

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

I spent the German winter from 1st of November 2013 to 1st of February 2014 in the African summer in Swaziland to work there as a volunteer for the organization MEDEA e.V. I lived and worked two years in Lagos , Nigeria , which has influenced me and helped me , to get through the time in Swaziland well .

My arrival was very familiar: There was no electricity for 3 days. It is kind of easy to live without electricity for some time, but you cannot live without food. So my first day of work led us to the Nyonyane School in the bush region, where MEDEA e.V. has been working for some time. The children and teachers gave us a warm welcome,



but the cornmeal was finished and the government had no money for petrol. To clarify: The school children receive daily a warm corn meal, funded by the World Food Program. Sacks with corn flour are stored in a large hall, and the government should ensure that the supplies take place to selected schools. But: no money for gasoline = no delivery = no food for school children - it's that simple!

That 123 children have nothing to eat, let me get only little sleep. With Gertrud, a plan was made for the next day, and MEDEA could do some fast and not bureaucratic help.

First it took some talking on the phone to find a driver and a truck, who was willing to make the delivery to Nyonyane for a reasonable price. With him, we agreed to meet in front of the warehouse of the World Food Program. Then the way through stamping papers and patient waiting began. For me - "very German" - a true test of patience. The endurance of the inefficient procedure led to the gnashing of teeth.

But eventually all the papers were filled and stamped, so that our driver could go in the afternoon to the school.

That night I could sleep better, because I knew that 123 children would again get a hot meal the next day, and the work of MEDEA is effective and very useful.

As reported in our previous newsletter, we gradually - with the help of parents - renovated the individual classrooms. If you hold for the first time in your life a brush in your hand, to e.g. paint window frames, it is a major challenge. By the painting of the individual classrooms most times I had to correct all the not so perfect things, then being really part of the productive work. - Where exactly is written that you only paint the window frame and not also all the window pane? - ... Nevertheless the result was impressive at the end and everyone was very proud that they had managed the work themselves.



Former classroom



and now a smiling sunflower

The next step was to plant and to get the already set up vegetable garden of the school to life.



Watering in Swaziland goes as follows: The MEDEA team first collects water bottles, to then present a simple yet ingenious system to the teachers, pupils and parents. First engrave on each side 1 hole in the bottom third of the bottle, then the bottles are placed at a distance of 1 m into the ground and filled with water. The benefit or significance of this irrigation is that the water flows directly to the roots of plants and does not evaporate as quickly by the hot sun. It is sufficient to refill the bottles 2 x per week.

That is the prepared vegetable garden with watering system



Since playing is essential, in particular for children in Third World countries that already have experienced heavy strokes of fate, we decided purchase a number of games for the Nyonyane School to create the psychologically positive effect of playing.

The pupils of the Nikolaus - Ehlen -Gymnasiums in Velbert had again participated in the nationwide campaign "Your Day for Africa" of the Aktion Tagwerk and decided to donate part of the money to MEDEA e.V.

Two swings and one slide were purchased, brought up to Nyonyane and got installed there. By playing, we hope to achieve a better access to the traumatized children.



So far it looks successful to us...

In March 2014
Brigitte Klaus