



HAPPY DAYS AT NYAISHOZI MARKET BEFORE COVID 19

## Action in Africa



## Summer Newsletter

### **Covid 19 Reaches Nyaishozi**

**While we patiently await the easing of Lockdown in the U.K. Nyaishozi is bracing itself for the onslaught of Covid 19.**



**Father Vitalis has confirmed that the virus has now reached Nyaishozi, claiming 2 lives with 12 confirmed cases.** Action in Africa has sent two tranches of money. The initial £1,300 was sent to fund two local radio educational campaigns. Information about

the virus for the local community is critical, as governmental guidance has been skant. In addition, Action in Africa has also funded the purchase of equipment for wash stations to be set up in Nyaishozi. (Pictured left). Although Tanzanian schools were closed and incoming travellers quarantined at the arrival of the virus in the country, president John Magufuli has since announced that the country is 'virus free'. This has caused alarm, with the WHO concerned that there has been no data regarding Covid 19 from Tanzania in recent weeks. General opinion is that the president is eager to open up the economy rather than focus on the pandemic. The most recent news stated that the confirmed number of cases stands at 509 with 21 deaths, although that number is thought to be a grave underestimation.

Schools are set to open up shortly – with colleges and universities already resuming courses. The people of Nyaishozi are vulnerable in that it is on the bus route from Entebbe, Uganda, through the village to Dar es Salaam in the south and Arusha in the east of the country. Locking down the area would be unachievable. As a very poor population, it does not take much to throw the fragile day to day existence into crisis. Self-isolation and social distancing here is impossible. There are no intensive care units in local hospitals and are just 60 ventilators to

accommodate the entire Tanzanian population. (56 million people). While the government has reassured schools that wash stations and access to water will be available for students and teachers, PPE is only being issued to clinicians. Gloves and masks are not going to be issued by the government. Action in Africa has sent a further £1,600 to buy this essential equipment, which will be distributed to the local people.

We are hoping that the Tanzanian heat will slow the spread of the virus and that, being a relatively young population, Covid 19 will not wreak the terrible destruction that it has here in the U.K. As at the time of preparing this newsletter, there are several projects that we are delighted to confirm will be continuing this year. However, we are unable to share many photographs at this time, as Father Vitalis is playing a key role in organizing Nyaishozi's defense against Covid 19. As a result, we hope to bring you up to date in our autumn newsletter. In the meantime, we hope that you and your families are safe and well and not suffering in these challenging times. If you would like to help the community of Nyaishozi through this pandemic, please go to [www.actioninafrica.org](http://www.actioninafrica.org) and go to our Donation page. We would like to thank everyone for your continued support.

## MAIZE HARVEST A SUCCESS!

**A Bumper Crop for 2020**

We do have some good news – the Maize for School Lunches Campaign has done very well this year, with Father Vitalis confirming that the harvest has been excellent. You may remember that this project began with Action in Africa funding maize lunches for 100 of the poorest children in Nyaishozi Primary School.

This then expanded the following year to the children prepping the school waste ground themselves and the charity financing the purchase of maize seed. The resulting crop was satisfactory – feeding all the children (over a 1000 pupils) lunch for 8 months.

Last year we funded the professional tilling and preparation of the soil in addition to the purchase of superior maize seed. Pictured above is the crop being bagged up. There will be plenty of maize to feed the children at school this year and into 2021.

## DID YOU KNOW

# 84%

Of Tanzanian schools lack functional hand washing facilities

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.actioninafrica.org](http://www.actioninafrica.org)

Or visit  Action in Africa



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*Action in Africa would like to give you something to look forward to and put in the diary – our Burns Supper at Tyrrells Wood Golf Club on January 22<sup>nd</sup> (TBC). if you are interested, please get in touch. More details will follow – but for now we can dream of a happier time. Pictured left are Michael Agius, our lovely chairman and his beautiful wife Mary at a previous Action in Africa Burns Night.*

## News from Ashtead

### **Marathon Man 2020 training for October Race**

Covid 19 has not dented the resolve of Action in Africa Marathon Man 2020, Dean Macklin. Dean, pictured below, managed to run the Surrey half marathon in a stunning 1 hour 34 minutes. Grateful that this event took place before Lockdown, Dean is 'gutted' that the Marathon has been postponed until October 4. He is however, thrilled to be able to continue with his training and hopes that supporters will continue to donate. If you would like to support Dean, please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=dean-macklin-SAVMLMBONDS333-2020-233540&pageUrl=1>



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