

Transcript of Sigrud Gjøtterud talking (23/11/12) about a project developed by Erling Krogh from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, in Nuandir, Megeta, Mbogoro, Tanzania, with some images from the project.

(7:34 minute video clip from which the transcript is taken is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PM7HpM15Z08>)

Erling my colleague who was here (in Bath). He has been engaged in this village in Tanzania for a while. He was just so taken with the situation that he decided to start his own project within a lot of other projects.



(Erling and Sigrud bottom left of picture)

In this village they have introduced some new kind of goat that milk better than the indigenous ones. It's been a project over years and years and years and the goats came from Norway and it has been a research project to get them to adapt to the climate they had to take them from the mountains down to the plains and back to the mountains. It really been a long long long process but now the goats really thrive in this region and the farmers love their goats the goats produce more milk than they can drink so they have another project where they make yoghurt from this because yoghurt keeps longer and stores better and so on. And so now there is this side project in the region trying to provide this yoghurt for the school children so that they won't go hungry every day to school and that also needs some money to support them through the year.

Erling thought about quite a few orphans in this area.

They define orphans even if they have one parent but if the parent is sick. There are no orphanages. The children are all taken care of by their extended families so that they are not left on the streets – although there aren't any streets, but they have a place but very very very poor.

So Erling's idea was that if each orphan has one goat and also the teaching to go with it so that they knew how to take care of it and also some materials for a stable/barn. So he started this project. A group of children have got a goat. The first kid that this goat gets is given back to this goat bank so that it is really just a loan but also the education package around it.

And there is this one guy called Salamom who provides the education and he knows everyone in this region. He walks on his feet for hours and hours he is a young guy with his young child and a wife. He is amazing.

His salary is paid in various ways sometimes not at all but mainly by Erling I think.

Now there has been - I think it has been three or four years since the first orphan got a goat and here is a picture of Grace – can you see it?

She is very poor. She lives with her grandmother and the goat has actually provided so that Grandma gets milk everyday from the goat so she is much more healthy and also her siblings and herself. It provides some money so that she could go to school

This was taken 1.5 years ago at her farm and then this year she actually graduated from junior high school.



(Grace is on the right with the yellow button hole)

So, this very shy girl (she was) is now a graduate, a very proud woman you can see (Grace is on the right). Being an orphan is being very low in everyone's esteem but for her picture she was telling us what it meant to her to get this goat and to achieve the knowledge and to be able to share her knowledge with other people in the village so her status was really raised because she knew something and she could contribute and she could help others with their goats when they got sick or whatever could share it with others and also of course feeding her family so it was about making a change so this is just one girl and now there are twice as many graduating of the orphan children in this area as there were four years ago because of this project. So they do get their education and many of them want to become teachers. They want to be teachers in this area they don't want to go into the city which is a problem because most kids will do that and sell themselves.

They want to stay they want to sustain what they have been given and pass it on to others and Erling is also contributing a small library.

So that they can help each other study at night whilst it is no light they have a small solar panel so they have light and books that they did not have before. This is all facilitated by Salamom who really has action research in his heart so he is doing this in such a collaborative way.

All this work is done so that he teaches the orphans and then the orphans take charge themselves. This is Jeffery who is now in charge of this little library. He is maybe fifteen years old and is so proud of the library.



(At 6:27 minutes Sigrid is talking about Jeffery's pride in the Library)



(Jeffery in the Library)

He takes such good care of the books and puts them up nicely and they keep this tiny room. They gather almost every night and help each other study, and help each other with the goats and help each other to build the barns and I don't know what else. It is so encouraging because actually we contribute so little and to each of them it matters so, so much.

Marie - You have so many stories to share.

Yes this is Erling who started this with the Orphans in this area.



(Jeffery and Erling in the Library)

And now the plan is that this will be linked to Akmad's project in the school because some of them can also maybe help, they have the goats maybe they can be co-teachers teaching the kids to keep the goats and so on and so there are just lots and lots of scope for working together.