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Dear donors, dear members!

Mars and the Moon are “in” again – a new race has been launched. Like during the cold war, the aim is domination in space, but this time China and India are getting in on the act, and even the public wants to fly into space. A human settlement on Mars is a bold vision, but unrealistic as well as unnecessary. The question whether single-cell organisms ever existed there may be interesting, but it is simply irrelevant. Adventurism and gaining scientific insights only cover up claims to power and financial interests.

Wise investments?

Apparently, we can afford it. It seems that we do no longer have any big problems to solve on our planet. Just think of all the jobs we create with this worthwhile race! They would not exist if we invested the money into something else. So, let us lean back and watch this struggle for power in space. Maybe I will find one day a person who will tell me how I can explain all this to the people in Cameroon and Malawi who are almost starving.

Pietro Tomasini
Managing Director IPA

Kanjululu, North Malawi / Zurich, Switzerland

Nothing was big enough

With enthusiasm, diligence and a very special fundraising event a group of students at Enge high school in Zurich were able to complete a project in Malawi that guarantees food security.

Hunger is a huge problem in Malawi. Between January and April families often eat only one meal in two days. Many children are undernourished and a lot of people don't know what to live off. They have nothing to



The initial situation: This single sack full of maize should have nourished 8 people for a whole year



A student is in charge of a vote in the classroom

sell and if they need a piece of soap for example, they have to sell part of the maize they wanted to eat themselves. This was the situation in Kanjululu where farmers were allocated 5 hectares of land by the chief. However, it's impossible to cultivate such an area with watering cans and only a scarce knowledge of farming.

The students at Enge high school chose the project in a course that had been offered by IPA. The group consisted of members of different classes and from the first to the last day they could not have worked better together as far as cooperation, energy and motivation was concerned. They appreciated the responsibility they were given and



Counting money as a reward for hard work

they worked at least one hour more per week than all the members of all the other courses. Translating 15 pages of project information from Malawi into German was no problem. An exceptional fundraising event was organised and could not be big enough. Here everything merged: teamwork, a high individual resilience, an obvious interest in the various issues and the joy of helping. Even the former headmaster was a fan of the group. „They have moved me. It is most enjoyable to speak with them about their project. They have indeed fascinating personalities.“

The commitment of the young adults culminated in what they called „A different kind of parents evening“. 300 people enjoyed a guided tour around the school campus, a presentation of the project and drinks and nibbles. The generated proceeds formed the basis for the financial success, thanks to which all the three planned part-projects were completed.

A new branch of economic activity?



It is growing: A farmer's wife proudly shows us her plants

In Malawi? The building of a storage and sales facility which help to reduce the post-harvest losses was followed by the construction of a solar-powered irrigation system. Finally, a herd of 32 goats was added. The focus of the project was on coaching by two specialists who worked with the group in the fields every day for nine months. Now maize, potatoes, beans, tomatoes and other vegetables are harvested. Part of it is for self-consumption and any surplus is sold. The group has at last achieved food security

and its members can even generate a small income. The next plan already exists, the introduction to drink goat's milk in the area which is a complete novelty!



The new building of a storage and sales facility

The course has also left visible marks in Zurich. As part of their A-levels two members of the group started their own projects (in Kenya and Zimbabwe) and will therefore be involved in development cooperation in future, too. One final good-bye party was not enough, typical for the group. The first two meetings will undoubtedly be followed by others. What can be more gratifying for teachers?

Bulqizë, North Albania

Just in time!

The support for the regional hospital in Bulqizë has gone through its second phase. The help was more than necessary and came not a day too soon.

The hospital in Bulqizë is supposed to provide 50,000 patients with medical care, but there is hardly anything. 65 beds and enough nurses are there as well as five doc-



In the paediatric ward: hardly any medical equipment and materials



The delivered goods are being unpacked

tors who try their best. The infrastructure however and the materials are catastrophic. A year ago IPA had successfully worked together with the board of the hospital. Thanks to the enthusiasm of Swiss students an ambulance was equipped. Everything is carefully looked after and everybody is extremely grateful. But during the following discussion with the hospital director, IPA representatives detected an almost endless list of deficiencies. There is no operating theatre and no heating. There is a lack of the most simple tools such as blood pressure monitors, stethoscopes or sterilising equipment. The state had not even furnished the hospital with enough syringes, cannulas and other basic auxiliary materials. In this region a sound health care system is particularly important. In the many mines and on the roads, serious accidents happen almost daily and the rough and windy climate on the high plateau often causes illnesses.

There was new hope when the Fons Margaritha Foundation was willing to consider a project and set up a budget. The hospital handed in a sensible wish list. In Bulqizë they did not dream of high-tech medicine,

but first of all wanted to guarantee good primary health care.



The IPA partner is checking the delivery lists

113 patients – 65 beds

The foundation had approved the proposal and in April IPA's local partner organisation was able to purchase a steriliser, a stretcher, various smaller tools and a large number of syringes and cannulas. All this was delivered on April 24. What happened soon afterwards was documented in many newspapers and TV stations in Albania. Only ten days after the completion of the project 84 people, both male and female, showing symptoms of poisoning were admitted to the hospital. Next day the number rose to 113 patients and there were only 65 beds. People were treated everywhere, in the rooms as well as in the corridors. The staff worked



Intense activity in the emergency department

as hard as they could, but thanks to the project there were enough stethoscopes, blood pressure monitors, syringes and infusions. They were able to cope with this unforeseen onslaught! It is unimaginable what would have happened if the delivery of the goods had taken place after this unfortunate incident. Nobody knows what caused the poisoning. It was assumed that the drinking

water had not been pure enough because all the patients lived in the same neighbourhood, but nothing was found in the nearest laboratory in Peshkopi which is two hours away. Fortunately the worst was averted and IPA will try to help the hospital in Bulqizë with further project phases. There is still a lot to do.

Méwi, North Cameroon / Zurich, Switzerland

„We have luxury problems“

Inspired by the motto „The children of today are the future of tomorrow“, a group of students at the Free Protestant School in Zurich committed themselves to helping a primary school in the north of Cameroon and initiated a lot.

The inhabitants of Méwi could hardly believe it. Six years after IPA representatives had visited them a project was going to be started. So they had not been forgotten, as most



A deplorable situation before the project was started

of them thought. The primary school in their village needed help urgently. 360 children were taught in a decayed building and in two tiny thatched huts. Three teachers tried to impart at least the most basic knowledge to six classes who were sitting on the floor without any coursebooks or teaching materials. Then came the good news: The students in Zurich had collected CHF 77,000. This was enough to build six classrooms and a staffroom, to install toilets and to buy desks and books. There would even be some money left to pay for further training courses for the teachers. The news triggered off an enormous euphoria in the village.



Working on the project at Free Protestant School

The men immediately wanted to start making bricks, but in consideration of the Christian minority the mainly Muslim village decided to postpone this until after Christmas. The implementation of the various subprojects was a tremendous challenge for all the



The symbolic hand-over of the project to the authorities by the IPA partner

participants. Some builders fell ill with malaria and the transport of water to the building site meant a lot of extra work for the women. For the IPA partner who was in charge it was difficult to find building materials of good quality and enough course-books. To make things worse, the headmaster showed little interest. But there was always a solution. The school campus was built and the villagers insisted that the unpopular headmaster should be dismissed. The opening ceremony was attended by 700 people. Local and even the national media reported on the happy villagers, a nice school and an IPA partner who was presented with a goat. The project has made Méwi proud and it has also brought hope and new energy to the village.

Not all the students were equally motivated

All this had been made possible by the students at the Free Protestant School. Whilst some of them refused to work in a team, others excelled in their commitment. Not only in the planning phase, but also during the fundraising campaigns they came up with brilliant ideas and prepared their presentations in detail. Never before had a power-point presentation of a project been accompanied by its own song. Many stu-



"Musical presentation" of the project

dents have matured with their tasks and the awareness of their own privileged life situation has increased as well. "We only have luxury problems", one of them wrote in his feedback. And someone else added: "We should be content with what we have and do something good for people in need." The youngsters had been working on their project from November until July. Their biggest reward was, as for the people of the small village in the Waza-Logone-Plain, a well-equipped school in Méwi.



The new school building in Méwi

The Interview (part 1)

“I have found my vocation”

When you were a student at Enge high school in Zurich you chose the course “Practical Development Work”. Why?

I knew right from the beginning that I wanted to take part in this project. I always missed the social commitment in school and I liked the idea of a group of students working together on a project. A friend of mine had praised the course and the five students from my class could hardly wait for the project to start.

In what way did you benefit from the course?

First of all, I realised that as a team you can achieve a lot. For the first time I felt a kind of confrontation with the “outside world”. Pictures you normally see on television suddenly became real, which deeply moved me. I imagined that there is probably no room in such countries for people with cognitive problems. My class would not have chosen a project to support people with a handicap because other things seem to be more important. Being actively involved in development work helped me to find my vocation. I thrived during the course and at the same time became aware of my abilities and weaknesses. I learnt skills such as raising funds, dispatching letters and many others. Before the course started everything had been far away, but now things were real.

After the course you were chosen to be a Global Changemaker. In what way did you benefit from that function?

Everybody had his or her story which accounted for his or her commitment. There was a lot of energy. Sometimes you think that you are on your own, but there I experienced so much motivation of my generation. I learnt a great deal, but even more important is the mutual understanding within the community. I was understood which meant a lot to me. There is more than simply living your everyday life and looking after yourself.

Will you carry on doing development work in future? What are your plans?

Yes, I certainly will. This was the beginning, the starting point of my journey. I have always stood up for justice, but this project had a different dimension. I cannot possibly stop being involved, I must be active to be happy. I have a lot of plans, but I must sort them out first. I also consider going into politics because there I could do a lot. Politicians can motivate people to discuss issues. Above all the diversity of the human beings should be a topic. Barriers have to be broken down. Apart from all this I continue working for the Sunshine Project. This is a long process. But I would also like to provide possibilities for meetings and exchanges on a smaller level because exchange is often missing.



Lea Sandoz-Mey, 19, finished her studies at Enge high school in Zurich and successfully passed her A-levels in July. A year before she had attended the IPA course “Development Cooperation”. Being strongly affected by the cognitive problems of her brother she founded her own charity organisation, Sunshine Project, as part of her A-levels and started a project in Zimbabwe.

Preview of forthcoming IPA projects



Murunda, North Malawi.

Thanks to the commitment of a project course class at Wohlen high school, the Health Centre in Jalawe will soon change considerably. The medical centre is in urgent need of a reliable water supply system, professional help with equipment and accommodation for members of staff. Comprehensive further education courses have to be implemented too.



Shkodër, North Albania.

For many years IPA has been assisting the minorities of Roma and Egyptians in their education. Meanwhile Anita has proved to the other young members of her community that by working hard, despite a handicap in one of her hands, it is possible to achieve a lot: After finishing high school she has successfully passed her Bachelor examinations and is now aiming to attain a Master degree in geography at the University of Shkodër. IPA will gladly support her on her way and in her role as an example for others.



- Swiss organisation for development co-operation with a branch in Beaconsfield, UK. Bulletin of ZEWO and supported by DEZA (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)
- Founded in 1994, since 2001 known and active under the name IPA (International Project Aid)
- Engaged in transitioning and developing countries with focus on learning and education
- IPA offers help for self-help, e.g. through projects in the fields of food production and water supply as well as the issuance of credits
- The aspect of the IPA brand is the integration of youth in the implementation of projects. Swiss students thus get the opportunity to gain formative experiences
- School classes and junior-teams define, plan and execute their projects independently but are supervised by experienced IPA staff
- All projects are inspected by IPA on location and, following completion, are controlled once more
- IPA has received the Profax prize in 2005, and in 2007 was named "Swiss Charity of the Year" by Man Investments

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