



# Misingi newsletter 23

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## 1 On to the next

On July 11, our good friend John Mahu was our special guest at the Misingi meeting. We took advantage of his presence to present our new plan of action to him. With his approval, we are now presenting it to you as well.



### a) Support through Teachers Without Borders



Donations with tax certificates are possible by scanning the QR code, by <https://donation.lzg.be/> or by direct bank transfer to BE48 5230 8027 2427 of Teachers without Borders. Mention "Gift to LzG for Misingi". Without this communication, your donation will not reach Misingi.

A donation results in a tax benefit of 45% from € 40. The tax certificates are always drawn up in the month of February (in the year following your donation). You can receive the certificate for your tax return in your mailbox at the latest the end of March. If you have any questions about this, feel free to contact us.

Donations without tax certificates are also still possible, directly to the account number of Misingi vzw: BE90 9731 2362 6332.

## b) Future projects Endallah

On the one hand, we believe that in Endallah we have now built what needed to be built: a secondary school with a boarding school, a kindergarten, a maternity, the renovation of both primary school and dispensary and last but not least, a large water project with more than 20 local distribution pumps and several 'storage tanks'. We think that the basic needs ('misingi' in Kiswahili) have been met. On the other hand, when we visit Endallah, we often receive 'other' investment questions from our local partners: teaching materials and books, medical equipment, a new water pump, a copier, an extra teacher, and so on. Questions that logically follow after the completion of the infrastructure.

We therefore want to start working from now on with annual donations to each of our 4 partners in Endallah: the dispensary and maternity, the primary school, the secondary school and ENDA-WASU (the water company). The size of the donations will be determined annually and of course depends on our income from sponsorship. The donations are divided equally between the 4 partners after they have made a proposal for their use. These proposals must first be approved by a local committee in which the 4 partners are represented and by Misingi. There are, of course, some conditions attached to it, the most important of which is that the investment must benefit the community. To keep it simple: a television in the teacher's room does not meet that condition, a library does. In this way, we will manage 4 smaller projects annually that are 100% demand-driven and on which there is a general consensus.

With autumn we will roll out everything, define the project conditions and draw up agreements, after which Vincent and Steven will start this way of working on site in February 2024.

## c) Future projects Engare Sero



Apart from this method that will only apply to our projects in Endallah, we also provide a budget for project work in Engare Sero (Lake Natron). During the past few months, a water pipe was installed to the site on which the Misingi kindergarten is located. Furthermore we supplied Lake Natron Secondary School with electricity by investing in the expansion of the existing network (which ended 2 kilometers from the school) and in transformers so that there is literally light in the darkness in Lake Natron Secondary School in the evening.

We extend this network for another 2 kilometers to the pump house at the water source (an earlier project by Misingi, funded by the 'community contributions' mentioned above). Here we install a new electric pump that propels the water to a collection tank at height from where it then flows to the secondary school via gravity. We expect all this to be completed in the autumn.

Another project is also being explored: the construction of 2 classrooms (first and a second grade) located opposite the Misingi kindergarten. In this way we avoid that children of 6 and 7 years old have to walk miles to the primary school in Engare Sero where there are already 90 children in 1 class. This project is still in the early stages: we are currently fine-tuning the proposal.

## 2 Visitors

From June 20<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, John and his 3 colleagues from Karatu District did a working visit to Belgium. Their schedule included meetings and visits with the Mechelen city council, the municipality of Oud-Heverlee, Thomas More Mechelen and Turnhout, the Karel De Grote Hogeschool, Ursulines Mechelen and Sint-Lambertusschool Muizen, AZ Sint-Maarten and AZ Imelda, JS Foundation and Dorizon Doenja (only John).

The purpose of these visits was to strengthen and expand existing collaborations and to set up new collaborations. They were accompanied in this by representatives of Misingi who also organized the arrangements for them. Very concrete agreements have already been made in the field of international internships in education and nursing (see below). In between, they also visited Mechelen, Heist Markt, some farms and Tyne Cot Cemetery in West Flanders, Paris and Brussels. After which 3 of the 4 guests got back on the plane exhausted, John stayed 2 weeks longer which he mainly used to visit old and new friends.





## 2 Recent activities of Misingi and partners

### a) Sponsor event Miet Grosemans

On Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Natuurpunt Hechtel-Eksel & Ferm Hechtel organised an 'AfriCafé' under the wings of Miet Grosemans. In 2014 they made an immersion trip to Endallah and renovated the primary school. Since then, Miet has been a volunteer at Misingi. With the money raised from her and her team members, she goes yearly on site for working on the projects. The benefits of this event go to the 'Diakonia' of the Lutheran church in Endallah and the neighboring villages. They try to take care of more vulnerable people from society: orphans, widows, the sick, people with disabilities...

The AfriCafé was a success! For many, it was a happy reunion. In a packed room and with a stomach full of African-tinged refreshments, attendees enjoyed videos, photos and interviews and bought art, soap and much more.





## b) Primary school Sint-Maarten Hombeek

Every year Vincent and Sandy hold a workshop day in the Sint-Maartenschool in Hombeek. With games, the students get to know the culture, education and projects of Misingi in Endallah. This school year they were able to meet the students of Endallah primary school via a live camera connection. They sang to each other, which resulted in a lot of laughter and mutual applause. *(photos March 19)*





### c) Primary school Sint-Lambertus Muizen

The Sint-Lambertusschool in Muizen has also been a regular sponsor of our projects for years. During the sponsor walk, the children accumulate a considerable amount of money, of which a third goes to Misingi every year. This year Pim, the daughter of Steven and Barbara, explained the projects to her class and peers from the 5th and 6th grade.

A few months later, our Tanzanian delegation visited their class as a thank you. The students, in turn, brought out their best English to present their school.



### d) Zuiderhuis – Endallah Cultural Tours

For several years now, visiting Endallah has only been possible via Zuiderhuis ([www.zuiderhuis.be](http://www.zuiderhuis.be)) where Treesje and Steven manage everything in the right direction. In this way, we not only ensure that the village is not flooded and that the visits are made in a respectful manner, we also ensure that part of the income from tourism flows back to the local community. After all, every Zuiderhuis traveler pays a 'community contribution' of 30 to 50 EUR per person (depending on the duration of the trip and the group size) for a visit to Endallah. This amount is transferred totally to Misingi via the local partner [Endallah Cultural Tours](http://Endallah Cultural Tours). And we, in turn, use it to co-finance our projects.

Among other things, our projects in Engare Sero (Lake Natron) are fully funded with these community contributions as well as smaller expenses such as the purchase of textbooks. These 'community contributions' are regularly supplemented by voluntary contributions or permanent assignments from travellers who have seen our projects with their own eyes and are happy to support them in the longer term. In this way, Misingi has been able to collect roughly EUR 100,000 from tourism in recent years: sustainable tourism.



## e) Foreign internships colleges

In 2015, Misingi facilitated the collaboration between [Thomas More University of Applied Sciences](#) and Karatu Health Training Institute. Since then, annual Flemish & Dutch nursing and midwifery students have been doing internships at Karatu Lutheran Hospital, Karatu Health Center and Endallah Healthpost/Maternity. <https://www.zotvanzorg.be/op-stage-in-tanzania/>

From January 2024, a collaboration will also be started with the secondary education teacher training programme of the [Karel De Grote University College](#). Two to three students will do three to six months of internship at Endallah Secondary School.



**“Hoe ver onze werelden ook uit mekaar liggen, we zijn allemaal mensen en we delen dezelfde gevoelens.”**

Het was een fantastische ervaring maar ook een cultuurshock”, zegt Annemie. “Een unieke ervaring”, vult Deborah aan. Allebei liepen ze stage in het Karatu Lutheran Hospital, het lokale Health Center en het verder afgelegen Endallah Dispensary. Dit is hun verhaal. Annemie “Karatu is een stad in het noorden van Tanzania, gelegen te midden van de ... Verder lezen over

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