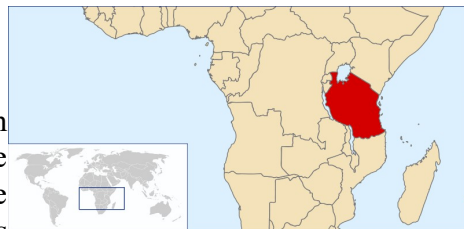


Nkokoto mid – summer 2021 Report

The Minchinhampton Nkokoto Link supports a total of 96 students from Nkokoto village, in years 1 to 4 in Vumilia Secondary School, at the Urambo Folk Development College on a two year course learning a trade and in further and higher education in schools, colleges and universities



across Tanzania. These students, all from Nkokoto of course and whose parents still live in the village, are all supported by those of you who are members of the Link sponsorship scheme or/and have made a contribution to the Link. We are eternally grateful to everyone who supports the Link, especially as during the last 18 months we have been unable to organise any fundraising events.

Lucky Mgeni, our representative in Urambo and who regularly visits Nkokoto to meet the village committee and villagers, is in regular contact with us and keeps us informed of the Link's projects. He also ensures that we receive detailed receipts, bank statements and information about how our sponsorship money is spent, for example, he sends us lists of the equipment that each student is required to buy before going to higher education, college or university. (On top of the school fees, the students have to have their own health insurance, buy all their text books, exercise books, photocopying paper, pens, etc., as well as school uniform. Those students attending the FDC in Urambo have also have to buy and take with them their own mattresses, bed covers, mosquito net, buckets and wash basin.) The Link covers these costs too. We have had several requests to fund students through university but of course we just do not have the funds to cover the whole cost. Instead, we have made a contribution as long as the parents are willing to pay towards their child's university fees as well, and this they have done, no doubt with some difficulty, by selling their crops or farming produce, in a number of cases. We have also received some lovely handwritten letters from students who we have sponsored through secondary school and who want to go to university asking for the Link to pay their university fees but we have had to refuse as our funds are limited of course. It is important that we make difficult but correct decisions about priorities for our support in Nkokoto. That we can't help these students really does sadden us. The Link's work in Nkokoto has always been to initially support the Nkokoto children attending their secondary school at the village of Vumilia and give them bicycles so that they can get to their school safely and easily. The pictures show the village ceremony when the students were given their bikes. As you know, we also give them their school uniform, shoes and equipment each year. The uniforms are made by



the students who we sponsored to train in tailoring at the FDC and who have set up a local clothes making business.

The Tanzanian president, John Mugufuli, died earlier this year and the new president, Samia Suluhu Hassan has already challenged Mugufuli's denial approach to the covid pandemic. Where he was autocratic, she is much more conciliatory and inclusive. We will follow her leadership with interest. Lucky Mgeni reports that many Tanzanians are critically ill in hospital and on ventilators, although numbers are difficult to ascertain. He, personally, has recently recovered from malaria and we mustn't forget that malaria in Eastern Africa is still a killer, especially to children.

A big thank you once again to all our sponsors and supporters. It goes without saying that without you, we couldn't do what we are doing in Nkokoto. Thank you.

