

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

It has been a while since our last Newsletter.

After a long, not entire voluntary stay in Germany, Gertrud just escaped the local cold at the beginning of the year and travelled back to the South African sun. The reception in Swaziland was very cordial and the joy to have Gertrud safe again in the country has been great on all sides. Now work could and had to start again. Our employees took good care of the ongoing projects during Gertrud's absence, but at an "African" pace. In addition, on-site personal coordination is always better and more effective than by Skype or telephone.

The first news in the country were that the beginning of the school year has been postponed by eleven days after an order from the king, as all school-age boys had to weed in the royal fields during this school-free period.

The first visit with the MEDEA team was of course at "our" Sikhandza Bantfu elementary school. In 2015, we "found" this bush school with 132 children and 3 teachers, and today 252 children and 7 teachers attend "their" school every day. Together with our partners Tatort-Straßen der Welt e.V., Cologne and Caritas Swaziland we can proudly say that the project has succeeded and promises sustainability!

The construction work of the two teacher houses, financed with funds from the BMZ, is progressing well.



strong Swazi Women – industriously helpers



first row of stones is finished



construction works at the teacher houses



Front view with roof

With the in 2015 installed borehole, the school has clear, clean drinking water. Septic tanks are being built at the teacher's homes, i.e. toilets with running water and a "real" shower, absolute luxury. Development - in the sense of the MEDEA philosophy. After the school has a power connection, power lines will also be laid in these houses.



the power lines are installed



and the roof has a solid construction



copper lines in the toilet



and water connection



Also now, the vegetable garden is started again. The mothers of the students at school are happy to plant a year-round garden with spinach, carrots, cabbage, onions, sweet potatoes, green beans, lettuce, etc., so that their children can have a more balanced lunch at the school and not just eat corn and beans. The reason behind this is to become more independent from the WFP (World Food Program) as well as to be self-sufficient in the future.

The work of the women who work here day after day despite of extreme heat of 32 to 38 °C is admirable. We believe that we have not promised our donators too much about their commitment.



the area is fenced



strong women power



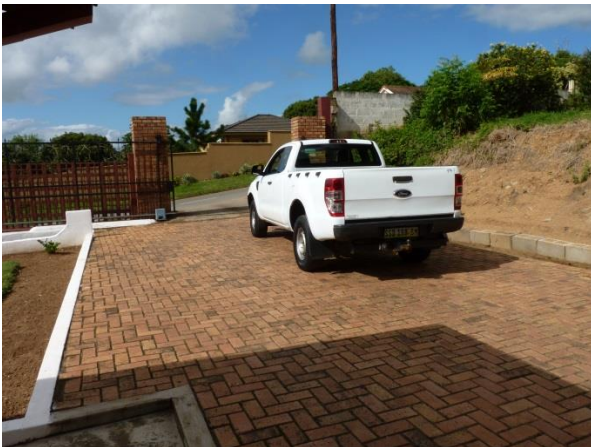
size of the garden: 50 x 50 m



digging for the water lines

Our pick-up, the transport vehicle that has always been faithful to our service, was no longer roadworthy after 5 years. Not only the tank leaked, so that you could only fill it up until the half, but all over all it had to many issues. On the 19th of January the time had come: Gertrud found a purchaser, so that we had to finally say goodbye to our MEDEA Truck. However, such a vehicle was missing at all corners and ends – et al for the food supply, our craftsmen, the transport of chickens, goats, plants, stones, etc., but above all for deliveries to our construction site. Therefore, our work could not always progress as quickly. Although Caritas Swaziland supported us according to their possibilities, this could not remain permanent.

Gertrud set her entire network in motion to quickly find a useful replacement, what - who would have expected something different - of course, succeeded. The new car has been registered on MEDEA these days and the first trips with Valencia & Dawn to the Sikhandza Bantfu Elementary School have been successfully completed.



our new MT Ford



driven by Valencia

Now we look forward to meet Gertrud soon and of course to our charity event on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 2018.

Velbert, March 2018  
Gisela Romhányi