



Umoja ni nguvu = United we are strong, that is probably the only proverb that makes sense in these times. The corona crisis – Sars-Cov-2 or COVID-19 (or whatever it is called) – also affects our projects. Some activities have practically ceased, for example, the selection of new fellows in Kenya, and we had to cancel our summer plans for travel to the projects in Zanzibar. Nevertheless, a lot has happened and there are some bright spots to report.

The 2019 annual report on the projects submitted by our partner organization in Kenya, ChildFund Kenya, was gratifying and informative. For all scholarship holders, there are personal profiles with photos that briefly report on the following points: school performance, interests, future plans, role model, experience at school or at home, special challenges, need for additional support as well as individual comments. Almost all scholarship holders wrote ‘testimonies’, i.e. letters in which they express their thanks to all donors.¹ ChildFund Kenya has also again improved the selection criteria for future candidates and made them even more transparent.

All nine F4 secondary school students in Mutonga and Kendu Bay passed their final exam (KCSE = Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Examination): two qualified for university studies (B, B +); two for a diploma course at colleges (C, C +); five achieved the grades D, D + or D-, which open access to qualified vocational training. In the past ten years, we have supported a total of 73 children (57 girls and 16 boys) up to a successful secondary school qualification.

In addition, there are currently three scholarship holders in our post-secondary support programme: *Jane Atieno Agutu*, who is studying sociology and anthropology at Masemo University; *Doren Kageni*, who has taken accounting courses at a college in Embu; and – newly added – *Fridah Muthetia*, who wants to earn a diploma as a nurse at Chorogia College. A fourth candidate in the Kendu Bay area is to be selected from among the recently successful graduates. The need for post-secondary education is greater than we can currently support. Due to the increased costs, especially of the (in part private) boarding schools, we have to reduce the number of students funded. We now expect that the annual costs per child and year

¹ If you wish, we put the report or selected testimonies at your disposal.

will be on average at least 500 Euros, so that in the future we will only be able to support 10 children in Mutonga and Kendu Bay respectively (in addition to the post-secondary program).

Finally, we would like to remind you once again that our partner organization, ChildFund Kenya, organizes at least two meetings a year with professional mentors from the Ministries of Education or Health at each of our two project locations in which the sponsored children, and in some cases their parents, receive instruction in sexual reproduction, family planning, health prevention and an array of other concerns such as how to deal with negative peer influence and self-esteem. Former students that we have sponsored also take part in these meetings and report on their own further development to motivate students and parents.



Our supported students with coordinators and mentors in Kendu Bay

Of interest to our readers is certainly the current situation (early May), which can of course quickly change: Kenya closed all educational institutions with the discovery of the first Covid-19 case (March 12), imposed a curfew from evening until morning, closed the national borders and stopped all international flights. To date, only a few Covid-19 cases have been registered (426 infections and 25 deaths as of May 2nd), as is the case in all of Africa (except for urban parts in South Africa). It could stay that way, since the age structure typical of Africa is more of a blessing in this case: the high-risk group of the elderly is comparatively



Instruction in sex education, family planning and health prevention

low.² The bigger problem is the economic consequences, which are already leading to dramatic shortages, e.g., in food and medical supply. The absence of tourism cuts off the source of income for many Kenyans. In addition, large parts of Kenya were affected by the locust plague; the corresponding crop failures simply mean starvation for many people, especially children.

In Tanzania, especially for us in Zanzibar, the situation is similar, except that Tanzania was largely spared the plague of locusts. As of May 2nd, 480 Covid-19 cases and 26 deaths were registered.

We reported in the last newsletter on the successful implementation of the infrastructure for digital education (eLMS), i.e. server, computer, software etc. On our planned visit, we would have liked to have had a closer look at how the system is used, how successful it is and what problems still need to be solved; this must now be postponed until an unknown time. In any case, it is already clear that our support has clearly improved the quality of education at Jambiani Secondary School (JSC): Among 30 regional schools, it climbed to 10th place in the last national exam in November 2019 and the rate of successful completion rose from approx. 60-65 percent to 79 percent. With its eLMS, the school has acquired a model character for the whole of Zanzibar, and the Zanzibar Ministry of Education expressed their explicit thanks to us through the head of the school, Mr. *Yussuf Subiri*.

As reported in the last newsletter, the project to give a second chance to children who had originally failed to complete their secondary school leaving qualifications (F4) ended less satisfactorily. Of the original 25 participants, three dropped out, one did not take the exam. Of the 21 remaining students, eight passed the exam (five girls, three boys), but with low scores that do not allow them to advance to the high level of secondary school (F5, F6). We do not plan to support such a project in the future, although the school headmaster emphasized that he and the teachers had learned from this initial experience and would do better next time.

² See our book publication „Mehr Bildung für die Entwicklung in Afrika“ („More education for the development in Africa“), Edition pamoja, pp. 7, 47 und 56.



After lengthy consultations and exchanges of letters, we decided to change the direction of support for the school. We will continue to support the eLMS, including, the purchase of a good quality and fast computer and contributing to the costs of the internet connection. However, this year and next year we will mainly support a school inclusion project, specifically for seven disabled students (three blind and four deaf, see picture above) and their teachers with the necessary infrastructure (special laptops, voice recorders, projectors, etc.). Further information on this project can be found on Facebook.³ Moreover, one or two further current scholarship holders will probably be selected for a higher education diploma program, in addition to the currently very successful medical student *Sharifa*.

³ “Students with disabilities in Jambiani Secondary School”



Finally, we are supporting the roofing of an additional school building (see photo) with a one-time contribution of 2,400 Euros; the building is urgently needed because the school is ‘bursting at the seams’.

Now we have to await the outcome of the COVID-19 crisis. We hope that more or less normal times will come again soon. One thing is clear: if we want to maintain at least the current level of support for the next three to five years, we have to continue our fundraising activities. Once again, we thank you sincerely for your donations so far and your loyalty to the CDF. We look forward to any suggestions in response to this newsletter and ask for your further support for the project.⁴

Barbara and Günther Schmid⁵

Berlin, May 12, 2020

⁴ Contributions should be sent to: Child Development Fund (CDF) (Barbara and Günther Schmid), Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Stuttgart, Swift Code/BIC: BFSWDE33STG; IBAN: DE98 6012 0500 0007 7818 26. Important! *Please give your private address with the donation and ChildFund Deutschland (Nürtingen) will send you a receipt for contributions to a recognised charity.*

⁵ Email-Adresses: schmidhdb@aol.com; gues@guenterschmid.de; Home pages: www.childdevelopmentfund.com; www.editionpamoja.de; www.guenterschmid.eu