we are excited about this new challenge and opportunity!

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