

Education is about progression, from the lowest level, step by step, until the individual reaches his or her objective level, in most cases as high a level as can be possibly achieved. The same is true of educational institutions and Kilima Hewa is no different. When Simpson Millar solicitor Sarah Grogan contacted Communication Workers' Union Humanitarian Aid (CWUHA) in 2006 advising us of a possible educational project in Moshi, in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro in North East Tanzania (in East Africa), teaching was being carried out under the trees on the farmland of Mr Massawe, a qualified teacher who had returned home to farm on the passing of his elderly parents.

The original school which Sarah attended comprised of one small room, which was part of the farm that Mr Massawe and his family worked; to support the education of about 30 children, it was far from ideal. An estimate was obtained to build a larger room on the side of the farm building. Sarah agreed to facilitate the transfer of money and to supervise the work to be carried out by local labour. The work was completed well within the estimated cost, an extremely modest amount in British terms, and photos were supplied by Mr. Massawe. Now 60-90 children could be given the fundamental right of an education, free of charge.

Three CWUHA trustees visited the Moshi School in the following year (2007). The trip was part financed by the trustees supported by a donation from BT. This trip gave the trustees a chance to experience at first hand the essential work that was being carried out by Mr. Massawe and many European/American volunteers who taught at the school. In 2008 CWUHA purchased desks, school equipment, books and

other materials to enable the school to function efficiently. It seemed at that time that Mr. Massawe had become a victim of his own success in that he was now being inundated with appeals for school places. Once again the school's facilities were inadequate and there was a request to CWUHA for the building of a further classroom, which has subsequently been completed. The provision of the third classroom has enabled many more pupils to



attend this little gem of a local community institution. During a recent trip to Tanzania, Roger Jones former trustee and Alex Pearson CWUHA Project Manager discussed with Mr Massawe, the immediate needs of the school and how we could best add value with the limited amount of funding that we had made available thanks to trade unionists in Wales and CWUHA. There were also discussions around the medium to long term aspirations of this school project and where possible funding may be requested in the future. Although Mr. Massawe's long term aspirations are to extend his school by more classrooms in order to reach his goal of being able to educate his pupils from the day that they join his school up until they pass exams to enable them



to go onto state funded further education, he had immediate needs. To help alleviate this problem the trustees agreed to fund the provision of one extra teacher and also sponsor ten extra school pupils for the forthcoming financial year to the end of 2013.

Alex and Roger on self-financed trips to Moshi in 2011, 2012 initially to purchase materials for the school also discussed the possibility of CWUHA assistance in encouraging volunteers to visit Tanzania to offer their help as teaching assistants. This would entail checking the work of the pupils, reading to them and generally interacting with them on a daily basis. It is essential for the future of these children that they spend time reading and speaking in English, the language of the tourism industry in Africa. Mr Massawe said that; **"I would welcome them with open arms as the greatest need was for the pupils to be able to listen and respond to the English language as spoken by English speaking people"**

Andrew Towers, a researcher in CWU H/Q and Mike Furbur, a Preston postman and member of the CWU North Lancashire and Cumbria Branch were the first to visit Kilima Hewa as teaching assistants travelled to Moshi last November. He was assisted by his Branch, found the experience really rewarding and would do it again if the opportunity arose. He wrote to his Branch saying **"And a big thank you from me as it really is a privilege to see the resources being purchased and then being used in the classroom the next day."**

Furthermore, the installation of the supply of electricity to the farm and school buildings by CWUHA in 2010 has made a real difference. This has meant that teaching can be done out of school hours and this facility has seen the school being used as a lifelong learning hub for the whole community. This function can only develop further if there is more teaching staff available and it is hoped that more out-of-hours use will be catered for in the coming years.

The electricity also allowed Mr. Massawe, with the help of CWUHA once again, to purchase and keeps warm 200 laying chickens. The resulting eggs are used to give the children at least two eggs per week which will supplement the one bowl of porridge, per pupil, per day that the maize farm supplies.



2014 saw **CWUHA** enter into a partnership at the Kilima Hewa school with an Australian based charity called **The Koala Project** see: <http://www.thekoalaproject.org> This cooperation has resulted in the building of two further classrooms making it now possible for Mr. Massawe to apply to the local authority for permission to open the school up to primary students, 7-11 years, as well as retaining the present kindergarten. One of the farms outbuildings has been converted and refurbished, at a very high standard. This will now become an orphanage for local children whose parents have both died of Aids. Susan Massawe, the headmaster's wife has now become the surrogate mother to five beautiful children who will eventually become part of the schools everyday life.

In November 2015 the CWUHA Trustees decided to send Ray Atkinson and Alex Pearson to Kilima Hewa for an "on the ground" fact finding trip in order to ascertain what more could be done to help with the children's education over the next few years. They were joined by Julia Upton CWU National Executive Officer, and Josune Aluruz CWU member. During their stay all of these volunteers were a great help in assisting the two local teachers with the children's education. The children returned their efforts a hundred fold with love and the most beautiful smiles every time they entered a classroom.

If you feel you can assist this extremely successful African project in any way, or need advice and guidance on how to proceed, please contact CWUHA Project Manager Alex Pearson on the following numbers 0161 969 5262 or 07834 877640 or on e-mail at alexcwuha@btinternet.com



HOW CAN YOU HELP!

- ✓ By asking your Branch or Region to affiliate to CWUHA
- ✓ By identifying Branch Members who may wish to help out at the school
- ✓ By fund raising to help sponsor children who otherwise would not get the opportunity to go to school

There are enough barriers in the way presently in Tanzanian education, yet children still arrive at the school an hour before it opens for lessons, so they can play on the swings provided by CWUHA. Many will have walked as much as 5 or 6 kilometres to get to the school, sometimes in the wet season, and many will have not had a breakfast before arrival. The picture below is a photograph of Mr Massawe and a group of pupils sponsored by CWUHA



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COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION HUMANITARIAN AID

SPECIAL REPORT



THE DEVELOPMENT OF KILIMA HEWA SCHOOL, MOSHI, TANZANIA