

# TSUNZA MAGAZINE

*Empowering rural areas in Kenya*

Num. 1 • SEPTEMBER 2011

[www.childrenofafrica.es](http://www.childrenofafrica.es)

## **Tsunza 4 Life Project**

Preventing HIV/AIDS  
through contests & sports

## **Children of Africa & Maisha Safi**

Their partnership & projects

## **Young Tsunza** For kids

# COA

## **VOLUNTEERS WORK CAMP**

July - August 2011

## **INTERVIEW**

**Susanna Gomez**  
**President of Children of Africa**

**KENYA EDITION 2011**

BY FADHILI FREDRICK

EDITOR - SUSANNA GOMEZ

PUBLISHER - CHILDREN OF AFRICA

*Don't miss the tips on family  
planning & youth!*



# CONTENTS

TSUNZA MAGAZINE • NOVEMBER 2011 • Volume 1

- 4 Tsunza**
- 5 Getting to Tsunza**
- 6 First trip to Tsunza**
- 7 Children's rights**
- 8 Children of Africa & Maisha Safi**

## EVENTS

- 10 Volunteers work camp**
- 12 Tsunza for Life Football League**
- 16 Tsunza for Life Contest**

## INTERVIEW

- 20 Susanna Gomez**

## KIDS

- 22 Children of Tsunza, Education in Tsunza**
- 23 Teaching at Tsunza Public Library**
- 25 Family Planning**
- 26 Young Tsunza**
- 28 Mwanarusi**
- 29 Youth in Tsunza**
- 30 Student's corner**
- 31 Sudoku puzzles**

## SPORT

- 32 Tsunza Stars Football Club**

## WOMEN

- 34 Tsunza women**
- 36 Tsunza 4 Life Women's Group**



## EVENTS

**TSUNZA 4 LIFE  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**, page 12



## KIDS

**FAMILY PLANNING**, page 25

# Update

## QUOTES

“

Blessed is the person who is too busy to worry in the daytime and too sleepy to worry at night”

UNKNOWN

“

Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do”

GOETHE

“

Be the change you want to see in the world”

GANDHI

“

Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person”

MOTHER THERESA

## TSUNZA



Tsunza, a small fishing village located in Gandini Location, Kinango district, Kwale County, Coast province, is a village trying to fight poverty under harsh conditions.

The village which is near Mombasa and yet not easily accessible due to poor roads and inadequate sea transport has suffered over the years and it is still suffering due to a combination of factors all militating against its development.

You should not be surprised if it takes you more than four hours to reach the village while getting to Mariakani, almost 36 kilometers away on the Mombasa-Nairobi highway takes one hour or even less especially before the road was devastated by the El-Niño rains. Fishermen and peasant farmers are living below poverty line.

Another problem facing the villagers is the land ownership. This is really a great challenge as most land owners do not have title deeds.

In addition, there is a large proportion of the land popula-

tion without land while others are living as squatters in their own ancestral land.

Hiv/Aids has not spared this village where the rate of infection is as high as 33%. To combat this scourge there is a great need to intensify awareness by all stake holders in the village. Infected people here must go through very harsh life conditions, as no appropriate health care is provided, proper medicines are not available and healthy diet is just out of sight.

This implies that efforts should be made to cater for the needs of the population increase, to improve health and sanitation access, and the economic constraints that come with it.

Other problems include poor infrastructure development, such as lack of roads, inaccessible electricity and high constant water shortages. The vagaries of nature and yearly droughts have left this village in constant problems due to rainfall inadequacy.



---

# GETTING TO TSUNZA

To get to Tsunza one needs a lot of patience and time. When someone lands in Kenya, one feels so astonished by everything, especially about the streets of Mombasa that you don't even realize of the time passing by.

It is already midday when you get to the boat. The way is peculiar and strange. After crossing Mombasa on a *matatu* (public van), rushing crazily without signs, lights or indicators, you get to Miritini and start going down to Mkupe along a very dangerous but breath-taking path. You get to the boat mall and wait until it gets completely full with passengers.

Finally you get to Tsunza after a 30-minutes boat ride along the Mwache creek and after a 15-minutes walk you get to Nigamba, a community within

Tsunza. Tsunza being the heart of the projects of COA, seems to have the appearance of an indigenous village, spotted by mud houses with palm roofs called *makuti*, surrounded by the highest palm trees. A small paradise...

For a visitor in the village for the first time, the first image that comes to one's mind is the image of the eyes of the villagers staring with a mixture of curiosity, ingenuity, and surprise. The smell in the village is different, feelings are different, and life is different. Surprisingly, being in the same planet, we look like complete strangers from different worlds.

The eyes of the villagers will tell you everything without the need of being told anything. The villagers are

friendly and generous, they live every moment as if it was the last one.

Living in Tsunza means a lot for the visitors and to share with the people of this beautiful village. Within a very short time, one will learn how to cope with the village life, with no electricity, no constant water, no floored rooms, mud walls, ducks, cows and hens, no TV, etc. The most fascinating thing is that a visitor will learn how to share without complains, how to dig trenches in the garden using the traditional methods of farming.

However, the vision of the villagers differs a great deal from that of the visitors. As a child growing up in Tsunza, I was very much aware of the needs of Tsunza: no good houses, no businesses, no electricity, no good roads, no quality education, etc. Now, it is up to the villagers to wake up for the better of "Tsunzanians". Above all, Tsunza needs "Tsunzanism", a unity that will hold the villagers together for common specific measurable goals.

**By Fadhili Fredrick**





# THE FIRST TRIP TO TSUNZA

This is the first historic village tour in Tsunza that made the difference in the village in many ways. It was the tour that led to the formation of Children of Africa Volunteers Association and its main objective, which was to take the needy kids back to school.

As Susanna Gomez, the president and volunteer of COA narrates: in summer 2008, I had the opportunity to visit a typical African village called Tsunza located in the outskirts of Mombasa, in Kinango District, one of the 5 poorest districts in Kenya. I was happy and so much impressed by the hospitality of the villagers, they seemed very smiley but, despite first impressions, I was surprised to see many kids

around during school hours. Most of them were barefoot, wearing ragged clothes and even walking on the hot sun with herds of cattle. I became curious and could not avoid asking about the situation. I was informed that their families were not able to afford bringing them to school due to many reasons ranging from lack of school materials to examination fees.

On the same day, I felt that something should be done to change the situation of these kids whose hopes seemed shattered. I was filled with new energy and came up with a plan. I stretched my hand into my bag for my camera, I took photos of 22 kids and promised to bring them back to school the next time I would step my foot in

Kenya, although I still did not know how.

Back in Spain, I started sending mails to my friends even with little hope that this plan would work. Amazingly, my mail box never stopped receiving news from people who wanted to help and, in less than four months, the 22 kids were sponsored. In the same year 2008, during Christmas, I went back to Kenya and, with the help of William and some others, made the biggest shopping ever, 22 pairs of shoes, 22 uniforms, and school materials. We finally brought the kids back to school, I was back in Spain with more 8 kids to be sponsored through the same process and again it was a big success.



# RURAL STUDENTS

# Children's Rights

Rural areas have been always characterised by the lack of good education environments, lack of proper resources and lack of proper infrastructures where the students would get enough preparation to compete with urban fellow students. On top of this, many instances of children whose parents refuse to bring them to school have been found around the village.

Some of them you would see them on a Monday morning jumping on the boat with firewood, water or fish on their head crossing from Tsunza to Mombasa, probably to sell. If you ask the parents, they will tell you it is none of your business. Therefore, many times, members of Children of Africa feel angry, disappointed and powerless in such cases.

These outlines are the main reason that have triggered the design of the English Curricular Project for Tsunza Public Library tuition lessons, based on the most essential Rights of Children:

1. Life
2. Meaningful education
3. Good health
4. Marriage at the legal age of consent
5. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
6. Seek meaningful employment
7. Adequate shelter, food and clothing
8. Freedom of speech, expression and association
9. Participate in making decisions that affect their lives
10. Protection from social, economic and political manipulation
11. Ownership and protection of property

# CHILDREN OF AFRICA & MAISHA SAFI

In 2007 a group of independent volunteers from Spain and Italy coming from different associations got to meet each other in a volunteer work-camp located in Likoni Orphanage (Laop). After being so disappointed by the policies of the associations and realizing that they were not really caring for the Project, the kids, or the volunteers, they decided to work independently to change the situation of those 50 kids living at 2Km away from Likoni Ferry. By opening a small

blog, these volunteers made it to get more and more people aware of the problem of that home and get people involved. So in less than three years, and without the help of any association or subvention, the achievements were more than great. The orphanage was completely repainted, two big *jikos* were built, a vegetable garden was planted, and the most important project, the construction of three new classrooms in Timbwani Pri-

mary School (part of Laop project) were fully built and furnished under the name of *Barcelona block*, honouring the origin of the majority of volunteers who contributed.

Once the orphanage was considered to be left in better conditions and especially due to a small trip that was made to the rural area of Tsunza, in Kinango district, the efforts of the volunteers started to focus in the improvement of such an undeveloped and needy area.

After seeing the great achievements of such a group of volunteers with so much energy

**Donatella Tarasco and  
Susanna Gomez, presidents  
of Maisha Safi and Children  
of Africa Associations**







and dreams of changing the miserable situation of certain Kenyan areas, Children of Africa Association was created and registered in Barcelona, Spain. Unlike many other associations, Children of Africa was not born in order to help projects, but instead, the many dreams and projects that the members had were shaping the creation of such a beautiful group of volunteers. At the head of such organization there is William Munga (from Tsunza) and Susanna Gómez (from Spain) who are Secretary and President of the Association, Maria Delgado in charge of the finances and Lidia Belascoain who is dealing with the Sponsorship Department, both from Spain. What made the association different and successful was the lack of paid workers, the direct investment of sponsorships in each and every one of the kids by getting them their school shoes, their books, copy books, socks, school material and uni-

forms straight on hand, and the passion that they show in wasting as little time as possible in bureaucracy matters and making the biggest efforts to invest their time in action instead of words. Likewise another association, Maisha Safi, created by one of the volunteers who had also been working in Laop since 2007, joined the projects of Children of Africa, and its founder, Donatella Tarasco from Italy, is fully involved in developing all the projects.

Children of Africa is less than two years old now, but it has already made achievements that many other associations would not even dream of in more than 5 years. Twenty-three volunteers settled in Nigamba (Tsunza) in July-August 2011 and were passionately devoted to the biggest projects ever dreamt: the distribution of schools material for almost 100 kids one by one (around 75 in primary and 15 in secondary, plus some from Likoni), which took

place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August, *Tsunza 4 Life Project* in which the kids and teachers from Tsunza Primary School were involved by learning and dramatizing poems related to AIDS awareness and prevention and drawing posters for the same purpose, the *Tsunza 4 Life Football League* whose finals were played on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, the construction of



a carpentry and sewing workshop to provide more autonomy to the villagers, the improvement of the public library that was built last year and the biggest and boldest project: the construction of a medical dispensary including dental unit that is dreamt to be one of the best in the area.

All the volunteers and members of Tsunza community are fully determined and struggle to the limit to make this little rural area to improve in the best way ever imagined.





## VOLUNTEERS

# Tsunza Volunteers Work ca

Architects, Music and English teachers, engineers, a dentist, accountants, a football trainer, two journalists, and sociologists came to Tsunza in July and August 2011

By Fadhili Fredrick in Kenya

**I**n July and August 23 volunteers from Spain and Italy were gathered again in Tsunza to make changes even bigger.

Four architects, two music teachers, engineers, English teachers, a dentist, accountants, a football trainer, two journalists, and sociologists unified their dreams and efforts to make out of this vol-





# camp 2011

unteer summer camp a big success. They were passionately devoted to the biggest projects ever dreamt:

The distribution of **school material** for **120 kids** one by one, which took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. **Tsunza 4 Life Project** in which the kids and teachers from Tsunza Primary School were involved by learning and dramatizing poems related to AIDS awareness and

prevention and drawing posters for the same purpose. The **Tsunza 4 Life Football League** whose finals were played on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. The construction of a carpentry and sewing **workshop** to provide more autonomy to the villagers. The improvement of the public **library** that was built last year. English, music and Spanish lessons were organized every day. A water tank was constructed. A big kitchen-store where women can gather, cook, socialize, etc.

And the biggest and boldest project: the construction of a **medical dispensary** including dental unit that is dreamt to be one of the best in the area.

They are all determined to make this little rural area to improve in the best way ever imagined.

The dispensary is already under construction, roofs and walls already up, the workshop is already in use and some skilled villagers are making the furniture for the dispensary and for the improvement of the library. Children of Africa

*"After living an experience like this, it is impossible to forget."*

Maria Cerezo

has already started fundraising activities in order to expand the dispensary with a beautiful







EVENTS

# TSUNZA FOR LIFE

## FOOTBALL LEAGUE





Tsunza for Life Football League came to an end on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2011. It was a one-month tournament meant to raise Aids awareness in the village of Tsunza, courtesy of Children of Africa, the official sponsor.

By **Fadhili Fredrick**

**T**he teams that participated were Tsunza Stars, Lucky Stars, Bush Baby, Sea Horse, Duna, Light Stars, Supper Silia, Lobe Stars, and Raising Stars, all from this paradise of Tsunza. The teams were divided into pool A and B consisting of 4 and 5 teams each respectively.

The official opening match was Laki Stars versus Tsunza Stars who were tipped to be the favourites to win the tournament. Unfortunately, luck did not go their way as they were trounced 2 goals to 1 which saw Laki proceeding to the next level.

In the preliminary stages several teams were knocked out of the tournament and only four teams managed to reach the semi-finals.



The teams included Raising Stars, Laki Stars, Bush Baby, and Light Stars which proved to be strong by winning all their group stage matches by a wider margin. The fans did not disappoint their favourite teams

as they usually danced and chanted songs of praise to their teams. It was a busy month full of peoples' whispers of a really football scenario. You

could not imagine how football could capture people's interest for the first time in many years.

During the weekends all the houses were vacated and people tip-toed to Tsunza Primary School ground at least to catch a glance of local football league clashes between clubs from Tsunza village battling it out for the finals.

The first semi-finals encounter was played at the same venue between arch-rivals Bush Baby and Light Stars. Dubbed the final before the final, the clash between the two teams which were highly tipped to play in the finals was expected to be an explosive encounter. The match began early to pave way for penalty shootout in case the teams drew.

The referee from Nigamba, Beruwa Meja, signaled the kick-off of the first semi final encounter. The teams showed a superb performance with Light

**William Munga and Susanna Gomez handing out the prizes to the main winner of the League**



Stars squandering early chances only to regret later. The first half went to a goalless draw. Come the second half both teams were determined and showed a lot of dedication to cruise to the finals. A 76<sup>th</sup> minute penalty goal by captain Dzuya Changare is what Bush Baby needed on Saturday to beat Light Stars 1-0 to qualify for the scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> August. It was a disappointing result for Light Stars who had won all their group stage matches.

The second semi-final encounter was played by Raising Stars against Laki Stars. It was a different kind of semi-final which had a lot of misunderstanding between the two teams as well as the League officials. A big multitude of the fans that came to witness foot-

ball looked confused for what it was termed as a careless mistake.

The point of argument between the two teams looked not that strange and serious as the teams had the same colour of jersey which brought confusion to the players themselves and the referee as well. It took almost an hour before the two teams settled, thanks to the captain of Tsunza Stars, Stephen Samuel, and for the sake of football. Looking at the situation he hurriedly went home and brought the jersey to Laki Stars. It was a commendable effort and he was applauded by the angry fans and such is love for football.

Following the wastage of time the match began an hour late and the match ended in a 1-1 draw after Raising took the early lead in the first half only for Laki stars to equalize later. Since it was dark, the match was resched-

uled for another day. After good consultation with both teams through the chairman of the League, Munga Samuel, nicknamed Oliver Khan after the German goalkeeper. The re-match between the two teams was agreed to be on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August, a day before the finals. “It was purely a risky move by the committee”, one of the spectators lamented blaming the organizing committee. How could one play two consecutive matches? Finally the two teams clashed and Laki Stars proved they were still a force to reckon with, after they trounced unorganized Raising Stars 2-0 in a re-match semi-final duel on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August.

It was again another battle of wits or you can put it a no-monkey- business as the most awaited day is finally here. After enjoying a whole week of attending training sessions, Bush Baby was already crowned the champions by the fans even before the match started. This was partly because Laki Stars had played the immediate previous day and they looked tired and weak. It was a well organized tournament which saw the inclusion of Disco party [SAIZE YAKE] to entertain the crowd as they watch their teams battling it out for the final spot for the first time in the history of football league.

To the amazement of many the so-called *wazungu*, as they are known here in the village of Tsunza, were among the

crowd, led by the president of the Association of Volunteers Children of Africa (COA), Susanna Gomez Sole. She was the guest of honour assisted by William B. Munga, the general secretary of COA. It was a big day for everybody in the village as many, especially the elders, recalled their childhood memories as both teams displayed good football skills.

Early in the second half things looked even worse for Bush Baby, as Juma Mlongosho swerved past four defenders before cherry picking Heshima

tory”, said the team captain of Laki Stars, Kazikala Bongo, who made and showed enough poise and determination as his team was crowned the champions.

The winner pocketed Sh5000 and a trophy, Bush Baby received Sh3000 for the second position, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> winner got Sh2000 alongside other goodies courtesy of Children of Africa, the official sponsor of Tsunza for Life Football League. In general, the League brought many people together and it enhanced the theme of Aids awareness. At the same time it provided the opportunity for the entire team of vol-



Mangale to let his drive in the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal. It was a stunning performance and a remarkable day for Laki Stars despite missing one player. They still made it with dribbling skills as they crushed their opponents 6-0 in the finals. “It was a sweet vic-

multimedia presentations on Aids prevention, especially designed by Anna Planas, one of the volunteers from Spain who works in Social Development fields. ●

### The main trophy



---

# T4L Tsunza for Life Contest

---



It was a busy summer with a lot of initiatives to mobilize the community as well as the school kids on the importance of **HIV/Aids awareness**, especially among the young generation.

---





## Poetry Contest

Anna Planas ( a volunteer from Spain) organized a very nice contest to motivate awareness and involvement of the community. A poetry contest and an art contest were organized for the children to learn and act out several poems on Aids prevention and to draw posters with the same objective.

Various prizes, such as, school bags, books, along with medals and diplomas, were handed out to the winners of the contests on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August; a day full of activities, mainly organized by Anna Planas, who actively got involved in giving speeches about Aids in the school premises with the help of a projector.

Tsunza primary School got the advantage of being the only school to host the one-day activity on the theme of Aids awareness. The various classes had the opportunity to sing and recite poems on Aids. It was a long day of preparations as the teachers were not left out to guide their pupils as they aimed at the trophies and different awards that went to the best winning contenders. It was uniquely organized and it proved good teamwork among the teachers, parents, pupils as well as the volunteers.

COA also distributed condoms and, as closure, the Association distributed hundreds of leaflets with full information about HIV.



**‘It’s been one of the most beautiful things I’ve done in my life. To see how people was getting involved, participative... It was very touching’**

**Anna Planas**

**Anna Planas giving speeches about AIDS/HIV**



---

# INTERVIEW

## SUSANNA GOMEZ

President of Children of Africa

---

### “No space is left for creativity, imagination and initiative”

The girl who started it all expresses her views, dreams and fears in relation with Tsunza and Kenya development

**S**he is the president of the Association of Volunteers COA and a Volunteer from Spain. She has invested her time and energy as well as resources to improve health services and education in the rural village of Tsunza, Coast province, Kinango district one of the poorest district in Kenya. She has a dream for this beautiful rural village and she is concerned with education here in Kenya. FADHILI FREDRICK sought to know the secret behind her dream.

**What is your vision regarding education here in Tsunza and how would you improve the situation?**

Education in Tsunza is very poor because of bad leaders (Head teachers are not skilled, they speak poor English and therefore they are bad models). Schools are in bad condition and disorgan-

ized. The government invests very little in education. Materials and resources are not available, teachers are not motivated due to poor salaries and there is no evaluation of school performance on spot. Rural areas are even the most disadvantaged. The system is so much based on copying and repetition that no space is left for creativity, imagination and initiative.

**What are your likes and dislikes about Tsunza village?**

I envy the community life, brotherhood, unpolluted environment, nature (especially watching sunset), easygoing people, peaceful living as opposed to town buzz. I have a lot of concern for this village, so I would like the parents to care for the kids in terms of education and transmission of values. There is also lack of spontaneous conversation among villag-

ers as well as little care about material and self-properties. I dislike dust, long waiting for the boat and disorganization, especially when you are looking for something, it will take time to find it. Parents should adopt ways of instilling discipline, not by caning but by making their children to respect them. I think that many of them do not know how important is early childhood development.

**What is your advice for the women in Tsunza village?**

I would tell them to study a lot even after being mothers. They must become part and parcel of the family sustain, so that they do







## Path to success

- ▶ **Primary School English Education** For three years specialized in teaching English in Primary School
- ▶ **English Philology** For five years she specialized in Secondary School English teaching and literature
- ▶ **2005** Stays in Ireland for two years to improve English language
- ▶ **2007** First trip to Kenya
- ▶ **Cultural & Social Anthropology** Currently studying the origin and history of humankind in a national distance university
- ▶ **2010** Created, along with William Munga and Maria Delgado, Children of Africa Association
- ▶ **2010** Employed in national Secondary School for first time

**“I would like the parents to care for the kids in terms of education and transmission of values”**

not depend fully on men and do not have to tolerate things which are not to be tolerated. On the other hand, education would detach them a little from extremist vision of religion and improve their kids' education, as they spend most of time with their children. They should also be included in family meetings and find themselves on equal position in social life. Women have a lot to say and they organize better than men. (she laughs)

### Who are your role models?

Well, a good question, I have several including Vicente Ferrer who was a Spanish volunteer. He died short time ago. I learnt a lot from him and he inspires me a lot. At the age of 25 he moved to a poor district in India and started small projects. He started in small village like Nigamba and instead of expanding to other villages, he concentrated in that village. When he was sure that his ideas were

good, and his projects were successful, he expanded to other surrounding villages until he covered and drastically changed a whole huge very poor district like Kinango. He made great changes to this village, building schools, thousands of houses to the villagers, water, food, jobs and he made the area fertile by the provision of water.

Others include Nelson Mandela, who inspires everybody with his peaceful, inclusive, non-racist

ways of fighting.

My dad with his never-ending lessons about respect, tolerance, and responsibility, and some of my primary and secondary teachers. Finally, although it might seem strange, William is one of my biggest inspirations, as he encourages me every now and then when I see him ready to help people without any exclusions whatsoever. He is determined to make the best out of his life and to change the future of his tribe (one of the poorest in Kenya). He will drag anybody on his way, by making their lives shine too. He deeply believes in change, and does not fear whatever effort it takes to obtain it. It is not easy to find people like this in non-developed countries where it is much more common and normal to struggle for one's own life.

**As a volunteer and president of Children of Africa Association, what challenges do you face?**

There is lack of cooperation, fear of delegating jobs and too many things to consider with little experience and few people on board.

**Did you achieve you childhood dreams?**

My childhood dreams have been coming true little by little, although still some are to be achieved. The key factors have been; hard work and consistency, a lot of positivism and self confidence as well as not fearing challenges and being patient.



**What are the differences between Kenya and Spain?**

The percentage of corruption and the lack of organization. In Spain there is a big middle class mass and the gap between the poor and the rich is minimal as compared to Kenya where the gap between the rich and the poor is wide. The state money is invested in infrastructure and social matters. However, Spanish people are very individualistic and there is lack of brotherhood. There are too many towns which are polluted.

**Is it easy to find jobs in your country?**

Up to 2009, it's been quite easy to find jobs all over Europe, in some countries like Ireland, England, and Germany working conditions and salaries have been outstanding.

Most of the people with university-level studies, which is more than 60%, have easy access to jobs. However, with the global crisis, our country is facing now 40% of unemployment among youths. The governments are performing very badly.

**What are your fears?**

I only fear that any fear could stop me from struggling for my dreams. I fear when the happiness of my family is in danger.

**Tell us about your country in terms of service delivery, education, political and culture.**

Spain service in Restaurants, public jobs, and shops is outstanding. Our president is called Zapatero from social party. In our country there are 2 main political parties, namely social and conservative. They are always fighting for supremacy.



---

## **“Every first step starts in school”**

---

There are a lot of differences between north and south. The north being more similar to Europe and the south being more tied to traditions. Our system of education is 6:4:2 (6 years primary, 4 years of compulsory secondary and 2 years of preparation for university). This system was implemented 10 years ago and we do not like it because 12 year old kids go to high school and they go from being the models of primary to becoming the youngest and getting 16-years-old as models. They want to imitate them but they are not mature enough.

### **What are the core objectives of COA?**

To change and improve the life condition of a small community up to the best and if possible to expand it to a bigger area. But we never intend to change the world, as if you try to manage a large

---

**“We never intend to change the world, as if you try to manage a large number of things, places or people, you end up managing none”**

---



number of things, places and people, you end up managing none.

### **Can Africa alleviate poverty according to you?**

I do not think Africa can alleviate poverty in our present conditions, but small African communities can, and as a result, Africa will also be affected. As long as Europeans, Americans, Japanese, do not stop the unsustainable ways of the lives

they are living, there is no way out for undeveloped countries to improve, there aren't enough resources in the world. However, I think that great improvements can be made or that richness can shift from one place to another, as long as you train yourselves to become the future leaders on the bane of strong good quality education.

Leadership is the worst here; every first step starts in school.



## A DIFFERENT CONCEPT OF CHILDHOOD

# Children of Tsunza

While some 15-year-old European teenagers are pressing their parents to buy the last PlayStation game for them and breaking into raging tears if they refuse, some 6-year-old African child is rolling two big containers of water from the main water pipe to his family mud house.

While any 10-year-old European child is lazing around on the sofa, zapping TV channels endlessly, a group of three or four 8-year-old African girls are

fetching firewood in the forest and carrying it on their heads to their homestead for more than one hour under the equatorial sun. To understand how children from Tsunza actually live requires the adoption of a whole new concept of childhood.

A child in Tsunza will wake up at 6am in the morning without the help of any alarm-clock, will go for some washing, and get ready for school (if they are attending school), or help with

with the housework, which may include, washing the kitchen utensils, brushing the floor, washing clothes, among many other duties.

Most of times they will help the mum with the new-born babies, carrying them, feeding them, and carrying them on their backs, conceiving a mystical picture of tiny little mums.

Many times they will carry firewood, do some shopping, and 100% of the times they will be in charge of fetching water on their heads with an incredible balance.

After all, they will still have time to play, run, study, and dance to the sound of some invented drums.

Their life is a hard life, but one thing is for sure, they still keep a strong value of respect towards adults.



## Education in Kenya

### Challenging the future

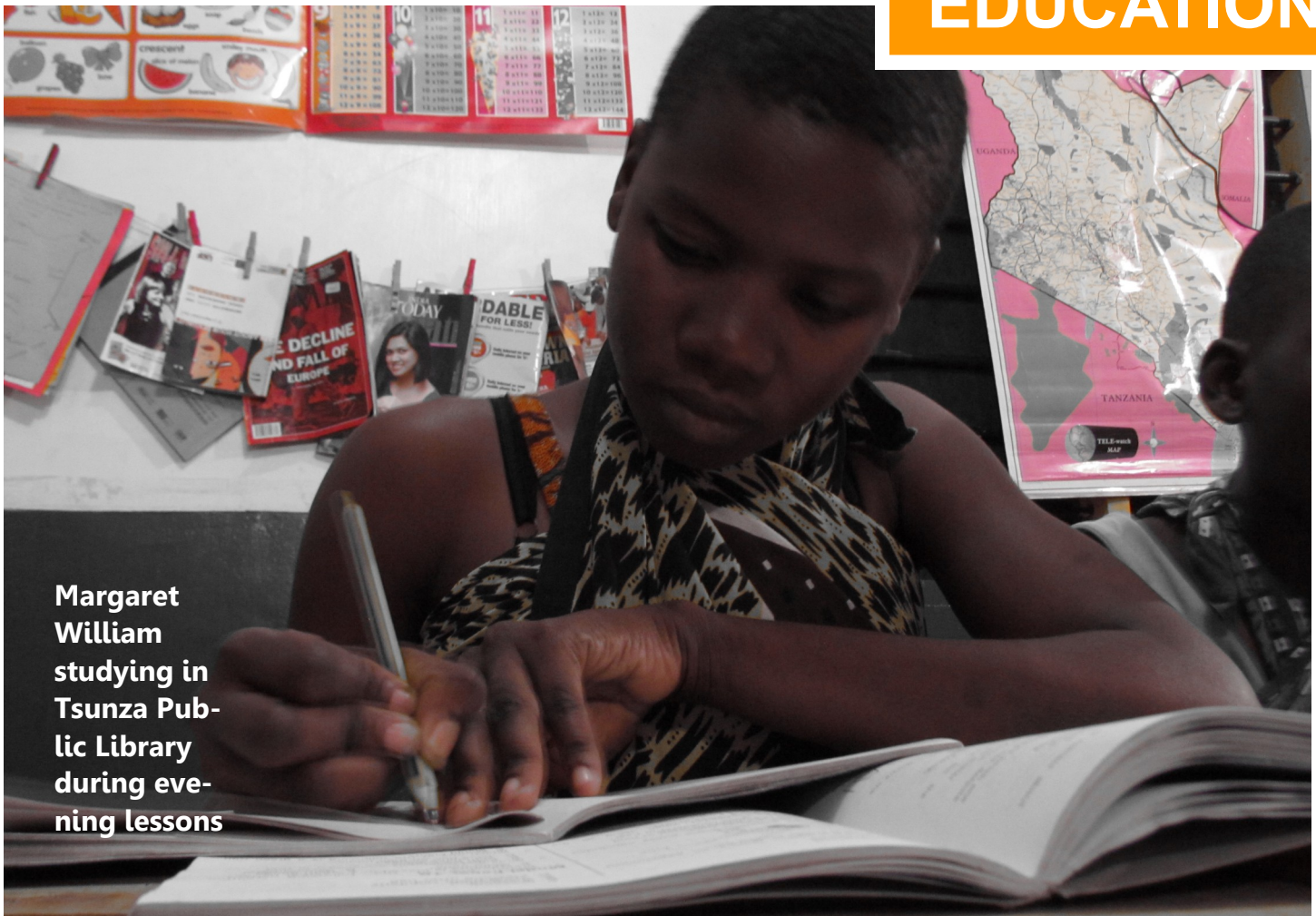
The system of education in Kenya is 8/4/4 (8 years of Primary education, 4 years of Secondary, and 4 years of College), geared to impart appropriate skills and enhance self-employment.

However due to the high costs, poverty and lack of facilities, there have been high school drop-out rates. Most of the youth drop out of school or graduate without acquiring the skills necessary for self-employment. Many girls drop out of school due to pregnancy. The country's training institutions are inadequate, they lack the essential facilities and technology to prepare students for the challenging market de-

mands.

In many cases there is no follow-up of the lessons, and many teachers just don't show up on time, or at all. As a result, when students graduate from college or even university, sometimes they find themselves unprepared for a future employment. Teachers themselves lack the proper knowledge and training to plan a good lesson that would encourage students to be autonomous, critical, imaginative, participative and self-sufficient citizens.





Margaret William studying in Tsunza Public Library during evening lessons

# Teaching at Tsunza Public Library

**Education is the first step for change. In Tsunza Public Library both villagers and volunteers are working hard to make this change happen**

**B**oth in 2010 and 2011 volunteer work camps, the volunteers were devoting most of their time to education and entertainment of children.

In 2011, English, Music and Spanish lessons were organized every afternoon from 4pm to 6pm.

Due to the big amount of kids wanting to enroll in such activities, many of the lessons and

activities had to take place outdoors, with the help of portable blackboards.

During the whole year 2010, a villager from Tsunza, Peter William, volunteered as tuition teacher in Tsunza Public library, providing English reinforcement to kids.

Currently, after some evaluation, the lessons became mo-





re organized, and another villager decided to volunteer as teacher, Joyce Salome.

Joyce deals with Kindergarten pupils outdoors, and Peter deals with Standard 1, 2 and 3 inside the library.

Susanna Gomez, has also enrolled herself in English lessons for Standard 6, 7 and 8. And soon another teacher will enroll to cover for Standard 4 and 5.

The volunteers, after the lessons, used to engage themselves in preparing funny activities to entertain the children, including singing,

dancing, face painting, arts and crafts, games, bracelet making, and many others.

In August 2010, COA volunteers engaged themselves in a big nice project to improve the situation of education in Tsunza: the construction of a public library. Walls were up, building was roofed, and provided with interesting, personally selected books.

In July and August 2011, the new volunteers repainted the library, tiled it, and put some

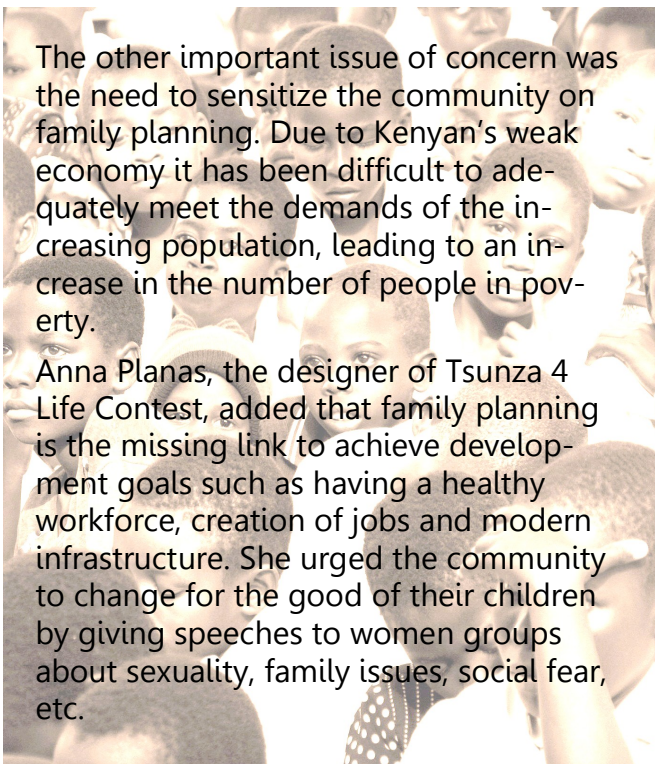
nice ceiling to keep it clean. They also built a big cupboard, and brought more books and materials.







# Family Planning



The other important issue of concern was the need to sensitize the community on family planning. Due to Kenya's weak economy it has been difficult to adequately meet the demands of the increasing population, leading to an increase in the number of people in poverty.

Anna Planas, the designer of Tsunza 4 Life Contest, added that family planning is the missing link to achieve development goals such as having a healthy workforce, creation of jobs and modern infrastructure. She urged the community to change for the good of their children by giving speeches to women groups about sexuality, family issues, social fear, etc.





# Young Tsunza



# KIDS



*Young Tsunza is a section about the hobbies, dreams, likes, dislikes and opinions on various issues the youth and kids are facing in the village.*

*Young Tsunza will also be editing funny stories about the kids, as well as funny games, not forgetting the best compositions from the kids.*

Our main cover story today is about a girl who likes singing. Read on. Our other regular stories are as juicy as ever.



# Mwanarusi

Mwanarusi Hamisi is a 10-year-old student from Tsunza. She is in class 4 and she attends the library tuition lessons every day. Here is her story.

My name is Mwanarusi Hamisi. I am 10 years old. I go to school at Tsunza Primary School, in Kinango District. My hobby is singing. I started singing while in standard 1. I sing songs of praise on Sundays and not forgetting songs from my Duruma culture. My friends tell me that I have good voice and my parents too. This is the same reason why I like singing. This has really impressed everybody in the school.

My songs are sometimes just for pure fun, they make me feel happy. I have learnt that through singing one can

make people happy. In addition, it requires time and one should do it regularly to gain more skills. Singing is like Maths, if one is used to it, it is very easy and enjoyable.

I know that the more I engage in singing, the better I will become. In my songs I use different languages and really try very hard to speak and write in Spanish because I want to communicate easily with my Spanish sponsor. And in the future I would like to sing Spanish traditional songs. I do singing at school, church and at home when I

am free. I believe that singing is a way of creating and expressing. When I join the secondary school, I will take music as a subject. With singing it is good for children to learn that an artist needs an ability to explain things better, using songs.

In addition young people should strive for success as it is the best age ever to discover new things. My advice to young people like me is that they should work hard in school and areas where they have potential.





# The youth in Tsunza

There are a number of special conditions, which can be found to be affecting the youths of Tsunza.

## YOUTH & EDUCATION

When examining the experiences in education of young *Tsunzians*, we can highlight a number of issues threatening their future:

- A growing number of young people, of all ages, in Tsunza today who are not participating in any form of education or training, very likely to be at risk in terms of unemployment, health problems and participation in criminal activities;
- Parents many times lack the time, energy, and knowledge to instill good values of responsibility, effort, future planning and personal development to their children;
- Schools and training centers often lack the resources, materials, and supervision to provide with a good formation that would allow the students to be competent citizens.

## YOUTH & HEALTH

An inter-connected range of behavioral factors place the health of young people at risk:

- Exposure to Sexually Transmitted Infections including HIV/AIDS. Young people are prominent in the figures of HIV infection in Kenya and, while Kenya accounts for 12% infected, Tsunza accounts for 33% ;
- The rates of pregnancy amongst young women are high and have often been a significant factor in the reasons why young women are forced to leave school.
- Lack of balanced diet and nutritious meals also account for poor health and late body development.

## YOUTH & COMMUNICATION

Youth cannot exploit career business and education opportunities because they lack access to ICT, due to unavailability especially in the rural areas. These issues call for urgent intervention.

## YOUTH & GENDER

The experience of being young can differ between male and female. The impact of gender on the opportunities, of young people can be significant.

Traditional attitudes toward the roles of women and men require examination.

Young women, for example, are often restricted from participating in development processes due to some socio-cultural practices in society.

Thus, there is a need to ensure that the contribution that young people can make toward national development, as well as their own development is not limited or restricted because of gender.

The COAs strategic plan underscores the need to promote a gender inclusive approach to the development of youth. It seeks to promote gender equity and equality to eliminate gender discrimination and violence.

Youth is a major target in development strategies.



# Students' Corner

## Composition of the month

The name of my classmate is Harriet Madafu. She is wearing a red dress and blue trousers.

She has a big nose like a *muzungu*, and she is thin. She doesn't like wearing skirts and she has smart hair.

She doesn't study much and she is shorter than me. She has big ears like an elephant and she has a big mouth like a giant. She likes playing.

Mwanaisha Rumba



## Youth's Obligations (Not only rights)

**Young people not only must be aware of their rights so that they can be protected against any abuse, they also must be well aware of their responsibilities as members of a community, and for society development. Towards this goal the youth will:**

- Contribute to social-economic development at all levels, including through volunteerism;
- Create and promote respect for humanity, sustain peaceful co-existence, national unity and stability;
- Protect the environment;
- Help to support and protect those who are disadvantaged and vulnerable;
- Promote democracy and the rule of law;
- Create gainful employment;
- Take advantage of available education and training opportunities;
- Develop a positive attitude towards work;
- Avoid careless and irresponsible sex;
- Take responsible charge of their lives.

# How to do Sudoku Puzzles



Although Sudoku puzzles are made up of numbers, there is no maths involved. You must use logic to work out where the numbers go, and that is what makes the puzzles fun. Every puzzle is different, and once you get the hang of it, you may find yourself wanting to do more and more! Let's start with a nice easy puzzle made up with 4 mini-grids of 4 squares each.

Let's start by looking at the third column. We already have the numbers 1 and 2 in that column, so we need to replace the two question-marks with a 3 and a 4. We can't put a 3 in the top square because there is already a 3 in that row (highlighted in yellow). So the top square must be a 4, and the next square must be a 3. That's a good start!

3	1	?	
	2	?	
		2	
		1	3

3	1		
	2		
		2	
		1	3

To do this Sudoku you must make every column, row and mini-grid contain the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 - one of each. There is only one way to finish each puzzle, and if you think carefully you will be able to work out the answer.

Can you find thirty-five countries in the box? They may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal, forwards or backwards.

A	I	V	T	A	L	N	I	E	T	S	N	E	T	H	C	E	I	L
G	N	E	T	H	E	R	L	A	N	D	S	N	P	V	A	A	P	D
R	O	M	A	N	I	A	T	V	I	S	R	O	I	I	I	O	C	B
U	T	E	J	V	I	E	T	Y	C	N	L	E	R	A	R	I	D	I
O	V	P	M	J	J	S	C	O	B	A	A	T	C	T	P	N	E	G
B	E	C	I	V	E	S	T	N	N	T	S	U	U	E	A	S	V	Y
M	A	E	I	K	A	L	L	D	A	U	W	G	H	L	E	X	C	A
E	G	J	N	L	A	T	V	O	A	R	A	B	R	T	B	R	Z	W
X	E	J	W	N	B	S	L	E	V	L	F	E	N	U	I	V	G	R
U	Y	P	D	I	V	U	S	A	E	A	Z	L	L	R	L	L	S	O
L	R	R	M	A	C	T	P	N	M	T	K	G	T	N	V	P	N	N
I	A	A	N	A	O	E	I	E	I	Y	A	I	J	N	S	K	D	J
L	G	N	I	N	C	A	L	W	R	R	H	U	A	E	D	R	N	D
I	N	I	I	T	R	E	S	A	I	H	V	M	L	J	N	A	A	J
N	U	A	V	K	A	A	D	A	N	P	C	A	O	V	A	M	L	Y
U	H	Z	U	V	J	O	G	O	R	D	W	E	V	J	L	N	G	L
N	E	D	E	W	S	B	R	N	N	U	V	J	Z	T	E	E	N	A
D	S	U	R	A	L	E	B	C	T	I	I	G	I	C	R	D	E	T
D	N	A	L	N	I	F	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y	W	I	M	E	I

AUSTRIA	BELARUS
BELGIUM	BULGARIA
CROATIA	CZECH REPUBLIC
DENMARK	ENGLAND
ESTONIA	FINLAND
FRANCE	GERMANY
GREECE	HUNGARY
ICELAND	IRELAND
ITALY	LATVIA
LITHUANIA	LUXEMBOURG
MACEDONIA	MALTA
NORWAY	POLAND
PORTUGAL	ROMANIA
SCOTLAND	SLOVAKIA
SPAIN	SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND	UKRAINE



# Tsunza Stars Football Club

A new ambition, a new dream, a new team that will gather masses together is being born. Tsunza Stars Football Club (Junior & Senior) not only will be entertainment and sport but also a path for unity

Seeing the need to fully tap the talents of the youth in Tsunza, Children of Africa Association, under the guidance of Juan Carlos Ibisate (Ibi), a football trainer from Spain, has come up with the formation of a strong senior and junior football club. It has been a dream for many football lovers in the village and it is hoped that there will be a women football club in the near future.

In Nigamba, part of Tsunza village, Kinango District, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2011 were gathered as General Assembly the following representatives: Munga Fredrick, Steven Samuel, William Munga, Mwingo Abdallah and Susanna Gomez Sole all belonging to COA volunteers Association.

William Munga, secretary of the association explains the need for Nigamba village to officially constitute both a senior and a junior football clubs named *Tsunza Stars Senior* and *Tsunza Stars Junior*. Therefore it is paramount to establish certain policies and name the representa-



tive captain of each team.

As for Tsunza Stars Senior club, it is proposed Mr. Steven Samuel to be the captain of the club and therefore becoming the one in charge of any equipment belonging to the club, being the main representative of the club under whom all decisions must be taken and approved. Accordingly, following the policies of sports clubs, Munga Fredrick is nominated as the secretary of the club and will help Steven Samuel in any tasks required.

As for Tsunza Stars Junior club, it is proposed Mwingo Abdallah to be the captain of the club and therefore, becoming the one in charge of the equipment belonging to the club. Harrison

**Tsunza Stars Senior team after a long training session with their temporary Spanish coach, JuanCarlos Ibisate (Ibi)**





Fredrick was announced as the secretary of the junior club, although both Captain and secretary will be under the guidance and supervision of Steven Samuel.

The clubs were granted with a set of sports equipment for both the senior and junior players donated by COA, which at the same time is the main sponsor of Tsunza Stars football club and

will be in charge of encouraging the players and providing support at all times.

For the full month of August the new teams were training day in day out with the Spanish coach Juan Carlos Ibisate, who was surprised and amazed at the courage and energy of this team that, after a long day of work, would ask once and again for training until the sun goes down.

For these players football is not only a sport or a game; football has become hope, enthusiasm, energy, dreams, new goals and objectives; but above all, football has become a common ground for unity, which is what Tsunza needs the most if development shall be achieved.

And, as everybody well knows, unity is strength. So let's get stronger!



SPORT



# Tsunza Women





# WOMEN

Tsunza women's fundamental contribution in their households, food production systems and community economies are increasingly acknowledged by COA. This is due to Tsunza women's own energetic efforts to organize, articulate their concerns and make their voices heard. COA is pressing for an expansion of women's economic and social opportunities and the advancement of women's rights.

Women in Tsunza village continue to face enormous obstacles. The growing recognition of their contribution has not translated into significantly improved access to resources or increased decision making power. Generally, women constitute the majority of the poor and the illiterate in Tsunza. They perform all domestic tasks, while many also farm and trade. They are responsible for the care of children, the sick and the elderly, in addition to performing essential functions within the society, although absent from formal positions.





# Tsunza 4 Life Women's Group



Tsunza 4 life women's group [TLWG] is a new emerging group of women who struggle to change their rural life styles to become more autonomous, to make the best out of their time, to raise their feminine voices and be heard everywhere.

Fostered and founded by the COA volunteers Association, the main objective of the group is to develop professional skills among women and to provide them with the means of income earning so that they can become part and parcel of the family sustain. COAs ideal approach is to improve women living standards by creating strong and cohesive women's groups [TLWG] and build their capacity, decision making and allow them to manage their own groups in a fairly, equitably, socially and economically in a resounding sustainable manner. And with the help of volunteers, COA and Maisha Safi hopes to spread the belief among the community that individuals especially women





# WOMEN



should not be discriminated against because of their sex, race or religion.

The group is composed of 10 women under the guidance of a chief representatives elected by themselves. COA has provided them with a workshop sponsored by COA and Maisha Safi Association, where they will have access to all types of materials and a structure where to work comfortably.

The main activities that the group will be involved in are sewing, soap making, making bracelets and decorations among others. Once they engage in those activities and be able to produce quite a reasonable bulk of stock, COA and Maisha Safi will engage in the marketing of such products both in Kenya and in Europe. The income produced by selling their products will be fully given to the group.

If the income is big enough then they can decide to become a Women's Trust, by which they would be able to apply and provide small credits among themselves so that they can develop further economic activities.



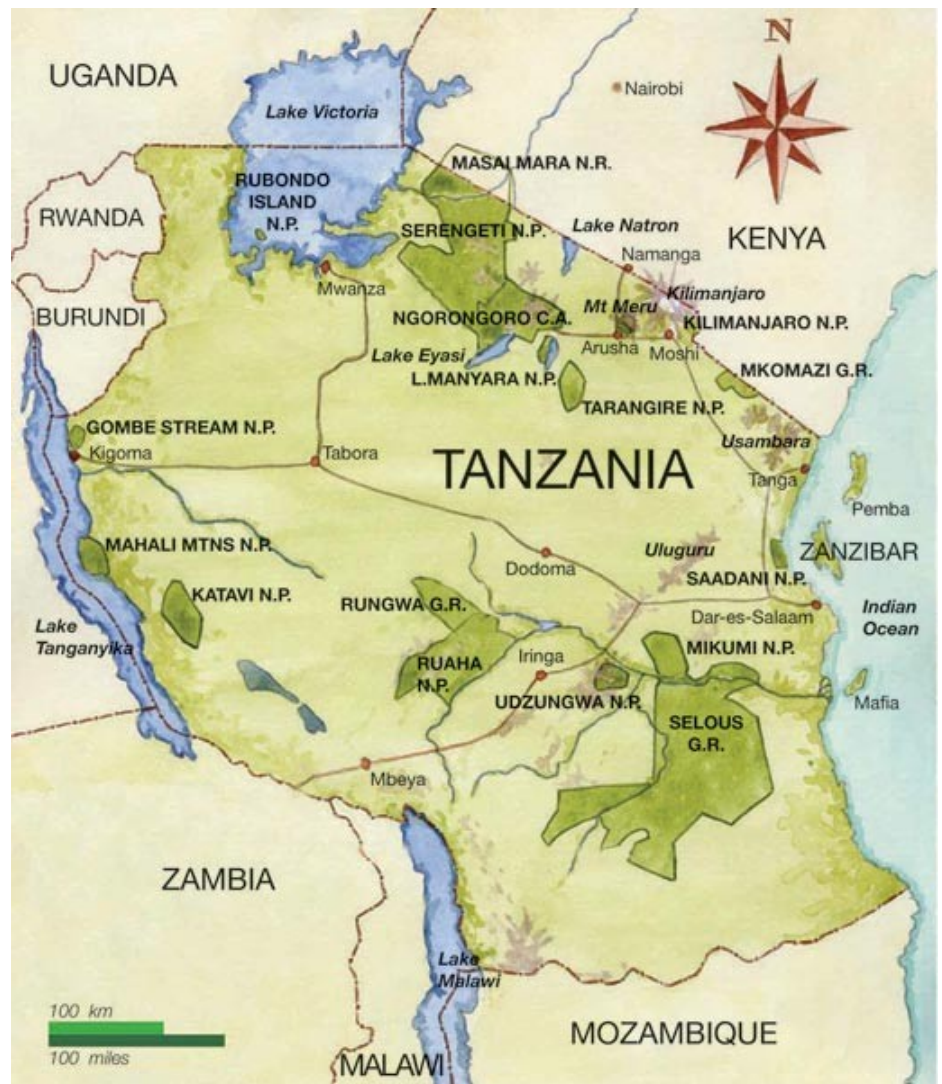


# The story

It took a family journey to Tanzania to locate a brother, who had gone to work on the mines at Maumba in Tanzania since 2005.

We woke up early on a Wednesday morning; after crossing to Mombasa, we got on the bus that would drive us to Tanzania. After 2 hours we reached the Tanzanian border. We travel for two hours more through a dusty, bumpy, reddish road before we reach the centre of Tanga town. Willy goes for a Tanzanian Sim card and we start the search for his brother Njeka. We are looking for the contact of Omar Mohammed, who brought him to Tanzania to get a job at the mining area. We crazily look for a place to spend the night. On the way we realize what a lovely and peaceful town Tanga is. No noise, no rush, no stress. People seem very quiet and happy.

The following day, we go to Mississippi hotel, as we had read on Njeka's records that it was one of the places where he used to have meetings with those people who would bring him to



Umba mines. It seems nobody knows about him or about Omar Mohammed. We decide to look for shops where they would sell gems and it seems there is only one in the town.

So the tuk tuk drives us at the shop and we are very welcomed by an Indian who is working on a gem. He introduces us to two more men, one of Indian origin and the other from Tanzania very well dressed and polite. We explain the story of our search for Njeka and they tell us they do not know anything about him

or about Omar [as there are so many] but lucky enough they are the owners and managers of those mines and they give us all types of details and phone numbers on how to get there and who to enquire for. We strictly follow the instructions. We go back to Mangrove hotel, take our bags, and rush to the bus station to get to Daluni. The journey takes almost 5 hours and we get there by 4 pm, after a bumpy, dusty ride.

In Daluni we are helped by a man who seems very nice to us

and offers a ride on his motor-bike to Kalaleni-Kigwase. In the end we take two motor-bikes and we start one of the most tiring motor rides in the world for about one and a half hours in a beautiful but crazy deserted road that leads us to the mines at Kigwase.

We arrive at Mississipi hotel at Kigwase where I feel so tired that I would sleep anywhere. We ask for accommodation and they tell us everywhere is full. I am so tired that I do not care at all. I would sleep on the grass if given a blanket. Anyway, we do not bother about tiresome; we start our search again, asking for Njeka/Babu or Omar Mohammed. We meet a certain Munga with a lot of hope, but he is a Tanzanian. One of his friends, Mandela, leads us to the chairman of the village, a very polite and friendly Masai riding a bike. He listens to our story and tries to help us. It seems he knows someone from Kwale who is nicknamed Nchiro and he thinks it is Njeka.

We wait for long in a shelter in the middle of Kigwase and wait for this Nchiro, who is supposedly a fisherman who drinks palm wine and lives in a very humble mud house. Richard and Willy cannot believe that this would be his brother and how crazy it would be if he had abandoned his life, vil-

lage and family for becoming a crazy mnazi drinker.

The life in that village looks a bit strange. Most of the people drink smoke and play pool of draughts. They mine rubies and sapphires every day in Umba mines. They waste the money by drinking and smoking. It is unbelievable to see people living in poverty despite the treasure in their lands. This is as a result of lacking education. It is a shame because if they could receive better education, they would associate together and establish certain policies so that the villagers themselves could benefit from their rich resources and build schools, hospitals and to develop their tribes.

Anyway, all of a sudden, the chairman of the village comes back to us and brings couple of men, one of them is a Duruma and the other used to work with Njeka. We are very happy and we eat together while they explain stories about Njeka's time in Kigwase and they know where he is. They explain that three years ago he transferred to Arusha region, to work in a certain village called Namalulu.

Supposedly he was working in a Kibanda [small hut restaurant] or in a shamba [garden] belonging to the sister of a man called Bosco.

We happily sleep in the bedroom of a woman from the village who offers her bed and an extra mattress for Richard in a clean place. I sleep like a baby and the next morning we start making arrangements to see how we get back to Tanga. At about 11 am we find two *boda boda* that agree on taking us back to Daluni. And again back to the crazy, long, tiring journey by motorbike for around 1 and 1/2 hours. This time I get even more tired if possible, up to an extend where I feel so much pain on my hips and buttocks that seems like they are going to drop from their place. Exhaustion is the word for what I was feeling at that time. I just ditch on my legs and wait for the crazy bus that will take us back to Tanga. Fortunately, it comes in less than 10 minutes and it is very fast and comfortably and makes us smile when we get in Tanga in less than 2 hours.





Before going back to Mangrove, we buy tickets to Arusha for the next morning at 6 am. In Mangrove, we take a very long nice shower where the water would drop all red, due to the dust of the red lands that we went through from Kigwase. Some of the most reddish soils I have ever seen, so beautifully contrasting with the bluest sky and the greenest plantations of bananas. Very exuberant and lusty vegetation spotted with reddish houses, full of dusty peoples with reddish clothes and skins.

At 4.30 am we wake up and at 5 we take the *tuktuk* to the bus station. Again a very tiring journey for about ten hours, after which we find ourselves in a very hectic big town. I just realized I forgot my trainers on the bus. But no time even to think about that. We start walking fast to find a place to eat and sleep.

Very early we wake up and take a car to the bus stage and we jump into a very old crazy bus full of the Masais and bread. This is the REAL bumpy ride now. The seats are broken, the bus jumps heavily every few seconds and the windows do not close properly, so after five hours of journey we end up at Namalulu, exhausted, hungry and full of red dust.

Namalulu is a small Masai village in the middle of nowhere, somewhere in the Tanzanian savannah. Again we do not understand what Njeka could be pos-

sibly doing here. We enquire people around about a certain Bosco who was supposedly working with him but disappointingly nobody seems to know about any of them. Somebody walks us a long way to certain Greenstone mines near the village where we might find somebody who knew him. On the long walk, we can feel how disappointment and sadness gets hold of us. It seems to us we have travelled and got exhausted for a long time now and we have lost the track. Njeka is nowhere to be found and nobody knows his name. When we get at the mining area, we enquire a few people around but the same story, nobody recalls him. Again we feel down, blue, exhausted and lost both physically and mentally. We are planning to go back home as time and money almost gone. In the middle of this very cold, windy and dusty Masai land we do not know

what to do next. But all of a sudden, the man who walked us there remembers a certain Kenyan who was cooking chapattis at a *kibanda* just few metres away from where we sat. He started asking about his physical features and he recalls a name "Babu". Babu is Njeka's nickname and he is light-skinned as he remembers. Now he knows where he can track him. Bosco's sister is still living here! We walk to her house and she starts explaining the whole story. Njeka came in 2009 to find job related to mining here, but nothing was as expected. He remained there for about 5 months, and he got sick of malaria. He recovered and went to Arusha where he works at a shop. We are very happy to hear this. We are given certain phone numbers, we will sleep there and the next morning we take bus back to Arusha.



At 6am on Monday morning we wake up in Mama Pendo's house. It is still dark, very cold and windy. I miss my trainers now. I feel I am not ready for this weather which is getting deep into my bones. I wish I had a Masai blanket and a stove. I would put my feet inside.

After waiting for one hour at the stand with Mama Pendo, we take the bus at 7.30 am. This bus is better than the one we took to get to Namalulu so I feel very thankful. I cover completely with all the clothes I have to sleep all the way back to Arusha. At around 1 pm we get at Arusha, where Bosco's niece is waiting for us. We take a *matatu* to Bosco's house and we wait for him. When he comes, we explain him the whole story. He does not have Njeka's number but he knows about the shop where he had been assisting some time ago. Now we rush to pick a *matatu* back to the centre and another *matatu* to the shop. Now, the last disappointment. Njeka had been last there in February this year and the owner of the shop, who has his contact, he is not there either. Now we are told he is teaching in a certain school not far from Arusha. We decide not to wait anymore and even with our stomachs empty and completely dirty and exhausted, we take the last bus to a certain village called Magugu. Two long hours we were sitting on that

bus which seemed to be driving to the end of the world. We arrive at sunset and it seems somebody has informed him that there were certain guys looking for him, so I think he already suspected that were his brothers.

We drop off at Magugu's stand and enquire people around about the school but they confuse us more. Bosco is keeping contact with him by phone without telling him that he is with his brothers. We wait for him for ten minutes in a football field next to the main road as it gets almost completely dark. But before the last ray of light hides behind the mountains, we see a man in a white shirt walking towards us. The nearer he gets the more sure we are that it is him. When he is at 2 meters, I see what seems to me a replica of Munga's face mixed with Kombo's hair style in full motion. He firmly walks to Willy with wide-open moisty eyes and hugs him, and then he goes to Richard and Bosco and repeats the action. Then he hugs me without knowing who I am but probably guessing that somehow I am related to him as I engaged in such a search. William is a bit in shock and speechless holding his tears and unable to utter a word. As a contagious reaction, and being aware of William's feelings, I am not strong enough to hold my tears and I cannot speak either.



Njeka holds us on each side of his arms like a dad would grab his beloved children and we start walking.

He explains us about what he is doing in that village. He is been teaching English in a new school, and although his earnings are very low, he likes it. We sleep in that school for two nights. On Wednesday at 5pm, exactly one week after the adventure started, we left the school, walking along the road with the bags and headed to the bus stage back to Arusha with Njeka on our side. In Arusha we take another bus back to Moshi.

In less than one hour we are at the Tanzanian border where we take a *boda boda* to cross. We go to the office to stamp our passports. We take again the *boda boda* that very fast drives us towards the dusty path that gets us to Kenya as we put our arms in the air and shout eagerly "KARIBU KENYAAA!" We take the last bus that drives us to Mombasa across Tsavo for 6 more hours in the last crazy, bumpy, dusty road...



# **TSUNZA MAGAZINE**

August 2011

Email [fadhili.fredrick@yahoo.com](mailto:fadhili.fredrick@yahoo.com)