



TANZANIA
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“Will you help build a Dispensary* in my Matongo valley?” says fourteen year Ghati Marwa

“I remember when I was 8 years old, I was sick and, my mother carried me

on her back to Kiyagata Health Centre 15 km away. It’s a very steep climb over the hills and my mother was sweating a lot. When we got to the Centre, she was laughed at and was told to move away from the nurses because she had a bad smell. That was unkind but they didn’t understand she had carried me 15km. I have a dream that one day we will get treatment from our own Matongo Dispensary. Surely country people should have health care not just the people who live at the trading centres where there are roads and businesses?”

* In Tanzania, a ‘Dispensary’ is the first tier of local Health care. It is like a small hospital with a maternity ward and a room for minor operations and for mother and baby clinics.



Matongo Village lies between 2 ranges of high hills. The nearest health care facility is 15km away (as the crow flies) crossing the hills. The only road into Matongo is a cart track. Yet here and in surrounding hamlets 10,000 people live. They want their own Dispensary (Cottage Hospital) to care for the local people.



The Problems faced by the local people in Matongo Valley

- No routine immunization for babies and children. After the construction of a staff house sponsored by TDT, nurses from a dispensary 15 km away come once a month for a mothers' clinic.
- The biggest health problems are malaria, pre-natal mortality, deaths of young mothers, lack of immunisation, and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.
- Since the area is surrounded by hills on all sides pregnant mothers have to climb the high footpaths that go over the hills and may take five hours to reach the nearest dispensary. As a result many get no maternity care.
- Other chronic diseases occur such as TB and sometimes kwashiorkor, cholera, diarrhea, trachoma and scabies.
- FGM. Although the government fights against FGM, up to 90% of girls are victims. Very little girls aged four to eight years are forced to undergo FGM. As a result, they suffer a lot. Our community needs education to get change.



Above: Mothers taking children to the monthly clinic held in the Staff House funded by TDT.

Below: Where the local people have reached in constructing the Dispensary they need so much. Now they have run out of cash.



The District Government's Promise

Matongo is in Butiama District. Although the District Council can only contribute £3,000 of capital funds to build the Dispensary, the District Medical Officer (DMO) and District Commissioner are very keen to see it completed. The DMO has allocated funds to staff and equip the Dispensary and it is a priority for connection to mains electricity in 2017 under Tanzania's Rural Electrification Programme, Water is currently brought to the Dispensary and Staff House by the Donkey Cart you can see on the previous page. However the completed buildings will also have water harvesting.

How much will it cost?

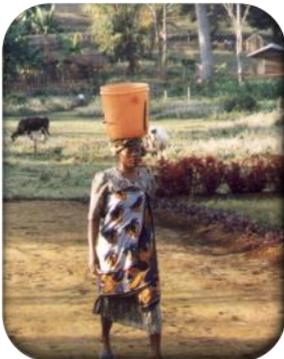
After the contribution by Butiama Council, the remaining amount to be raised is £18,000. This is far too much to be funded from TDT's normal income, without damaging other worthwhile projects, so we shall apply to some Trusts. If you would like to help, see below.



Want to know more?

The Project Officer for Matongo is Julian Marcus who will be making his third visit there in January 2017. You can contact him at:

TanzDevTrust@gmail.com



If you'd like to make a donation for Matongo, the best way is through MyDonate, which is entirely secure and where we get 100% of any donation and Gift Aid. Please go to our website www.TanzDevTrust.org or to <http://tinyurl.com/jpcbq88>. Put **For Matongo** in the message box.

Tanzania Development Trust (TDT), 4 Tichener Close,
BICESTER, OX26 2BZ