



After a stay in the village *Jambiani* lasting several weeks we have more news to report, and the 2014 annual report from Kenya is also a great opportunity to do so. Further information is provided on our homepage www.childdevelopmentfund.com. We start with the project in Zanzibar.



We visited our first happy scholars at their families in Stone Town (the capital of Zanzibar). *Fatma* got her diploma in *Medical Laboratory Science* at the *College of Health Science Zanzibar* last October and was pleased with her good marks. Since then she has been waiting for regular employment in one of the public hospitals in Zanzibar or Pemba. There exists an employment guarantee here within one year for graduates with good references so she can confidently look to her future. In March and April, *Fatma* will be gaining work experience in the village hospital in *Jambiani*. With this internship she is also fulfilling one of the conditions connected with our scholarships: to give something back to the local village or to the CDF-community. We supported her with additional €300 to bridge the transition from school to work.

Rayusa also received her diploma in *Human Resource Management* at the *Institute of Public Administration (IPA)* with good marks. However, her employment perspectives are not looking as positive at present. Although she still has some chance of finding regular employment at one of the ministries, there is no guarantee (any more). For the time being, she is trying a start-up: She buys children clothes in Dar es Salaam and sells them at a better price in her neighbourhood. With the profits she intends to establish a regular small business. We also provided her with a bridging support of €300.





Rayusa lives together with her brother-in-law and two other sisters. A surprise was awaiting us at the welcome in her house – a lunch table with Zanzibar specialties.

Makame Abdalla, whom we supported with a smaller and one-off contribution, had successfully finished his first examination as a cook. His marks are so excellent (87 of 100 possible credits) that he was given a regular employment offer at the five-star hotel *Neptune Pwani Beach Resorts & Spa* on the east coast of Zanzibar after only a short period of internship. He prepared a most

impressive lunch for us: chapati, rice and mseto (unpeeled rice mixed with beans) with a saffron-coloured butter sauce, a delicious mtori soup (a kind of spinach soup with meat), yellow tuna fish, sweet mandazi, spice tea and passion fruit juice.

We also visited *Busara* during her one-month work experience at the agricultural school in Makunduchi. Her teachers proudly showed us their recently established irrigation system for a huge cucumber field. The extension and modernisation of growing vegetables has a great future in Zanzibar as – and this was astonishing news to us – 80 percent of vegetables are imported. *Busara* is well on the way to finishing her diploma at the *Kizimbani Agricultural Training Institute* within the next year. Her marks for the internship were excellent, only her English still needs to be improved.



Our two new scholars *Saida* and *Zaituni* finally paid us a visit; the two young women are currently studying at the *Zanzibar State University* (ZUSA). They promised to contribute regularly to our forum on the website with a “Story of the Month”.

Finally, we come to the most important point: Our on-the-spot experiences and the good response to our call for fundraising encouraged us to invest more in the education of the village *Jambiani*. The village was outraged by the results of the last national examinations: Only two of 35 students passed the examinations in “Form IV” (which corresponds to a middle standard of secondary education) at a level sufficient to enter the public high school (Form V and VI); last year, the corresponding figure was at least five. The results of the examinations in “Form II” were no better: Almost two-thirds of the 96 students failed, which means they no longer have a chance to get a higher level of secondary schooling. The schools don’t have to take any more responsibility for these teenagers at the critical age of 14 to 16; they are practically excluded from any further education.

Altogether, these results – which are hardly better throughout the country – mirror a basic structural problem: The Tanzanian education system – as in Kenya – is still geared towards the elites who are ensured a comparably well-paid job in the government after their education. This is the reason for the merciless selection processes at the middle and higher level of secondary schools. Certainly, in the meantime the problem has been acknowledged at the highest political level. For example, the President of Zanzibar, Dr. M. Shein, has described the country’s youth unemployment as a ticking “time bomb”; substantive steps for improvement at the ground level of the causal chain (i.e. the education system), however, are not yet visible or will take a long time to have an impact.

We therefore decided to give a nudge to help develop the *Jambiani Community Academy (JCA)* into a learning centre. With a one-off contribution of €4,500, the JCA building will be renovated and its infrastructure improved (stools, tables, teaching material, library, ICT-equipment). Around 25 students selected from those who failed the Form II examinations will be trained within three years up to a level that entitles them to participate in the national Form IV examinations. Twenty of them will be supported by a scholarship averaging €100 per year so that their parents can afford to pay the corresponding fees. All parents, however, have to pay at least a minimum amount of the fees.¹



¹ This means a further commitment of €6,000 for the next three years in addition to the one-off contribution of €4,500. Those interested in this project can receive a full description in English upon request.

Before concluding the corresponding contract we met with the mayor (Sheha) and some teachers to ensure the responsible involvement of the *Jambiani* community. The progress of the project will be monitored at regular intervals (half-year reports) for all individual scholars supported. JCA will also continue to strengthen its tutoring of other students before and during their examinations, which is something we have been already promoting in recent years.

We did not visit the projects in Kenya during our last stay in Africa; however, we are in regular contact with the responsible managers of ChildFund Kenya. The most important results of their 2014 report are the following:

1. Currently, we support 32 youths, the majority girls, with a scholarship averaging €150 per year; 19 in Kendu Bay (Lake Victoria) and 13 in Mutonga (near Mount Kenya). The scholarship mainly serves for the payment of school fees in the secondary schools which, in the meantime, is handled through bank transfers.
2. The majority of students were educated in questions of sexual behaviour, health and nutrition; the programme also included instruction of suitable teachers and trainers. We expect an extensive report on the results of this programme in early summer this year.
3. Furthermore, the majority of students were equipped with solar lamps to help them to read and finish their homework in the evenings.
4. The girls were given sanitary kits to enable them to attend school during their periods (an otherwise common reason for school absenteeism).
5. A majority of the supported youth participated in community tasks (e.g. clearing-up operations in a hospital, planting); such activities will be extended.
6. Seven students have successfully finished secondary school and will be replaced by new scholars.
7. Video clips of some students will be arranged during this year to be presented on our website.
8. An Alumni association of all supported scholars is being established to track their progress even after they have left the programme; experiences will be exchanged during an annual reunion of these beneficiaries with possible feedback to the current students.
9. In the 2014 annual report,² all 32 supported youths presented themselves (including their photo) and communicated their progress, ranking in examinations, interests, future plans, role models, challenges, additional support required, partially with additional comments;

² The report is available upon request.

some of the students supplemented their presentation with handwritten letters. Many of the scholars rank at the top and many of them have ambitious professional goals (doctor, lawyer, engineer, teacher); many wish for some additional support in their weak subjects in school, better teaching material and books to take at home so as to prepare for their examinations; many also request some 'pocket money' to afford some personal items, especially the girls.

The experiences reflected in this report prompted us to increase the scholarship by €50 free at the scholars' disposal, however, under three conditions: First, when handing out this amount students will be educated on how to use this money in a meaningful way; second they will also be advised on how to monitor the expenditure; third they will have to commit themselves to actively contribute to community activities (neighbourhood, village, school) and that should also be documented. At the end of this year, we will have to see whether this investment was worth the while.

We thank you again for your support, encouragement and faith in our project; we are also grateful for every suggestion as a reaction to this newsletter. Finally, we would like to request anew your continued support of our project.³

Barbara und Günther Schmid⁴

Berlin, March 2015

³Contributions should be sent to: Child Development Fund (CDF) (Barbara und Günther Schmid), Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Stuttgart, BLZ 601 205 00, Account No. 778 1826; Swift Code/BIC: BFSWDE33STG, Account/IBAN: DE98601205000007781826. **Important!** Please give with the donation your private address and you will get a receipt for contributions to a recognised charity.

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

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