

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

... Much beauty of MEDEA from Swaziland to report...

The **agricultural project** which was supported with funds from the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) was completed in December 2015. Caritas Swaziland as our local partner has prepared a detailed report, which is now filed together with the settlement of the entire project at BMZ.



Onions and vegetables are growing well



...because of the hard working Swazi ladies

As it happened 2006 the African continent, especially the entire southern Africa, is currently experiencing an extreme drought. It has not rained for months, rivers and reservoirs are dry. The rural population and farmers are faced with a disaster. The food distribution by the WFP (World Food Program) has doubled almost everywhere in rural areas!

In the previous newsletter we reported on the by us installed borehole at the **Sikhandza Bantfu primary school**. The joy and gratitude is visible every day. Children and teachers enjoy their "own", clear, clean drinking water. During the first visit to the school after my visit in Germany, the children showed proudly their self-created small vegetable garden with cabbage, carrots and salad. With childlike joy the kitchen garden is watered daily with the "own" water. Everyone has realized that water is a very precious gift. They no longer have to carry 20 liter buckets on their heads on the long and hard paths.

Also for the by MEDEA started construction works at the school, the "own" water is very beneficial. We eliminate expensive transportation costs, and also there is no waiting time for the water transport anymore!

MEDEA and the Tatort-Verein Cologne have filed this year the second joint project application to the BMZ. The project contains the **extension of the school** for class 5 to 7, construction of a kitchen (until now – if there is food – only cooked under a tree) with adjoining dining area for the children and a school's vegetable and fruit garden.

In early May of this year the approval our application for funding by the BMZ arrived. Now we could finally start the project: The whole big project was presented in detail to the local community by our local partner Caritas Swaziland in the national language Siswati. Mayor, parents and teachers, and of course the children are grateful, excited and can hardly believe the support given from MEDEA. On the other hand, there is also a very clear and urgent demand by MEDEA to the community to provide their own power and support to the project. This has been understood and agreed joyfully. The good news was also delivered by the headmaster to the Ministry of Education of the country and has been gratefully welcomed there. The MEDEA team is experiencing during its multiple weekly visits to the school, pure joy and admiration for the Swazi women. 20 to 28 hard-working helpers, mostly women, are on-site daily. They have organized themselves into three working groups. The work includes mixing cement, sifted sand, making blocks by hand, pushing wheelbarrows with sand and cement on the whole area. What impressed me personally is that in heavy physical work a lot and loud talking, laughing a lot and in between also a little dance is inserted!



A working group



the "block" machine



Wheelbarrow full of sand



the „own“ water

The own contribution and work by the Community in cooperation with international NGOs is vital and contributes to the good, sustainability promising course of the entire project.

At the same time MEDEA e.V. is working on the implementation of a **pre-school / kindergarten** project in Zandondo. The community is located in close proximity to Nyonyane and is under the same mayor. After extensive, time consuming evaluation the construction work was started in March.



Busy workers



the shell is nearly completed



.. only the painting is missing

For the 1500 families living in the region there is only one kindergarden for children from 3 to 6 years. The demand for more nursery places is increasing. 47 children are currently under care from 7:30 - 12:00h, afterwards the get lunch – maize porridge & beans - and then set out on the 5 to 8 km long way home. The two existing classrooms have not enough space for everybody. Lunch is served to the children on a plate, but they do not have enough room to sit at the table.

The classes for the children are in English, so that with the visit of the kindergarden a much easier access to the first grade of primary school is given.

in August 2016

Gertrud Langensiepen, Swasiland