

Agriculture Report

The report has been written by Joshua and Edwin who work together in the agriculture team at Imprezza.

The week activity started by weeding of the crops planted i.e. green grams, squash, spinach and cowpeas respectively. Some of them need water for the soil is rocky that it cannot hold water for a long period, in that case we need to water them which we are doing. We are still extending some plots bit by bit for planting cassava, Irish potato, sukuma wiki, spider weed and cowpeas. We had started transplanting kales from the bed to plots and they are doing well.



Kale and prepared plot to plant into

We had an agricultural officer from the ministry of Agriculture, Matayos sub county, Mr Buluma who came to see what we are doing after we paid a visit in their Office and left an appointment. We took him around to see the project and some varieties we've already planted. He was amazed and promised to link us with other sectors dealing with agriculture like PALWECO, GIZ, IPA, WRCC, REPSO and many others for us to achieve the objective of having a training center in the division for surrounding community to access the service easily.



Edwin and Mr Buluma inspecting the plots

Girl Power!

TGGS has been a supporter of Imprezza since it began 10 years ago. The funds they have raised (along with all fundraising by many individuals) has helped in times of great need. As spoken of in previous updates since September there were some urgent medical issues which arose. Girls from the school stepped in when they heard.

One girl donated funds to pay towards Laureen's ante-natal care and the safe delivery of the twins! The World Challenge girls who visited Imprezza in the Summer immediately had a collection and raised another £300 pounds which was sent. In addition the girls have just held a Christmas Bazaar and raised another £700 for Imprezza which will be used for medical. In total TGGS have sent over £2,000 to help with medical needs. Our thanks from the UK and Kenya go to all at the school with special mention to Larissa Dempsey, Courtney Clark and Emma Dilley. South Dartmoor have just become involved and we are grateful for their support also. Below is a message recently received from Catherine.

There are a lot of girls to thank but Larissa Dempsey and Courtney Clark at TGGS have renewed my smile. Abi Cowell of Dartmoor College is another one. They are full of energy and going beyond rules to save fellow teenagers in Matayos. Please thank them for their generosity and kindness. Our prayers to all of you women of God is that we stand bold where we have been intimidated, we become a voice for the voiceless and we live a legacy that our fourth generation will get still living on.

At the moment without people responding to these needs then the outcomes could be so very different. Thinking of how it changed for Laureen knowing that she could go to a good hospital for ante natal and to give birth improved not only her but the twins chances of survival. Catherine said she was so brave, but knowing she had this support helped her in so many ways. If you feel you could fundraise in any way, such as a coffee morning, please do get in touch we would love to hear from you.

Our Mission is to enable students, both boys and girls, who would not otherwise have any access to secondary or decent primary education to succeed.



Student Stories

Joseph Wamukoya

Operation Imprezza

Self sustaining, equal-access education in Kenya

www.operation-imprezza.org

Registered Charity Number: 1148240

I have collated a collection of students' stories from the school which will feature in newsletters. They are typed as they are written.

My name is Joseph Wamukoya a student at Imprezza Academy, in Form two. I was born in the year 1996 in Busia County. I am the second born child in a family of six children whereby am the eldest son. In year 2002 I joined an early childhood education (ECD) at Bwamani Primary School where I proceeded to Class One in 2003.

My parents who are peasant farmers were unable to take me to a good school since they could not afford the school fees. I led a life of poverty where I walked barefooted for long distances to and from school since all along my primary life I was unable to afford most basic necessities of life entitled to all children.

Sometimes life becomes more unbearable that I went without food due to the little ability my parents had. This was due to my father's irresponsibility in taking care of his family as the overall head of the house. He could leave home and stay away for quite sometime where neither we nor our mum knew where he was and what he was doing. He also came home sometimes drunk and had so many quarrels with my mum, which brought about a lot of chaos in the house. Despite this fact and other challenges I faced I never thought of quitting education and I kept on working hard to acquire academic knowledge.

Due to the difficulties I was going through I decided to go and stay with my aunt who stays in the neighbouring village in the year 2008, when I was in Class Six. I did this so as to have a conducive and favourable environment to suit my education. In the year 2010 I sat for my Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (K.C.P.E) which I performed very well. The year after I was to join high school but we had no money and no one was willing to aid me to continue with my education. I stayed at home for the whole year without going to school helping my parents with the household chores, feeling very unhappy as my fellow friends were in school.....

.....In the year 2012 I was told about Imprezza Academy by my friend and I went to request for a chance. I was offered a chance by Madam Catherine Omanyo and she offered to help me throughout my secondary school life. I have gained a lot of help and support and I still need more. I pray for all the well wishers together with Madam Catherine for what they have done as I work so hard so as to realise my career and get better grades in the future. I want to be successful and come back and help the needy in my community as well as the Imprezza community.



Joseph Wamukoya



Laureen with Catherine and Lesly

New Arrivals!

As you are aware one of our students, Laureen, safely delivered twin girls on 7th December. This is just a brief update on her situation taken from the emails received from Catherine.

The labour went well with Laureen showing great bravery and strength. Catherine and Rose were amazed at how well she did. Laureen has named the girls Catherine and Lesly. As the temporary accommodation was not suitable we are now supporting them in a simple room. Although she is not getting much sleep, they are all doing well. A couple of the students from the school are giving some general support. We will keep you updated on their progress.

Christmas and New Year at Imprezza!

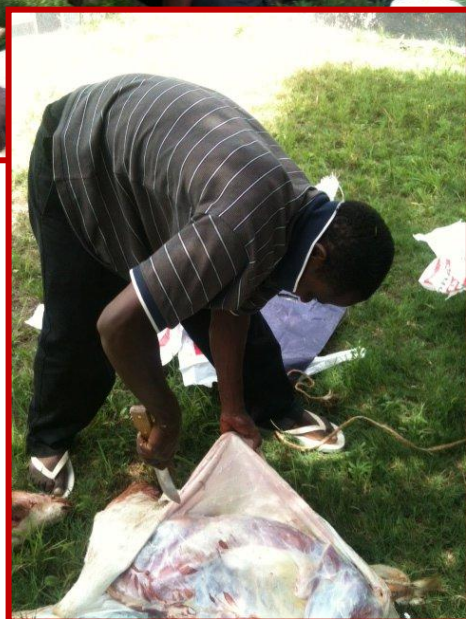
Catherine has sent some photos which I hope will give a flavour of how the holiday is celebrated at Imprezza. Catherine and Rose's children joined them for the holidays along with many students past and present and children in the local community.

They provide their entertainment such as, dancing, singing and poetry. Gifts are given on Christmas Day which are all home made and happily received.

To celebrate New Year a goat was slaughtered and prepared by some of the students along with Sandra (one of Catherine's twin girls) BBQ goat is a dish served on special occasions and not something which can be done on a regular basis.



Marlene wearing one of the homemade gifts



Above; Sandra, Nelson and Fred preparing the New Year meal of goat.

Joseph skinning the goat



Lavender is reciting a poem as part of the Christmas celebrations. She has been sponsored by a student from South Dartmoor College

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Medical Issues (Updated)

In the previous newsletter we mentioned some of the serious medical issues currently at the school. These illnesses are ones which could occur anywhere in the world. A major difference in Kenya to the UK is that unless you are able to pay for treatment then none will be given. The various medical treatments have taken a large chunk of funds recently (around £3,000)

We are busy raising funds to assist the most urgent cases. These include:

- Helon, the boy with the benign tumour, has had his bandages removed, but we do not know much more at the moment. He is still recovering from his operation and we wait to see if he has hearing in the damaged ear.
- The third student who was recently diagnosed with epilepsy but refusing treatment has thankfully agreed to now take medication. She has been to the Aga Khan to be assessed. We are so pleased as this is a big step against the beliefs of witchcraft.
- Sarah, the student who was badly injured when she was knocked down by a matatu, is making slow progress. She is having problems breathing, which is affecting her sleep and needs further x-rays, which cost almost £300. We are not sure if she has had the x-rays at the moment as she had an appointment on 2nd January. Hopefully these will help treatment and her recovery. At the moment she is being cared for at the bungalow by Catherine and Rose.
- We also have Josephine who was diagnosed with a blood disorder. She had undergone many tests and we are awaiting the results and treatment needed.

At the moment medical issues have to be prioritised as they arise. For example the student who has the serious road accident needed treatment that could not wait, this meant that other students who may have been waiting to see a doctor will maybe have to wait a bit longer if their condition is not life threatening. This may seem unfair or harsh at times but we only have a small amount of reserve funds to use in emergencies. This makes the life and death situation in the community so real when emergencies arise. We are so grateful to people who are willing to respond in times of urgent need. The response really does save lives. If you feel you could help maybe with a coffee morning or other fundraising activity to raise funds specifically for these urgent medical concerns please do get in touch with one of us.

How You Can Help

- **Donate online** at www.operation-imprezza.org
- **Donate via Believe** at <https://believein.org.uk/operation-imprezza/>
- **Make a cash donation** to one of the Trustees or Operation Imprezza collection boxes around South Devon, (if you know an establishment that would be willing to have a box on display, please get in touch)
- **Set up a standing order** – contact our treasurer Lesley Smith lesley@operation-imprezza.org for details
- **Send a cheque** payable to Operation Imprezza to 14 Elm Grove, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8SA.

Thank You