

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

since the beginning of April Gertrud Langensiepen is back in Germany. Included in her baggage were as always all documents from Swaziland required for the preparation of the annual financial statements. MEDEA had invited for the annual general meeting for the end of April, so the compilation of the figures had to start immediately after her arrival in order to finalize all documents within the prescribed period.

For the meeting our local assistant Precious had marked in a map of Swaziland the locations of all our projects, so that the members in Germany could get a better impression.

As a new MEDEA project we would like to present the **Sikhandza Bantfu school**, that is in urgent need of our help.

Jane Cox, a white Swazi which works closely with MEDEA for the last years, told us about the school, so we did go there in February to assess the location.



At the moment, the school is attended by 132 children, who are supervised by 3 teachers.

Upon arrival of MEDEA our employees faced only serious children's faces. The way to school means for them in average 12-14 km walking by foot for one direction. Many of the children are orphans and therefore have lost paternal love, security and support. The task of the neighbors and individual community members includes then also the responsibility for

these orphan children. The only warm meal during the day for the children in Swasiland is usually at school. This is not the case here. Because there is a lack of **everything**. One of the biggest problems is that the school and its surrounding homesteads **do not have water**. At the school is no kitchen, so it is not possible for the school to provide lunch to the children.

After careful consideration, site visits and a check of the ground conditions by a well-known drilling company, the board of MEDEA decided – despite the high costs - in only short notice to order a trial drilling for water. In the event of success of this drilling the school would be provided with a proper water pump and the associated devices like 2 water tanks of 5000 liters. At a depth of 80 m of the probe drilling, the disappointment on the faces of the two present MEDEA staff was clearly visible. Fortunately at 120 m came the redeeming message that water has been found! The subsequently performed analysis showed a very good drinking water quality.

In addition, we want to show you the online portal for donations of betterplace.org . We set up a project asking for donations for school uniforms for the children of this school. It would be nice if you could advertise our project on this online portal to your friends and family, so that we hopefully can get some donations to help this school.

<https://www.betterplace.org/de/projects/30253-schuluniformen-fur-die-sikhandza-bantfu-grundschule-im-swasiland>

From Caritas Swaziland, our local project partners for the **agricultural project** financed by federal funds, we received in these days the news that work is proceeding well. The terrain in the size of 1 ha, which is mainly scrubland, was cleared and fenced in. Soon the training for the first 20 members of the community will be held.

Not only is the knowledge necessary for vegetable and fruit production taught there. Luckily, we received recently in Germany a donation of three euro-pallets with used work clothes in good condition, from the large garden center Schley in Ratingen and Mettmann, for which we are extremely grateful. With the help of the Velberter forwarding company Dörrenhaus, these clothes will be transported from Germany to Swaziland for free. The documents required for this are already set up, so that the transport can be carried out soon - we are very excited!



These newsletters, which can be found on the MEDEA website also in English, we will send in the future without further notice to our members / associate members, as far as we are aware of the e-mail addresses. If you are not interested in this, please contact us.

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Gisela Romhányi