

March 2010 at HAPO Tabora, Tanzania.

The Meals Programme feeds a group of vulnerable and orphaned children in Tabora, Tanzania who attend an outreach centre for street children called HAPO. Each day the children are provided with a hot meal, often the only meal they will get that day. This provides much needed nourishment and strength to help the children attend school and hopefully give them a brighter future, away from life begging on the streets. The food is bought and cooked every day by Adela and Deus, two Tabora residents. The programme is reliant on kind donations. Therefore, if you would like to help please make a donation to "Tabora Meals for Children Trust" Barclays Bank, UK, Sort code: 209748 A/C No. 03224031 and contact Siwan or Margaret (siwan.g@hotmail.co.uk)

After a long time with neither swing in action we found rope and Deus fixed one swing. When children came they were delighted and took turns:



On the right, happy to be again in the HAPO fold after disappearing back to his former street life for two months.



Hygiene is no longer a problem with new jugs and bowls and Adela being vigilant about hands being washed before lunch. The children eat without cutlery so a wash with soap and water is important. The rice, beans and greens were eaten with relish as usual. The children needed to build up strength for sports after lunch.

The Meals Programme is providing the lunches and salaries for Adela and Deus. The menu varies and meat is cooked two days a week, it is very popular but expensive.

A bar of soap is given out each Friday for hygiene and clean clothes at home.



The Board of HAPO met on 5th March and was impressed with the ongoing work of the Centre especially the Meals Programme for the 25 children who attend daily. They welcomed news of the 21 children that are sponsored to attend private boarding schools and the further 16 attending private day schools. The Board is offering practical help to the HAPO staff in proposed income generating ventures.

Dr Sekasua, the HAPO Executive Director, works in Dar es Salaam and he has been at HAPO for a week enjoying being with the children and helping staff and Board to find ways to keep funds flowing into HAPO to support the orphans and vulnerable children in Tabora and also in the outlying villages. On Saturday, Dr encouraged the children to do some gardening and tidy up their environment.



Two rest and chat while two clear the weeds. Opposite is the butchers (the rightmost shop) that sells us meat for 2 lunches per week



Down in the ditch the new growth after the rains is tackled manfully.

Looking to the future:



Local donations gave the kids rare treats: an egg at home time one day, and another week, a banana with lunch. (Lunches are laid out on the kitchen floor ready for the children). The Meals Programme Trust needs to decide if we can afford to make one or both of these treats into a weekly event.



We hope that in the next few weeks we will manage to choose 5 new children from the long list of those who need to join HAPO. The new children will attend daily for meals and receive all that is needed for them to attend school regularly. Their health will be monitored and looked after.

We all look forward to the boarding school children coming back at the end of March for 2 weeks holidays. All 55 children will be fed daily through the Meals Programme. Siobhan, an ex volunteer from Northern Ireland, arrives on 10th April to work on income generating for a year and will keep a watchful eye on the Meals Programme, while Margaret goes back to the UK for a few months. Emma will be staying on for a few more months teaching and caring for the kids with Mama Sekasua.

If you would like to come and visit or volunteer for a while, or sponsor a child, or help other aspects of HAPO, please email hapo_tabora@yahoo.com. If you would like to help finance the children's Meals Programme please make a donation to "Tabora Meals for Children Trust" Barclays Bank, UK, Sort code: 209748 A/C No. 03224031