

Kile unachoniambia, husahau; kile unachonionyesha, mimi hukumbuka; kile unachoniacha nikifanya, mimi huelewa = "What you tell me, I forget; what you show me, I remember; what you let me do, I understand" (Confucius). We would like to have this 'wisdom' implemented in our projects in Africa. Unfortunately, the results are sometimes far from it. We returned from our 5 week visit (four days in Nairobi, the remainder of the time in 'our village' Jambiana (Sansibar), aside from two days in Dar es Salaam) with very mixed experiences. In order to keep our report brief we cite various documents that we are glad to send to interested readers on request. There were some highlights, but at least one bitter disappointment; first to the latter.

The three-year school project in Jambiani, in fact a pilot project, is over: The project offered twenty-five pupils who failed the national examination for Form II (lower secondary level) in 2014/5 the opportunity of advancing to the Form IV level (middle secondary level) through lessons and individual tutoring in our established learning center, Jambiani Community Academy (JCA). Our goal was for at least 15 to pass the exam, five of them with good to very good results. Positive is that all 24 scholarship recipients¹ received permission to sit for the exam early last year and can – if they wish – repeat the exam again at the end of this year. The disappointment: of the 19 who actually took the exam only five passed in some of the seven or nine subjects, and only one of them did reasonably well. The other 14 failed completely in all subjects.²

We looked of course into the reasons for the poor performance. The most important ones: Four of the nine teachers had left the Academy in the last year; the absences of the remaining teachers and especially of the pupils rose dramatically last year; the parents (especially those of the girls) did not motivate their children to attend classes; many children were distracted by peer groups or other activities (Kite surfing, football, fishing or various other beach activities, household help, etc.); the four-person Parents Committee (plus Sheha, the mayor) did not really exercise its control functions (in blatant contradiction to the bombastic sounding task

¹ This would qualify them for the upper secondary level (Form V and VI).

² One pupil had a deadly accident while swimming early in the project and was not replaced. Two pupils were sick on the day of the exam and three dropped out of the project in the last year. Sadly, one of the two sick students died through a tragic accident in the sea during our stay in Jambiani.

description in the reports of the manager); our manager failed to inform us in due time about the worsening conditions.

But, to come back to the Confucius quote at the beginning, we suspect a deeper reason. The understanding of education in Africa which – as far as we know it – is adversely affected by a rather formalistic method of instruction, apart from patriarchal social structures in which girls are expected to bear children and not to learn: frontal teaching, learning by heart without understanding, teaching material that provides little motivation (in English, a foreign language for Tanzanians that even most teachers do not speak), the absence of a culture of active learning (e.g. in projects, teamwork) and the experiences gained through them (see Confucius). This is probably a reason why we have experienced better results here with the vocational training scholarships (see below).

We want now to give all 14 students who failed the exam an opportunity to repeat it and are in the process of making the necessary arrangements. The continuation of the school project depends, however, on whether we succeed in the next few weeks in regaining confidence in our manager and, above all, on whether the community, the parents, the mayor and the responsible district commissioner³ develop an ownership into this education project and are willing to increasingly bear themselves the costs of maintaining the Institution JCA.⁴

Now to the highlights and good news: *Saida* and *Zaituni*, two of our scholars in the vocational training project in Jambiani, are just completing their exams (for their profiles see <http://www.childdevelopmentfund.com/profil.html>). We saw them again at an alumni meeting⁵ of all scholarship holders and expect positive results.

³ Although we met him briefly in Makunduchi (after writing a long letter explaining our request) we did not get the chance of a satisfactory communication.

⁴ For more details see our manager's final report and a long letter from us to him (available on request). Incidentally, the educational conditions in Tanzania currently seem rather to be worsening than improving. The government abolished all the school fees a few years ago (unlike Kenya, see below), but did not act to increase the number and quality of the teachers, let alone improve the infrastructure. In 2017/8, 69 out of 123 graduates from the village failed to pass the national examination in Form II and thus are ineligible – irretrievably – to attend the middle level of the secondary school. Dr. John Magufuli, the president of Tanzania, even forbids – in the face of strong protests by courageous civil groups – pregnant girls or young mothers to attend school; the Zanzibar government, so far at least, does not yet impose such punishments.

⁵ See photo below; we are also planning a small video clip on the CDF website.



During our visit we selected (from seven candidates of the village) two new scholarship students: *Mariam*, who wants to study agricultural science, and (on the left) *Samira*, who wants to be a teacher in physics and chemistry. Their profiles will also be available on the CDF website. We will cover the costs of the fees for a repeat examination in Form IV for two other candidates seeking to become English teachers, giving them the chance to improve



themselves for the next selection round.



We visited *Sharifa*, who studies medicine and who just completed an internship in Mbweni. We spoke with one of her teachers who considers her as very capable, hard-working, and that she will be successful.



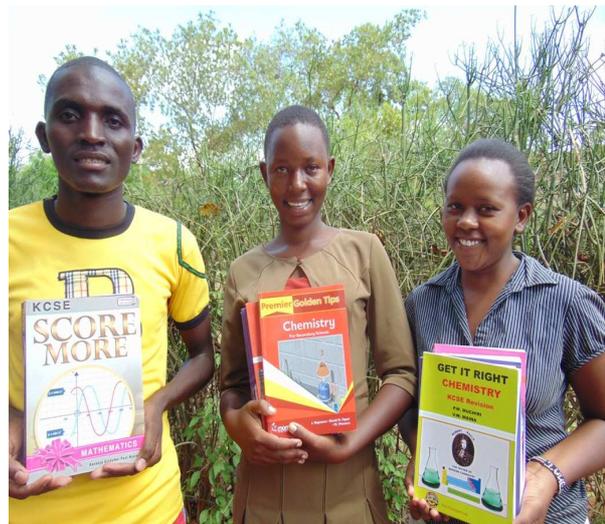
We also visited *Busara*, who got a permanent position as an agricultural economist in the Halma Shauri (Kitogani); the photo with her team (together with the team leader) shows how happy she is advising farmers on modern cultivation methods for all kinds of vegetables. Our visit with *Fatma*, whose effort to achieve permanent employment we supported in various ways (see previous newsletters), was a real 'highlight'. She proudly and expertly explained the instruments in the laboratory of the Hospital of Jambiani, and she let us participate in a practical laboratory test (HIV): She dealt with the couple taking the test in a sovereign way like an experienced doctor.





During our four-day visit to Nairobi we had intensive discussions with the director of ChildFund Kenya, Malone Miller, and the responsible manager of our two projects in Kenya (Kendu Bay and Mutonga). We spoke openly over problems but also were happy with the successes of our joint efforts.⁶ All 13 (out of 28) supported students who took the Form IV exams to complete secondary school this year passed. Although the results

have generally not been overwhelming, this also appears to be mainly for structural reasons: School exam results have generally declined in Kenya over the past two years. Especially gratifying is that one student in Kendu Bay (*Jane Atieno Ogutu*) received such good exam grades that she can directly start studying at the university. She will be a shining example for other girls. We promised to continue to support her; possibly we will continue to sponsor one or two other children in pursuit of higher educational goals (college visit). We also made it clear to project managers in Nairobi, however, that we want more intensive care for children, closer contacts with their parents and teachers, and, if necessary, varying support levels according to individual needs. Finally, we decided to continue supporting the project at the previous level (€ 10,000 per year), which means that the number of students will be maintained at the current level of about thirty. The picture above and the following below are from our visit in Nairobi and of some of our students.



⁶ We can provide the full 2017 Annual Report on request.

Note: We could possibly combine a volunteer year with our JCA project in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The following association, with which we are in contact, can be visited on the following web address for more information:

<https://verein-vuga.org/en/freiwilligendienst/weltwaerts-freiwilligendienst-uganda/>

The selection of the volunteer has to be made by the beginning of June at the latest when the preparatory seminars of the association take place. Departure would be in August / September.

Finally, the **CDF budget** (Euro) for the year 2017 in outline:

Income		Expenditure	
General donations*	4,650	<i>Kenya:</i>	
Special donations **	8,150	27 scholarships à ø 310 #	8,400
Own contribution***	-----	1 special scholarship (Diploma)	700
		Administration (10%)	900
		<i>Tanzania/Jambiani</i>	
		Three scholarships à 1,100	3,300
		Administration und tutoring	900
		20 scholarships à 150	3,000
		Diverse infrastructure	1,000
		Examination fees for 24 students	1,000
		additional tutoring, management	2,200
Total	12,800	Total	21,400

*) Donations from friends of CDF and from colleagues

**) Special donations from colleagues (3,000; 2,000; 1,200; 950) and a friend (1,000)

***) Honoraria for speeches or expert opinions; sales of TingaTinga-paintings; to be contributed retroactively in 2018

Average: scholarships vary depending on need from ca. 100 to 500 Euros.

So, we should not rest our fundraising activities, especially since a large part of the commitments is borne by friends and colleagues who have given the project special donations. Once again many thanks to you all for your donations and support. We are grateful for any comments or suggestions and hope for your continued support for the project.⁷

Barbara and Günther Schmid⁸

Berlin, 09 April 2018

⁷ 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.

⁸Email-Adressen: schmidhdb@aol.com; gues@guentherschmid.de; Homepages: www.childdevelopmentfund.com; www.editionpamoja.de; www.guentherschmid.eu