



# Liyoyelo News

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Another year has ended, and a new exciting year at Liyoyelo has begun. We'd like to thank all of you for your help and support over the course of 2008. Fifteen young girls and two elderly women call Liyoyelo their home - and your help has made this possible. Thank you!

## 2008 at Liyoyelo - Looking Back



Susiku Ndelwa 1931 - 2008



Pumulo Nawa 1917 - 2008

During the course of this year, we lost two of our old ladies. They lived to a ripe old age and we know they enjoyed their last years with us at Liyoyelo. Both had lived in difficult circumstances before they joined us and were so pleased to be given a new home at Liyoyelo. Shortly after her arrival, Pumulo told us she'd like to stay until she dies - her wish was granted. Susiku's advice to the young: "Honour the old people if you want God's blessings." We were sad to say goodbye to Pumulo and Susiku, but are looking forward offering a home to two new elderly ladies in 2009.



Bo Susiku was great with children and one of our favourite 'grannies' - here she pushes the housemother's young son in a wheelbarrow.

## Pigs and chickens sold

Towards the end of 2008, we decided to discontinue, for the time being, both the pig and the chicken project. Our chickens were doing very well, but a new chicken farm opened in Limulunga, with over 800 chickens and a much larger budget - we could not compete. We sold off most of our chickens, and kept two to enjoy over Christmas. Our pigs did too well - they bred very quickly, but the price of pig feed also went up over the course of the year, and it just became too expensive for us to feed them, so we sold our pigs too. We've learnt a lot from these experiences, and are still determined to raise some of our own income - watch this space, we have lots of plans.



## Meet Housemother Christine

Being a Housemother to 6 growing girls as well as looking after 2 elderly women is not an easy job! Christine Nobutu, one of our housemothers, tells us a little bit more about herself and her work.



My name is Christine Nobutu and I am 36 years old. I have five children of my own, and my youngest, Kelvin, lives with me at the Liyoyelo Project. I've been working here for 3 years now, and I enjoy it very much. My job is to look after the youngest girls and the elderly women.



My day starts at 6am, when I sweep the yard around our house. I wake up the girls and start cooking breakfast for everyone. Once the girls have gone off to school, I clean the house and make the beds. One of the elderly women is no longer able to look after herself, so I also wash and dress her - this is hard work.



I have an assistant who helps me with the many tasks of the day - washing clothes and dishes, going to the market, working in our garden and cooking meals. The girls help when they're back from school. Today, we're having fish, greens and mealie meal porridge for lunch. We often have fish as it is cheap and nutritious. Sometimes, we might have beans, and very occasionally meat. Meat is very expensive in Limulunga. I enjoy cooking and I'm teaching the girls how to cook too.



Above left: Christine cooking in the cooking hut.  
 Above right: *Kapenta*, the local dried fish  
 Left: Pumulo brings one of the 'grannies' her breakfast.  
 Right: Pumulo and Ruth helping Christine in the kitchen.



My dream for the future is to continue my education, especially improving my English. I would like to be able to speak to visitors to the project and help the girls with their homework.



Enjoying juice around the beautifully decorated party table – look at the posters in the tree! In the background you can see the project buildings.



Our creative girls

## Celebrating Independence Day

The 24<sup>th</sup> of October is Zambia's independence day and the Liyoyelo family celebrated too. The girls were in charge of decoration and drew some lovely posters which we hung into the trees. They also picked flowers and arranged them on the tables, which we'd moved out of the houses for the day. The housemothers spent the morning making fresh fritters (like home-made doughnuts), a big favourite with young and old. We also bought some special 'party food' for the occasion: juice, oranges, jelly, some sweets and sausages. Delicious!



Rebecca and Pumulo give a singing and dancing performance



Sanana, our star gospel singer

Right: No Independence Day is complete without the singing of the National Anthem. The singing was led by Saasa, one of our older girls.



Our girls provided their own entertainment by singing and dancing for the whole afternoon – we had the National Anthem, a selection of gospel music as well as songs they just invented on the spot – including one about being thankful to be at Liyoyelo. It was wonderful to watch and hear, and was captured 'live' using the video function of our digital camera. Seeing themselves 'on screen' was a big hit with all the girls, so we ended the day's festivities with a small show of all the photos and videos. We had a fantastic day together.



Left: Our volunteer Raphaella with the children, viewing their photos and videos.

Right: The wonderful world of home cinema!



## Organic Vegetable Gardening at Liyoyelo

As reported in previous newsletters, we decided to grow our own organic vegetables, so that we could save money on vegetables, teach the girls about gardening and hopefully also raise a little of our own money for the project.

Our first garden, which you can see on the right above, did quite well, but we realised it was too far away from the project site. Residents and staff could not get as involved as they would like, as the garden was a long walk away.

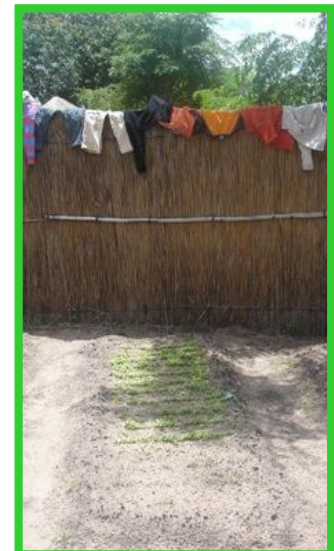


Above: our old garden in the plains – we've already harvested cabbage, rape and tomatoes, all organic, and very tasty!

Left: Christine and some of the girls clearing the land for the new garden, next door to the project houses.



So we decided to create another garden, just next door, on the same piece of land where we kept our pigs and chickens. Everyone got involved in clearing the land, we've started a compost heap and a nursery, and everyone is excited about this new garden. Housemother Christine and the younger girls have taken a particular liking to this new activity. We're currently in the rainy season, so there is no need to water the garden, but soon, when the rain stops, we will need a water supply - we've already approached some potential donors for help, but perhaps YOU would be interested in helping us?

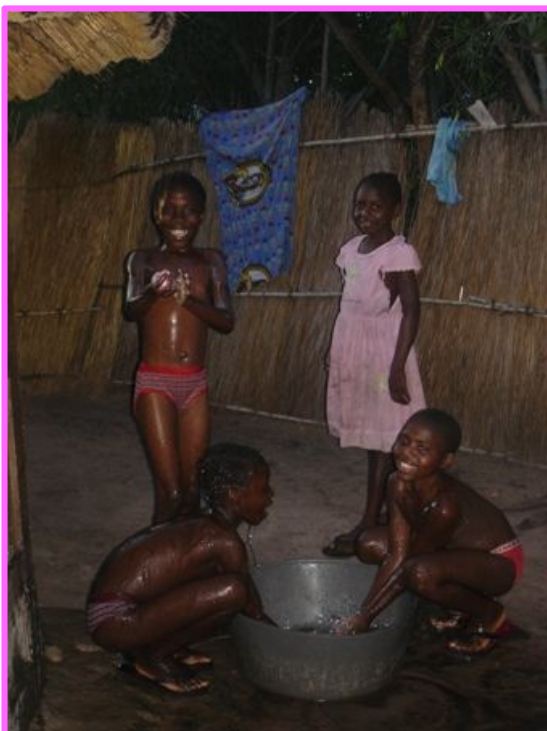


Left: Christine and her assistant clearing the new garden. Above: Sanana, Mwangala and little Kenneth helping in the garden. Right: our new nursery on laundry day.



# LIYOYELO LIFE

There's always something happening at Liyoyelo - from daily chores like washing clothes and dishes, to having friends over and playing, going to school and doing homework, life is never dull!



# Meet our volunteers



## Samir Daouk

Samir studied Political Science in at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. In his last job, he worked as Logistics Operations Manager for an international company. He's come to Liyoyelo to advise on our financial recordkeeping and financial administration. He is training our bookkeeper, Mr Maketo, in the use of a new accounting software. Together, they have already computerised all our accounts, making it much easier for us to know exactly where our money is going!

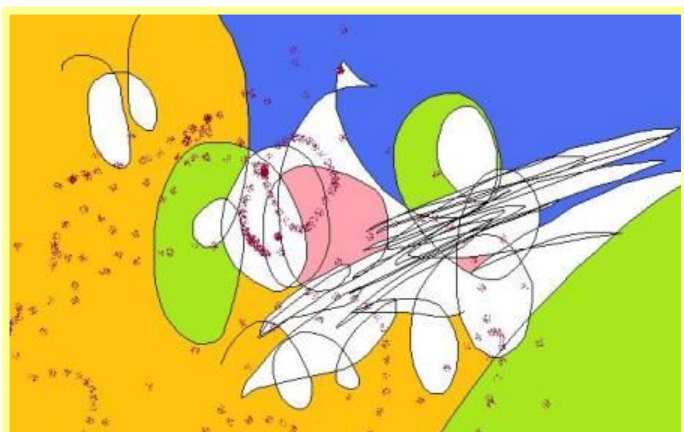


## Raphaela Scholz

Raphaela also studied Political Science at SOAS in London, where she met Samir. In her last job, she worked for a large university in London. She's come to Liyoyelo to advise on all aspects of our administration and organisational development. She's also in charge of donor communication and fundraising, by writing newsletters, funding proposals, reports etc. She will also be training Mr Maketo in all these activities. With the help of some friends in London, she is also hoping to build our very first website!

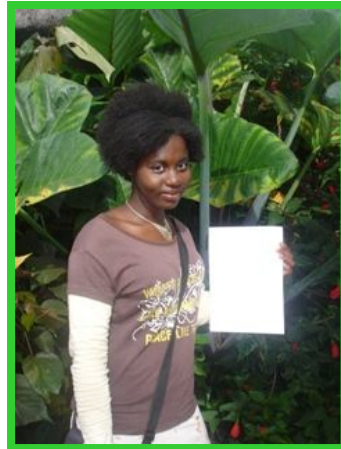


Above: It's not all hard work! Raphaela with some of the younger girls, playing with Microsoft Paint on the computer.



Above: The girls first attempts at computer art – impressive, don't you think?

## Other news in brief...



Left: Congratulations also to **Sanana Miyato**, one of the older girls here at Liyoyelo. She has recently passed Grade 9 (the equivalent of GCSEs) and has been admitted into Grade 10. She has three more years of school ahead of her, and we wish her all the very best. We're proud of your achievement!

Above left: There is a brand new little face at Liyoyelo. Congratulations to Assistant Housemother **Sasa Mushashu** who has recently returned from maternity leave with a beautiful daughter called *Blessing*.

## Our plans for 2009

One of our aims for 2009 is to begin constructing a communal building here at Liyoyelo. We would like to create a space for more activities like drama, music (our girls do love singing), film viewings, talent shows...there is so much we would like to do together. We would also like to create a community resource centre in this space, with a small library and some computers. Perhaps YOU would like to get involved? Do you have children's books or toys you no longer need? Perhaps you have old videos or DVDs which the children (and the old ladies) might enjoy? If you'd be interested in contributing to the communal building in any way, please contact Raphaela at [liyoyelo@gmail.com](mailto:liyoyelo@gmail.com).

We are also in the process of creating our very own website. You will be able to see more photos of life at Liyoyelo, stories and news from our residents and staff, upcoming events and ways in which you can get involved in our work. Watch this space!

As always, we would like to contribute more to the running costs of Liyoyelo. As well as approaching potential funders here in Zambia and overseas, we plan to continue engaging in Income Generating Activities. We've realised that we still have a lot to learn! We now have more experience in these matters, and are confident that our efforts will be rewarded.

*Even in a small village like Limulunga, we hear about the global economic crisis. We know that amongst our friends and supporters, 2009 might be a difficult year financially. So we would just like to thank you, in advance, for your continued support. You've given a home and a future to those who had little hope of either. From all of us at Liyoyelo...*

*Thank you!*