

Trip report Bang'a en Kasemeni – October 2025

Introduction

In October 2025, we traveled again to Bang'a, Kasemeni, Mzuri, and Naserian. What we encountered deeply touched us. Villages that just a few years ago struggled with drought, disease, and hopelessness now bustle with life, energy, and collaboration. Thanks to the support of our sponsors and partners, we were able to realize projects together that truly help people. And you can feel that everywhere.

The Government

To realize our projects, it's crucial that the government is aware of what we're doing. In several cases, official approval is required. Thanks in part to our results to date, our relationship with the government is undoubtedly good. Therefore, we regularly visit the Kwale County Government to update them on all the latest developments. This often begins with a visit to the Governor, HE Fatuma Achani.



Visit to Governor Fatuma Achani.

The visit was followed by a full day trip with the Governor to show and officially open various locations.

Regarding Education, responsibilities lie partly at the County level (preschool education) and partly at the national level (Primary School and above), with a representative per County. The Kwale County Director responsible is Mr. Ahmed Abdi. We also spoke with him extensively. He promised his assistance in renewing the registration of Mzuri Primary School and also in officially registering Kasemeni Primary School as a Boarding School. The meeting with Ahmed Abdi took place at the Kasemeni school. He was very impressed with everything he saw. His enthusiasm was infectious: "The progress here shows what collaboration can achieve."

Healthcare

In early 2024, we conducted health checks at several preschools. The results were shocking. Approximately 25% of the children were severely malnourished and suffered from anemia. In addition, there were several other illnesses requiring urgent medical attention. In early 2025, we repeated this, but on a much larger scale. The conclusions were similar. This prompted us to launch several projects aimed at reducing the lack of water and sufficient fresh vegetables, thereby significantly improving health. More on this later in this report.

In July of this year, the Dutch Dental Care Foundation (DDC), <https://dutchdentalcare.nl/>, with partial financial support from our Foundation, visited the area around Kasemeni. This was quite daunting, as there had never been a dentist in the area before. However, the experienced DDC team handled it well. Nearly 1,200 dental checks were performed, almost 100 of which were on adults. A total of 43% required assistance. In addition, information was provided on learning to brush (better). During our visit, several parents came to thank us for this. We are very happy to pass this on to DDC. Thank you very much on behalf of the communities of Kasemeni, Mzuri, and Naserian. We are now busy organizing the planned health check visit for early 2026. This will involve a combination of doctors, nurses, and dentists, some from the Netherlands and some from Kenya.

The health post, built a few years ago, still lacks a laboratory for blood and/or urine testing. We have already discussed this with the Ministry of Health several times. It appears that the construction of several staff houses has been budgeted for the current financial year. As soon as this actually happens, we will begin fundraising for the laboratory. The Governor was very pleased with this sign of partnership. To be continued.

Mzuri Primary School

As you know, we previously built a completely new Primary School in Mzuri. The health issue that emerged during the health check also applies here. We converted over 4,000 m² of existing land into horticultural land for growing vegetables and fruit. The children, and especially the parents, are responsible for this. The entire garden area is fenced off to prevent access by cows and goats. We also built a beautiful kitchen and installed six water tanks that are filled with rainwater for irrigation. Including several surrounding preschools, almost 400 children now receive a good and healthy lunch every day.



Left: the garden, right: the children waiting for their daily lunch



The Governor smells some vegetables with the Member of Parliament and the Member of County Assembly watching.

As the photos show, drought is still a problem. When the water tanks were installed, the rainy season was almost over. Therefore, we have two tanks filled with water and an additional new tank installed. The Governor then instructed the Ministry of Water to build a dam in Mzuri as well.

We also spent half a day consulting with parents. It turned out there were differing views on the use of the garden, especially during school holidays. Through thorough consultation, these were clarified. There were also differing views on the children who have finished Grade 6 and the possibilities and consequences of attending the Kasemeni boarding school, including the financial implications. Thanks to the school administration, all questions were answered. It is, of course, up to the parents and children to make the right choices for them.

Kasemeni Primary School

In just eighteen months, Kasemeni Primary School (600 students) has become a model school for the entire county. New classrooms, a kitchen, a shaded meeting area, dormitories, and even a computer lab with 50 computers. In Phase 1, we completely renovated all existing buildings, built restrooms for boys, girls, and teachers, a new entrance gate, and a brand-new Administration Block (teachers' lounge).

In Phase 2, we added the following:

- A shade;
- A kitchen, garden and watertanks;
- A computerlab including furnishings;
- Dormitories for boys and girls.

The shade

Until now, meetings with parents and others in the community were held under a few trees, but most were in full sun. A beautiful shaded area has now been installed, making these meetings much more comfortable in the shade. The shaded area is also used for student meetings.



Kitchen, garden and watertanks

As a result of the health checks, we also installed a garden, a kitchen, and additional water tanks at Kasemeni Primary School. The concept is similar to that of Mzuri Primary School, only everything is approximately 50% larger due to the higher number of students. The 4,000 m² garden is now a green oasis full of fruits and vegetables. Children and parents work together on it, and over 600 children receive a nutritious lunch every day. The children's smiles when they taste their own harvest speak volumes.

Here too, the children now receive a lunch every day with different and fresh vegetables. The chef Rehema: 'this kitchen is great. No smoke and perfectly equipped. A great pleasure to cook for the children'.



Respectively: preparing spinach, a piece of the garden and chef Rehema in action.

The feedback we're getting from principal Salim is that the children have noticeably more energy and pay much better attention in class. Parents, children, and teachers are all very happy. The daily healthy meals really make a difference.

Computerlab, incl. furnishings

The computer lab we've been able to create is almost unique. Children who have finished Junior Secondary School will finally be computer literate. Besides the necessary furniture, the lab is equipped with fifty computers (and the staffroom also with ten), several printers, and a projector for the teacher. Of course, there's Wi-Fi. We taught the children for half an hour. There's still a lot to learn, but the initial results are promising.

Class oldest Mercy: 'we finally learn what we only had heard of a little bit but that is of great importance in the world of today and our future'.



For security reasons, we have also installed cameras and an alarm in and around the premises.

Dormitories for boys and for girls

For children in the upper grades, finding enough time to do their homework is often a challenge. The conditions at home simply aren't there. For this reason (besides safety concerns, especially for girls), it's common for children in the upper grades to stay overnight at school; the school is therefore a "boarding school." Until now, girls have been able to stay overnight to a limited extent, but then they sleep on a cotton sheet on a concrete floor in a classroom. Far from ideal and unhygienic. For this reason, we are building two large dormitories, one for girls and one for boys. Naturally, these will include good hygienic facilities (washroom and toilet). Both buildings have a separate sleeping area for a parent who stays overnight to watch over them.

Work on these dormitories will continue for a few more weeks. Furnishings, such as mattresses and curtains, can be installed during December. When the new school year begins in early January, the upper-year students will be able to stay overnight. This is expected to significantly boost their academic performance.



Work is still in progress, but the photos show a side, the hallway and the front of one of the dormitories.

The official opening of the school is expected in February. By then, all work will be completed and the school will be fully operational. The general impression is that, starting next school year, Kasemeni Primary School will be one of the best schools in the county and will therefore make a significant contribution to a better future for children in the area.

Waterdam and garden in Kasemeni and Naserian

As described above, we established a vegetable and fruit garden (and kitchens) at the schools in Mzuri and Kasemeni to help the children get more and better food. However, the extent of the drought and the lack of sufficient and varied food was much greater. For this reason, a large water and vegetable project was carried out last year in both Kasemeni and Naserian. The land for both projects was provided free of charge by the owners. In Kasemeni, approximately 1.5 hectares, and in Naserian, just over 2 hectares. Approximately one-third of this area was used to build a large water reservoir, comprising approximately 20,000 m³ of storage in Kasemeni and 30,000 m³ in Naserian. The dams are filled with water during the rainy season. Immediately adjacent to the dams, the land has been divided into equal parts (105 in Naserian and 50 in Kasemeni) and made suitable for

horticulture according to the principles of Syntropic AgroForestry, <https://agendagotsch.com/en/what-is-syntropic-farming/>. This is a sustainable method of farming, requiring no artificial fertilizers or pesticides. The plots are allocated to the families most in need. These families are responsible for their plots and grow vegetables and fruit there, paying a small rent. This is enough for their own consumption, but also enough to sell. In other words, they earn money as well. The entire property is fenced to protect against stray cows and goats. A large water tank (filled from the basin) is placed against the perimeter to sell water to those who need it for domestic use. A second tank holds water for irrigation.

Just over 150 families (or approximately 1,200 people) now receive a good lunch every day. This is in addition to the people who now come to buy fresh vegetables locally, whose numbers we don't know. And, of course, the many people who come to buy water at the end of the dry season.

The rent and sale of water generate money to build up a financial buffer for future maintenance.

Both projects are considered a huge success by the local community. They foster community cohesion, help the most needy families, reduce water shortages, and improve public health.

The feedback of Sabine (the chair of the Board of Management in Naserian): 'This project transformed our community. We went to school for the first time in our lives and now have developed to real and proud gardeners'. The feedback of Samuel (chair of the BoM in Kasemeni): 'This project has improved the health of our members and their families. We have much more energy and feel healthier'.

Two key points emerged: only by purchasing truly good seed can a very good yield be achieved, and the financial buffer will need to be increased to absorb potential setbacks. We discussed this in both cases, and we are confident that this will be addressed effectively.

A difficult moment came at the end of our visit to the project in Naserian. Four women approached us, crying. They live over a three-hour walk from Naserian. They said people in their community were dying every day from thirst. At that moment, we really had no way to do anything. At the same time, it's incredibly inspiring to continue our work and these kinds of projects.



The garden and the dam at Kasemeni. Fortunately still sufficient water.



The project in Naserian. The water supply there is depleted because the rainy season was almost over by the time the reservoir was dug. There is also a small leak in the sheet pile. The Ministry of Water Resources will address this problem.

Both projects were officially opened by Governor Fatuma Achani in the presence of various dignitaries.



Left: view of the garden in Kasemeni, on the right the area Member of Parliament Mangele Chipwimondo, Governor Fatuma Achani and deputy Governor Chirema Kombo at the Naserian garden.



The opening at the water distribution point of Naserian.

Oranges

It's become a good habit to give every child an orange instead of candy during every visit to a school. During this visit, we distributed over 1,800 oranges to children from various schools. Happy faces every time.



Distribution of oranges at Naserian's school.

Tablebanking in Kasemeni

We had the opportunity to visit several tablebanking (micro-credit) groups we've helped in the past and hear how they're doing.

The **Kasemeni Faith Group** has 10 members. They once received a donation, which they used to buy a goat. Later, they received four more goats. This has resulted in a total of fifteen goats. The group doesn't have the financial resources to contribute money regularly. Therefore, they now

donate a chick to the group every two weeks. The plan is to sell some older goats next year, buy a few more, and save some money for the individual members.

The tablebanking group **Green Light**, for a better future, had eleven members at its inception, but now has seven. They live in a truly rural area just outside Kasemeni.



They, too, initially received enough money to buy a goat and later received four more. They now have two young bull calves and eight goats. The plan is to rent the bull calves next year (along with a plow they already have) to nearby farmers who need their land plowed. This sounds great, excellent entrepreneurial spirit. However, there's a risk: cattle don't tolerate drought as well as goats. They were aware of this. Fortunately, it's raining in the area now. Stephen, the group's chairman, was very happy. "You are the first mzungu to visit our village, and you helped us add economic activity. Many thanks for this." (Note: mzungu is Swahili for white person.)

The **Upendo Bandawacko Self Help Group** was thrilled to see us. We were invited to watch a game of legball, a variation on soccer. It was a huge party.



The women didn't have their own ball and, as a rare exception, were allowed to use the men's. Naturally, at the end of the match, they received a gift: a ball exclusively for the women's use. The group has grown from seven to fourteen members. The new members paid a pro-rata entrance fee. Currently, the group has two bulls and twenty goats, so they're doing exceptionally well.

We can therefore conclude that the table-banking concept works very well on a small scale. It strengthens collaboration and knowledge sharing, as well as the economic development of the participants. Entrepreneurship works.

Kasemeni leaders

We consulted extensively with the various community leaders: seven village leaders, six tribe leaders, and four religious leaders. We discussed shifting our Foundation's focus to other communities, communities in similar circumstances to those in Kasemeni five years ago. Naturally, they regretted this. But after sharing a few examples, they fully understood the decision. However, there was a clear request for regular visits for advice and minor assistance. Naturally, we agreed, as this is entirely in line with our philosophy. The leaders committed to taking responsibility for the community's further development.

New road Kasemeni - Naserian

During the last rainy season, the two bridges on the road from Kasemeni to Naserian (and back, of course) were severely damaged by flooding. The road was impassable. This also meant that the residents of Naserian could no longer reach the Kasemeni health center. Several births took place along the side of the road. We were given the opportunity to build a new road directly from Naserian to Kasemeni. The landowners were happy to transfer a portion of their land to the community for this purpose. The health center is now easily accessible again.



On the left one of the destroyed bridges, on the right the new road.

Visit to Bang'a

In Bang'a, we naturally visited the **Annette Women Group** and their chicken project. The group has been through a difficult period due to the death of one of its members and a few prolonged illnesses. These have now all been resolved. Chairs Rehema and Christine are optimistic that the chicken project's results will return to normal.

Another large project in Bang'a is a **water reservoir and vegetable garden**, as previously described in Kasemeni and Naserian. This project was already implemented several years ago. It's much smaller-scale (which has provided valuable lessons for Kasemeni and Naserian). The reservoir's storage capacity is approximately 6,000 m³ of water. The entire Bang'a area also suffered greatly from the drought, but fortunately, the dam still has water. There appeared to be a problem with the number of water points for irrigation. We decided to add several more points and purchase the corresponding hoses, so the entire garden can be properly supplied with water and optimally utilized.



Left: hard work in the garden, still without the extra taps, right: still water in the dam.

We also visited several **table-banking groups** in Bang'a.

The **Riziki group** had once received sixteen goats. They now have twenty because they recently sold some at good prices. The group is functioning well as a group. Last time, we helped them expand the goat pen. However, they had miscalculated the cost of the extra door. We resolved that.



On the left the new goat shed, on the right the house of one of the members.

The **Mangoni Chicken Group** has stuck with chickens. However, they have chosen to also keep some laying hens to provide a few eggs daily for their members. The group is steadily developing.

The **Nehema Group** once received sixteen goats and now has 24. Last time, we helped them move the goat shed due to a member leaving. The group now indicated they had two problems. The member who left still wanted some of the goats, and another member was getting very old and blind, meaning he could no longer contribute as much as he needed. We discussed several possible solutions with the group, including the pros and cons. The group will soon make a decision.

We remain active in supporting the Bang'a and Kasemeni communities and surrounding communities, offering them perspective. Projects are embedded in the community, and priorities are set by the community. Our larger goal: helping people help themselves and increasing their self-reliance. However, we can't achieve this without your support. Donations, large or small, for specific projects or for whatever is needed, are greatly appreciated.

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On behalf of the residents of Kasemeni and Bang'a, thank you in advance!