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Dear donors,
dear members!

Each NGO has its principles, its aims and its philosophy. Most of them sound very similar: Cooperation with

the beneficiaries, transparency, sustainability and many other keywords can be found in texts, for example in overall concepts containing a vision, a mission and certain values. Of course, we have also thought about our own aims many times, but we have never written them down in a document. Theories are not really our cup of tea.

We are not theorists

What is interesting for us, however, is the feedback we receive from beneficiaries, for example from Mbozo in North Cameroon, where we built a mill to provide food for 10,000 people. The villagers were obviously quite surprised about the pace of work, the good quality, and that nothing had been forgotten. Another statement made us prick up our ears: "Nobody expected us to pay any money and we were never forced into anything we did not want." This is very reassuring. I think that for the time being we do not need to develop an overall concept or even write one down. We can simply carry on doing practical work.

Pietro Tomasini
Managing Director IPA

Rubik, North Albania

A quantum leap!

The vocational school in Rubik is important for the whole of north Albania, but so far it has not been able to provide any practical training. This has now been changed radically.

„Our students are walking away, what else can I say?“ The words of the teacher whose job it is to train plumbing and heating engineers were unmistakably clear. In mid September 2019, 18 youngsters had started their training course. But when at the beginning of October IPA representatives visited the school, the class had already been suspended. 13 students had simply given up. The same had happened to the course in mechanics, although a vocational education offers good prospects in Albania, and vocational schools are extremely rare. Rubik even has a boarding school. Young adults



Before the project: only a scrap heap

from all over northern Albania came here and left again when they saw the classrooms where practical skills are taught. There was virtually nothing practical that

could help them learn their trade. “We receive a total of 800 Euros per year to pay for urgent repairs and new acquisitions”, the mechanics teacher said. This was obvious! The equipment and tools were no more than



The new material is being checked

a scrap heap, but the two female teachers had not given up dreaming yet. When they were asked what they needed and wanted, they both came up with a detailed project specification. Drawings of training simulations, wish lists and plans, everything was

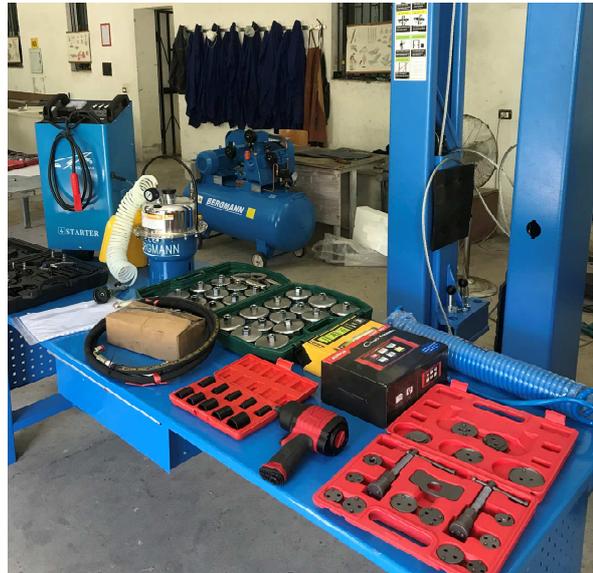


Better than Christmas

already prepared. The guests from Switzerland were deeply impressed by the commitment and the diligence with which everything had been prepared.

Speechless teachers

Today nothing is as it used to be, but the path to the end result began with a small and unusual difference. Normally the beneficiaries come up with the biggest possible project when they see a chance of being supported. But this case was different. Our invitation to present us with a budget for one



At long last: newly equipped and up to date

of the courses was answered with a modest list. “This is not what we are used to”, we said to each other at the IPA office. Thanks to a very generous, private donation all the wishes for both courses were fulfilled. The two teachers were blissfully happy. They



Mayor Dedaj is also overjoyed

were now allowed to make enquiries about the equipment they needed, about prices, and finally complete their budgets. Despite the enormous difficulties and the problems connected with the importing of specific tools caused by the corona pandemic, the two rooms were completely and adequately

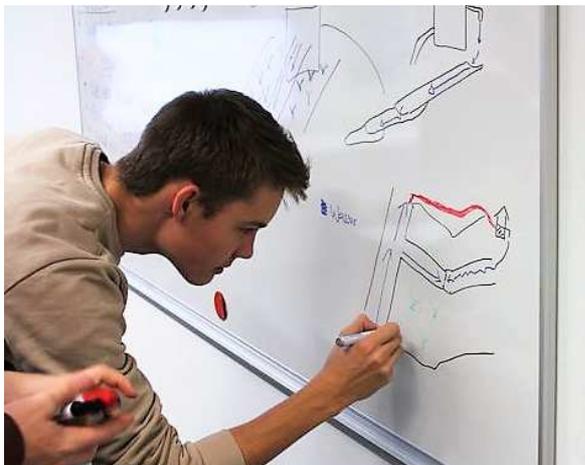
equipped. “The teachers are speechless”, IPA partner Suela Koçibellinj wrote. After so many years full of frustrations their dreams have at long last come true. The newly gained motivation was noticeable. “We will begin to advertise immediately. The new practical options will undoubtedly encourage many youngsters to study here.” Even before the summer holiday was over, there was a first success. An agreement with the supplier of the equipment to offer the future students of both courses the possibility to do practical work in various companies. The new academic year started on September 14 – and a new era for the vocational school in Rubik.

Kamkhwala, North Malawi / Wohlen, Switzerland

Of thieves, public authorities and other problems

Hunger dominated the lives of the inhabitants of Kamkhwala. Only during one of the last twelve years did they have enough food – until a class at Wohlen high school planned a project together with IPA.

15 hectares of land, a nearby river and manpower – some important requirements were in place. But little knowledge, no financial means, irregular rainfall during the rainy season and substantial losses of the harvest



Planning a project concerning irrigation

were the reality the village was confronted with. Irrigation? Yes, but with a watering can. However an area the size of an allotment garden cannot provide food for 550

people. The government wanted to help, an engineer planned water channels up the hillside, people dug and toiled in vain. Water does not flow uphill.

This initial situation was a challenge for the students at Wohlen high school. They had a choice of five projects from different sectors.



Each letter is a chance of a donation

The youngsters argued the theory of ‘Maslow’s hierarchy of needs’ and combined their school knowledge with the practical



Not only tomatoes are grown in Kamkhwala

aspects of a project. The planning was great fun. They were dealing with solar energy, sustainability, irrigation techniques, but also with questions on how to raise funds. „I have learnt a lot, and made a lot of practical experiences“, said Cheyenne who would like to start her own aid organisation one day. Barbecues, the sale of fruit, cakes and

roses were organised and their fellow students had to dig deeply into their pockets. It was a lot of work and hard earned money, but there were private donations too, parishes as well as the county lottery fund supported the project so that in the end all three



Further education means sustainability

sub-projects were financed, agricultural farming based on a solar-powered irrigation plant on 5 hectares, a warehouse, a shop and even a herd of goats.

The end of hunger

A group of irrigation and agricultural specialists came to Kamkhwala for nine months to instruct and supervise the farmers. 32 goats moved into the two new stables. The execution of the project encountered a lot of difficulties and needed a lot of time and effort. The villagers found it difficult to agree on a location where the warehouse should be built. As soon as the building work had



Correct storage and a shop

begun, the NCIC (an authority regulating building projects) forced an unnecessary and expensive adviser on the farmers. One night some bold thieves cut down the solid pillars of the solar plant and disappeared

with three of the five panels. Innumerable emails had to be exchanged between IPA and the partner in the region. But all the obstacles were smoothed out together. The production on the fields works well and any surplusses are sold. The first goats have produced offsprings, and the warehouse and the shop have been ceremonially inaugurated. The students in Wohlen have reached their objectives: malnutrition will no longer exist in Kamkhwala.

Waza-Logone plain, North Cameroon

Eager to study

For the last four years IPA has been supporting schoolchildren who had to flee from Boko Haram. Now the project is supposed to end – but it will go on.

All they wanted was to forget the dramatic scenes, their expulsion and their escape. Being allowed to attend a secondary school and to study was the big dream of many teenagers four years ago. IPA gave them a



Not only in Waza did the students form a study group

chance and each year paid for their school fees, their books and their uniforms. Not all of them reached the final year, but in September 2019, 36 boys and girls started their final year at secondary schools in various villages.

One of them, however, had to fight hard for this new start. During the summer holidays, 15 year old Jeannette Ngrata had been forced into marriage. But she wanted to continue her school career. So she mustered all her courage and sued her parents. In court she claimed that the IPA project had offered her the chance of her life which she had now been deprived of. The judge agreed

with her. The marriage was annulled and the parents were sentenced. After a few conversations they admitted having made a mistake and they now support their daughter in following her way. Jeannette's courage and the satisfying court decision have encouraged several other girls to fight against a forced marriage.

information on to the others and the pupils formed study groups. Teachers regularly visited them and a retired army officer even worked as a teacher for the small group in Logone-Birni. The success they had so far achieved strengthened their motivation and their belief in themselves and in a better future. So why could the door to further edu-



Handing over materials in Kidam

Floods, hunger and poverty did not stop the youngsters from making steady progress during the first two term. In fact they averaged better results than their classmates, despite their horrible past and some quite long interruptions in their schooling during their escape.

The door has been opened

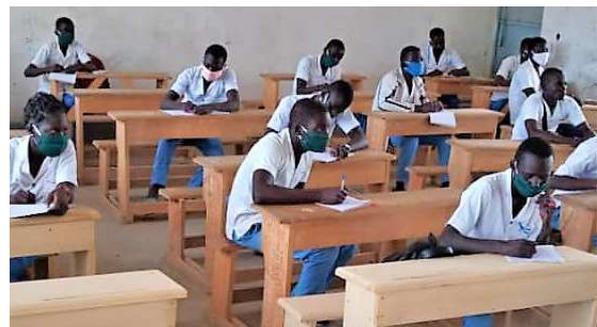
Shortly after the completion of the second term all schools in the country were closed due to the corona virus. Distance teaching



All the IPA students at least had books during lockdown

came in to the north of Cameroon. The pupils stayed at home and were given tasks and instructions on the phone. The few families who had a mobile phone passed the

cation not be opened a bit wider? „They all agree“, said IPA partner Aboukar Mahamat, „that none of them could have got into secondary school without the project.“ The state decided that only the first two terms should be counted and they also set down the conditions for a change into high school. Now it turned out that 33 of the 36 pupils were accepted. But the project had been



School lessons again in Zimado – with masks

planned to last only to the end of secondary school. „We can not let them down now“, Nicole Delavy, the co-managing director of IPA, answered when the problem was mentioned by the authorities in Cameroon. So the project will be prolonged – together with the IPA fundraising. The next aims are the „Probatoire“ (a kind of GCSE-level examination) in two years time and the A-level exams in summer 2023. Good luck!

The Interview

“For us it was a win-win situation”

What does the foundation Children’s Help of the Swissair personnel focus on?

The focus is clearly on education. Education is the hope that life will improve. We are involved in about 20 projects in 15 countries. Very often these are long-term programmes.

How was your attention drawn to IPA back in 2014?

The students of an IPA course had decorated a classroom for a parents’ evening at the Free Evangelical School in Zurich. This was very cool. At the same time, it was a stroke of luck. Thanks to a legacy our foundation was able to start a new project.

A year later you invited two students to present their project to the foundation board. What memories do you still have of that event?

I can remember it very well. They were extremely well received. They spoke directly from the heart. Of course we were already familiar with such projects, but the youngsters also expressed their feelings and values, so they were very convincing.

Young people who present a project with a budget of CHF 140,000. Were they not a risk for your foundation?

The size of the project did not frighten us. After all it was an IPA project and our trust in the cooperation with the local partner and the quality control existed. Even members of the foundation who have 30 years experience were enthusiastic. Most of all Pietro Tomasini showed a lot of competence. The girls were cool, but it was the combination with IPA that was decisive.

Was the thought that Swiss youngsters can learn from such projects also an argument to take it up?

It was the most convincing argument. We wanted a particularly convincing new project. These were my arguments when I presented it to the board: help abroad and the

young Swiss students – it was a win-win situation. Our society needs people who are ethically correct and this must begin when they are still young.

How do you see the future of your foundation after its 60-year jubilee?

Almost 20 years after the grounding of Swissair, we are still mainly supported with donations and legacies by former Swissair personnel. Therefore, this financial support is constantly diminishing. The members of the foundation board are currently working on various scenarios how to face the challenges of the future.



Cristina Feistmann, 54, was born in the Ticino (a region in the South of Switzerland), studied law at Zurich University and lives with her husband and their 17-year-old son in Herliberg. She is a lawyer, M.B.L.-HSG and works in insurance and aviation. She is a member of the board of the foundation Children’s Help of the Swissair personnel.

Preview of forthcoming IPA projects

Waza-Logone plain, North Cameroon.

A project work class at Wohlen high school is planning to build as many drinking water wells as possible in various villages or to repair them where this makes sense. One such place is Pakataye. There the villagers have so far been forced to get their water from pools which form after the rainy period. Once they have dried out they dig holes. But again and again children fall into them, which causes serious accidents.



Mjuma, North Malawi.

The 18,000 people who live in the catchment area of Mjuma have to cope without any medical care. Now they have erected a frame for a medical building. The members of a volunteer class at MNG (a high school with emphasis on mathematics and science) in Zurich want to support this initiative by completing the building and providing the necessary equipment as well as running water and electricity.



IPA in a few words

- Swiss organisation for development cooperation 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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