

Kamba hukatikia pembamba (something like “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link”) is an African proverb. With great disappointment, we had to tackle such a weak link in our project. We had placed great hope on our former student *Fatma*, who, after three years of support, obtained a diploma in medical laboratory science (see her profile on our homepage www.childdevelopmentfund.com). We met her in the village of Jambiani, where we stayed once more for six weeks (with interruptions). Afterwards she worked as an unpaid volunteer for two years in the local hospital, an imminently regular position seemed secure to all of us. For several reasons, this has not happened yet. The main reason probably was: the new government (you remember the President’s motto “Hapa kazi tu” – here is only work) decreed a recruitment freeze, because, among other things, it turned out that, in the Tanzanian public service, there are sometimes people on the payroll who already died or who, for other reasons, no longer make an appearance at the workplace. In general, according to press reports, job allocation is – anyway – the most vulnerable event to corruption. At the Jambiani hospital, its former director told us, there is a demonstrable need for a laboratory assistant. This can take a while, however.

We pursued the matter, up to a personal visit at the Zanzibar Ministry for Health and spoke there with the director responsible for placements. On this occasion, we were able to present the aims and details of our project. The conversation went well, so that now there is a justified hope that *Fatma* will achieve her goal of standing on her own two feet through professional work. In the meantime, she has married and earns her livelihood with an all-purpose shop. Unfortunately several dozens of such shops already exist in this village, most of them making some profit with the sale of mineral water in plastic bottles.¹

We also used our visit for an alumni meeting with our previous scholars², all of them being present with the exception of two (*Rayusa*, *Saida*). On this occasion, we were able to get to know the new scholarship holder *Sharifa* (on the left in the photograph below), who will study medicine. Her admission to the university has now been clarified, and her scholarship will cost us a little bit more than usual, but her parents are also participating to the financing.

¹ Incidental problem: in the middle of the village rises a “Kilimanjaro” of not yet disposed plastic bottles.

² Plus former scholarship holder Makame, who, in the meantime, has ascended to a chef cook.



Sharifa made a really smart and intelligent impression, and she spoke and understood English well, which is rare here. Her profile can now also be viewed on the CDF website.

The second major project in Jambiani, the further qualification of 25 children up to the advanced secondary level, has entered the critical phase of the third year. From the discussions with the students, the teachers, the representatives of the parents and the project manager (who teaches at the same time), it turned out that the success of this project might be in danger without further financial support. In order to strengthen the concentration of the children for the decisive national examination in the fall of this year, the responsible persons decided to switch to what is known as “half-boarding”. This means that the children are at school during the week, sleeping there as well, spending only their weekends and holidays at home. Correspondingly, a stronger commitment is needed from parents and teachers. We have decided to contribute with the following financial increase: (1) Taking over the registration and examination fees (40 Euro per child, thus approximately 1000 Euro); (2) increasing the scholarships from 100 to 150 Euro (especially to guarantee the greater engagement of teachers, thus an additional 1000 Euro for 2017); (3) a printing subsidy for teaching materials (250 Euro); (4) furniture provision for teachers' room (350 Euro); (5) two routers for Internet connection (200 Euro); (6) sleeping mats for the children (300 Euro); management assistance through a teacher (200 Euro).



At the left in the front sits *Mwaka* (she wants to become a teacher, she likes reading books and cooking), on her side and writing is *Zakia* (she wants to become a doctor, she likes watching television and reading books); on the right outside sits *Ibrahim* (he wants to become soldier or a doctor; he likes swimming and reading newspapers); at his left – with a ‘baragashia’ on his head – is *Issa*, the class speaker (he wants to become a doctor, his hobbies are swimming, dancing and football playing)

We are confident that we will also be able to report a corresponding success in the next newsletter. In addition, the annual reports of the projects in Zanzibar (all in English, one in Kiswahili) can be viewed upon special request.

Regarding the project in Kenya, which we haven't visited for some time, a longer annual report (in addition to our commentary) is available – also upon request. According to this document (almost) everything runs as desired. All 30 sponsored children or young adults have reached, last year, their next class objective at the secondary school level. *Molyn Awuor* (see CDF homepage) is about to graduate as a nursery school teacher (April 2017). Last year, only one student had completed secondary school (form 4): *John Mwangaza* in Mutonga. His report card is so good (B+), that his entry to university is guaranteed. John thanked his sponsors with a handwritten letter; he would like to become a dentist and he is asking for continued support. We will examine this request; we intend to support him at least with a one-time purchase of a high-quality laptop.

This year, 13 pupils will enter the national exams to form 4, hopefully with success. The following photo shows several students who have been provided with educational materials and new shoes.



The annual report contains profiles of all scholarship holders as well as personal comments on challenges and other personal wishes. This document demonstrates anew that the need for textbooks and materials to the preparation of examinations is still one of the top wishes. In addition, the on-site supervisors report that the girls receive poorer grades than the boys. Parents and custodians shall be urged to draw attention to this problem, and – in our comment to their report – we requested the project managers to deal more intensively with this issue and to develop proposals that may approach the matter of (at least indirect) discrimination.

The students' profiles, by the way, show that many girls are already performing quite well and that they have ambitious professional wishes, such as being a doctor or a lawyer.

In closing, once more, the **CDF Budget** (Euro) for the year 2016, in a broad outline:

Revenues		Expenses	
General donations*	4,100	<i>Kenya:</i>	
Special donations I**	3,000	29 Scholarships à ø 290 #	8,400
Special donations II***	4,175	1 Special scholarship (degree)	700
Own contribution****	4,500	Administration (10%)	900
		<i>Tanzania/Jambiani</i>	
		Three scholarships à 1,100	3,300
		Administration and tutoring	900
		20 Scholarship holders à 100	2,000
		3 Computers	900
		9 Teacher bonuses à 100	900
		A special donation ##	100
Total	15.775	Total	18,000

*) Donations from friends, acquaintances, colleagues

**) Special donation from a colleague

***) Special donations arranged by the same colleague

****) Sales of Tingatinga paintings; honoraries for lectures and expert opinions

Average: the scholarships vary from about 100 to 500 Euros, depending on the needs

For the parents of a student who unfortunately drowned while swimming

So, as we live to some extent on our reserves, we are not allowed letting further fundraising activities rest, especially in view of the above-mentioned increases of expenditure for this year, and also considering the fact that some donors have provided exceptional support last year.

Once again, we would like to thank you all for the donations and loyalty to the CDF. We are looking forward to every suggestion in response to this news and warmly request your further support for our projects.³

Barbara and Günther Schmid⁴

Berlin, März 2017

³ The donation account: Child Development Fund (CDF) (Barbara and Günther Schmid), Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Stuttgart, Swift Code/BIC: BFSWDE33STG; IBAN: DE98 6012 0500 0007 7818 26. Please always include your private address with your donations, so that you receive a corresponding donation certificate from ChildFund Germany (Nürtingen) without delay.

⁴ Email-Adressen: schmidhdb@aol.com; gues@guenterschmid.de;

Homepages: www.childdevelopmentfund.com; www.editionpamoja.de; www.guenterschmid.eu