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My day with the Micro-finance Volunteers

On Friday 21st of February, I joined the micro-finance team for a day. The team consisted of five volunteers and their Projects Abroad coordinator



Elizabeth Makala. They meet with all the women that they are currently helping with loans on a weekly basis to get details regarding their income and expenses. The volunteers told me that I picked a good day to join them as on that day they were renewing the women's loans; which of course is good news.

Another reason why this was a good day to be part of the micro-finance team, was that they were going to stop at Shoprite for lunch, meaning they could eat anything they wanted. No rice and beans today! We took a taxi to a village north of Arusha, where we visited the Amani group. This group consists of seven women who each have a different business. All of the women had huge smiles on their faces when they came out to greet their visitors, and it was clearly a happy sight. They were of course wondering who I was and when Elizabeth explained that I was there as a visitor, one of the women brought me a guestbook and asked me to sign my name. [Click here to read more...](#)

Economics grad uses skills for Microfinance

"I wanted to try a new experience in a new context with the target of helping people less lucky than me," says 23-year-old Matteo Zardini from



Italy. Matteo recently completed studies at Universita Catiolica Del Sacro Cuore (Milan), where he studied economics, business and administration. He wanted to use his newly acquired knowledge in a developing country so he signed up to volunteer for six weeks with the Micro-

finance Project in Tanzania with Projects Abroad, a global volunteering organisation with opportunities in nearly 30 countries worldwide. While in Tanzania, Matteo lived with a host family and reported to work five days a week where he volunteered full time as part of a team of volunteers from other countries. Part of his time was spent in the Projects Abroad office doing administrative work; however the majority of his time was spent in the field visiting local woman. [Click here to read the full story...](#)

ALUMNI CORNER!

We invite all volunteers to participate in part-time paid work as an Alumni Representative after leaving our destination. Alumni Representatives attend promotional events and fairs in their home country and share their experience living and volunteering with Projects Abroad. If you are interested in becoming an Alumni Representative, email alumni@projects-abroad.co.uk.

Support Your Project

We often get requests from previous volunteers who would like to financially support their former project. If you would like to make a general donation to support our international work or if you want to donate to your previous placement please visit the Reconstruction Project website and earmark your donation for a specific charitable purpose. It will always reach your intended target!

<http://www.justgiving.com/reconstructionproject>.

You may also send a cheque to The Reconstruction Project, c/o Projects Abroad, Aldsworth Parade, Goring, Sussex, Great Britain, BN124TX

Groupe Chemin Croisés completes Building Project

Chemins Croisés is a project that aims to bring young people and adults



together who are in difficult professional situations. Half of the participants have their own building companies, or are involved in specialized education; gardening and carpentry, while other participants are young people with no skills, but motivated and willing to take part in a community project.

There were a total of 20 volunteers who were sponsored by public and private organizations. The volunteers arrived in Arusha, Tanzania on February the 28th and were transported to the village of Engikaret, a largely Maasai community located 50km outside of town. They spent two weeks at the building project at the Suma Engikaret Secondary School, where they worked full time from 6am up until 2pm with about intensive construction activities to complete a classroom building. Projects Abroad Tanzania has partnered with Suma Engikaret Secondary School for four years and has successfully completed two classroom buildings, a dormitory, several toilet facilities and a house for teachers. Since opening its door, Suma Engikaret has grown from 36 to 255 students largely due to the building expansion funded by Projects Abroad. The school is currently the first one in the district and ranks 30th in the Arusha region. Several members from the group told Country Director, Glory Matoi that they wanted to burn their French passports and remain in Tanzania. The group fell in love with the warm hospitality, food and culture of Tanzania during their stay. They also had the opportunity to go on safari in Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara, as well as explore the local Maasai community.

Arusha Regional Special Olympics

Arusha Regional Special Olympics was held at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Memorial Stadium in Arusha from March 3rd to March 7th. The event consisted of football, volleyball and running events for children with intellectual disabilities aged 12-years-old and higher. Arusha Regional Special Olympics occurs every year except for the years World Special Olympics are held.



Twelve schools from Arusha attended this year. At the end of the week they selected 22 children who will be attending the Tanzania National Special Olympics which will take place in Dar es Salaam on June the 2nd. The children who do well here will have the chance to participate in the World Special Olympics in Los Angeles 2015.

[Click here to read the full story...](#)