



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Oldonyowas is located in the Arusha District of Tanzania. The community of 2,900 people is mainly comprised of Maasai people whose main occupation is animal husbandry which is the raising of livestock to make a living. Oldonyowas is closely located to the picturesque Mount Meru, at the center of Arusha National Park. Oldonyowas is a fairly marginalized community with limited access to services and support for its residents. The community faces many challenges including inadequate access to educational resources, insufficient school infrastructure, barriers to accessing clean drinking water and quality health care, as well as few economic opportunities.

Through Adopt a Village, Free The Children will partner with the community of Oldonyowas to empower community members with the tools and resources they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

## TANZANIA FACTS

- English and Swahili are Tanzania's two official languages, and 120 ethnic groups with their own dialects.
- 70% of Tanzanians live in rural areas.
- The total adult literacy rate is 68%.
- 37% of all Tanzanian girls under the age of 18 are married.
- 21% of all Tanzanian children ages 5 to 14 are engaged in child labour.





## EDUCATION

Free The Children firmly believes that education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Unfortunately, there are significant systemic challenges which have traditionally made it difficult for children in Oldonyowas to obtain a high quality education. One major issue in the community is the lack of educational resources, and the adequate infrastructure to support over 600 students.

Although Oldonyowas Primary School serves grades one through seven, which is full primary education in Tanzania, current schoolrooms are in need of renovations, and additional classrooms are required to meet provide a conducive learning environment for all grades at the primary school and the local secondary school.

Free The Children will work to support education in Oldonyowas through extensive educational programming, as well as through the construction of high-quality school rooms. These resources will help to bolster academic performance and encourage students to remain engaged in their schooling and encourage community members to send both sons and daughters to school.



### CURRENT SCHOOL STRUCTURE

A current schoolroom in Oldonyowas. There is a need for more schoolrooms in the community, to meet the needs of the student population.



## CLEAN WATER & SANITATION

Access to clean drinking water is challenge for the community. The community gets piped water from Mount Meru and it is highly rationed and not reliable, so it has to be stored in tanks. There are no community dug wells and many people have to rely on either rain water or the rationed water. In addition, many homesteads have no pit latrines, and therefore little access to adequate sanitation infrastructure.

Currently, Oldonyowas Primary School has access to water from Mount Meru, and there exists permanent latrine structures which are inadequate in their current state and more structures are needed to meet the needs of the school population. There are currently no hand-washing stations and education is also needed on the importance of proper sanitation practices.

Free The Children will work to alleviate these problems through targeted interventions to bolster clean water accessibility and by promoting hygiene and sanitation through hand washing stations and latrines. Clean Water & Sanitation programming will focus on training around the use and collection of clean water, and proper sanitation practices to keep families safe and healthy.



### SCHOOL LATRINES

The current latrine structures at the Oldonyowas school. Sanitation infrastructure will be a focus for of Free The Children's Clean Water & Sanitation work in the community.



## HEALTH

The community of Oldonyowas faces significant accessibility issues when it comes to healthcare. Without a clinic of its own, residents are forced to seek medical attention at a dispensary over 4 kilometres away. Further compounding the problem, the clinic facilities are not adequate and lacking in sanitation and hygiene management, and the clinic is understaffed. This renders quality healthcare inaccessible to many community members in Oldonyowas.

With regards to health concerns in the community, members are commonly found to be afflicted with trachoma, skin infections, and malnutrition. Health knowledge is very low within the community. As an example, many deliveries are still done at home by local midwives and people only go to hospital once they face complications.

Free The Children will work with the community of Oldonyowas to reduce the instances of preventable disease through extensive training, while also ensuring that curative care is made available to those who need it.



### SCHOOL KITCHEN

The current kitchen structure at the primary school, which supports the school lunch program. The school has eight acres of maize for the program, which is prepared in the school kitchen.

## AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

The main source of income for the community is animal husbandry which includes rearing livestock and selling cattle products. There are a few community members who have tried growing crops, and while land in the region is fertile, the local climate is semi-arid, meaning that rainfall is unreliable. As a result, very few homesteads are able to grow food staples like maize and beans for their households or for income, which has deterred many community members from partaking in agriculture. Many community members still cannot afford three meals in a day.

Currently, Oldonyowas Primary School has a school kitchen and garden that supports the lunch program with maize.

To improve agricultural productivity and reduce vulnerability to external factors, Free The Children will work to equip families with tools, resources and techniques which will improve crop dependability, and increase the overall output and nutritional value of crops. In addition, trainings with community members will be held on modern farming techniques to help bolster success and participation in agriculture.



### SCHOOL GARDEN

The school has eight acres of maize for the program, which is prepared in the school kitchen.

## ALTERNATIVE INCOME & LIVELIHOOD

A significant portion of Oldonyowas residents are currently attempting to meet their daily needs on less than \$1 a day. Men in the community are largely generating their meager incomes through livestock keeping and charcoal burning, often selling their cattle and charcoal to purchase other foods, while women tend to take care of the home. Some community members have formed small social groups but not formalized. There are groups within the community that mainly works on beading as a cultural activity.

Alternative income projects will include the formation of women's, men's and youth groups in the community of Oldonyowas. Free The Children will facilitate participative trainings on financial literacy, leadership and budgeting. Free The Children will also help mobilize members to start savings initiatives also known as merry go rounds, which help community members participate and take ownership of their own financial status and control over resources. Free The Children will also help community members identify a locally-appropriate income generating activity to improve their standards of living.



### COMMUNITY MEETING

Meeting with community members to discuss the partnership between Free The Children and Oldonyowas, mapping out what Adopt a Village programming will look like within the community.

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### LEARN MORE

**For more info on Free The Children's projects in Tanzania and Free The Children's community development projects please visit:**

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