

Sept 2020



TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF
 JESUS CHRIST TO THE
 STREET CHILDREN
 OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO
 MEET THEIR NEEDS
 THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE
 LIFE IN ALL ITS
GOODNESS

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Welcome to the Autumn edition of FISCH Food!



Welcome to the latest edition of FISCH Food, one of the ways that we try to keep you updated with how your incredible support for this Charity is bringing lasting change to the lives of vulnerable Children and Young People in Tanzania. Despite what has been testing times for everyone, we are so pleased to be able to bring you these stories of hope and change which are testament to the generosity of people such as yourself.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. – John 1:5

Read on for the news!

COVID-19

It will be no surprise to you that COVID-19 has been at the **centre of our focus** these past few months. When the outbreak first showed signs of taking hold in Europe, we spent considerable time evaluating how to **adapt our programmes** in Tanzania to best protect Staff and Children as the country braced itself for the worst.

We were **overwhelmed by God's provision** and the **generosity of FISCH Supporters**, who offered **financial and prayer support** specifically to aid our response, at a time when many may have been scrutinising their own finances.

We stocked up on supplies of **soap, hand-wash, medicines** and **fresh drinking water tanks**, whilst a 5000 litre **SIM tank** was installed at the Drop-In-Centre (DiC).

In normal times, FISCH typically provides up to 400 meals a week to the Children and Young Adults that attend the various different feeding projects and activities, and an additional 36 parcels a month to those in the Food Parcel Sponsorship Programme. To reduce gatherings at the DiC, initially we invested in packaging which enabled **meals to be taken away from the Centre**, and Children to disperse. As time went by and gatherings were restricted by the Government, we set up food **distribution points** within Iringa where the most needy Children could collect food, without coming to the Drop-in-Centre. ...

continued ...





COVID-19 Continued...



All Education and Clubs were initially shut down by the Government, but as time passed there was growing confidence that the virus was not taking a foothold in Tanzania in the way that we have seen across much of the world. **It is still too early to know**, but at this stage it appears that the pandemic has not led to a significant rise in infections or deaths in Tanzania, and our Team are not seeing a rise in local illness or deaths.

This has led to the Government restarting Education and Clubs, and as a result **we have been able to re-start all our Programmes.**

Whilst we are so grateful that life appears to be returning to normal, there is no doubt that the shut-down of Education and Gatherings did have a **significant economic impact** on the Children and Families that we support. Many people rely on **micro-business and trade**, such as selling fruit and vegetables on the side of the road, supported by the many students and tourists in the Iringa area. The economic slow-down and reduction in footfall has caused many of our families to really struggle to put food on the table.

As a result, a temporary measure we have introduced is a **Foodbank for 50 of the most vulnerable Families in the FISCH Community.**

This monthly parcel consisting of 25kg of maize flour and 5kg of beans has been life changing for these Families at this time.

We hope to continue to provide this for as long as funds last. **Thank you so much** to those of you who have contributed to FISCH and enabled us to provide this very basic need.

Right: photos of the Food Bank Parcels and Recipients



*Apollo
and Neema*



Education Update



As mentioned above, Education was closed by the Government in all forms due to COVID-19; however, by early summer the **Universities were open again**, shortly followed by **Vocational Centres** and **Schools**. We are delighted that our **6 FISCH Students** were able to return to University for their final semester of the year, and we expect **Tibilius** to be the **first ever FISCH Kid to graduate** when he completes his **Clinical Medical Studies** course later this year!

We also anticipate an additional 2 students (**Apollo** and **Neema**) to be selected for University in November, and we are actively seeking sponsorship for their tuition fees.

Many of you may remember **Apollo** from previous FISCH Foods. He has thrived in advanced education and his ambition remains to become a **medical doctor**. To achieve this, he needs to study a **degree in Medicine**. The cost will be about **£3,000** a year.

Neema has been receiving support from FISCH since she was 15, and hopes to be selected to study a **degree in Health Management** and become a **Health Manager** in one of the hospitals in Tanzania. To fund the degree plus accommodation, food, book and stationary costs about **£1,300** a year.

If you are interested in sponsorship and would like to find out more details about Apollo or Neema, please get in touch with our **Education Coordinator Frances** via office@gofisch.org, or contact **Rich** via rich@gofisch.org.





New Land Purchased



Whilst a lot of what we do at FISCH is in response to **short term immediate needs** such as food and shelter, our **vision encompasses medium and long term objectives** such as education and Christian teaching to achieve lasting change, and enable these Children to become **self-sufficient Adults with a hope for the future.**

Our vision from the beginning was to have two sites for our work; one in town which would serve the **immediate needs of the Children on the Streets** and surrounding area; and another out of town which could provide **longer term rehabilitation and vocational training.**

We are delighted to be able to share that, **thanks to the support** of two passionate individuals in the UK, we recently **purchased a site of 9 acres** on which we plan to build a **Medium Term Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre.**

Although there is a long way to go in this project, we are delighted that God has provided us with this plot, and encouraged us to continue to pursue the vision He gave us when we started 13 years ago! We will share more information and pictures in future editions of the FISCH Food as the project unfolds.

Praise God for His provision!



Above: FISCH Utd training

Below: FISCH Utd FC playing against Migoli Homeboys FC



FISCH Utd

We are so pleased to welcome **Rob** to the UK FISCH Team of volunteers. Rob will be focusing on **raising support and the profile of FISCH Utd.**



For many of the Kids, football has been a **common interest** and one that we have used to promote **teamwork** and **unity** amongst the FISCH Community. Despite playing informally for many years, we are delighted that FISCH Utd officially became a Football Club last year, and now we are seeking to **equip them further** with regular supplies of **fresh kit** and meet **travel cost** and **cup entry fees.**



Since the restrictions on clubs were lifted earlier this summer, FISCH Utd have been training regularly and took part in a local Cup Competition, as well as playing regular friendly matches.



New Car

FISCH has also been blessed with the funds to purchase a **car for the FISCH work**. Whilst this need has always been on our prayer list, the rise of COVID-19 really made this priority, as we sought to **protect our Staff** and reduce their exposure; there is now no need for the Team to travel on overcrowded minibuses (called dala-dalas) as they perform their follow-up visits with the FISCH Kids. Once again **God provided specifically for this**, and we are delighted to now have our own transport!



Welcome Matron

The **Short Term Accommodation** re-started after the restrictions were lifted, and we have used this as an opportunity to **appoint Lucy as Matron**. Lucy is married to **Lazaro**, who currently takes care of the Short Term Accommodation needs, and together they will be **Mum and Dad** to many Children as they pass through this shelter. Please **welcome Lucy** and **pray for her** as she adapts to this role.



Baby Atu

Finally, we wanted to share with you the newest member of the FISCH Family, **baby Atu**. Born to **Neema** who graduated from our Sewing Club, here she is with Mote, our Tanzanian Director.



Wanting to Support FISCH but not sure how?

If you would like to stand alongside FISCH, the greatest support you could give us is your prayers.

FISCH always has been and always will be God's project. He has provided for FISCH, the Teams, and the Kids, and we stand in faith that God will continue His good work in Iringa.

We appreciate any financial support, be it a big or small, a one-off gift, monthly donations or somewhere in between. All monies are gratefully received and all find their way to FISCH in Iringa. If you wish for your donation to be allocated to a specific project, for instance, the Sewing Club, or would like to volunteer regular funding to help set up the Carpentry Club, then that can certainly be arranged.

We want you, our Friends of FISCH, to share in our passion for our mission: to witness the love of Christ Jesus to the Street Children of Iringa, by striving to meet their needs, that they may experience life in all its goodness.

If you would like to donate, or find ways that you can get involved with fundraising, find out more about mission trips to Iringa or even just ask any questions, please contact Rich on rich@gofisch.org. We are always happy to talk about FISCH!

