

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

After the preparation and the sale on different Christmas markets in Germany in November and December 2016 have taken time again, here is the current report on our work.

Throughout the year, but especially before Christmas, in Swaziland, all the families we look after are fed with food. Everything was prepared for the feast when an urgent cry for help reached us: 7 huts of a family living in the bush had fallen victim to the fire. Nothing was left. Real help was needed here. MEDEA took care of food and blankets for the family, UNICEF provided a tent so that at least all 16 family members had a "tarpaulin" over their heads. A little Christmas joy could be passed on to these people.

62.5 km south-east of Manzini in the Lobombo region is the **Mpaka primary school** with 583 children from grade 1 to 7. This region is one of the extremely dry areas in Swaziland. From the well-functioning network that MEDEA has built up over the years, the request was made to the team to visit this school as soon as possible.

Following this request, the urgent need for water was immediately evident to us. The children have to walk to the nearest water hole for about 25 minutes to get a 10-liter bucket of water, because they cannot carry more on their heads. Like all government schools, Mpaka Elementary School is dependent on the World Food Program (WFP), which provides the often-warm meal of corn and beans a day. No water - no lunch, which means that almost always the children come to school hungry and go back home hungry. The way to school for most of these children is between 7 - 11 km for one route.

After inspection of the site and determination of the drilling point, the drilling was completed in December.



the drill is running



in 90 m depth we found the water



the borehole is installed



the trench for the water pipeline is pulled

After installing water tanks and installing a water pump, clear and clean drinking water is now also flowing at the Mpaka Elementary School.



Clean and clear drinking water

In **Zandondo**, at the end of November, we handed over the finished preschool / kindergarten to the Swazis. The project promises a lot of sustainability. The demand for a kindergarten place also comes from the surrounding communities. 58 children are already registered for the current school year.



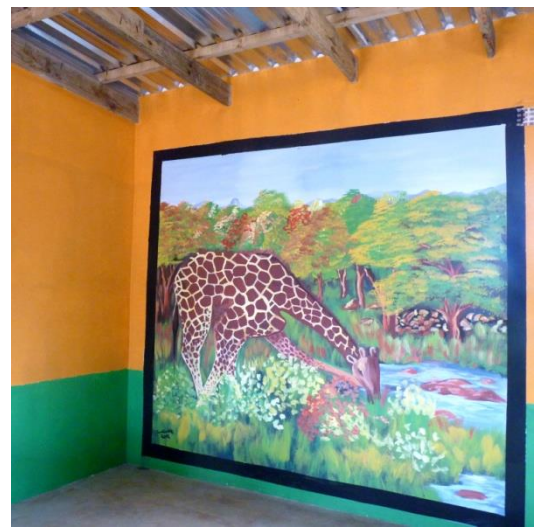
The shell of the building is complete



And it's looking great after the painting

Even inside, the walls are not just painted, but painted beautifully, so that the children have their joy.





The newly built dining area is used daily. All children can now sit at the table eating and not - as usual - in the grass under a tree.

We can proudly say that the pre-school / kindergarden project is a "classic" development project in the sense of the lack of experience in Swaziland in early childhood education.



Exterior of the dining area

The construction of the missing 3 classrooms at the **Sikhandza Bantfu Elementary School** is now complete. The classrooms are ready. Now all children of the Maduma community and surrounding communities can attend "our" / "their" elementary school and do not have to take long and arduous footpaths to another school on a daily basis.



all the women's power is available



an occasional nap is also included



even the little ones are always there

Also kitchen and covered dining area will be completed soon. The official handover of the joint project by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), MEDEA e.V., Tatort-Straßen der Welt e.V. & Caritas Swaziland is scheduled for 24 February. Visitors from Cologne (Tatort Verein) and Mrs. Ursula Wegener (MEDEA board) are registered and will participate in the ceremony. Surely more in our next newsletter.

At the same time, part of the large school property was freed of trees, bushes and root systems in heavy physical labor in order to be able to create a school garden with fruit trees here. First, however, the garden had to be fenced, otherwise the plants would fall victim to free-roaming goats, donkeys, cattle, etc.





avocado, mango and lychee



bananentrees

In addition to the actual fruit trees, shady trees on the grounds should not be missing.



shady tree sprouts





It's a pleasure to see how much vigor the kids have and how they take care of their plants. Fortunately, irrigation under the current high heat is also ensured by MEDEA e.V. We are - as always - very excited!

in February 2017  
Gisela Romhányi