

Dear Roy

In our Children's Village in Mkuranga, we have ten devoted mothers who care for 78 children, ranging in age from nine months to 20 years. Eight of these mothers maintain a family unit with a maximum of ten children each, while two mothers act as relief for sickness and holiday entitlements.



It is hard to put into words what a fantastic job our mothers do for their children. These mothers are on call 24 hours a day. They get up each weekday at 5:30 am to prepare their children for school; they go to bed around 10 pm having spent the day cleaning, washing

and cooking, and also caring for younger children - we have 14 children under six.

When the older children come back from primary school, they help them with their homework and organise sports activities with them from 5 to 6 pm most evenings. And of course, if a child is unwell during the night they look after them. Many of our children are often traumatised when they come to us, and the mamas spend many hours helping them feel loved and wanted in the small family unit.



When Francesca and I were in the Village six weeks ago, we talked to each mother individually for more than one hour. We asked each: What is the best thing about their job? And some replied...
"It's so good to see when my children do well at school"
"We get our salaries on time – and interest free loans"
"I feel that the Village Manager fully supports me in

my efforts to teach my kids good behaviour".

And to have a balanced view, we also asked them what the worst thing about their job was.

"When kids misbehave even having been told to do right things several times" (I think we all know that feeling!)

When kids find it very hard to get a job even after they have graduated from college". (The youth unemployment rate in Tanzania is around 50%).

"My job became more difficult when I broke my ankle."

"I don't see my own family as much as I would like".



And what was your happiest day in 2022?

“When I heard that my Year 7 children had performed well in their national exams and that Malaika would pay for all of them to go to good secondary schools”

“When we got visitors again after 3 years of absence due to corona”

“When we all got a bonus as thanks for doing a good job”.

Thank you

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who contributed so generously to our Christmas Appeal, which raised just over £80,000 in total. Your kind donations allow us to support our 78 children with excellent care and love, giving them a good education and teaching them how to become trustworthy members of their community. We and our children are very grateful for your loyal support.

Alan Edwards
Malaika Kids UK Chair