

What a season! Between October 2023 and April 2024, Seeway Tanzania and Nord Anglia Education partnered together to change thousands of lives in northern Tanzania through their Community and Service Projects.

In total, 511 students and 83 teachers came to Tanzania, and worked together with Seeway Tanzania's 18-strong team.

Service Project

The service project this season was based at Dolly Primary School, Dolly Village, Maji ya Chai. Dolly Primary School is a government (public) school with 350 students, who were being taught in 50 year old crowded classrooms, often sitting on the floor as the number of desks were inadequate. The main strands of the project were building 4 new classrooms, a complete toilet block, constructing 50 wooden desks, and providing school lunches for the students.

Toilets:

Clean safe toilets should be standard in all schools worldwide, but too often toilet blocks in Tanzanian public schools are old, unsafe, and the soak-away tanks are full. This was the case at Dolly Primary School, plus there were not enough toilets for the number of students. The toilets at Dolly Primary were built many years ago and the walls were crumbling, with the male students standing at the door and peeing in from there. Most days there was urine running out of the door. The girls toilets were no better. On a sunny day the smell was unbearable.

So we built a new toilet block for Dolly Primary School accommodating male and female students with 6 stalls per side and wheelchair ramps. We installed a water tank so there is running water to all toilets to flush and wash hands. A new soakaway tank was dug by local villagers, and we covered it with a cement top, and installed with proper plumbing to ensure safety.

The new toilets are already in use, and we have heard students are transferring to Dolly Primary from other nearby schools because a) there are clean safe toilets, and b) there is lunch at the school every day.



Classrooms:

We have built 4 new classrooms, each to government specifications and with wheelchair ramps. They have been inspected by government engineers and it is planned they will be ready for use by 1st July 2024. Each classroom will accommodate up to 40 students, so that's 200 each year. We expect the classrooms to last at least 50 years (the age of the current classrooms), so that's a minimum of 8,000 students affected.

Nord Anglia Education students dug foundations, laid rocks and stones, mixed cement for the foundations and the walls, laid bricks, installed windows, and plastered walls, guided by the Seeway Tanzania professional builders. They worked hard, coping with a lot of different types of weather from heavy rain to blazing sunshine.

The classrooms have their rooves on now, and builders have finished the final plastering and floors. The classrooms are currently being painted, and glass is being installed in windows - they are looking beautiful and are ready to handover to the school.



School Lunches:

Due to unusual weather patterns the last few years, most families around Maji ya Chai have not been able to grow enough food to sustain their own lives let alone contribute to school lunches, so students are expected to study all day at school with no food at all.

By selling local donuts (maandazi) to Nord Anglia Education students on the second day of the service project, Seeway Tanzania raised enough funding to purchase maize and beans sufficient for 60,000 student meals for Dolly Primary (enough for 1 year) plus 30,000 student meals for Nazareti Primary School.



This is making a significant difference, not only to students who will be able to study better if they are not feeling hungry, but also to school attendance (students are more likely to attend if there is

food available), and student intake as students are transferring to Dolly Primary School from other schools where there is no school lunch.



Desks:

We built 50 wooden desks during the season to begin to alleviate the problem of students sitting on classroom floors. Each desk accommodates 2 or 3 students, so these will make a significant difference. The desks come in kit form, and Nord Anglia Education students had to work together in teams of 4 to work out the process to put pieces together, and use wood glue, nails and hammers to make sure the desks were strongly built and sturdy and safe for young students to use.



Community Projects

The community project is based, as it says, in local communities, working together with families who are living in an unsustainable and vulnerable way. Working together with village officials and government officers, we research the families needing the most help who will be able to benefit from our help. Quite often this will be a single mother with young children, but it may also be older people who are not being supported by their families in any way.

Teams spend a day with a family building a goat shed and supplying a female milking goat; installing a solar system; and building a smokeless stove. These 3 strands of the project can make a significant difference to a family, especially if managed well. The goat can provide milk (highly nutritious especially for children) and can be used for breeding and the offspring can be sold; the solar system provides security and light for studying plus a USB port in the battery for charging phones, radios and other small equipment; and the smokeless stove is safer and healthier than using an open fire and uses less firewood so it's better for the environment.



Each season we select a different area to focus on. During the 2023-2024 season we concentrated on villages in Maroroni Ward. In total we built 56 goat sheds split between 5 different villages: 27 in Kilimamoja Village; 6 Tanesco village; 6 Nazareti Village; 4 Zaire Village; 13 Maroroni Kati Village.

Teams had to use saws, measuring tapes, hammers, nails, and follow instructions to construct goat sheds using pre-delivered timber (poles and 3 different styles of planks). They also had to follow instructions to install a 3-light solar system. Finally, the stoves were made from local bricks and a soil/ash/manure mix.



There is always opportunity to ask each family about their life, and how the project is going to help them. This is one of the most rewarding days during the expeditions.

Donations:

We were so thankful for all the donations brought by teams. We have been able to donate so many teaching aids to Dolly Primary School: boxes and boxes of arts and crafts equipment; stationary including exercise books, pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, chalk; footballs; and clothes and shoes. We were also given financial donations we used to buy more supplies including text books.

For the community project families we have given out sleeping bags, towels, blankets, clothes, candy. These donations make a real difference to the recipients and we are very grateful.

Finally:

There was plenty of time for interaction with children and families, and also time for fun.



What an amazing season! So many lives reached in a positive way. Thank you again Nord Anglia Education school teams and the expedition team for all your hard work. Looking forward to the 2024-2025 season!