

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

Germany

Because of the preparation of each Christmas market where MEDEA e.V. sells the hand-made candles from Swaziland, this newsletter is a little late.

For many years now, the forwarding business "auf Zuruf" from Velbert collects the candles from the MEDEA depot of Swazi Art in Bavaria and transports them for free from there to Velbert, for this we



are extremely grateful. However, it is then but also for the designed one that the candles get put down in her garage for a few weeks to candles. Each candle has to be cataloged and set up with MEDEA labels and prices. Then, everything necessary for each market has to be packed up in many large and small cardboard boxes and has to be noted down in lists. That is each time a major logistical challenge because the helping hands are unfortunately each time a little bit less.

In addition to the known markets this time we were for a first time also at the Christmas market on Roncalli Platz in front of the Cathedral. The city of Cologne awards each year so-called free social stalls to charity organisations for two days. A wonderful and well worth offer to imitate for other cities!

New for us was also the participation to the two-day nostalgic Christmas market in the monastery church of the Dominicans in Walberberg in Brühl. The local organ music in the afternoon made us not forget about the long journey to get there, followed by the setting up of the stand and the all-day work.

Unfortunately, there were not enough helpers to have a presence on the Christmas market in Velbert - apart from the fact that the fees there became quite high for MEDEA e.V.

Swaziland

First we will show some pictures of the in the meantime completed child-headed household in Bhahwini. Just a reminder: the grandmother Jabu lived there with her 5 orphan grandchildren of ages between 2 to 17 years under catastrophic, disastrous circumstances. Everything and everybody were in urgent need of help.



Front view of the new housing



... that is nearly completed by now...



Consisting of 3 bedrooms and one separate kitchen (right hut)

The new housing has now one room for the girls, one for the boys and one for the grandmother. The children can sleep now in proper beds with a proper roof over them.

In addition, the family received a separate room for the kitchen. The challenge for the Gogo (grandmother) is now to get accustomed to a proper oven (of course without electricity, as there is none) instead of her open fire place. In December everything was brought up for the integration of the kitchen, including plastic table and chairs and pots, a few dishes (in this country everything goes almost only with plastic) and cutlery. To see the incredible joy of the children and the Gogo was very heart touching. The Gogo was speechless for the most time, and the children did hardly dare to sit on the chairs at the table. If you imagine that this is now the first time that the family can eat and sit together at a proper table, perhaps the sensations of them are a little bit understandable. Really a special moment not only for the family but for all of us – Merry Christmas!



The property is fenced in and a vegetable garden is set up.



Now spinach, cabbage and beetroot are growing here.

Also at the Nyonyane primary school after a few hurdles to take, we could finally start with the construction of the planned lunch area for the children. The only warm meal of the day the most

children receive for lunch at school. But then everybody sits somewhere on the ground, exposed to any weather conditions like heavy rain or burning sun. Luckily, at the beginning of planning and construction phase Mrs Wegener, a civil engineer from Germany, stayed in Swaziland for a few weeks. With her expertise she could discuss useful ideas with the MEDEA builder for a more effective construction.

The start is made:



15 x 6m lunch area for the children



There should always be time for a little dance...

In January 2015
Gisela Romhányi