

“Giving gifts means saving” is an African proverb. It took a long time until Europe did not think only to itself but also – in remembrance of this wisdom – to Africa. Moreover, the initiative of the American president Joe Biden to revoke patent protection put Europe under pressure to think of “giving gifts” in its own interest. In its “Declaration of Rome” at 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 (at the occasion of the G20-World-Health-Summit), the EU announced a partnership with vaccination producers Biontech & Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna to provide vaccines for Africa. Altogether, 1.3 billion vaccine-cans shall be sent to Africa until the end of this year, followed by another 1.3 billion in 2022. Germany declared to top up this promise with another 30 million vaccine-cans until the end of this year. Because it is foreseeable that this does not suffice, the EU plans to establish regional “Vaccine-Hubs” in the East, West and South of Africa for which EU-member states and the European Commission put one billion Euros at disposal.

This good news suggests giving a brief overview of the COVID-19-situation in our African project areas. Whilst Kenya openly fights against the third wave, COVID-19 was almost a taboo until recently in *Tanzania*. Currently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reports only 509 confirmed cases and 21 deaths. These figures stem from April 2020 and have not been updated since then. President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli declared COVID-19 as defeated and forbade the import of vaccines. He recommended praying and natural remedies for prevention and healing, but he himself died on March 17 (2021), officially of heart failure but possibly of COVID-19. Vice-president Samia Sululu Hassan<sup>1</sup> took over the office and broke with the policy of denial so that we can now expect more clarity in the coming months.

This policy of denial was also practiced in *Zanzibar*, although vice-president Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad declared that he was infected with COVID-19 of which he eventually died. Because of the alleged zero-corona, the island was visited almost excessively by tourists in the last year until this spring, in particular from Russia and East European countries. Some

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<sup>1</sup> The 61 years old politician Samia Sululu Hassan is a true Zanzibar. Hopefully, her name Sululu (=solution, compromise, mediation) will confirm another proverb: “nomen est omen.” “Mama Sululu”, by the way, represented the election constituency *Makunduchi* to which the village *Jambiani* belongs, the main place of our project-activities at the east-coast of Zanzibar. In 1992-94, she studied economics at the University of Manchester, which she finished with a postgraduate Diploma.

Germans tourists who tested negative in Tanzania or Zanzibar were subsequently tested positive in Germany – a further reason for the German Foreign Ministry to maintain its warning against travels to Tanzania which has been in place since the beginning of the pandemic.

Kenya confirmed its first COVID-19-case on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 and registered 164,386 infected and 2,950 dead until today.<sup>2</sup> The government's bundle of response measures contained drastic elements, in particular in hotspots like Nairobi (curfews). The WHO reports 926,036 administered vaccinations.<sup>3</sup> Corona had also a drastic impact on the education system. The African Economic Outlook 2021 informs – among others – about school closures: Whereas schools in Tanzania were “only” closed for 75 days, those in Kenya closed on 180 days. Many students, literally, lost a whole school year. Education experts estimate that these school closures will lead to a reduction of lifetime income by 43-61% in low-income countries compared to “only” 6-8% in high-income countries. School closures in Africa often mean also loss of school meals and hunger leading to lasting malnutrition for children. Despite the high internet access rates of about 80 percent, 80 percent of Kenyan pupils and students didn't get virtual lessons due to bad internet connections or lack of required Smartphones, tablets or online-courses.

This background clarifies how our projects have also suffered. Nevertheless, we tried everything to keep contact, in part even via Zoom. We received regularly intermediate reports from Tanzania-Zanzibar, and the annual report from Kenya (January 2020 until April 2021) just arrived. Let's begin with the diverse projects in Zanzibar which are mainly located in the village Jambiani on the east coast and its secondary school.

The new scholarship recipient in the vocational training programme, *Sabiha Bandari Ame*, who studies journalism at the Mwenge Community College (MCC), passed her first examinations with good results. She is now in her second year of studies and currently doing a three-months volunteering at different media organizations (radio, television, journals). CDF equipped her with a laptop. Two further female scholarship recipients will begin with their studies in informatics and business administration in the summer. We will introduce all three in the next Newsletter.

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<sup>2</sup> About 0.06% of population, at least substantially less compared to Germany with 85,118 dead (about 0.10% of German population).

<sup>3</sup> This is about 1.7% of Kenyan population compared to 35.6% of German population who got their first vaccination, and 10.6% of German population having completed their vaccination.



Their selection was carried out by a new committee of seven persons, one of them being our former scholarship-holder in medicine *Sharifa Kassid Ali*. Despite her brilliant exam (see document), it will take some time until she gets a regular employment. We decided therefore – also because of our absence due to COVID-19 – to employ her as secretary and as representative of our CDF-foundation. In terms of financing, this means extending her scholarship (€ 1,200 per year) in addition to any necessary special payments.

Sharifa's main tasks are to provide support for the students in the vocational training programme and to implement a new pilot project aimed at improving the educational chances of female pupils. Out of 47 girls or young women in Form 4 (last class of the secondary schools' middle level) 25 motivated girls were selected for daily tutoring in four subjects (Biology, English, Kiswahili, Mathematics) from April 2021 until their final national exams in November. Three (in part unemployed) teachers and Sharifa herself do the tutoring. The background for initiating this pilot project was the incredibly bad results of students from Jambiani Secondary School, especially female students, in the national exams: In 2020 only one girl passed the F4-examination at a level that allowed her to enter upper secondary classes (F5, F6) or qualifying vocational education at a college. Our goal is that at least 15 girls will succeed in passing the 2021 exams.

We can also report success regarding the financing to finish the construction of the new school building that includes a conference hall (see Newsletter 17). In cooperation with a Belgian NGO (Vrienden van Jambiani) and an anonymous donor the required sum for completion could be mobilized: CDF (€ 2,400), VvJ (€ 3,800) and anonymous (€ 1,400), in total 7,600 Euro. Unfortunately, the headmaster of the school was not able to persuade either the village administration or the district or regional government to contribute to this building. We hope that at least the maintenance of the new building can be financed by the school itself, for example, by renting the conference hall for business meetings or cultural events.



Unfortunately, too, the electronic Learning Management System (eLMS) project has suffered not only due to Corona but also due to the change in the school leadership: eLMS was



successfully installed for the whole school and works well according to the former headmaster, however, the extension of the system to our inclusion project has currently stagnated, among other reasons due to the lack of pedagogical and technical assistance from Dar es Salaam (TIE and Open University), which has not been available since the lockdown curtailed personal contacts. We hope we will be able to revitalize the promising start of this project with the help of the new school leadership leading to visible improvements.

There was for a long period little contact between *Kenya* and Berlin because, among other reasons, our partner organization in Nairobi (ChildFund Kenya) itself was heavily affected by Corona. Since schools were closed for almost the whole year 2020, there was no need to pay school fees. We decided to provide a “Corona-bonus” to each sponsored child in the amount of €50. Now, we have received the extended annual report (January 2020 to April 2021). Since January, the children are back in school and are able to make up their exams that they missed at a later date; the same is true for our three postsecondary scholarship holders in college or university. Correspondingly, the payments of their fees and additional support have now resumed.

The 22 pages annual report (available on request) contains the profiles of all new and continuing students. Moreover, each sponsored child wrote a thank you letter (available, too, on request) describing how they coped with Corona and how they used the “bonus” payment: Many children gave their bonus to their families because living conditions worsened, too, due to – among other reasons – poor crops caused by drought or the locust plague. Almost all children promised to work harder, in part with seemingly fantastic ambitions: “The sky is not my limit” (Eunice Dolphin Ojijo who wants to become a neurosurgeon), or: „I promise to make you proud [...] by attaining my target grade of A plain“ (Odiwuor Michael Owen, who wants to become a doctor). Almost all noted a lack of “revision books” for repeating lessons or preparing their examinations. This caused us to supplement the scholarships to meet these needs.

Currently we support 25 children in Kenya, of which three attend college or university. Doreen Kangeni passed her Diploma exam in accounting; she wants, however, proceed with her studies to attain a state certificate as accountant. In addition to the necessary adjustment of the scholarships, we want to discuss with our partner organization ChildFund Kenya whether to increase slightly the number of scholars in the secondary school or to add a few to the post-

secondary programme. Among the 22 sponsored children in secondary school, 10 have newly entered the programme, which means, in other words, 10 ‘older’ students have – despite Corona – successfully finished secondary school. The selection criteria for students newly entering the programme have slightly changed in both regions, Kendu Bay and Mutonga (see box for Mutonga).

Box: Mutonga, the ChildFund Kenya’s Local Partner, ChildRise Development Programme, revised its students’ selection criteria. The criteria used to select the new scholarship recipients are summarized below:

- Children should have come from Mutonga Project geographical area of coverage, i.e., Chiakariga, and IgambaNgombe (Wards) of Tharaka Nithi County.
- The orphans or vulnerable children (OVC) must have scored more than 250 marks and above at the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education i.e. Grade 8 National examination. Those already in secondary and at a risk of dropping out due to poverty must have scored a mean grade of C and above at the end of term examinations. Consequently, they must produce a letter of recommendation from the head teacher.
- For a child to qualify, he or she must have a recommendation letter from the area focus group leaders.<sup>4</sup>
- Children eligible for scholarships must come from needy families and must be the poorest in the village, i.e. those earning an income of less than \$300 a year.
- Children whose parents have special need, i.e., physically challenged and who meet the above qualifications are given first priority.
- Special priority is given to girls who meet the above requirements.

Among the three post-secondary scholarships is also Fridah Muthethia whose single mother Regina we already supported when Fridah was a small child. After finishing secondary



school, Fridah interrupted her education for several years to start a family with two children. Now, she is determined to study at Chorogia College to attain a certificate in Early Childhood Education (ECDE) and to become an ECDE teacher. Beside her regular scholarship (about €700 per year) we equipped her with a laptop. The corona pandemic highlighted the fact that almost all students lack mobile telephones, tablets or laptops capable of supporting “home office” for virtual learning or repeating lessons. Moreover it became clear that our scholarships also support indirectly the children’s families, in particular when living conditions worsen through climate catastrophes.

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<sup>4</sup> The regional focus groups of ChildFund Kenya (our partner organisation) consist of the parents of all sponsored children (overwhelmingly ‘godchildren’ sponsored by people all around the world). These groups decide about the expenditure and implement corresponding projects (e.g., irrigation projects, deworming, and school renovation). At ChildFund Mutonga around 15 focus groups represent respectively around 50 sponsored children.

At the end of this newsletter again the **CDF-Budget** (Euro) for 2020 in rough figures:

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
General donations*	7,815	<i>Kenya:</i>	
Special donations**	21,500	25 lump sums à 50 € <sup>1)</sup>	1,250
Own contribution	2,000	Administration (ca.10%)	130
		<i>Tanzania/Jambiani</i>	
		Scholar Sharifa	1,200
		Scholar Sabiha (1/2)	350
		School Building	2,400
		eLMS Implementation	2,100
		Inclusion Project <sup>2)</sup>	3,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,315</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>11,230</b>

\*) Donations from relatives, friends, acquaintances, colleagues

\*\*\*) Special donations from friends, acquaintances, colleagues (€14,000; €3,000; €2,500; €1,000; €1,000)

1) Due to the Corona-Pandemic provisioned scholarships could not be paid out; instead this lump sum was handed out to all children for free disposition

2) Support (including infrastructure) for seven disabled children at Jambiani Secondary School plus pilot project electronic management system (eLMS), adjusted to disabled children with the assistance of Tanzanian Institute for Education (TIE) and Open University (OUD) of Dar es Salaam

It is evident that the Corona-pandemic muddled up the balance sheet so that we couldn't properly allocate the available resources, in particular the special donations to their suggested purpose. However, about €9,000 has already been paid for scholarships in Kenya this year, and the number of scholarships in the Vocational Education Programme in Tanzania will increase. Furthermore, we are already heavily financially committed due to the costs of the tutorial programme and the envisioned continuation of the inclusion project. We hope that the COVID-19-crisis ends soon so that we will again be able to observe the projects in person to have the opportunity of in-depth talks with all participants. We are grateful for the loyalty of our donors and happy that we have been able to win some new CDF-friends. We cordially thank everybody. We look forward to any suggestions in response to this newsletter and kindly ask for your further support for the project.<sup>5</sup>

Barbara and Günther Schmid<sup>6</sup>

Berlin, 25 May 2021

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Emails and Homepages: [schmidhdb@aol.com](mailto:schmidhdb@aol.com); [gues@guentherschmid.de](mailto:gues@guentherschmid.de); [www.childdevelopmentfund.com](http://www.childdevelopmentfund.com); [www.editionpamoja.de](http://www.editionpamoja.de); [www.guentherschmid.eu](http://www.guentherschmid.eu); [www.tingatinga-berlin.de](http://www.tingatinga-berlin.de)