



Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge and Children's Home

The desire and the need to be fully self-sustainable led to the idea of “two hills, one goal”. The lodge hosts tourists, using the profits generated to support the expenses of the children's home.

In 2006, Joris and Marise created the Rhotia Valley Children's Home Foundation in the Netherlands, seeking financial backers for the purchase of the land and the construction of the lodge. Today, the Foundation is still working hard to collect donations for school fees and invest in the sustainable farm of the Children's Home, so they are more self-supporting for their food.

With self-sustainability always in mind, the two doctors decided to embed the project completely in the community of Rhotia, with the aim to support the people –especially the children – of the Rhotia area, in such a way as to make the entire village part of the project.

A Tented Lodge on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater generates revenue to fund the Children's Home currently caring for 52 orphans: paying for food, clothing and school fees. People working at the Lodge, Children's Home and the Carers are all from the local community.



The Tented Lodge consists of 12 tented houses on stilts, homegrown vegetables from the restaurant garden, bread baked in the bakery and dairy products generated from their own herd of dairy cattle. Tour operators across Tanzania stop here on tours en route to Ngorogoro Crater and Serengeti National Park. Children who have completed their schooling can work at the Lodge to learn new skills to equip them for the future.

There are three houses at the Children's Home. Each house has twelve children, one house mother and one aunt creating a family-like atmosphere in each home. A conference hall facilitates community workshops, educational health lessons, computers, sports, homework, arts, and crafts. The children's day starts with a long walk to school, after school they play, wash their clothes, clean and tidy their bedrooms, and assist in food preparation to help them learn basic skills.

How the GTO has helped this project

- Supplied solar water pumps and heating systems to improve the infrastructure for the Lodge guests and the Children's Home.
- Funded the construction of a commercial bakery (with proceeds from the bakery used to support the Children's Home).
- Donated funds towards their dairy and biogas projects.
- Drilled a borehole, installed a new pump and irrigation system to provide a consistent water supply for the vegetable production, Children's Home and Lodge.
- Held a Golder Employee Volunteer trip that cleared and fenced the perimeter of the vegetable garden with beehive fences to ward off elephants from destroying crops



Funded Bakery

