

Latest newsletter from Tabora 'One family' November 2021

Familia Moja Itetemia (FAMOI) is a Tanzanian charity which supports the poorest in regions around the city of Tabora. FAMOI reaches out to individuals who are in acute poverty, suffering extreme social deprivation, or have severe medical needs. Through regular visits and by acting as a member of the extended family FAMOI provides medical, food and social care that is needed. The charity also works with local people to help them grow their own food and hopefully become independent. The FAMOI team have been working together on these types of projects since 2010. One of the highly successful projects has been the building of massive rainwater ponds that can hold enough water to last several months through the dry season when crops cannot normally be grown.

The Familia Moja Community Project UK [registered charity # 1185386] is a Stevenage-based charity which provides funding for FAMOI.

Tip of the Iceberg.....



Your unmarried Daughter dies in childbirth and you know, and you now have 3 orphans to care for. After paying for the funeral, you have no money even for baby's milk.

What to do? Where to get help?

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You are a 47 year old lady and you break your thigh bone and cannot pay for medical assistance so you are bed bound. After six weeks your husband moves your children to his mother and leaves. You stay with your sister and share rooms with her and three children until your mother-in-law sends your children back because she has no food. Then your sister's husband says you have to leave as there is no room nor enough food.

Where to go? Now what to do?

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You are a 15 year old fatherless child with three siblings and miraculously you could go to primary school. But after the last exam you break your shin bone playing football. It gets infected and you only have enough money for minimal medical care. You are in a lot of pain and you need an operation but the only treatment that you can afford is next to useless.

Where to go? What to do?

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These three cases are just 'the tip of the iceberg' in a community with increasing basic unmet needs, particularly in several very vulnerable subgroups. The last 4 years of economic downturn in Tanzania are now resulting in serious shortfalls of income and an inability to meet these basic needs - needs like food, having water to drink, basic healthcare.

But what has this to do with me???

When I heard of the little baby born and orphaned in the first few hours of his life with now such a small chance of survival, I could not help but think of another birth long ago: just as precarious, not in a hospital but only a stable. I also thought about what that boy Jesus means to us -even today.

As in the words of John 3:16 about that 'baby boy' *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

How do we respond?

Where does God want us to go with these people?

Familia Moja Itetemia has only 9 members. And we are struggling even to meet our own needs for income generation. Despite this we all feel we must try to make a difference to these people.

We identified several groups of people that are more vulnerable, and who we aim to identify in our areas, where we live and work.



A) The elderly and frail people with little or no family connections that have become virtually invisible within our local community.

B) Widows or single mothers with children or grandmothers with orphans who are often perilously short of practical support and help to survive.

C) Some of our present and possible future clients are having problems not only with the lack of material resources but with their inability on how to manage their resources. They may profit from us helping them with a more focused mentoring approach to address this.

D) People whose health needs exceed their financial and social means and whose inability to get appropriate health care puts them at risk for their health and even their lives.

We also continue to help as much as we can with our existing resources with food, water (ponds), medical aid, and helping people to improve income generation (ponds, gardens, agricultural techniques etc) and housing when needed.

Strategies

We have developed a new set of strategies on how to find, assess and reach out to potentially new people.

We feel strongly that we need to **start with what we have**: which is God and His promises and whatever resources He put in our hands/ minds/ hearts. And we need to start with who we are: a group of Christians with a call to reach out to those with basic unmet needs.



We are looking for partners in this endeavour: mainly we would like your prayers and we are also happy to share in prayer for your communities. We understand that Familia Moja is not reserved to one place (Tabora) but is relevant to all God's children everywhere.

So here are some of our prayer points:

1 Please pray for the baby and his Granny and the whole family, that he will not become sick. Please also pray for the lady with the broken leg and her family with no home or income to look after them. Please also pray for the 15-year-old who is very ill now with few resources left to the family.

2 Please help us to pray for guidance and wisdom from our Lord as to where we should go and what we should do exactly. We are aware how easily we could be overwhelmed, so we need guidance on how to discern who really is desperate for help and who He wants us to reach.

3. Please also pray for rain as this year is predicted to have poor rains and that would make everyone's situation so much more precarious.

May the Lord bless you wherever you are; also in the coming Advent and Christmas season.

In Love Ruth, the team of FAMOI and Juma and Geni (who are growing very big!)

