



TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF
JESUS CHRIST TO THE
STREET CHILDREN
OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO
MEET THEIR NEEDS
THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE
LIFE IN ALL ITS
GOODNESS

Welcome to the July edition of FISCH Food!

It's still a bit hot hot hot isn't it! And alas, England's chances of World Cup glory were not to be. Still, they played a good game!

For most of us, the summer holidays are here, a time when schools break up, many folk go off on holiday adventures, and the usual routine seems a bit up in the air. Fear not, all is still ticking along at FISCH in Tanzania – no school holidays there, as the school year runs Jan to Dec! The good work is ongoing at the Drop-in-Centre, so here are all the news and updates for you. Happy Holidays!



FISCH Utd – Working Their Way Up

Do you remember in our June edition we shared how the long-running FISCH Utd football team was playing in the local Municipal District Under-20s league? They are one of twenty teams playing and we are pleased to report they are doing well!

The league kicked off on 21st June and since then they have **topped their Group with 8 points!** They beat Botafogo 2-0, Atalanta FC 1-0, drew with Mkimbizi FC 2-2 and Ilambilole 0-0. They will continue to play in the League, moving into the next stage round and we will continue to keep you updated!

FISCH Utd – “Nurturing talent, Building character, and Developing tomorrow’s leaders!”



Food Parcel Seminars

Each month we provide **51 Children** with a **Food Parcel** from FISCH. Not only does this provide a **substantial meal each day** for a month for a Child, but it also **provides for the family** as well. Having a good meal a day has a significant impact on the day-to-day life of a Child who is working hard at school, in further education or in vocational training, increasing their focus and wellbeing and ultimately giving them a better chance of a sustainable future. It also ensures these young people are **not forced to return to the streets** (so that the family can scrape enough together to eat) rather than attend their lessons.

On the day of distribution of the Food Parcels this June, when the Parents and Guardians of the sponsored FISCH Child came to collect their parcel, the Drop-in-Centre was **visited by government leaders**, including the local Councillor, a local Executive Officer and Development Officer, and the Chairperson of a local ward. These leaders came to see the activities carried out by FISCH. They gave some **encouraging compliments** stating that FISCH is a **great support to the community**. They were pleased that the engagement with the Parents and Guardians is in line with the government policy for NGOs to help prevent child abuse and the number of children running away from home to live and work on the streets. Here you can see the officials alongside the Parents and Guardians who have come to collect their Food Parcels.



In early July, a **seminar** was held at the Drop-in-Centre for the same group of Parents and Guardians (although in the future the Team hope to reach the wider community). The aim of this seminar was to **raise awareness of violence prevention** – research in Tanzania shows that 60% of child abuse cases are committed by family members. Therefore, the topics focussed on **empowering parents and guardians to protect children** and to build economic groups that can qualify for government loans, helping families to **reduce poverty** – this is one of the root causes of child abuse.

FISCH was blessed with a visit from a special guest, **Ms Esther Sanga**, the Municipal Community Development Officer (MCDO) from Iringa, who facilitated the session on loans and group formation. She was assisted by both **Gaspar** and **Nassoro** of the Tanzanian FISCH Team.

Some of the topics covered in the seminar included;

1 – **six fundamental rights of the child** (out of eleven total) – these are: right to life, survival and development; right to care and protection from abuse; right to health; right to education; right to family care and love; right to food, water and basic shelter. The other five rights will be covered in a subsequent seminar.

2 – Importance of **forming groups** and **accessing affordable loans**

3 – **business and entrepreneurship**



Afterwards, a communal meal was prepared and enjoyed by all. The seminar was **well received** by the Parents and Guardians, so much so that they requested that the seminars be extended to a two-day event so that they can learn more! Ms Sanga, also emphasised that these seminars are very important to help support the government's efforts to **strengthen families and prevent children from ending up on the streets.**

Great work Team!

Did you notice that we mentioned above that each Child is **sponsored**? Our Food Parcel Sponsorship Programme **matches a Child** and associated Family who are in need of a generous Sponsor somewhere in the world. Twice a year the Sponsor receives feedback from their individual Child, and the Child and their family are provided with a Food Parcel each month. The Parcel costs **£24.50** a month, and this provides **25kg of maize flour, 5kg of beans, 5kg of rice, 1kg of sugar and 1lt of oil.** If you are interested in signing up to sponsor a Child, please contact **Sarah Farrah**, our overseer of all things Food Parcel! Her email address is sarahfarrar88@hotmail.com. **Asante sana!**



Bank Details for Regular Giving

<https://gofisch.org/donate> Account Name:
FISCH Sort Code: 60-09-21 Account No:
77518462



Alfonzo* Return Home

We love sharing our stories of FISCH Kids who have been successfully and happily **reunited with their families**, helping them move **off the Streets** and **into stable homes** –with assistance and ongoing support by the Tanzanian Team. Here we share Alfonzo's story as he makes it back home to his family.

His story starts after his father abandoned the family household, leaving Alfonzo's mother to relocate the family elsewhere. In the upheaval and struggles, Alfonzo also left home, moving through villages and towns until eventually he ended up in Iringa, on the Streets, **hungry** and **alone**. He was discovered by FISCH in 2024 and was registered, and the

Team provided **food, clothing** and **shelter**. He also received counselling and guidance by the Team, and Alfonzo enrolled in the FISCH Sewing Class. Here he **developed practical** skills to provide an alternate way of living – one that is **sustainable** and **gives back to the community**. This year, the process was started to connect with Alfonzo's family and to counsel all those involved in preparation for him to move back in with his family. Alfonzo was keen for this to happen, and his family and home community showed strong commitment to support him and welcome him home.

Gaspar, one of our FISCH Social Workers, **made the journey with Alfonzo** back to the village where his family was based. Alfonzo's stepfather welcomed them at the bus stand and rang ahead to let Alfonzo's mother know that he had arrived! It was a **truly joyful moment** when Alfonzo's mother and grandmother tearfully and happily **welcomed him back home** after more than three years without seeing him. He was also welcomed by the chairperson of the village, who stood by the family in commitment of the support pledged to Alfonzo and his family.

Alfonzo's mother expressed deep gratitude to FISCH for taking care of her son these past few years and keeping him safe. She acknowledged his past negative behaviours but commented on the significant improvements she saw on his arrival. She thanked FISCH for its outstanding work transforming Children. In her words, "Mungu ibariki FISCH na wafanyakazi!" which translates to "God bless FISCH and the workers!" **We are very proud of our Tanzanian Team** who have cared for Alfonzo, supported him through his physical, emotional and educational needs, and pursued counselling and connection for him to return to his family.

FISCH will continue to provide Alfonzo and his family with support, and it is hoped that he will be able to build himself a **sustainable future** thanks to his tailoring skills he has acquired in his time at the Drop-in-Centre.

We love to share these testimonies to the hard work of the FISCH Team and the faithfulness of God's provision. We really are giving these Children a hope and a future – one Street Kid at a time. **Thank you so much for your support!**

**Names have been changed to protect privacy*



Above: a happy Alfonzo with his happy mother!

Below: Alfonzo's grandmother, Gaspar, Alfonzo and Alfonzo's mother

