2020 A Challenging but Great Year

First and foremost, Matim Primary School (PS) excelled in the **Standard 7 National Exam**. Of the 90 students tested, 88 (or 97.7%) passed. All 88 students plan to further their education in Secondary School (SS). As a reminder, when *AIFA* started working at Matim, only 52% of students passed the national exam. Passage is a mandatory requirement for any further education. This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the support that you have provided to these children and their teachers. Matim's school lunch, supplies, clean drinking water, a library and computer lab are rare in public schools in Tanzania. Only three of the 92 primary schools in the Arusha District even have a library or computer lab. In 2020 Matim scores ranked 13th of these 92 primary school. When private schools are excluded, Matim ranked 4th. Matim is now ranked in the highest quartile in the entire country of 16,000 primary schools.

Primary School	Students	Overall Score	District Ranking (of 92 PS)
Matim	90	178	13
Lemanyata	105	151.8	46
Engorica	66	150.3	50
Olkokola	57	128.5	89

Matim Ranking in Comparison to three Neighboring Schools

We completed our second year of the Girls Health and Hygiene Program. This started as an education program for menstrual health and information at Matim and Mukulat Secondary. This year Molly and Mary Anne, aka Mama Molly, were present at the dedication of Girls Health Bay at Mukulat SS. We plan to expand this program to Lemanyata, an adjacent Primary School, in 2021. The program provides grade 6 and 7 girls an AfriPads Kit, undergarments and health and hygiene education delivered by an African team of Health teachers. This program is enthusiastically supported by the girls, their parents and teachers.

At the beginning of the pandemic, President John Magufuli suspended classes for three months. During this time, we worked quickly with Mr. Lang'o to prepare for the students' return. We authorized Mr. Lang'o to have 28 hand washing stations with soap and water placed around the school. When school reopened, Mr. Lang'o led an assembly instructing the children when and how to wash their hands. All desks are now washed daily. Mr. Magufuli extended the school day from 8 to 10 hours, canceled all holidays and breaks and added two extra weeks of instruction in December. *AIFA* was concerned about the extended hours and provided extra funds for a more nutritious lunch called Makande, beans and rice.

Our biggest challenge going into 2021 is the growing enrollment at Matim. When we started the lunch program at Matim

in 2013 there were 960 students. In 2020 the enrollment was 1,382. When *AIFA* built the kindergarten in 2011, the enrollment was 90 children. This past year, 230 children attended kindergarten at Matim taught by *AIFA* funded staff, one teacher and one aide, in this same classroom. It seems we are victims of our own success. The Tanzanian government allows parents to send their children to any primary school they wish. Currently Matim is attracting many students from other primary schools in Lemanyata Valley. The government has added teachers, but no additional classrooms. Thus, we are still seeing 100+ children in many classrooms and several children sharing one desk and one textbook.

Our current thinking is to meet with tribal leaders, District Education Officials, and parents to discuss ways this issue can be best addressed. Given our approach, we ask that our tremendous community of supporters continue to put *AIFA* at the top of their list for charitable donations.

In closing, we wanted to recognize *AIFA's* Project Coordinator, Mr. Angweni Lang'o. While juggling his role as Headmaster, husband, father of four and guardian to two nieces, he has been attending night classes pursuing an advanced degree in Education. We are proud of him and the support he has from his wife, Sophia, aka Mama Bronco, his teachers and his District Education Officer and staff. We are deeply indebted to him for his work making 2020 another successful year for *AIFA*.