

The fence is set up and the garden is prepared for planting!

As we mentioned before, we started with the project „a garden for the Gomeze-kids” including a fence. We left Monday morning Manzini to Nyonyane with Precious. But before we were able to start with the garden some food and materials for the fence had to be bought before. Step by step the Pickup was filled with materials (cement, gloves, wire etc.), food and two alive chickens next to Annika in the back. We had an agreement with one of the neighbours of the Gomezes to stay with them. Therefore, we bought everything for a traditional meal (i.e. the alive chickens) in hope to get it cooked during our stay.

First off all we went to the neighbour to put our stuff somewhere. It was a big surprise, that we got our own little cottage, with two beds, a table plus two chairs. Actually, we thought that we stay somewhere in a room on the ground covered with straw mat. For sure we didn't expect something like that. The first get in touch with Frank, his wife and their four children was nice and cordial. After this kind welcome we prepared us, went to the Gomeze kids and started with our work.



When we arrived Moses (the craftsmen), his assistant Red, the oldest boy as well as the oldest girl were already waiting for us. After a short discussion how to start, the pillars for the fence were buried. To strengthen the construction the corner pillars and some further pillars in between were cement into the ground. Before sunset we finished our work for the day. With the water of the play pump at the school we washed ourselves scanty. Running water is not available in this area!



Back at Franks homestead Pelenop already prepared some delicious traditional food for us served on Tupperware plates with a spoon. Much later the family had supper and ate the food as usual with the hands. So, they organized especially for us a spoon! Until we had to go to the bed we talked with Frank and it's family shone resplendent in the paraffin light.



After a short breakfast in the early morning, we started again with our work at the Gomeze garden. During one day we managed to fix the barbed wire at the pillars. To tighten the barbed wire we had to use an unknown tool of one neighbour, but luckily Banele was able to handle it. With the joint power of Moses, Banele and us two the fence was finished in the afternoon, so that it was possible to dig the ground as well. While we worked in the garden Red and Kasile ablate the roof of the kitchen. The roof leaked and the rain season is coming soon. Therefore, a new thatched



roof was needed. At the end of the day the new garden was prepared for planting and the roof ablated. Done! At sunset we went again to the play pump to wash ourselves and of course we were again THE attraction.

On Wednesday we used the remaining time until Gertrud picked us up to support the measurements at the new roof and fetched water from the river.

To summarize our experiences in some short sentences: We didn't expect that it is so difficult to set up a fence with the given materials and tools. But we are proud that we managed it! We had a very good time and together with the others we achieved a lot!

Best regards,

Annika & Ursula

