

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

### **Nyonyane**

At the moment our special support goes to the primary school Nyonyane, which is located in the outer bush lands and where is a shortage of everything.

In the past years we could succeed in setting up a school garden, to improve the daily meals consisting normally only of maize and beans. After a change of the head teacher and some of the teachers, more accommodations for the teachers were necessary, so that they don't have to do the 7km walk to the school two times a day.

Because of a donation from the school Gymnasium Velbert the teacher houses could be finished already. The students of the school Gymnasium Velbert did participate in the German wide campaign "Dein Tag für Afrika" from the organization Tagwerk e.V. The idea of this campaign is to exchange a day in school with a working day, to enable a day in school for children in Africa. For small money the students do some auxiliary work within their family. Some older students can also do some work in companies for one day.

With the support of the community the construction works for the teacher houses could be finished until today.



Help from the community for the construction



teacher accommodation

The further works at the school have to continue urgently now. At nighttime rats and bats are inside the class rooms. Therefore it's necessary to seal of the roof and to install proper ceilings. The classrooms also need a new inner coating. And on the black boards in the school the children can't

read anything anymore. The existing desks and chairs in the class room are not sufficient for the pupils.

The food deliveries from the government don't take place on a regular basis. So now the children, which normally have their only warm meal a day in the school, are supposed to bring food from the home, where there is not enough for them. The small vegetable garden of the school contains salad, tomatoes, onions, spinach, cabbage and herbs, but these vegetables are not enough to nourish the whole school. At the moment we are urgently waiting for rain, so that the gardens can grow.

### **Child-headed household KaLanga**

The child-headed household of the Mhlongo family in the region of KaLanga needs further support from MEDEA.

None of the four children have been registered, that means none of them had a birth certification. Which in Germany is a normal thing, in Swaziland is very different. Because in the rural areas most of the children are born at home, there is nothing to register them and for this they don't get a birth certificate. Our task was then to figure out the right date of birth. Then we did go with the oldest boy to the registration office. At 9 o'clock in the morning already a long queue awaited us there. Only one of the three counters was open. With the help of a white face and the support of our local employees we did reach the counter after only 6,5 hours. With this we could fulfill the first step, to give the children of the Mhlongo family an identity, which is also necessary to go to high school in the future. With the certificates we did go to the school of Sabelo (8 years) and Sipho (9 years), which are in the same class and the third year of primary school. The school fees are paid by MEDEA. The head teacher was thankful for the certifications, so he can register the children properly with the ministry of education.

In a couple of weeks we are awaiting a volunteer from Wuppertal, who wants to support our work for a few weeks in Swaziland. In the end of the month a volunteer from Düsseldorf will arrive, and she plans to stay and work for three month in Swaziland with MEDEA.

We are excited and are looking forward for the next tasks

In October 2013

Gisela Romhányi