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12.2023

Dear Friends,

I have been home a month. The past month has allowed me to adjust to the weather, be with my family and friends and engage in my usual activities. I am pleased to be home and so thrilled that I have had a fantastic experience during this trip to Africa.

Before you read a brief update on the progress and future priorities of the Shitungu community, I want to reiterate how impressed I continue to be about the decision-making process that the community practices. During my visit, I had a wonderful glimpse of their community cooperation and their pathway to establish consent. There was a safe and open atmosphere that welcomed people to listen fully and feel free to share their ideas and opinions. This inclusive process is too rarely exhibited by our peers and leaders.

At the community meeting I attended, a list of needed priorities was presented to me after about 30 minutes of discussion. As mentioned in an earlier e-mail, when I gifted

the community with \$200 about three weeks before my arrival and Rebecca with \$100, the community decided that the next project would be to invest in the production of soap. Rebecca generously contributed her gift to the community project. By the time I arrived to visit, the community had purchased the soap making equipment and was waiting for delivery.



MICRO- ENTERPRISES: SOAP PROJECT

Need 30,000ksh = \$200

The women in the community will be in charge of this effort in order to develop a sustainable income. Just briefly, it takes .40 cents to produce one bar of soap and the retail selling price is 85 cents. The plan is for the women to sell the soap for less than the current general market price and make a modest profit.

Ingredients needed to initiate this product will cost about \$200.



Soap making equipment and the new stretcher.

FIRST AID KIT = \$65

When visiting, it was clear that the community had no available medical services other than in

town and no transportation. Owano explained that if a woman went into labor at night, she was put in a wheelbarrow and pushed (on incredibly bumpy roads) to the hospital which is about 4 miles away. When visiting, I donated the money to purchase a stretcher so that the men could carry a pregnant woman or any injured person more comfortably to a medical facility!!

Rebecca and I went to a medical supply store in Kisumu to estimate the cost of supplies for a basic first aid kit.

WATER PUMP = \$118.00

Though we have provided the funds so that the community has a well, the water is presently being drawn by hand. A second hand pump is estimated to cost about \$120 and would be a great improvement.

And the best for last

EDUCATION SEED SUPPORT

Members of Shitungu have agreed to send their children to government schools which are more affordable than private schools. Though the annual fees listed below seem minimal from our perspective, they pose an overwhelming barrier to members of the



village. If you would like to support an individual child and communicate with the child and the parents, please let us know and we can initiate a connection.

PRIMARY LEVEL: KSH 5000 = \$33.00

JUNIOR SECONDARY: KSH 14000 = \$92.00

SECONDARY LEVEL: KSH 20000 = \$130.00

COLLEGE LEVEL: KSH 90000 tuition (NOT including accommodation and food) = \$587.00

I know that you are being inundated with requests from deserving organizations and political groups this time of year. A donation of any size will go a very long way to help this small community. Any help that you are able to provide would be used wisely and greatly appreciated! Updates on progress will be provided

Please send a check to KVEO at the above address and note on the check that the money is for the HOPE BLESSED ESTATE SELF HELP GROUP (HBESHG) or

to our Venmo account: [@KVEO-24](#)

Thank you in advance from me, Rebecca and everyone in Shitungu. Wishing you Happy Holidays, health and joy.



Joyce