



July 2024

Dear BREAD supporters,

The last time that we wrote to you was to say thank you for the success of our water appeal. Since then, all the new and refurbished tanks at the hospital, BIHeS and the Orphanage have been completed. The rainy season went well and the tanks have performed.

Unfortunately..... As is sometimes the case in Africa, it is one step forward and one back because now the village borehole and its pump have stopped work altogether! More about this later. But first the good news.

A recent visit

Two of our Trustees (Robert and David) along with their wives (Christine and Anne) recently came back from some time spent in the village. Here is their personal summary of the visit.

What a difference a year makes!

The general impression is of significant progress having been made over the last year and of optimism looking forwards. However, as always in Berega, there are many ongoing challenges and demands.

The most pressing need is for a borehole. This is everyone's top priority.

BIHES is planning a major celebration of its' 15th anniversary next October which they are getting excited about.

We look forward to returning next year and hope and pray for further progress.

Expanding the services offered is good for local people but also good for the hospital – giving it a broader base.



There is also good news from **Berega Institute for Health Sciences (BIHeS)**. It now has around 180 students, studying medicine, nursing and pharmacy. It is preparing to take 400 students next year! This is a remarkable turn-around and means that they are slowly becoming a profitable organization and starting to pay staff the arrears in salary that they are due.

They now employ 6 professional staff, including doctors, nurses and a pharmacist. This extra expertise in the village must help the hospital to function better.

The laboratory that we built and equipped is now fully functional, but as you can imagine, a big increase in students requires a lot of investment! They need classrooms, housing and much more. Quite a long list! Hopefully, we will be able to help in some small way.

At **Bishop Chitemo primary school**, expansion is also in the air. The reason for this is that the Government is gradually changing the whole school system over the next 2-3 years. Primary school will stop at Year 6, and every school is being told to provide secondary school facilities.

Secondary school consists of four years and Bishop Chetimo are planning to expand to provide this. Currently there are 400 pupils but eventually this number will grow – presumably to around 700.

Again, big investments are required, but in this case, the school are in a good position to borrow money. They took out a loan for building new dormitories and classrooms, and it will be fully repaid by the end of 2025. That is the time that they will have to start thinking of Secondary school facilities.

The number of patients in the hospital is increasing and there is a much more optimistic tone amongst the staff. They recently got 3 stars in a government audit which is better than they have achieved in the past. They have clear plans about how to move to the next level.

Bread have recently supplied them with a dentist's chair and the associated equipment and so a new service has started. The dentist, appointed by the Government was already there – but with no equipment, he was working as a Clinical Officer.

With many other commitments, Bread do not give money to invest in school infrastructure, but we do sponsor about 30 local children who would not otherwise be able to pay the fees. We are also providing some curriculum materials to improve the quality of teaching in the school.

The **Orphanage** continues to do its work. The number of babies being looked after has reduced to 14, but it has other “early-years” ideas. For example, Kristen plans to start a Swahili speaking pre-school. The farm continues to flourish and provides a lot of the milk and food that the orphanage requires.

As an aside, a key young couple in Berega are Martha and Daniel. She teaches in the school and he was a manager at the Orphanage. He is now taking a theology degree in Morogoro and we are helping him during this period. The couple have four children. We are excited to see what their future holds.

A reflection

We are seeing many changes in Berega. We are pleased to see a thriving health college and a thriving school. Tanzania needs investments like this. We are also pleased to see the financial position of the hospital starting to ease, and for it to have a new confidence in its position as a local provider of a wide range of services.

This is a partly due to our support and prayers, especially at crucial times, but it is mainly a testament to the local leadership team. We are proud of them, and lucky to have them as our partners.

If we look back, say, ten years ago, the village now has electricity and daily transport to Morogoro. It also has a new bridge! The Diocesan institutions employ many local people (e.g. cooks, matrons, maintenance people) and so the local economy itself is becoming stronger. Finally, and unusually, the rains this year were good. There should be a good harvest.



Water

And so, we come back to water!

The rainwater tanks have provided water over the rainy season but in January the village bore hole failed completely. It is only 10-15m deep and the water table has been lowered due to climate change.

The next few months will be very difficult and water will need to be purchased and shipped in to the village. You will know, if you read our last newsletter, that Bread has been talking for some time about providing a new bore hole, but it is very expensive and we haven't known quite how to go about it. Furthermore it will have to satisfy rising demand from the school and college expansions. Local residents need it too, and there will be an increase in disease if people use pools in the river.

Salvation has come from a Christian aid agency in Australia who will go halves with us in drilling a new well. This is very exciting, but we are proceeding in a cautious way, to properly examine the options and design the appropriate solutions. We will use the same NGO who refurbished the tanks: SAWA (Sanitation and Water Action, Tanzania) to carry out a wide ranging study of the technical and operational solutions.

Our finances

Below you will see a table about how we spent your money last year (i.e. up to end-September 2023). We spent nearly £48,000, of which about £20,000 went towards water.

Department	Projects	Expenditure/£
Hospital	Incinerator and epilepsy project	5,732
Berega Institute of Health Sciences	Setting up of new healthcare courses (IT equipment and laboratories) and Health Ministry course audit fees.	9,200
Bishop Chitemo Primary School	Pupil sponsorship	10,575
Water Project	Refurbishment of water collection pipes and storage tanks in and around the hospital, school and orphanage.	19,764
Other	Mkondo school new classroom and Morogoro Church Community Transformation	2,440
Total		47,711

Currently we have around £10,000 in the bank. We think that this will pay for our half-share in the bore hole. It leaves nothing left, but we are hoping that, as the year goes on, we will be able to provide some help to the Health Institute and its investment.

Mike Mytton (Secretary)

Contact addresses.

The following email address goes to Gary Mann (Chairman), Mike Mytton (Secretary) and Robert Cleave (Treasurer): contact@bread-trust.org.uk

If you want to contact David & Anne Curnock about sponsoring a child at school, then their email address is: dcurnock@doctors.org.uk

David and Anne also distribute this newsletter to you. If you want to unsubscribe, or ask for someone else to be put on our mailing list, then they are the people to talk to.

Stop Press

The water situation is changing frequently. We have just heard two things:

That diarrhea (and possibly cholera) may have come to the village due to using poor quality water;

And that the hospital has sunk a temporary bore-hole.

We remain committed to providing a long term solution whatever that turns out to be. The initial study by SAWA will help to determine the best way forward.

Please pray for the village at this time.