

TUWAPENDE WATOTO



Dear Friends and Donors,

Despite the corona-related regulations I could spend the second half of October in Tanzania. While in Switzerland the number of Corona cases increased rapidly, in Tanzania I met happy and cheerful children and employees in the children's home, nursery, primary and vocational school. The Tanzanian population is convinced that they are over the pandemic. As they have no medication, they remembered the old remedies of their ancestors, drink ginger tea and inhale vapors from local herbs. The Corona pandemic hit the country hard. It was not only a medical challenge, but also had enormous social consequences. A large part of the population is dependent on earning small amounts of money with occasional jobs to earn a living. Due to the difficult economic situation many families suffered hunger. Also affected were families whose children we support with school fees at our school. We organized food packages for these families in need and handed over flour, corn, rice, oil, salt and sugar. This spontaneous action in favor of starving children was highly appreciated by the population.

Many private schools dismissed their staff and many companies reduced salaries to 50%. We decided to continue to pay the salaries of our employees on time during the school closure. In March and April they received 100%, while 80% was paid in May and June. Excluded from the reduction were employees who performed their normal daily tasks in the schools or in the children's home.



Our 7th grade teachers, the principal, the parents' council and the foundation are very enthusiastic about the motivated youngsters.

On June 1, we were able to resume teaching at our vocational school with 117 trainees and on June 29, we could reopen the gates to our nursery and primary school. We were all very happy to enable our 697 students to have regular school days and to prepare healthy, fresh and balanced meals for them. Water tanks and soap are available in our facilities. The hygiene regulations are followed and controlled. The older students help the younger children to wash their hands when they enter the school.

Since the end of 2015, our nursery and elementary school has been self-supporting. During the school closure in summer 2020, most parents were not able to pay the school fees. We are very lenient with late payments, as the economic situation in Tanzania is very bad. The resulting loss of school fee income in 2020 amounts to approximately CHF 103'000.00.





One of our former gardener apprentices designed the planting of our vocational school grounds. In 2021 we will construct an additional building.



Together with NGO member Margaret Mkadawire and the management team I could welcome the new NGO member, Mr. Xavery Makwi to Bunju B.

Orphanage

- All children, teenagers and young adults of our Tuwapende Watoto family weathered the difficult time during the school closure from mid March to the end of June very well. Our three mamas took care of the 29 family members between 4 and 23 years old. The Corona measures were strictly followed. Both young and old helped with cleaning, washing, cooking and looking after the youngest children. All primary and secondary school children, even the nursery school children, received tasks from their teachers, which motivated them to work on their goals every day.
- From June 1, 2020 Nevius and Jackson were allowed to attend lectures at the University of Dar es Salaam again.
- On June 29, 2020, all secondary and primary schools reopened. All young people returned to their secondary schools and were happy to be able to attend their classes as usual. Some of our adolescents have important exams coming up in November!
- Bahati celebrated the end of her fourth secondary school on October 22, 2020. Since the students of Baobab Secondary School come from all over Tanzania and from nearby countries, the school management decided to hold the celebration without parents and visitors due to the Corona pandemic. The national exam took place in November. Students with good exam results will be allowed to start the next two years of secondary school in 2021. We keep our fingers crossed for Bahati and hope that she passed her exams well so that she can move on to her next goal, the high-school diploma.
- Kevin also studied very hard during the school closure. Nevius helped him to complete his assignments and to study, especially in mathematics. Nevius is very calm and patient and has a lot of experience in helping his younger siblings. On October 7 and 8, Kevin took the National Examination for the seventh grade and finished primary school with the graduation ceremony on October 18, 2020. We are all very proud that he passed the Baobab Secondary School entrance exam and that he started the preliminary course for the first year of secondary school on November 1, 2020.
- Baraka passed the fourth grade national exams on November 25 and 26, 2020, and Nevius also found time to help him with his homework and exam preparation. We are curious about his results.
- Unfortunately, the Corona pandemic did not allow us to accept volunteers in the children's home from March to early October. Everyone was very much looking forward to meeting Mara, Anna, Devin and Dani, whom we could welcome in October. They support the Mamas from morning to night and relieve teachers in the school. Many thanks to the volunteers who decided to volunteer with us.

Nursery school and primary school «Education for a bright future».

- During the government-mandated school closure, all students, including the nursery school children, received weekly assignments in all subjects via WhatsApp, e-mail, or paper. Our teachers were more dedicated than ever and worked with the help of ICT teachers at our vocational school to improve their e-teaching skills. We are proud of the commitment of our principal and teachers during the school closure from mid-March to the end of June. The results of the regional exams showed that our students were well prepared for the national exams and the secondary school entrance exams. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the principal and the teachers for this exceptional achievement.
- During the school closure we realized the extension of the dining hall. We urgently needed more dining hall space for the children and are now happy to cater to the steadily growing number of students in three shifts. Our construction activity also allowed us to provide work for local day laborers during this difficult time. The extension is very nice and functional and fits very well into the existing buildings.
- On October 18th, our school closing ceremony for the seventh grade took place. We safely organized a graduation with few guests, only



26 girls and 24 boys finished their primary school on October 18, 2020. Most of the graduates attended our school since nursery school.



Our volunteer Anna and the volunteers Devin and Dani practiced together with our music teacher Joel the song „Connected“, composed by A. Fährndrich, principal of the Zeit-Kind-School.

the parents of the seventh grade students were allowed to attend. Students of the fifth and sixth grades were responsible for the presentations in the classrooms and for the festive program with singing and dancing outside. The 26 girls and 24 boys enjoyed the last day at Tuwapende Watoto Primary School very much and they were happy to see the traditional closing ceremony and receive their certificates.

- Tuwapende Watoto supported seven children in the senior class from nursery to seventh grade. I am touched to observe how the children have grown into self-confident adolescents during these years and I am very happy to continue to accompany them and support them financially during secondary school. We help them pay for transportation, meals, school supplies and uniforms. The gratitude of the young people and their families is huge.
- In December, we will also organize a small celebration for the children of the Pre-Unit who will enter the first grade in January 2021.
- **Two unforgettable weeks** (Devin Balsiger and Daniel Schäli)

Six years ago, Devin, a friend, and I were volunteering at the children's home. The time in the children's home and at the school remained in my memory so well that I decided to repeat this one day. During my training as a primary school teacher I met Daniel and we decided to visit the Tuwapende Watoto family together. During our stay we wanted to realize a small project. It all started when I asked my principal and head of the school „Zeit-Kind-School“, Armin Fährndrich, to compose a song for Tuwapende Watoto. He was very enthusiastic about the idea and wrote the song „Connected“. With great anticipation and the song in our luggage, we set off for Bunju-B in mid-October. Once there, the song was presented to the children and teacher Joel practiced it diligently with the children. There was no time to waste, because the crowning glory of our stay was the recording of the singing children and the shooting of a music video. The music video shows, how energetic the children sang the song. Also, how good the children are at dancing and singing. Teacher Joel and I have decided to stay „connected“ after this project and exchange more songs between schools. We would like to thank everyone for the unforgettable time at the school and wish teacher Joel all the best for the future!

We gladly invite you to watch the complete music video and to read the unabridged report „Two unforgettable weeks“ by Devin Balsiger and Daniel Schäli on our Tuwapende Watoto Homepage.

Vocational school

- The year 2020 also brought drastic measures for the 117 students at our vocational school. During the school closure due to the pandemic, they too received assignments from our teachers, either electronically or in paper form. Due to the poor economic situation, it was very difficult this year to find suitable internships for the second year trainees. The start of the internships was postponed due to school closure and there was less time for the students to prepare for the national final exams at the beginning of December. We wish them every success.
- We would like to thank Mr. Claude Voutat, Head of the Consular Services in Dar es Salaam, for the gracious organization. This year, an electrician apprentice was allowed to complete his internship in the Swiss Embassy. Ladislau Kilongo spent a very instructive and successful internship with Mr. Shanny Mbogolo, his mentor at the Embassy.
- At the beginning of this year we officially started with paid basic computer courses for future graduates and courses for other participants. Many students took this opportunity from different universities in Dar es Salaam. They attended our basic computer course before they started their studies at the university. Also since August, employees from regional companies have been attending our courses in the evenings. The courses last four to six weeks. Upon completion of the courses, students receive a certificate as confirmation of course attendance.
- We are currently in the process of setting up a renewable energy project. We will offer additional training for the electrician trainees, which includes construction and installation of solar systems. We are convinced that this training course will be an important component in the near future in the positive development of the whole area.





I was very happy to hand his diploma over to Kevin at the end of primary school.



While the school was closed we realized the extension of the dining hall. At the same time we were able to provide work for local day laborers in this difficult time.

- In May 2021, we will offer a third year of training for qualified electricians. With this additional year they can train as industrial electricians (heavy current).
- We currently have 13 workshop and theory rooms. In 2021, we are planning the construction of an additional building with more rooms. Our goal is to be innovative and to offer future-oriented training in well-equipped work- and theory rooms. We offer the following apprenticeships in the dual education system: tailoring, gardening, culinary training, electrician training, electronic technician, hairdresser, sanitary plumbing, and computer science.
- It is a great pleasure to observe how the young adults develop positively and how they pursue their goals with self-confidence, motivation and determination.
- Twice a year we hold courses in sex education and family planning with external lecturers.

NGO

As reported in the May 2020 Newsletter, our longtime NGO member Samwel Dyelu passed away in April 2020 as a result of an operation. We elected Mr. Xavery Makwi as his successor on October 20, 2020. Mr. Makwi is a lawyer and director of the lending business of CRDB Bank Tanzania. We are pleased that Mr. Makwi will use his skills and network to support our foundation in strategic and operational decisions.

Förderverein e.V. Tuwapende Watoto Deutschland

Dear friends,

An eventful and challenging year is coming to an end for us all. For our association, as with so many people, companies, and entire industries, this situation also offered an opportunity to rethink and improvise new ideas. We soon realized that events could not take place in the framework we would have wished for and so we had to find another way to collect donations and draw attention to ourselves. In spring we registered our non-profit association on Amazon Smile. So all interested people can support us easily via the site smile.amazon.de and have already done so diligently, which makes us very happy. We are very confident that the pre-Christmas season will also give many people the opportunity to use the platform and thus make a valuable contribution to all Tuwapende Watoto projects. We are looking forward to next year and are confident that we can all spend more time together again and that association projects can be planned and implemented. We wish you a Merry Christmas in good health and look forward to reporting back next year.

Cordially, Tuwapende Watoto Germany

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Many thanks

From the beginning of March until mid-October we were forced to communicate with our Tanzanian employees via Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp etc. We are extremely proud of our employees with leading positions. They





The electrician apprentices complete modules of their training in the electronics workshop.



The fresh bread and Mandazi from our bakery are very popular in the neighborhood as well as with our employees.



Our electrician apprentice Ladislau Kilongo was allowed to complete his internship at the Swiss Embassy. We would like to thank Mr. Claude Voutat and Mr. Shanny Mbogolo.



Mama Selina, Mama Bea and Mama Joyce accompanied Kevin through his nursery and primary school years. They are proud to celebrate the end of school with him.



The Tuwapende Watoto children learn to help each other at an early age. With clean uniforms, washed and groomed, they go to school together.



The Tuwapende Watoto children enjoy the time with Mara. She helps them with their homework, plays with them and has time for individual conversations.



View from the new school building towards the buildings constructed in the year 2012 and 2014



In the mornings, the nursery school kids like to gather on the shady square in front of the new school building.

were all aware of their responsibility during these difficult months and performed their tasks excellently. Many thanks! We have 90 employees. All of them are Tanzanian citizens and have the requiring diplomas to ensure a state-approved business, a Montessori nursery school, a primary school, a vocational school and a children's home. All our employees are insured (health insurance) and pay into the national pension plan (NSFS, National Social Security Fund). Our foundation contributes 50% of these costs.

The children in the children's home receive a good education and a safe home. We enable children and young adults from families in need of support to attend our nursery school and primary school, state secondary schools and the vocational school. We accompany them sustainably on their way to independence.

This important help on-site is only possible thanks to the long-standing and much appreciated support of our numerous private donors, associations and organizations, the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, the Tibetania Foundation, the Dr. Rau Foundation, the Wyler-Anderson Foundation, IMS Sport AG, netpulse AG, the Lions Club Meiringen Brienz, the association „Kriens hilft Menschen in Not“, Off Limits Solutions SA and the association „Bildung gegen Armut“. Thank you very much for your great help, which is invaluable.

The Foundation Board is also very grateful for the great support of the Tuwapende Watoto Ambassadors. Every year they perform many days of volunteer work in Switzerland and Tanzania for our foundation. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the ambassadors, the children and the staff in Tanzania, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the trust you have placed in us. Your donations will continue to be used carefully, sensibly and for the intended purpose.

We wish you and your families all the best and the best of health in 2021 for the coming Christmas season.

With kind regards,

Ruth Bütikofer, president of the board of trustees



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