

Nayamba Quarterly Report from 1 Jan 2019 – 31 March 2019

The year started off with little rain but lots of excitement for Nayamba students. We have been very lucky to host a wonderful teacher from Germany who is just completing her master's in education. She has been a great asset to the school, working alongside the teachers and providing valuable assessments on the current strengths and areas for improvement for us.

This is a short extract from her report so far:

During my first week at Nayamba School I realized, that good teaching doesn't depend on having the newest and best books or materials, it's much more about the motivation and commitment of the teachers and how they are able to encourage the children.

Although the circumstances are sometimes challenging, for example if pencils or books are missing, because parents can't afford them, the pupils and teachers always try their best and are very open to new ideas and thoughts. Compared to other primary schools I've seen before in Africa, the focus at Nayamba School is on the children and how they could develop best. Some teachers still have to find out, that there is a big difference between being very soft to the children and putting them in the center, so they need to find a good balance between being friendly and tease out the best of every single child by challenging them again and again.

After the lessons in the morning, there are different activities in the afternoon, like maintenance, clubs or sports. During the maintenance time the children take responsibility for their school, for example by cleaning the classes, the playground or planting Moringa trees. After planting the seedlings every child is responsible for one of them, which means that everyone has to water and look after his or her plant.

On Monday afternoons two female teachers and all girls from the fifths to the ninth grade are meeting for the "Girls club". There they're discussing many different topics concerning girls in particular, furthermore the girls have the time and possibility to ask any question or enter into exchange with others about topics they're interested in.

Over all I was really impressed how motivated, open and friendly everyone is, and I'm really looking forward to the next weeks.

End of extract!

Several of our teachers also accessed training organised by the local education department in Chisamba in partnership with World Vision. For this teachers accessed workshops on child centred learning and formative assessment. We were delighted when the teacher trainers visited our teachers and reported to us how pleased they were with what they saw. Unlike other schools they had visited, our teachers had clearly put their learning into practice and the lesson feedback was excellent.

With the recent art supplies we had donated we have been able to include some art lessons for our pupils. We did some finger and footprints and tried to make some animals out of it. In the second lesson we first read the book 'The very hungry Caterpillar', after the children made caterpillars out of balloon-prints. Some children even did imprints of leaves with Waxcolours. As you can imagine, enriching the curriculum in this creative way was such a blessing to the students.

A local business has also donated 2000+ Moringa plants or seedlings as part of a sustainability project for the school and the children are taking care of them and watering them. They decided, that every child is responsible for one plant, so they have to look after it and water it. The hope is that when these plants are ready for harvesting they can enrich the food programme as well as excess being sold on to the local supplier to generate much needed funds for the extra activities wanted at Nayamba School.

There are also some pics I've made while the JEFA Group was there. This is a STEM project giving children aspirations for engineering related jobs and helping them develop the foundational skills for this.



Nayamba School has also introduced three action groups made up of different members of staff to move the school forward with its broader action plan that the Zambian staff have identified together as areas for development at the school. The first group is re-establishing adult literacy classes for the broader community surrounding Nayamba.

The second is looking at ensuring Nayamba is a safe school for all and will initially be focussing on Anti-bullying through lessons, assemblies & community workshops. They will also be bringing in guest speakers including local chiefs, police and mayor as well as helping children identify the effects and forms of bullying and build strategies for bullying prevention.

Lastly they have a team focused on caring for the environment with a particular focus on conservation and sustainability in the environment. This club will be very hands on, with a team of

staff and pupils who will practically help with litter as well as more broadly educating the school community, how their actions impact the environment and how, longer term this environmental impact will affect them and others in the world.

This year we will be establishing ourselves as an examination centre. We have already had the initial visit from the department for education and are fundraising for the necessary building requirements and facilities in order to be approved in time for the end of the year.

On a more serious note, security is an increasing issue at the school. They had an attempted break in and there have been issues at Nagwaza compound too. More concerning, there has been a report of a child being abducted (not from Nayamba but in the vicinity). Apparently, there are spates sometimes where children are taken for body parts etc. Pupils have been told they must only walk in large groups. We are also considering a security guard overnight for the school grounds. (This role is more a watchman as they would alert others if there were any issues.)

We are also beginning work on the Nayamba Trade Centre when we are sure the rainy season is behind us. This will start with a weaving building and initial accommodation for the primary staff we will need to establish it. We are still seeking grants so this is fully funded but will be starting to build phase one with the funds we already have donated.

Li and I just returned from a trip to the western cape where we had the opportunity to visit two successful weaving mills and even managed to find a master weaver who would be willing to come to Zambia for a time period up to 6 months to teach the different weaving skills.

