

Dear friends of MEDEA e.V.,

After two years of the pandemic, the current summer almost feels normal again, yet Corona is still omnipresent. We are happy to join everyone's longing for Corona-free normality. After many tedious lockdown months in Eswatini, more is happening, and we can report quite a bit.

As most of you know, during the corona pandemic, we started the high school project in the community of Maduma together with the BMZ and Tatort Verein Cologne. We were able to complete the construction on schedule. Still, the opening of the school was delayed due to school closures, the pandemic, political unrest and the ever-present shortage of teachers. We were all happier this spring when the news reached us that the first class had started! A very motivated headteacher was assigned to "our" high school, and the first photos of the entire school class, which we are happy to share with you, you, brought a tear of overwhelm or two.



First school class



Head Teacher



View of High School (left laboratory, right classrooms, in the background sanitary building)



Valencia tests the water from the MEDEA-built borehole

All of us together have again managed to help where help is needed. With the first class, 36 children will have access to high school education, which means 36 more children who we can give the chance of a better future. And with each additional year, another class will be opened, so that in 4 years, up to 300 children will attend school here. We are full of gratitude and quiet pride. Thank you very much!

We also have good news about the preschool we are building in the same region as the high school, right next to the primary school we have supported for several years. Last year, we started the preparatory work, and on the still wild bushland, you can already guess that something good is being created there for the long term.



Plot for the preschool next to the primary school - bushland



Foundation preparations



Latrines completed



Pre-school building is growing

Besides the construction, we are in the preparations for the start-up. The preschool is designed differently from our primary and high school project - a "private" preschool. This means we don't have to coordinate the details with the Ministry of Education and can effectively plan our ideas directly. We have met an interested Swazi woman who wants to take over the management and organisation. She has already worked out an excellent concept, and we are confident that we can create a special place of joy and education for the very young together with the women of the local community. Thus, MEDEA has sustainably supported the educational level in the large, active community with its strong Swazi women from kindergarten and primary school to secondary school.

And now we would like to report something special. Thanks to a very generous donor, we have been able to implement the MEDEA House project in recent years, which is now nearing completion. We want to establish MEDEA e.V. in Eswatini on a long-term and sustainable basis. Even though Gertrud can no longer spend as much time in Eswatini as we and MEDEA are used to, Valencia has proven in the last two years "without" Gertrud on site that she can also manage the "shop" on-site well. The structures and a small well-functioning network have been created, and we have been thinking about consolidating these structures further for years. The idea of creating a "real" place for MEDEA, which promises to last in the future with local staff, came up. A contact point for all those who contact MEDEA locally, where meetings and small workshops can take place. The idea for a MEDEA House was born. A house where our full-time staff can live, space for our visitors/volunteers from Germany. It took a long time to develop the idea, discuss it, weigh alternatives, and evaluate the local market, but it worked out. We found a suitable plot of land, were able to buy it in the name of MEDEA e.V., and with the help of a generous donation, we started building the house this year. We need to mention that we do not use the general contributions, membership and sponsoring member fees for this project, but that the financing for this MEDEA place was possible entirely through project-related donations.



Plot



Start of construction, the outer wall stands



Shell almost finished



MEDEA House with paint

The construction is almost finished. We hope that Valencia can move into the MEDEA house with her children by the end of the year and that Gertrud's flat will also have been moved. We are waiting for Gertrud's arrival for the inauguration ceremony.

And there is another reason to celebrate.

MEDEA celebrates its Birthday!

Exactly 20 years ago, in August 2002, Gertrud took the big step and the association MEDEA e.V. was born! Twenty years in which a lot has happened. Instead of celebrating, we would like to interview people from Eswatini. These MEDEA friends have accompanied the association's work for many years and will share their stories with you in the following newsletters.

We also have a Birthday wish!



MEDEA e.V.
Humanitäre Hilfsorganisation



MEDEA celebrates its Birthday!

Twenty years of successful development cooperation and humanitarian aid for people in Eswatini. For each year, we would like to plant at least one tree.

A tree gives hope, provides shade and helps people, animals and the climate. There is still some space for trees that provide shade and fruit at the high school, primary school, and preschool.

One tree costs 50 Euros

It would be fantastic if you would please help us to fulfil our Birthday wish and symbolically sponsor a tree with your donation.

August 2022
Your Board Team
Gertrud, Andreas and Ursula