



## **Facts in Brief**

### **To educate a girl is to educate a nation**

Education plays a key role in fighting poverty. Educating a girl means educating the whole family. The well-being of the family increases, children of educated women are healthier and are more often sent to school than other children. An educated woman has better chances to protect herself and her family from HIV/AIDS. Well educated women are needed in society and in politics as it has been proven that education of women has an impact on the development of the country. This means that money spent on education of women contributes to development progress.

### **Barbro Johansson**

Barbro Johansson went as a young teacher and missionary to Tanganyika in 1946. She soon realized that girls were given much less opportunities than boys and therefore engaged herself in the cause of girls' education. Barbro worked closely with Julius Nyerere, the first president of Tanzania, in the struggle for the country's independence. She became a Tanzanian citizen and a Member of Parliament and all through her life she worked to improve the situation for women in Tanzania. She was a pioneer for good education for girls and many of her students now hold important positions in society.

### **JOHA TRUST**

In order to honour Barbro, and to improve access to quality education for girls in Tanzania, a Trust was created in Barbro's name by a number of her former students, both female and male. The aim of JOHA TRUST is both to improve the general standard of education and to increase education opportunities for girls irrespective of ethnic and religious background and economic resources. The Trust is a registered NGO under Tanzanian law. In 2000 the Trust started its first secondary school for girls with 40 pioneer students. It is a boarding school outside Dar es Salaam and now offers quality education for 630 Form 1 – VI students. It recently also started a school in Bukuba, by Lake Victoria, which offers the last two years at the secondary level.

### **The JOHA Swedish Sponsors**

“Stödföreningen” – The JOHA Swedish Sponsors – is a registered non government, non profit organization with 200 members. The main objective is to supply JOHA Trust with funds for scholarships for those academically talented girls – from all over the country – whose families can not afford to pay school fees at the Barbro School. Approximately SEK 2- 3 million are needed annually for scholarships in order to target 25-30 % of the students.

The Swedish JOHA Sponsors receive funds from Radiohjälpen, Childhood Foundation, Forum Syd and SIDA as well as donations from members, other individuals, corporations and charities.

All fundraising and other activities are done by the members on a voluntary basis. Administrative and information costs are covered by membership fees. All donations can therefore exclusively be used for scholarships to girls from families who need help to pay school fees at the Barbro School.

### **The Barbro School**

The school is a boarding school providing secondary education in Form I - VI, for girls aged 14 – 19. The students are chosen from all over the county. They are admitted on a

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combination of grades and results from the school's entry exams, eg on academic merits only. Many of the talented girls can not get any or only very limited economic support from home. They are depending on scholarships to pay for school fees in order to go to secondary school. The Barbro School's academic results are impressive. The students have been successful in regional as well as national exams and the Barbro School ranks among the top schools in the country. It now also attracts girls from better off families who choose to enrol their girls at the Barbro School rather than sending them abroad for secondary education. This creates a good social mix at school which is of benefit for everyone.

### How can you help?

**Donations** can be made to pg 90 06 07 – 3.

All donations will be forwarded to JOHA Trust for scholarships that will pay school fees at the Barbro School for girls from families who can not afford to let their girls go to secondary school.

You can also join the JOHA Trust Swedish Sponsors by paying the **membership** fee (SEK 250 annually) or you can be a life long member by paying SEK 3000 to pg 11 84 35 – 7.

As a member you get an update of the progress of JOHA Trust and the Barbro School twice a year in a letter from Stödföreningen. You will also be invited to the annual meeting which, besides the formal procedures, has entertainment with a Tanzanian touch or a lecture on matters connected to our activities and the School.

*If you wish to make a donation or become a member by paying from abroad you need to know the following*

The Bank Identification code **BIC** or SWIFT Code is NDEASESS

The International Bank Account Numbers, **IBAN**, are

- for donations SE68 9500 0099 6034 0900 6073
- for membership fees SE73 9500 0099 6026 0118 4357

### Four scholarship students

Esther 14 years old in form 1 comes from Tabora and has lost both her parents. Her guardian now is an uncle who is a peasant. There are 5 children in the family.

Nademwa in form 3 is 17 years old. She is one of ten children in a Masai family. The father is dead and Nademwa has been helped by Catholic nuns to re-enter school after two years at home helping her mother. She will be the first in the family to receive secondary education..

Annastella in form 5 is 17 years old. She comes from Dodoma and both parents are dead. An aunt who is unemployed is taking care of her but cannot contribute to the school-fees. There are altogether seven children in the family.

**For more detailed information – read below**

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## **Scholarships for girls' education against poverty in Tanzania at the Barbro Johansson Model Girls' School, the Barbro School.**

### **"To educate a girl is to educate a nation."**

Long before girls' education was recognized as a key factor for development the Swedish missionary Barbro Johansson made education in general and in particular for girls her mission in Tanzania. She came to Tanganyika in 1946 and as headmistress of one of the first middle-schools for girls witnessed poverty and deprivation. At the time discrimination and abuse, sexual and otherwise of girls were glaring. She wanted change and engaged in the liberation struggle together with Julius Nyerere, who became the first president of Tanzania.

After independence she remained in Tanzania as a citizen, educator and politician. Many of the first generation of female African professionals, political and economic leaders in Tanzania have been Mama Barbro's students and had her as a source of inspiration. When in 1998 a new women's organization, BAWATA frustrated with continued prioritization of boys' over girls' education raised the issues of lack both of equality and quality in education blessing and support were sought from Mama Barbro. In her presence The Barbro Johansson Girls' Education Trust Fund, JOHA Trust was launched. More or less simultaneously friends of Tanzania in Sweden started the Swedish sponsor organization.

The objective of JOHA Trust is to promote quality education and equal chances for girls irrespective of, religious, ethnic and economic background through advocacy and by running schools. At the time the work started Tanzanian education was suffering the effects of the protracted economic crises since the beginning of the 1980ties. Enrollment in primary education had gone down and less than 5 % of an age-group could get access to secondary education. The figure for girls was even lower as in the year 2000 the ratio of girls to boys in secondary schools was 46 %.

Girls completing secondary education were not only few. Anna Tibaijuka, the chairperson of the women's organization and driving force behind JOHA Trust, had as a professor in Economics at the University of Dar es Salaam noticed how poorly girl students did in entrance tests compared with male applicants. It was obvious that girls' education had suffered most severely during the years of economic crises while at least some boys had an alternative to resource-poor government schools in the priest seminars, which the religious lobbies had managed to keep when schools were nationalized in the 1970ies. The general perception was that girls did not have the same ability as boys to do well in school. Anna Tibaijuka of course knew this was nonsense and refused ideas that girls should be able to enroll in tertiary education on a quota requiring lower standards. Instead, through BAWATA and with support of her husband, late Wilson Tibaijuka, she took the initiative to start JOHA Trust.

### **JOHA Trust and the Barbro-school today**

More than a decade has passed since JOHA Trust was launched. It can pride itself over excellent achievements and can now also be pleased to operate in the environment of a much more dynamic Tanzania.

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### ***A quality school***

Under the competent leadership of the Board of Trustees, the Headmistress Halima Kamote and her staff, the main creation of the endeavors of JOHA Trust is the Barbro Johansson Model Girls' Secondary School in Luguruni outside Dar es Salaam. The school started with 40 students in 2000 and now has 630 girls student in forms I-VI. It has established itself as one of the best performing secondary schools in the expanding community of secondary schools in Tanzania.

In 2010 it ranked 9 out of 294 schools in Form II national exams in the Dar es Salaam region, 10 out of 3196 schools in the country of Form IV (O-level) examination and 18 out of 334 schools in form VI National Examinations. The school has also provided some of the top ten science students in the country. In general the Barbro School has significantly higher pass-rates in exams than the average for the country. With a tremendous expansion of enrollment in recent years, more than 30% of an age-group can now enter the first year of secondary schooling and the total number of students in secondary schools has increased from some 262 000 in 2001 to 1 500 000 in 2010. For Tanzania and its youth this is a remarkable achievement. However a challenge and a problem are that quality is lagging behind quantity. The share of students that passed Form IV national exams decreased from 83 to 72 % between 2009 and 2010.

### **Enhanced chances for girls still needed**

The Barbro School has clearly demonstrated that girls can perform very well in school given the chance in a conducive environment and tuition by dedicated teachers. As the important role of women in development is more and more appreciated in Tanzania, the interest among parents for finding a place at the Barbro School for their girls is increasing. There are fees and other costs for all secondary schooling in Tanzania - also in government schools. While many families cannot afford the lowest fees or cost of transport if they live in remote areas more and more families actively look for the best opportunities for their children and struggle to pay for them. Some few years ago private schools dominated the secondary school scene. They are now outnumbered by the government schools, but still form an important part of the school system. They are expected to be example of quality education and an alternative in specific situations.

The bias against girls in the Tanzanian education system has along with the Millennium Development Goal nr 3 decreased in the last decade. Gender parity has been reached at primary level and enrollment in Form I of secondary school is also almost equal. Higher up in Form V and VI the share of girls is 40 %. These are countrywide figures not revealing that girls from poor households, in remote areas and from broken families often still in practice cannot access or complete secondary education. They may not have the money to pay school fees or transport and it is often not safe for a teenage girl to commute to a day-school. HIV/aids affects life chances both for girls and boys but especially for girls as sexual abuse remains a sad fact and because girl orphans often are left to cater for younger sisters and brother. Although values are changing in Tanzania as in other countries still girls in particular in rural areas are not given priorities when education is to be paid or allocating time for. These are all factors pointing to the need for maintaining a share for boarding schools in the education system and for offering specific support for the most vulnerable enabling them to go to school and develop their potential.

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## **A path out of poverty**

The legacy of Barbro Johansson and the objective of JOHA Trust are to promote access to quality education to talented girls irrespective of religious, ethnic and economic background. It has from the beginning been the role of the Swedish support organization – the JOHA Trust Swedish Sponsors - to collect funds for scholarships for as many girls as possible at the Barbro School. To start with, when numbers were small, close to 50 % could be offered scholarships and thus be recruited from poor households. While Sida, the Swedish government aid agency together with parents and civil society in Tanzania have financed construction of the school facilities the agency has hesitated to finance scholarships. It is therefore now a grave concern for JOHA Trust and the Barbro School how to honour the objective of giving poor girls a real chance in life for themselves and for becoming resourceful actors in Tanzania's future development.

In a recent baseline study for further development of the management and democratic participation of students, parents and teachers in the conduct of the Barbro School it has been possible to conclude that the good performance of the girls academically, in sports, art and debates has been uniform regardless of family background. Going through the list of girls who have their school fees paid by scholarships it is obvious that this has been their best chance in life. What should a lone orphan child have done if she in spite of her good performance in primary school would not have been able to go to the Barbro School? And what about the group of Masai-girls who are the first in their families to get secondary education and to avoid early marriage? The girls who were recruited from remote and poor areas in a special drive are others that one day will be equipped to bring back new experience to their villages.

It is a strength of the Barbro School that it has been able to cater well for students from poor households and at the same time be attractive for paying students from a growing ambitious Tanzanian middle-class. The links the girls forge at that Barbro School and the encouragement they constantly get there to develop their personalities, be good citizens and engage in inclusive and sustainable development are assets for a future more democratic and just Tanzania. Recently JOHA Trust has taken steps to expand its activities by opening a school for the two final years of secondary school in Bukoba. If funds were available this could be a useful way of building on the expansion of government secondary schooling, lifting quality at the end.

## **Successful project with tangible results**

From the point of view of the JOHA Trust Swedish Sponsors, JOHA Trust and the Barbro School have constituted a successful project. The same should be true for the official Swedish support from Sida. A high quality institution has been established in Tanzania contributing dedicated and skilled human resources that can help underpin the more dynamic development underway in Tanzania. To see to it that a significant share ( at least 25 %) of poor girls can be among those qualifying from the school, SEK 2-3 million are needed every year for scholarships.

With the generous assistance from the Swedish Radio "Children of the World Fund" the Swedish Sponsor organization has until now been able to raise a little less than half of this amount. That is not enough and we therefore urgently seek to widen the support for JOHA Trust's education effort in Tanzania.

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**It would be a real tragedy and shame if poor girls now at the school could not find means of completing their studies or if in the long run just some exposed few could be sustained there. This would mean a missed opportunity in the fight against poverty not only for the individuals concerned but also for bringing the personal experience of poverty to further development efforts.**

The slogan of the girls at the Barbro School is "*Give us the light, we will brighten the Nation*".

With role models as Barbro Johansson and Anna Tibaijuka they are challenged to work hard, care for others and aspire for engagement and leadership. From a beginning in a large family in Bukoba, early education in a missionary school, further studies to eventually graduate as a doctor of Agricultural Economics in Uppsala, Sweden research and academic teaching at the university of Dar es Salaam Anna Tibaijuka was until recently head of UN Habitat in Nairobi. Upon her return to Tanzania she was elected Member of Parliament and later in 2010 appointed Cabinet Minister for Housing and Lands in the new Government. Throughout this "journey" Anna Tibaijuka has minded and in practice contributed to broad-based development and equal rights for women. Also now minister Tibaijuka continues to participate as an active member of the board of trustees of JOHA Trust.

Girls who are given chances to develop give chances to others in return.

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