

Leah had her cleft lip repaired by Rafiki

# ASANTE

Australia Tanzania Society, Rafiki Surgical Missions  
& Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors



# AUSTRALIA TANZANIA SOCIETY

ATS, a registered NGO in Tanzania, is the overarching organisation for our volunteer group based in Perth, Western Australia.

Rafiki Surgical Missions and Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors, both successful NGO's in their own right, fall under ATS' banner.









# CONTENTS

## AUSTRALIA TANZANIA SOCIETY

Our reach 4

## RAFIKI SURGICAL MISSIONS

The missions	6
Rafiki in the early days	10
How it comes together	11
Help from our friends	12
The volunteers	13
The patients	20
Sharing our skills	26
Medical equipment	30
People to people	34

## AUSTRALIA TANZANIA YOUNG AMBASSADORS

About ATYA	36
Education resources	42
Waterwells	46
Professional development	50



## OUR REACH

Although ATS is a small NGO, it has managed to reach out to large parts of Tanzania. Surgical missions have been held in Dar es Salaam and Mwanza and patients have been helped from many other parts of the country.

Rafiki Surgical Missions has donated hospital and medical equipment throughout the country, from Bukoba in the North-West to Mtwara in the South and many regions in between.

ATYA has helped 26 schools with education resources, infrastructure and water wells.

**Jangwani Girls Sec. School**  
**Kibasila Sec. School**  
**Wailes Sec. School**  
**Miburani Sec. School**  
**Ugombolwa Sec. School**  
**Mwinyi Sec. School**  
**Boko Sec. School**  
**Juhudi Sec. School**  
**Benbella Sec. School**  
**Tuangoma Sec. School**  
**Mbagala Kuu Sec. School**  
**Pendamoyo Sec. School**  
**Kurasini Sec. School**  
**Nzasa Sec. School**  
**Nyankumbu Sec. School**  
**Umoja Pr. School**  
**Moringe Pr. School**  
**Millenia ya III Pr. School**  
**Mtambani Pr. School**  
**Msongola Pr. School**  
**Juhudi Pr. School**  
**St. Felista Pr. School**  
**Buza Primary School**  
**Majani ya Chai Pr. School**  
**Abuu Juma (Kivule) Pr. School**  
**Mwatapili Primary School**

# TANZANIA



Rafiki Missions



Medical Equipment





# RAFIKI SURGICAL MISSIONS

Since our first mission in 2004, Rafiki Surgical Missions has changed the lives of more than 1,100 Tanzanian children and adults with conditions such as cleft lip, cleft palate and burns injuries.

While Australian children born with disfiguring facial deformities will have them repaired while they are still babies, in Tanzania's remote rural areas, sufferers can be forced to endure a lifetime of marginalisation. In fact, it can lead to the shunning of entire families by their communities.

Rafiki's volunteer surgical teams are giving these people the chance to live a normal life. Treated babies will grow up never knowing the alienation they may have been subjected to; children can go back to school with new confidence, completely accepted by their peers; and adults may go on to find work, marry and even take on important leadership roles in their villages.

Rafiki is a 100 per cent volunteer organisation. With no administrative costs, every dollar raised goes back to making life better for people who would otherwise have no chance of a new start. Our funding comes from a variety of sources, including sponsorship from organisations in Australia and Tanzania, personal and corporate donations, and of course through our annual fundraising events in Perth and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.





Dr Matthew Hansen working with local medical staff at Mission Mikocheni Hospital, Dar es Salaam in 2009



ward nurse and Rafiki regular, Shannon Muir with patients in 2010



# THE MISSIONS

Our teams have undertaken more than 20 surgical missions in Mwanza and Dar es Salaam. Volunteer surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses perform up to 80 operations during each two-week mission. Local doctors and nurses also benefit from our collaboration with the host hospitals, working with the visiting medical staff and building their own skills in this specialised area of re-constructive surgery.



Dr Vij Vijayasekaran with nurse Nicola Carlin



a local nurse with Dr James Savundra operating at Mission Mikocheni Hospital, Dar es Salaam in 2009



# RAFIKI IN THE EARLY DAYS

When Dr Rob Barber, an Australian living in Tanzania, recognised the need for reconstructive surgery and training of local surgeons and nurses in 2004, he discussed it with Perth Reconstructive Surgeon Dr Tony Connell. Tony made the trip to Tanzania and immediately agreed to volunteer his time and extensive skills.

Upon returning to Australia, Dr Connell discussed the idea of establishing a group similar to Interplast Australia and Operation Rainbow with Tanzanian Honorary Consul, Didier Murcia. Shortly after, the first Rafiki fund raising ball was held with great success, and the inaugural Rafiki Surgical Mission was held at CCBRT in Dar es Salaam. The first mission was lead by Dr Tony Baker, who continued to have a huge involvement with Rafiki and acted as our chief medical officer for many years.



Dr Tony Baker and Dr Tony Connell working together in the early days



Dr Tony Baker taking a break

## HOW IT COMES TOGETHER

A huge amount of planning goes into each mission; everything from choosing the team to organising airfares, accommodation and visas; obtaining nurses' and doctors' registration for Tanzania; and securing donated consumables.

Each mission is a grueling two weeks of 12 hour-plus days for our medical team. It starts on arrival with unpacking and sorting the stored equipment and transported consumables.

Day one at the hospital is the clinic, where the team can see up to 100 patients, choose those suitable for treatment and schedule the surgeries.

The patients are admitted to the hospital, then it's a nervous wait for the patients while the team get through as many surgeries as possible. The last few days are post-op care and suture removal, before the physiotherapy team takes over with rehabilitation work.



mission coordinator, Taka Wild, keeping everyone on track at Dar es Salaam airport

We take large amounts of consumables on our missions and are grateful to groups like St John of God Hospital Subiaco and DS Medical for donations and on-going support.



# HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Tanzania is a big place, and what makes travelling around the country even harder are its remote communities and lack of infrastructure. It wouldn't be a mission without patients, and two of our biggest supporters on the ground, Geita Gold Mine and African Barrick Gold, help make it possible. These mining companies find a large number of our patients within the areas they work, assess them at pre-clinics and send those suitable for surgery to us. They arrange transport and cover the costs of their hospital admission.



Joyce from African Barrick Gold with a patient



Musa from Geita Gold Mine visiting two of Rafiki's past patients in their village



## THE VOLUNTEERS

Our teams of surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and physiotherapists volunteer their time for each mission. Since 2004 we have had more than 75 people make up our teams, and some of our volunteers have been on more than 10 missions; a huge achievement! We have a mission coordinator who works tirelessly before, after and during the missions to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible.

recovery nurse James Smith  
unpacking the consumables





Dr Andrew Miller with a patient  
at Sekou Toure Hospital

## MISSION CO-ORDINATOR

### TEAM ONE

Surgeon  
Anaesthetist  
Theatre Nurse

### TEAM TWO

Surgeon  
Anaesthetist  
Theatre Nurse

### POST OP

Recovery Nurse  
Ward Nurse  
Physiotherapists



the team in the early days at CCBRT



physiotherapist David Crocker



Dr Brigid Corrigan





Gillian McCallum was our mission co-ordinator for many years



Ross and Tony





the team at Sekou Toure Hospital, Mwanza



Shannon with a patient





our teams looking good, in and out of surgery





catching up with a past patient and seeing great results

**THANK YOU**  
TO OUR VOLUNTEER  
MEDICAL TEAMS.





## THE PATIENTS

Our youngest patients are one year olds and we have even operated on a man in his 50's! Many of them have never travelled this far from home before and it must be nerve-racking for our patients and their loved ones as they wait to be called up for surgery.

**“The little kids sit patiently on their parents’ laps all day, they don’t complain, they’ve got no TV to watch or games to play, they just sit patiently. It’s amazing.”**

**Vij Vijayasekaran, Surgeon**

# BEFORE AND AFTER

The before and after pictures are amazing and the transformation the team sees in just a few days is very rewarding.

But perhaps even more stunning has been the response from patients we have managed to track down a few years after their surgery.





# JUMANE

Jumane was just two years old when he was selected and taken to Dar es Salaam by his young mother for surgery in 2011.

A couple of years later, his lip looks fantastic, and he will be lucky enough to live his life unaware of a deformity that would have had a major impact on both his and his mother's futures.



Jumane after his operation



Jumane before his operation



Taka and Andrew visited Jumane in his village two years after his surgery





Bahati two years after his operation

## BAHATI

In 2011 Bahati rented a bicycle to make the four-hour ride to the Rafiki pre-mission clinic in Kahama. Selected for surgery, he then had a 12-hour bus ride to Dar es Salaam, where he underwent an amazing transformation.

Operated on as an adult, Bahati had endured a childhood of taunting and marginalisation.

The surgery gave him the chance of a new life, free from the stigma of deformity.

Two years on, Bahati was happy and healthy and excited about his future.



Bahati before his operation



Rafiki's media team Barry Logan and Julia Logan visited Bahati in his village two years after his surgery





## RAJABU

Before Rafiki operated on Rajabu in 2009, he was struggling at school. He often missed class and found it difficult to fit in with the other kids. Four years on Rajabu's Head Teacher told us that while he is still shy, he is one of his top students and has great potential.

Rajabu before and after his surgery and below his school friends surround Andrew and Taka





# JACKSON, MASALU AND LEAH

This family had eight children and the three middle children, one after another, were all born with cleft lips.

Their mother told us she thought a witch must have visited their village and it had distressed her greatly. Jackson and Masalu were operated on in one mission and the youngest, Leah, on a later mission.

It's made a dramatic difference to the family, who can now put their fears behind them and move on with their lives.



Jackson, Masalu and Leah after their operations, and above at the hospital with their mother





## SHARING OUR SKILLS

The local doctors and nurses benefit from our collaboration with the host hospitals, working with the visiting medical staff and building their own skills. They shadow the Australian team during the surgeries and post-operative care and the team also holds information seminars.



Matt presenting surgical techniques to medical staff at Sekou Toure



showing local nurses the recovery notes





“ There’s a big difference between the training in Australia and Tanzania. We do six years of medical training then one to three years doing general, then a four year specialist anaesthetics course. In Tanzania they do a two year nursing course then 12-24 months of anaesthetic training. We try and upgrade their skill level to make them feel more comfortable with the work they are doing. ”

**Ross Boulter,**  
**anaesthetist**



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

While the prevalence of cleft lip and palate is no higher in Tanzania than in Australia, Tanzania's health system has different priorities and most of the afflicted children will never be treated. Thanks to training received from Rafiki, there are now Tanzanian surgeons who are doing the surgeries throughout the year without our help.

While we have a long way to go, the best outcome would be for Tanzania to become self-sufficient in this area of reconstructive surgery.

Coretha was eight years old when Rafiki repaired her cleft lip

**Every procedure that is undertaken makes a difference, and every life that is changed makes the community stronger.**



# MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

In addition to the surgeries and training, Rafiki also sends shipping containers of medical equipment to Tanzania that would otherwise go to waste in Australia. Since 2010, we have packed and shipped more than 30 containers for distribution to hospitals and medical centers. The replacement cost of this equipment exceeds \$7,000,000.



medical equipment in Perth ready to be packed



many hands make light work





**THANK YOU**  
TO OUR LOYAL  
CONTAINER PACKERS.





a new mother at Ya Mwanan Yamala



a nurse and a patient at Sinza Health Centre using a bed sent from Australia



ready for surgery on a donated bed at Mission Mikocheni Hospital

The medical equipment is treasured in Tanzania and is being put to good use.





**“The Rafiki Surgical Missions have been a great success in improving the lives and the health of the people of Tanzania. We thank you for the excellent work done and we look forward to your continued support.”**

Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete





Tanzanian Honorary, Consul Didier Murcia, Western Australian Minister for Health Hon. Dr Kim Hames, and Western Australian Chief Nurse, Catherine Stoddart



Tanzanian President, His Excellency, Jakaya Kikwete, with Australian Honorary Consul, Thierry Murcia, accepting medical equipment in Shinyanga on behalf of Tanzania

# GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

Governments in Australia and Tanzania continue to be supportive of ATS, acknowledging that sometimes 'people to people' can achieve more than many larger groups.

ATS receives no Government funding and relies entirely on the support of its volunteers and sponsors to make a difference.



# AUSTRALIA TANZANIA YOUNG AMBASSADORS

ATYA focuses on improving access to education for Tanzanians. It has completed a number of infrastructure programs including classroom construction and renovation, as well as provision of water to schools through the drilling of water wells.

Additionally, ATYA has provided Tanzanian Curriculum text books, to assist in the delivery of quality education, and has facilitated and funded several professional development courses for Tanzanian teachers.



Penrhos students at Wailes Secondary School in 2008





MATIPWILI RESOURCE CENTRE  
DONATED BY  
SCOTCH COLLEGE  
AND  
PRESBYTERIAN LADIES COLLEGE  
2012



**ATYA provides a platform for young Australians and young Tanzanians to link with their peers across the other side of the Indian Ocean. These links help students in Tanzania and Australia build a better understanding of the world beyond their own borders. Since 2008 an number of Australian and Tanzanian students have participated in bilateral conferences sharing ideas and strengthening relations.**



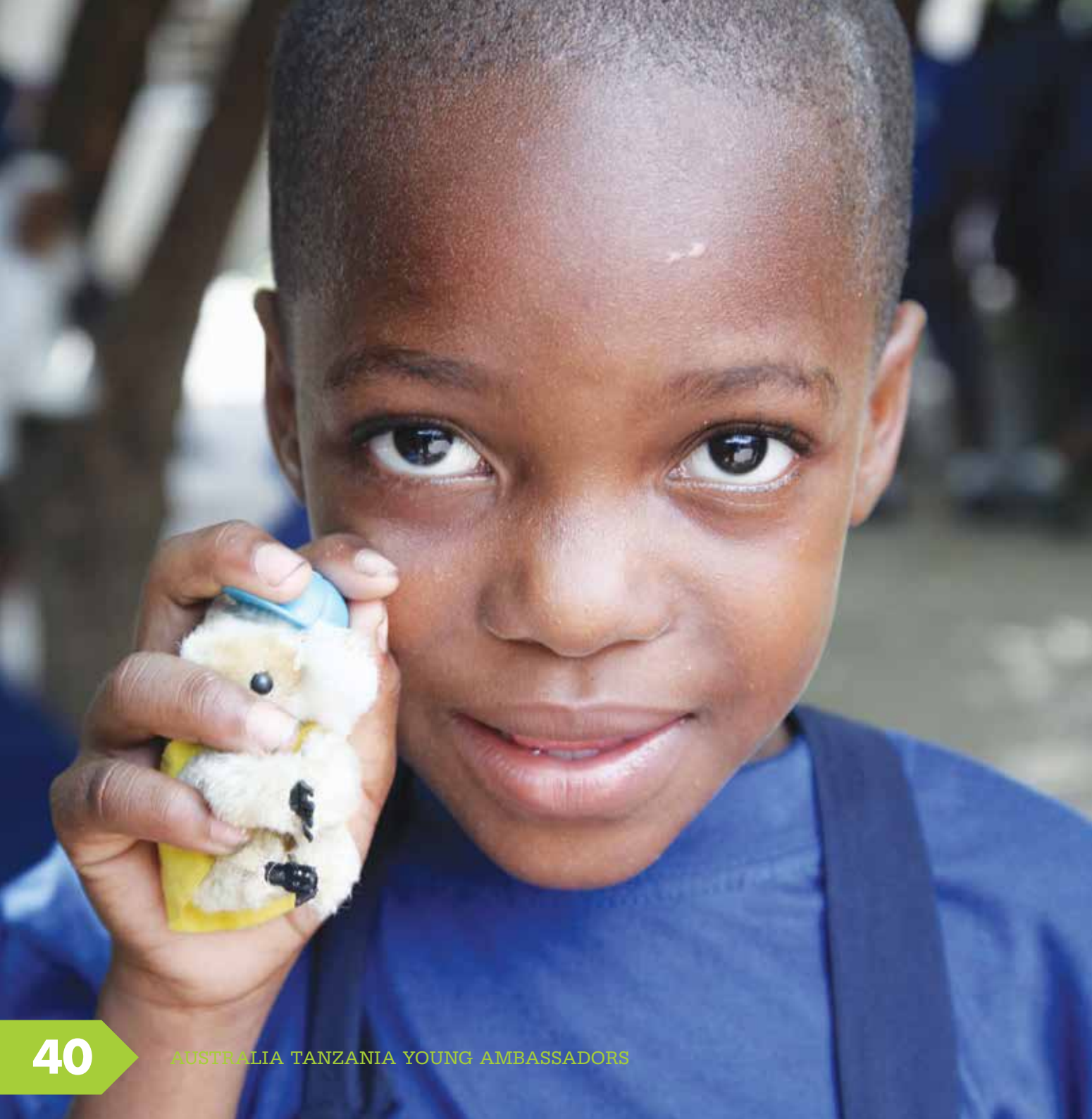


Scotch College boys Jack Mahon, Alain Dutton and James Giddy at Matipwili village 2012





Sarah Murcia's visit to Tanzanian Schools in 2006 inspired her to kick off the ATYA program





THROUGH OUR NETWORK OF  
**26** SCHOOLS IN TANZANIA,  
WE'VE HELPED GIVE  
MORE THAN **34,600**  
STUDENTS A CHANCE FOR  
A BETTER EDUCATION

Tanzanian Foreign Affairs Minister, Bernard Membe, and Australian High Commissioner, Lisa Filipetto, with the Tanzania ATYA Students at the first conference in 2008.





# EDUCATION RESOURCES

Through the Australia Tanzania Society donations are raised to build waterwells, classrooms and supply under-resourced Tanzanian Schools with learning materials like textbooks, chairs and desks.



standing outside The Walsh Building, one of many donations by the Walsh family



a new classroom building at Mtambani donated by The Walsh family





**In some classrooms about 150 students will pack into one room! They sit on dirt floors in cramped conditions, with an average pupil to teacher ratio of 100:1**





pre-primary school children with donated resources at Moringe Primary School



text books donated by Australia Tanzania Society



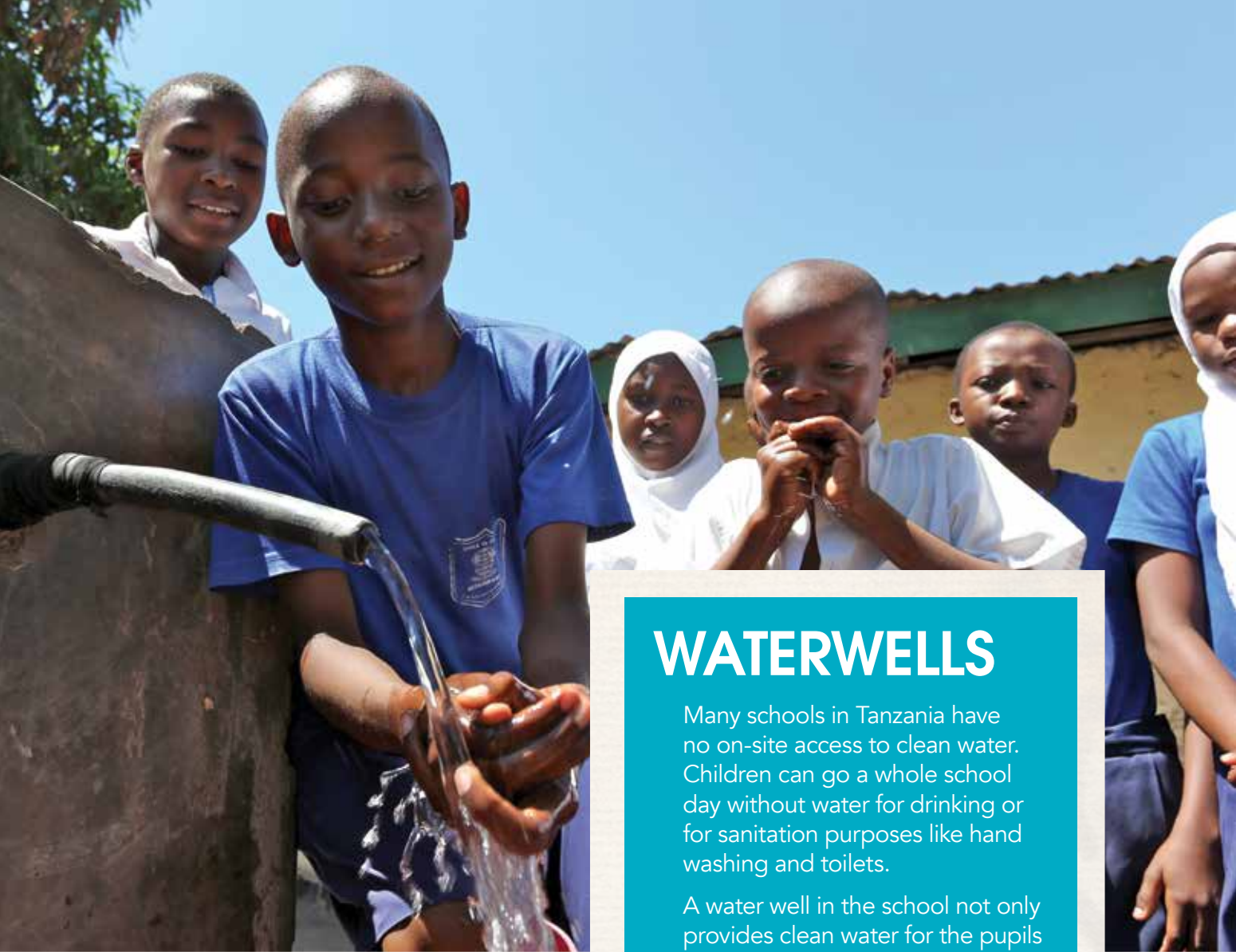
children using donated chairs and desks at Moringe Primary School

**Most Tanzanian schools face extreme shortages in textbooks, desks, chairs, toilets, water supply, and hand-washing facilities.**



Ambassador Chialo, our ATS representative in Tanzania at the opening of a water well in Dar es Salaam





children washing their hands at  
Mtambani Primary School

## WATERWELLS

Many schools in Tanzania have no on-site access to clean water. Children can go a whole school day without water for drinking or for sanitation purposes like hand washing and toilets.

A water well in the school not only provides clean water for the pupils and teachers, but can be used by the whole community. This saves hours a day that would otherwise be spent collecting water and has wider benefits for health, livelihoods and general wellbeing.





primary school children in front of a donated water well at Buza Primary School

We've drilled **17 waterwells** and counting. We've also provided clean water for three more schools where we have rehabilitated their water supply.



enjoying clean water at Buza Primary School

IT COSTS **\$6,500**  
TO DRILL A WATERWELL  
THAT WILL GIVE  
AROUND **2,000**  
STUDENTS ACCESS TO  
CLEAN WATER, PLUS IT  
IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR  
THE WIDER COMMUNITY.







Didier with children at Buza Primary School.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATYA is developing a model for capacity building in education through an international teacher exchange program.

In 2011 ATYA funded a professional development course in Tanzania which was delivered by leading teachers and academics from Western Australia. The conference, run by Dr Karen Murcia, Dr Peter Prout and Dr Geoff Lowe from Edith Cowan University, as well as six Western Australian teachers, was held at the Kurasini Centre in Dar es Salaam as well as in ATYA schools in Tanzania over a period of six weeks.

A further professional development course was run in Geita (North Western Tanzania) in March 2014, focusing on Science Education.

In May 2014, three Tanzanian teachers were brought to Perth to spend six weeks in Western Australian Schools to further their professional development. These teachers are passing on their newly acquired skills and knowledge to other teachers in Tanzania.



science teachers from Geita  
implementing thier new skills





the first professional development conference in 2011





Jumane after he had his cleft lip repaired by Rafiki



Australia Tanzania Society, Rafiki Surgical Missions and Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors have set out to make a difference to the lives of children and their families living in the East African nation of Tanzania. With a focus on healthcare and education, our volunteers have all played a vital role in improving lives and opportunities for people living in some of Africa's poorest communities. We hope that this book helps explain the impact we are having and in some small way, acknowledges the efforts that our volunteers put in year after year to make the work we do possible.

**ASANTE**

**RAFIKI**