

With our daughter Joanna doing voluntary work in Tanzania for four months my wife Mary and I spent four weeks in Tanzania, with half in Tabora Region. At our expense we visited recently completed FUM projects and assessed possible new projects. Care was taken to avoid duplication of visits made the year before by chairman Richard Pratt and medical liaison officer Jo Taylor, and also the visits to clinics by the three UK doctors during their medical elective spell at Urambo Hospital earlier in 2017.

We were extremely grateful to our local co-ordinators for the enormous help they gave us in organising transport and scheduling meetings with important local dignitaries. Special thanks must go to Venance Gomegwa in Nzega District, Baraka Makona in Tabora, Lucky Mgeni in Sikonge and around Urambo District, and Godfrey Hisraeli in Kaliua District.

First stop was Mwanza, flying in from Dar es Salaam to visit Mama Neema Malyeli who is now retired there with her family. For many years, as Principal of Mwanhala FDC, Neema hosted visits by Cranbrook School students and teachers doing valuable work in FUM clinics and villages. Nothing was ever too much trouble for her.

A four hour drive on the new tarmac road took us to Mwanhala FDC and a Reception by the current Principal Mr Mwadua. Neema came with us. She had planned to meet quietly her old friends there but instead she became the star of the show which delighted her.



Nzega District

Mwanhala Here the extent of the reported drought became apparent. Poor rains the previous winter meant that many usually reliable water sources had dried up for the first time in up to 10 years. At [Mwanhala FDC](#), even with its 100m deep borehole, the fall in the level of the water table meant that the FDC was struggling to meet demand. Many villagers had to buy water from local entrepreneurs at three times the normal price.

More heartening was **Mwanhala Primary School** where the well refurbished by FUM is giving good water. The handpump was bought with help from Horsell C of E Junior School's [Running to Mwanhala](#) project.



With Nzega District Commissioner, the Honourable Godfrey Ngupula

Only a mile away [Mwanhala clinic](#) was having to buy water. Despite this temporary problem staff at the clinic were adamant that their most pressing need is for a staff house. At £18,000 this is more than FUM can afford but local people have offered to contribute £2000 of work and Jo Taylor is inviting Nzega District Council to contribute £8000.

A courtesy meeting with the Nzega District Commissioner, the Honourable Godfrey Ngupula, was very beneficial and he is now a firm supporter of FUM's work. Thanks to Education Officer Mr Jackson Mhinga we met most of the poor and orphaned students from [Imeli Primary School](#) who receive bursary support from FUM members. We took their photographs for distribution by Jenny Wills to sponsors. We were impressed with the rigour of the process for distributing the bursary monies.

Nurses To help alleviate the shortage of nurses at [Nzega Hospital](#) FUM and our colleagues at FON [Friends of Nzega](#) have for some years wanted to support poor local citizens who wish to train as nurses for two years and then be employed at the hospital. This had not proved possible so far because of the government's centralised system for nurse training and employment. Discussions with the District Medical Officer Dr Sengo centred on this issue and it is heartening that a possible solution has been identified. Separately, a route has now been established for some current Nzega nurses to upgrade their skills and we are supporting our first such nurse. Our aim is for several students each year. We visited the smart new Nursing School in Nzega and the old building, now used as extra dormitories. The electrics here were in very poor condition but have now been overhauled thanks to funding from FON.

Mbooga we visited here to see the progress with the large rainwater harvesting scheme paid for by FUM. This was well advanced and is now in full use. The clinic was being upgraded, including tiled walls and floors, thanks to a government RBF grant for good performance.

Semembela the FUM borehole and pump were completed in 2017 and are much appreciated by villagers. The girls' dormitory at the secondary school is almost at capacity with 32 girls in residence who would otherwise not have been able to attend the school. The clinic, one of FUM's very first, a Gillett clinic built in 1983, has largely been superseded by a smart new one funded by World Vision, but it still provides useful accommodation for vaccinations, ante-natal and counselling.

Mwasala the FUM borehole and pump, completed in 2016, were still giving good water despite the drought. The doctor's house was looking good after work by FUM and the patients' new toilets at the clinic were nearing completion. The clinic was being upgraded with a government RBF grant.

Malilita this Gillett clinic from 1983 was in very good condition thanks to its RBF grant. Storage arrangements for medicines were excellent, the best we saw. John Gillett would have been proud of 'his' clinic. We were entertained with a very imaginative song and dance routine by local school children, including a very imaginative musical 'wish list' for future support from FUM !



Fire Dance welcome at Imeli School

Nyasa 2 Primary School. The population increase nationwide means that the school is almost bursting at the seams with over 3000 pupils. The government now provides free tuition but as a result has little money for extra teachers or buildings. There are two 'shifts' for teaching yet classes still average over 70 pupils. The 1500 boys have just four toilets so FUM, with help from St Germans Primary School in Devon, is paying for another seven to be built.

Imeli Primary School FUM has had a long association with Imeli PS, helping to transform it from an inner-city sink school to one of the most popular in Nzega. FUM is also providing bursaries for its poor and orphaned students to attend secondary school. Like Nyasa 2 it now has a chronic shortage of boys' toilets so FUM is helping to build more.

[Isagenhe](#) the two shallow wells were refurbished by FUM in 2014 and 2015 and looked in good condition but both were dry for the first time in seven years. The clinic was still in good condition after being repainted by Cranbrook School students in 2015 and the ceiling repaired in 2016. The head teacher at the primary school is interested in having a link with Bere Alston PS in Devon but communication is not easy.

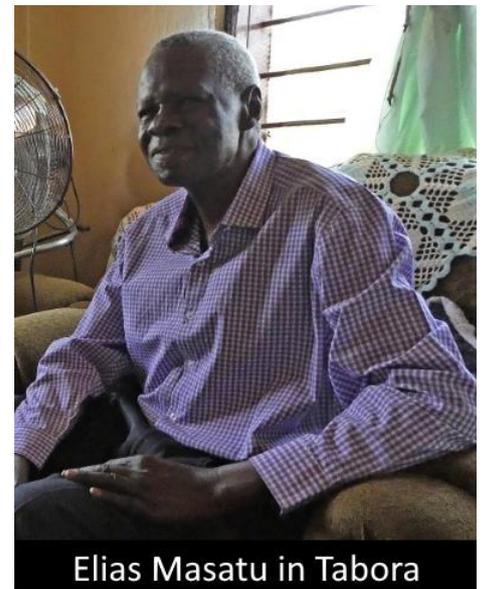
Brief visits were also made to **a)** Mwanhala Secondary School whose great wish is for a girls' boarding hostel similar to that at Semembela and to **b)** a small but lively women's tailoring group in Nzega with a shop selling their bright and beautifully finished designs.



Nzega women's tailoring group

Tabora Meetings with senior politicians such as the District and Regional Commissioners were cancelled three times due to their other more pressing commitments. A particular pleasure was meeting again Elias Masatu, FUM's co-ordinator for over 25 years until his retirement. As always he looked very smart, his mind is still sharp but his English has suffered a little due to a slight stroke.

[Sikonge FDC](#) A month before our visit a serious fire destroyed the administration block and all the college records. Although there is an ongoing investigation it seemed clear that the cause was an electrical fault in a light switch. We were impressed with the efforts of the new Acting Principal Mr Shilinde and his staff to maintain the curriculum and prepare students for their important examinations in November/December. As a result FUM has restored the bursary payments (for poor students) that were suspended after the fire. The loss of the administration block roof seriously affected water collection at the college. As a result, with on-site advice from Mr Lucky and the local water company head Mr Benjamin, FUM paid for some replacement capacity and this was completed in time for the November rains. An unexpected positive development from the fire is that the College Board has been reinstated after several years' dormancy and is already generating resources to help get the college back on its feet.



Elias Masatu in Tabora

Urambo and Kaliua Districts



Lively kindergarten at Urambo FDC

[Urambo FDC](#) We were pleased to be able to stay in Devon House, the guest accommodation built by FUM many years ago, and where the three UK doctors stayed during their elective placements earlier in the year. Guests pay £6 per night for board and lodging, a useful source of income for the FDC. Under the energetic leadership of the Principal Mr Herman Nestory the FDC has strong student numbers and is doing well. Students come from a wide area, one even from the coast about 700 miles away. Although the FDC is now connected to Urambo town water supply the region-wide drought, together with a town pumping problem, meant that water was limited. Poor maintenance resulted in the college vehicle being out of action for three months but it is now repaired and a new maintenance schedule is in place.



New maternity Waiting Unit at Urambo

Urambo Hospital serves a wide area including outlying villages from which patients often arrive by motorbike taxi. The Director Dr Kanani showed us the impressive new maternity Waiting Unit where expectant mothers can stay for the days before their delivery is due. Funds for it were raised by the local MP Mama Sitta and she is now working on funding for a new Delivery Unit. With the hospital having up to 150 deliveries per month the two new delivery beds, funded in 2017 by the Cranbrook School charity appeal, were much appreciated. Also

appreciated were the three UK doctors, Dele, Jane and Adam, who spent their six week [‘medical elective’](#) placement in Urambo, supported by FUM. Read [Adam+Jane’s Report](#).

Maboha The FUM clinic built in 1999 was in good condition, including solar lighting, thanks to its government RBF grant. It is staffed by Dr Florian and nurse Regina but the staff houses need refurbishment.

The big problem is water which the clinic has to buy. The closest reliable sources are nearly 2km away, at Lake Sagara and at a dangerous open well near the lake. FUM's water consultants, Mr Lucky and Mr Godfrey, together with the Kaliua district water engineer are working on an ambitious plan for a solar powered pumping system to supply water to the village and the clinic. The cost of £15,000 will be shared equally between FUM and Kaliua district.



Dangerous open well at Maboha

Usimba Its government RBF grant means that the clinic and separate larger maternity unit are both in good condition and very well organised. Water is not a problem. The primary school has 1000 students with 8 classrooms and 22 teachers. As elsewhere it is in poor decorative condition and the headmaster would welcome help from a visiting school group from UK.

Nyasa after a five hour drive on dirt roads from Urambo we found this large clinic to be in good condition with the government funded improvements nearing completion. There is a medical officer and two nurses though one was on leave. Solar panels provide power for lighting and, unusually, for the vaccine fridge. The large entrance lobby gives an excellent waiting area and is also used for public health displays and talks.

Water is still a big problem. The clinic pays for it to be brought from the top of a 100m high hill about 1 km away - bizarre ! With the help of a generous supporter’s donation FUM is paying for the clinic's large roof area to harvest rainwater into a 96,000 litres subterranean concrete tank. A solar pump will raise the water as needed.

Early in 2018 villagers dug the very large hole needed and fundis have started building the tank walls for later water proofing.



Building Nyasa water tank

Nick Vinall
FUM Hon Treasurer