

## November 2009 in Tabora, Tanzania



The **Meals Programme** at HAPO was going along smoothly with Adela cooking for about 30 kids each day when I left Tabora on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Adela here collecting the rice and beans from the store - daughter Adina looking sleepy! By now the boarding school children will be back and she will have 50 to look after. The kids are getting tea and bread in the morning, a good hot lunch in the middle of the day and a cup of *Jolly Juice* before going home. The trust that we have set up in the UK, "Tabora Meals for Children"\* has been paying for the food, charcoal for cooking and the salaries of Adela and Deus. Deus gets the shopping and keeps the accounts. He is engaged with getting a bulk purchase of rice, maize, beans, dried fish, and sugar in before the prices go up for Christmas. There is no vehicle at HAPO now so various hand cart pushers will have to be hired for the shopping. Deus accomplishes all calmly and carefully. The children enjoy their meals, cleaning every scrap of food off their plates.



Usually the kids dine outside: girls choosing to sit separately from the boys, no cutlery is needed though Sappy has chosen to use a spoon here.



Deus and Noreen

On special occasions the staff join the kids for a meal and then the lunches are set out on the tables.



The game Connect Four has become an addiction for many of the kids and there is always a little huddle of children who want play next. The children enjoy all sorts of games and there is also always a gang around the Ludo board after Noreen painstakingly taught the game to group after group.



The **Water and Sanitation survey** of the families of our HAPO children is continuing. Deus goes to each household with a list of questions that has been carefully compiled by a civil engineer with a doctorate in water and diarrhoeal diseases and a fundraising expert. It will take some months to complete the survey and then there will be a fundraising application to a foundation. The situation is much worse than I had anticipated with, for example, 35 people sharing a loo that is just a hole in the ground with no roof. The rain at the moment is torrential most days. This is in a crowded suburban situation. Employment here is almost impossible to find, but some run some small business, like selling charcoal, tomatoes, chapattis or cooked porridge to neighbours in small quantities.

**Ahamadi**, still recovering from kwashiorkor, is now living with his great



aunt and uncle and their eight children. Their youngest Tamasha, also aged five, is his great friend. We bring the two of them to HAPO a couple of times a week and they really enjoy it. Ahmadi's head is kept clean shaven as his hair is still regrowing white due to his ongoing state of malnutrition, but he is fairly frisky and has been teaching Tamasha to do head over heels.



Ahmadi is enjoying school and he travels independently by school bus the 3 miles to the private school where Emma has enrolled him.

The family's rented house is in a sad state of dilapidation and we are trying to help out in some way.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have donated gifts to the orphans and vulnerable children at HAPO. That we have sufficient money to provide a big nutritious meal for 50 hungry children each day over this Christmas period is something to make us all cheerful.

Special mention for the senior residents of the Arboretum Club in Worcester UK for their generosity and enterprising fundraising.



Siwan Griffiths, ex HAPO volunteer, is working to set up a charity so that we can do gift aid and have continuity for the work. Her dad, Eifion, is keeping the accounts correct and Sandy Bharat is working on the bank account. Everyone is fundraising, we need more regular donations but are so thankful for the generosity of you all.

\*Barclays Bank UK Sort code: 209748 A/C No. 03224031, Tabora Meals for Children Trust