

TABORA CLEAN WATER TRUST at HAPO JUNE 2010

HAPO runs a day centre for orphans and vulnerable children in Tabora, Tanzania. After surveying our children's families to ascertain their Water and Sanitation facilities we knew that action was needed.

In the UK at the end of May, Margaret Paton met with Ray Heslop of Water Aid. He has been to Tabora and was completely aware of the situation there. We talked through toilets, rain water collection and purifying water and he gave helpful advice on all three recommending me to their book of plans. Ray was in favour of ventilated improved pit latrines as they require less maintenance than composting toilets. She also met with Daudi Bikaba, of OXFAM. He was in favour of composting toilets, clay lined bucket water filters and ferro cement rainwater tanks. He also gave us a most useful book "Excreta Disposal". Both said that we should contact their local offices in Dar es Salaam.

In June in Tanzania, Emily Rubenstein, our water and sanitation advisor from New York, and Margaret, both self funding volunteers, arrived in Tabora to join the HAPO staff in work on the Water and Sanitation project.

CLAY LINED WATER FILTERS

We bought 10 complete clay filters and one new liner from Simba Clay, the pottery run by blind potters in Tabora. Water collected from any source can be poured into the clay liner of the bucket and will emerge much purer from the tap at the bottom of the outside plastic bucket. Simba Clay will repair any of our existing purchases of clays that need attention.



Between June 5th – 15th the new clay filters were distributed to families that were not part of HAPO during the distribution carried out by Elisabeth Hansen 2 years ago. Deus, (pictured above) Emily (pictured below), Margaret and some children helped with the distribution. With the clays we distribute soap and soft brushes/sponges for keeping the clay liners clean. Soap is distributed weekly as part of the HAPO Meals Programme. (Below and left are 10 families receiving their new water filters.)





The Siku Ya Wazazi (Guardians Day) on 19th June was a celebration of the childrens' achievements. During this occasion the guardians were reminded of the importance of clean drinking water. They were asked if all had now received Clay Water Filters and told that if they had any problem with their filters they should bring them back to HAPO for repair or replacement. Several were

brought in during the next few days and this work of repair and replacement is now on going.

NEW LATRINE

We went to visit a grandmother (Bibi), seated in the centre of the picture on the right. She looks after her orphaned grandchildren. Emily, Deus and Margaret discussed first what our approach to the visit would be. We were to offer her either a rainwater collection facility or a toilet. Deus would explain and tell her she could take her time to decide what she wanted. She was not expecting us but was delighted to see us. Deus



explained and finally said that she had plenty of time to chose, "I want a toilet" she responded. We explained that she should think about it and talk to her family. She smiled and shook her head, "choo" (Swahili for toilet).

We walked around and visited her loo, (see left) a hole in the ground with a metre high fence on three sides constructed of sticks and old sacks and some dried grass. She has a small garden for vegetables.

Back at the office, consulting our reference works from Water Aid and OXFAM and seeking advice from Emily and a teacher of building at the local Vocational College we started to design the toilet for Bibi. Eventually drawings with measurements were produced. (See right)



Deus and Bibi agreed on the exact site of the proposed toilet and adjoining bathroom, which will be an empty room with floor sloping to a drainage point, no plumbing, as there is no piped water at the house.



Discussions with a builder produced an estimate which was higher than we had expected partly due to the high price of cement in Tabora. Another builder produced a very similar estimate. The Municipal Executive in charge of Public Health, Mr Nkyami, came and looked at our plans and he thought the quotes were high. He advised discussing with the local Ward Executive which we did. We thought it would save money if Deus did all the procuring and supervision. Bibi meanwhile was ready to help in any way and found two neighbours to dig the pit. The project will proceed in this way employing local experts and buying bricks made locally with Bibi and Deus working together to ensure the work is good and affordable.

Visits to the Dar es Salaam offices of OXFAM and Water Aid were made at the end of June but no grants are available for us currently. The struggle to find money to improve the Water and Sanitation facilities of our HAPO families continues. Any offers of help gratefully received. See our website www.hapotabora.net Donations to "Tabora Clean Water Trust" Barclays Bank UK, Sort Code 20 97 48 A/C No. 63973964