



TANGENI SHILONGO NAMIBIA

DRC School Project & Community Centre

OPEN DOORS Scholarship

COVID-19 food aid

OPEN DOORS EDUCATION CENTRE

Our history

Our ambassadors

Voluntary Service

Our collaborations



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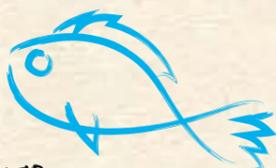
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Dear readers,

A friend's exciting tales of the people and landscapes of Namibia got me hooked on what to me was an unknown, distant land. She travelled there every year with an infectious desire for adventure and great anticipation. We never actually travelled to southern Africa together, but her gripping tales made me feel as if I had always been a part of her experiences. One day, I suddenly had to go without her stories from and about Namibia. There were no more emails or postcards, I was filled with emptiness and worry. In 2011, I lost somebody very dear to me to the late effects of a disastrous car accident in Namibia.

That was a life-changing moment for me and truly put my resilience to the test. I decided to take part in a volunteering programme in Namibia because following that experience, interpersonal relationships became increasingly important to me, the idea of give and take took on a new significance, and mindfulness and empathy started to play an even greater role in my life. The desire to stand up for children also grew because they are truly our future. After that year of volunteer service, my co-volunteer Malina John and I decided to set up our own foundation to secure the sustainability of our volunteer service.

Our focus is always on people and their needs. To share the content of our work with all our supporters, donors and those who are just interested, we put together this brochure in which we summarise all our activities in the past years. This brochure reflects the love, passion and above all humility we have towards our host country Namibia, where we were lucky enough to work as volunteers. We want to serve in a modest and unassuming way, full of respect and admiration for the people of Namibia. With the assistance of Theresa Rhode, we have now become a strong team with an increasingly strong bond.

We have had a lot of positive experiences over the last years, but also some negative ones. We have learned that problems, personal crises, pointless twists of fate, and defeats are a constant part of daily life, wherever you are in the world. However, we learn from our defeats and setbacks, and draw motivation from them to put in even more effort, because deep down we have faith that everything will turn out right. And we have felt and experienced one thing in particular: dedication forms bonds.

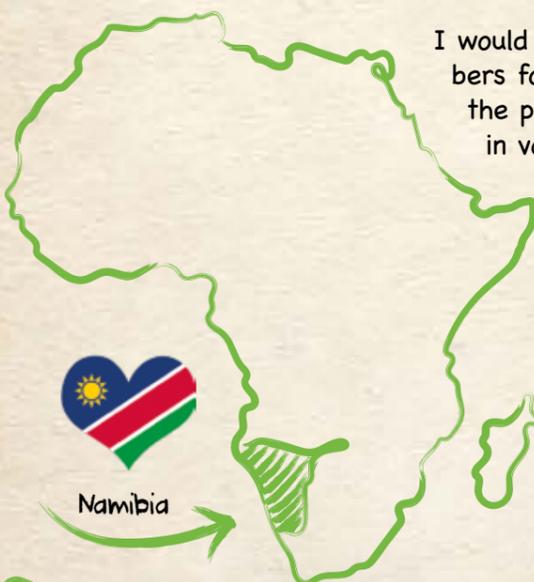
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other board members for their work and the support that they have shown me over the past years. I know how much time and stress can be involved in volunteering and I hope that we will continue to master the challenges to come, because it is worth the effort.

In the name of the whole team, I wish you a pleasant reading experience with this brochure.

Volkan Sazli



Volkan Sazli  
Founder & Director



Namibia

Dear Friends of Tangeni Shilongo Namibia,

As we are entering the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected, and continues to negatively affect the entire world, Namibia has equally not been spared. The economic and human impact of the pandemic during the first year, 2020, has been massive. The plight of children and the youth especially, often goes unnoticed. UNICEF, for example, reported that data from 87 countries reveals that 1 in 9 known COVID-19 infections are among children and young people under the age of 20. In Namibia, this trend is also evident: 15% of the COVID-19 confirmed cases at the end of 2020 were in the 0-19 age group- this means 1 in 7 of the total confirmed cases were children. The report also showed that in 2020, an additional 6 to 7 million children under the age of 5 suffered from emaciation or acute malnutrition- a 14% rise that will translate into more than 10,000 additional child deaths per month- mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. UNICEF concluded that by mid-2020, globally, the number of children living in multidimensional poverty, i.e. children without access to education, health, housing, nutrition, sanitation or water, is estimated to have soared by 15%, or an additional 150 million children.

In Namibia, we have seen that despite the overall decrease in the total confirmed cases since the lifting of the COVID-19 State of Emergency in September 2020, infection rates continue to flare up in close settings such as schools and hostels. All over the world parents, but especially single working mothers, are struggling with managing a multitude of duties ranging from home-office via house-work to home-schooling, assisting their children with digital learning. We are witnessing that most countries face major challenges with back-to-school plans including safety and sanitation arrangements.

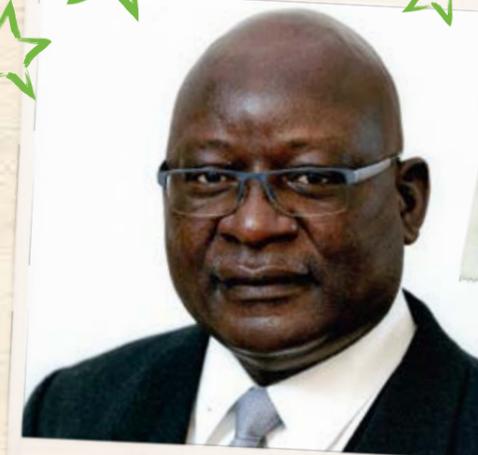
However, we must not forget that in the first year of COVID-19, at least one third of the world's schoolchildren, i.e. 463 million children, were unable to access remote learning due to a lack of the necessary technology. In sub-Saharan Africa, half of all students cannot be reached with remote learning. Especially for the young children, this often means missing at least one meal a day and going hungry. The repercussions in economies and societies might be felt for decades to come.

I note with appreciation that the focus of Tangeni Shilongo Namibia is on education as the key to development, which is in line with the Namibian Government's policy. I commend the organisation's objective, to give every child and young person in Namibia a realistic and fair opportunity for a good education, especially children whose families struggle with their financial situations. Successes can be noted in the DRC School Project & Community Centre, as well as in the OPEN DOORS scholarship programme.

In Southern Africa, the philosophy of Ubuntu teaches us that, "A person is a person through another person". With the words of our President, H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, on 21 March 2021, Namibia's 31st Independence Anniversary, I wish to emphasise that cooperation and solidarity can indeed transcend boundaries:

"Let us never forget that it has taken a united and collective effort to build this nation. Not one tribe, not one race, not one gender, not one religion has achieved this but all of us together. (...) I can assure you, if we stand in unity and solidarity, and pull together in the same direction, we shall fulfil the dream of an inclusive and prosperous Namibian House."

Ambassador Martin Andjaba



H.E. Martin Andjaba  
Ambassador of Namibia to the  
Federal Republic of Germany

# The Association and its Aims

Education is commonly accepted to be the key to development. Only through education we can generate prosperity and development for future generations. Our aim is to give every child and young person in Namibia a realistic and fair opportunity to access good education, irrespective of their family's financial means.

That is why Volkan Sazli and Malina John initiated the "Tangeni Shilongo Namibia" association in 2015. The association aims to fulfil its donors' wishes to promote sustainable public welfare in Namibia. The projects we support are focused on the sustainable improvement of living conditions and stability and are based on the UN Children's Rights.

In accordance with the statutes and the current tax exemption certificate, the association is solely and directly dedicated to charitable purposes as per the "tax-deductible purposes" of the tax code. The association engages in non-profit activities in the following areas:

- Furtherance of aid for children, youth and families
- Furtherance of non-government welfare organisations
- Furtherance of individual help
- Furtherance of an international ethos
- Furtherance of tolerance in all areas of culture
- Furtherance of intercultural understanding



The association was entered into the Register of Associations in Cologne in September 2015 with the number VR18727. Cologne North Tax Office acknowledged the charitable nature of the association in December 2015, with the tax number 217/5963/1607. The association has also been officially registered as a Non-Profit-Association Incorporated Under Section 21 in Namibia with the number 21/2021/0266 since March 2021.

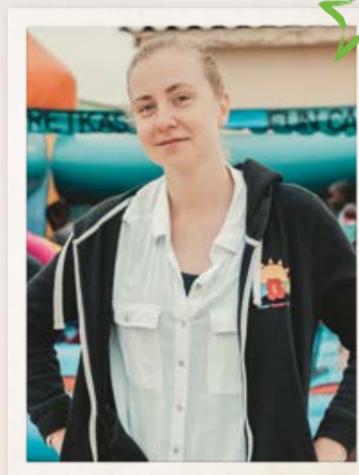
## The 3-person team behind the association!



**Volkan Sazli**  
Founder & Director



**Malina John**  
Founder & Director



**Theresa Rhode**  
Founder & Director

# Our Fundamentals

Our work and the running programmes are based on Namibia's development policy goals and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. The fight against poverty and inequality was defined as the primary common goal of development cooperation. Its strategic foundations are based, among other things, on the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, which was presented by His Excellency President Hage Geingob in 2021 and envisages improved access to quality education. It includes the creation of new infrastructures through the renovation and construction of educational facilities. With the DRC School Project and the OPEN DOORS Education Centre, we are offering a multifunctional building as a safe haven and place of learning with specialised spaces for the programmes offered, the content of which is derived from the Sustainable Development Goals. Especially



- Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are prepared for primary education.
- Significantly increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.



- Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.



- Reduce inequality
- Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 % of the population at a rate higher than the national average.



- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

# The Shilongo Family: Beatha, Tangeni, Jonas

We got to know Beatha Shilongo in 2014 as she was working in her "tuck shop" directly opposite of the DRC School Project. Beatha no longer has her tuck shop, and now focuses more on the sale of fish and liver. She tells us it is a more worthwhile business and she indeed already employs several women who help her with cooking and selling. She hopes to run her own restaurant one day and to own a real house outside the township. "Hope is what keeps us alive," she said, full of ambition. Over the years, we have developed a trusting friendship.

Beatha was already pregnant when we met her, and our namegiver Tangeni was born in May 2015. Since his birth, we have felt a sense of responsibility for him and made a promise to ourselves to give him the best education available in Namibia. It was our aim to keep that promise when we founded this association and are



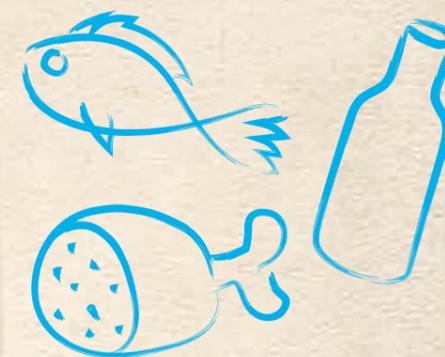
Volkan is visiting Tangeni Shilongo at his home.



currently paying the kindergarten. But Tangeni is not the only one who needs support during his early years in life. Our vision is to give every child and young person in Namibia a realistic and fair opportunity to access good education, irrespective of their family's financial means. The Shilongo family was the motivation to set up our association and gave us courage to aim for more.



Tangeni is picked up by a taxi driver and taken to kindergarten (every morning and afternoon). A taxi ride from home to town costs around 19 NAD (~€ 1,20).



Tangeni was very shy and introverted for a long time. The older he became, the chattier he got.



Tangeni got bigger and more confident with every year. We are proud to be able to accompany him on his path through life.



Tangeni's first day in kindergarten was in October 2018. See you, Tangeni... please don't grow up too quickly!



Jonas Volkan Shilongo was born on 7th June 2018. That's right, his middle name is Volkan - named after the founder of our association as a sign of appreciation and gratitude for our support. We are always incredibly moved when we tell and share this precious story.

# Our journey to the North of Namibia

NOVEMBER 2020

Tourists who visit Namibia are often astonished by how westernised cities such as Windhoek and Swakopmund seem. But tourists rarely stray to the north of the Etosha National Park. Compared to the rest of the country, the 'Owamboland' is largely undiscovered by tourists. It is, however, definitely worth the journey. We travelled the 800 km to get there, together with Beatha Shilongo.

Schools and kindergartens were closed due to the Corona pandemic. To be able to carry on working and earning money, Beatha Shilongo sent her two sons Tangeni and Jonas to stay with her mother in the north of Namibia. They were at that point spending some time at their grandma, in the middle of the Namibian wet savannah, in a clean and healthy environment. We travelled to the north of Namibia with Beatha.

Excited about what would await us at our destination, we bombarded Beatha with questions that she patiently answered. We found out that Beatha's mother lived alone in her house in a village near Ondangwa. Her husband spends most of the year in Swakopmund and only returns to the village over Christmas. But at the moment she has her youngest daughter and Beatha's sons with her. She has her own goats and chickens, grows mahangu, a local cereal, and also tends to her husband's cattle.

Beatha's mother was proud and ecstatic that we had travelled all that way to the north just for her family. Tangeni seemed shy, but he greeted us in English! We are just as proud as his grand-



Family holiday in northern Namibia. It had rained heavily in the meantime.

mother that the good kindergarten that he goes to is worth it and that he now not only speaks his mother tongue Oshiwambo, but also the Namibian official language English. His little brother Jonas, on the other hand, has still not chosen to speak yet at the age of two and a half. He prefers to use gestures to communicate and makes happy sounds.

Beatha's mother's house is not what we would think a house to be in Europe, but nor is it a makeshift corrugated iron hut that we have seen in the townships. Her house is huge. It is surrounded by sturdy wooden posts and corrugated iron that Beatha's mother has used to make a large forecourt. One path leads to the left into the kitchen, a large outdoor space with a covered fireplace. Another leads to the forecourt and to her bedroom. This room is actually a house as we would picture one, with various spaces and beds for Beatha's mother and the children. The shower, also a separate outdoor area with a large tub for shower water and protected from prying eyes, is behind that part of the house. The chickens scurry about through the open-air rooms of the house. The goats and cows are grazing somewhere in the bushland.



Beatha and her son, Jonas Volkan.

Beatha's mother calls the neighbours' children over to catch a chicken for the dinner she wants to cook in honour of our visit. The neighbours are spread out widely, as every house needs enough bushland for the animals to graze on. When the children finally get there, they immediately start the "hunt". The chickens flap, clucking, over the fences, the children hot on their heels. After a few minutes, one of the chickens is finally exhausted and the children can capture it. They proudly bring it to Beatha's mother who ties its feet together so that it cannot escape. Then she waves to us to follow her to fetch water. The watering hole is a good 15 minute walk away.



Malina tries to balance the water cannisters.

The children follow us. The water pipe is supplied by the government and the villagers can collect water from the tap there. Beatha's mother balances the 10 litre water cannister on her head without any bother. Malina gives it a go as well, but not very skilfully. A girl soon takes the cannister from her.

There is not much for visitors to do in the bush, so most of the time is spent eating and loafing about. We unfortunately only spent a few days in the village, but we will never forget them.



We're walking through the villages with the neighbours' children.



We spend our days lazing around.



The joy is big when the chicken is caught.



A classic selfie with Tangeni, Jonas and Nelau.

# DRC School Project & Community Centre

The DRC School Project & Community Centre initiated in 2004 is on the sandy ground of the Namib desert in the Democratic Resettlement Community (DRC), a township in Swakopmund, Namibia.

Lots of people move from northern Namibia to the coast in search of work, but they often don't get the well-paid jobs they hoped for. In the township at the city outskirts, they build their own improvised houses which aren't facilitated with running water, plumbing and electricity. Around 40,000 people live in the DRC, upward trend.



# DRC

School Project & Community Centre

The School Project is literally in the heart of the township and is primarily focused on the needs of children and teenagers. Children and teenagers who cannot afford to attend a state school are taught there by full-time teachers and volunteers. The school offers a diverse range of educational projects, and also maintains a community centre, runs a library, and invites to have fun on the playground.

We are ensuring ongoing operations by:

- continuous procurement of teaching and school equipment
- covering teaching staff salaries (incl. Social Security & Tax)
- covering the costs of the daily soup kitchen offer
- regular renovations of the school portacabins, and upkeep of the playground.



The DRC School Project is run by our Namibian association and brings children in from the streets to offer them a safe environment to play and learn. It solely relies on material and financial donations.



A bird's-eye view. The School Project is in the heart of the township.

# The Engine of the DRC School Project: The Staff

We have 7 payed employees who ensure that the School Project can guarantee the education offer on a long-term basis.



**Dina M.** teaches a pre-school class of around 30 children. Also the management of the afternoon care is one of her tasks.



**Efraemine N.** has a kindergarten class with the 25 youngest children. Additionally she is helping out in the homework class.



**Bernice E.** is the contact for all School Project matters and also teaches a class for children who didn't receive a placement in a public school.



**Rejoice T.** is head of secretary and takes care of a homework class in the morning and afternoon.



**Grace T.** is the manager of our daily soup kitchen. She also makes sure the School Project is always clean and tidy.



**Ryaan M.** is our janitor and takes care of the maintenance of the whole property.



**Martin T.** is indispensable. He cleans the outside area of the School Project once a week since its existence.



# The Programmes of our School Project

## Classes for Children without a School Place

Every year, many children are left without a placement in school. The schools are overcrowded, leaving some children behind and the obligatory school uniform and materials the children must bring to school place a financial burden on the families. Children left behind have to spend the year doing other things. It is important to us that they still have access to education and a safe environment to keep them away from criminality and drugs so that they can return to school without problems in the following year. That is why our School Project offers free education to those children.



## Early Childhood Development (ECD)

A good early childhood education is an important prerequisite for an easy start into life and reflects in better grades and drop-out rates at schools. That is why we offer a kindergarten and pre-school for up to 60 children. The children learn numbers from 1 to 20, the days of the week, months, and how to write their own names, all in preparation for going to school. Here, they also learn the official language English for

the first time. There are around 10 different acknowledged language groups in Namibia that are spoken by the children according to ethnicity. Our teachers speak several of them to be able to convey their knowledge in the most effective way.

## Homework Classes

Our School Project offers homework classes for children and teenagers in grades 1 - 12 to support them with their homework. Many children who live in the townships have a lack of support from home and no quiet, well-lit workplace with sufficient writing materials to do their homework. That is why there is a homework session from 8H00 to 13H00 and 14H00 to 17H00. We also provide Wi-Fi and laptops for online research.



## Urban Gardening & Environmental Education

In cooperation with the NGO "Good Food Namibia" we build up some Green Houses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The harvest is used to prepare meals in the kitchen and also to share with the community. With this we aim to teach basic agricultural techniques on a small scale. The garden project also includes educational courses on the environment and sustainability. This involves avoiding plastic in everyday life as well as recycling and upcycling. And we discuss the consequences of climate change.



## Library

The library is open to the whole community and is a place to read, relax and find some peace and quiet. There is something for everyone amongst the large selection of books ranging from fantasy and novels to school textbooks. Here, the much-anticipated TV-Day takes place once a week. Additionally, the room is used by the community for literature classes.

## Community Centre

In our capacity as a community centre, we offer support to teenagers and adults by typing job applications and CVs and scanning and copying important paperwork, because houses in DRC don't have electricity. Additionally, the rooms of the School Project are available for courses and self-help groups outside of regular opening hours.



## Playground

We not only offer children access to free education, but also to fun and games and the chance to enjoy a carefree childhood. We built the playground to promote the children's motor skills, giving children the chance to discover their physical abilities and own boundaries. The playground has become a place of co-existence.

# The Development since 2014

We visited the School Project for the first time in 2014: as volunteers with the aim of working here for a year and lending a hand wherever needed. It didn't stop there, because we fell in love, and we have invested a lot of work and money since then to make the School Project flourish again and expand its offers. With success: while we were still amid a little chaos during our time as volunteers and often took improvised measures, we can now proudly announce that after years of continual expansion and improvement, the School Project is running exemplary and offers everything a child's heart could wish for. This is not least due to the excellent team that we have gradually been able to recruit for the School Project. On the following pages, we describe the individual stages of the journey we have made from 2014 to the present day. Perhaps our progress will show you how much we care about the Project and what we have been able to achieve together with your help:

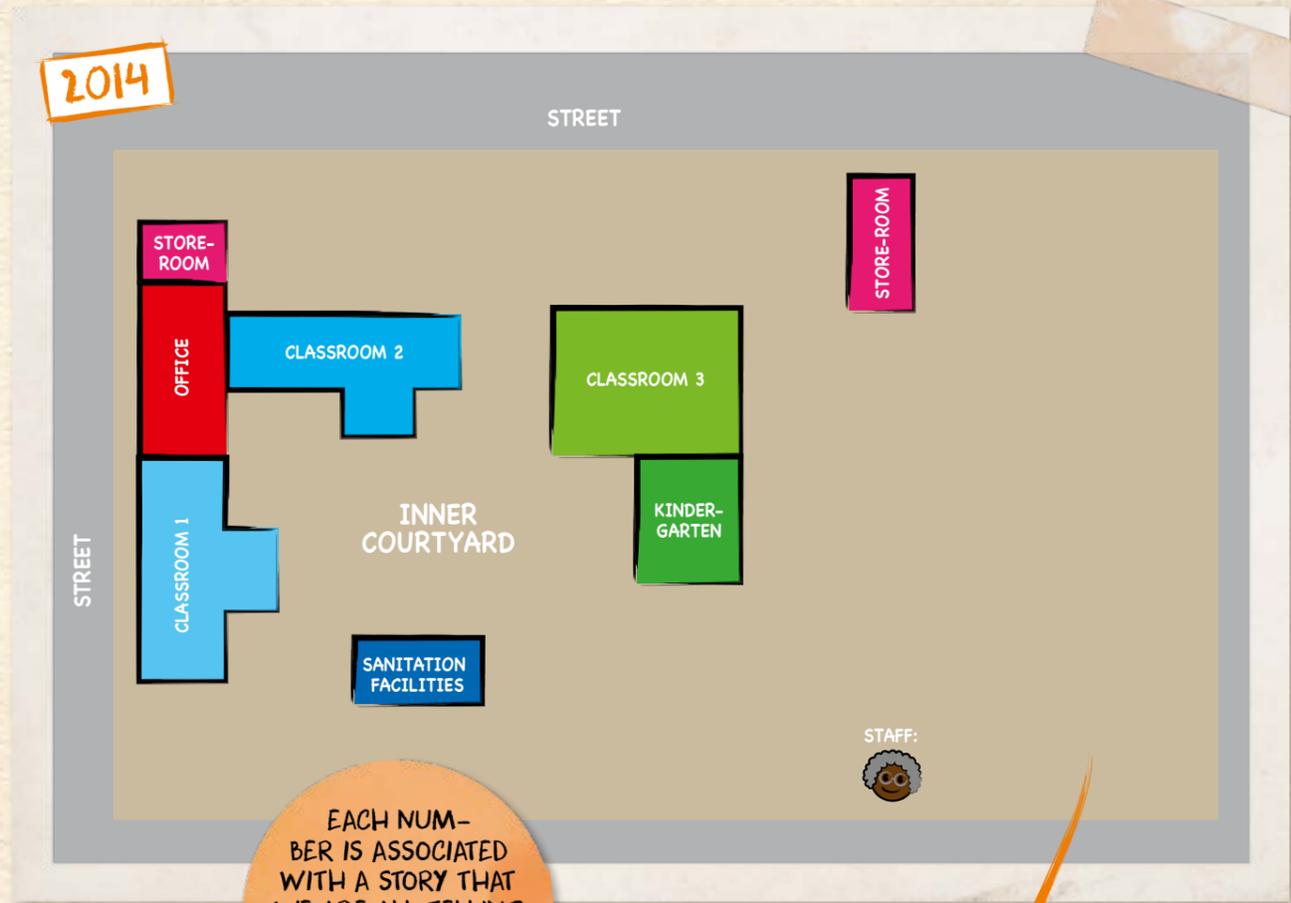


**QUICK FACT**  
Hollywood Actress Angelina Jolie was filming in Swakopmund, Namibia, in 2004. When the filming was finished, she decided to donate the containers from the film set to the people in the township. This initiative led to the founding of the School Project. At this time Angelina was pregnant and even gave birth to her daughter Shiloh Nouvel in Swakopmund.

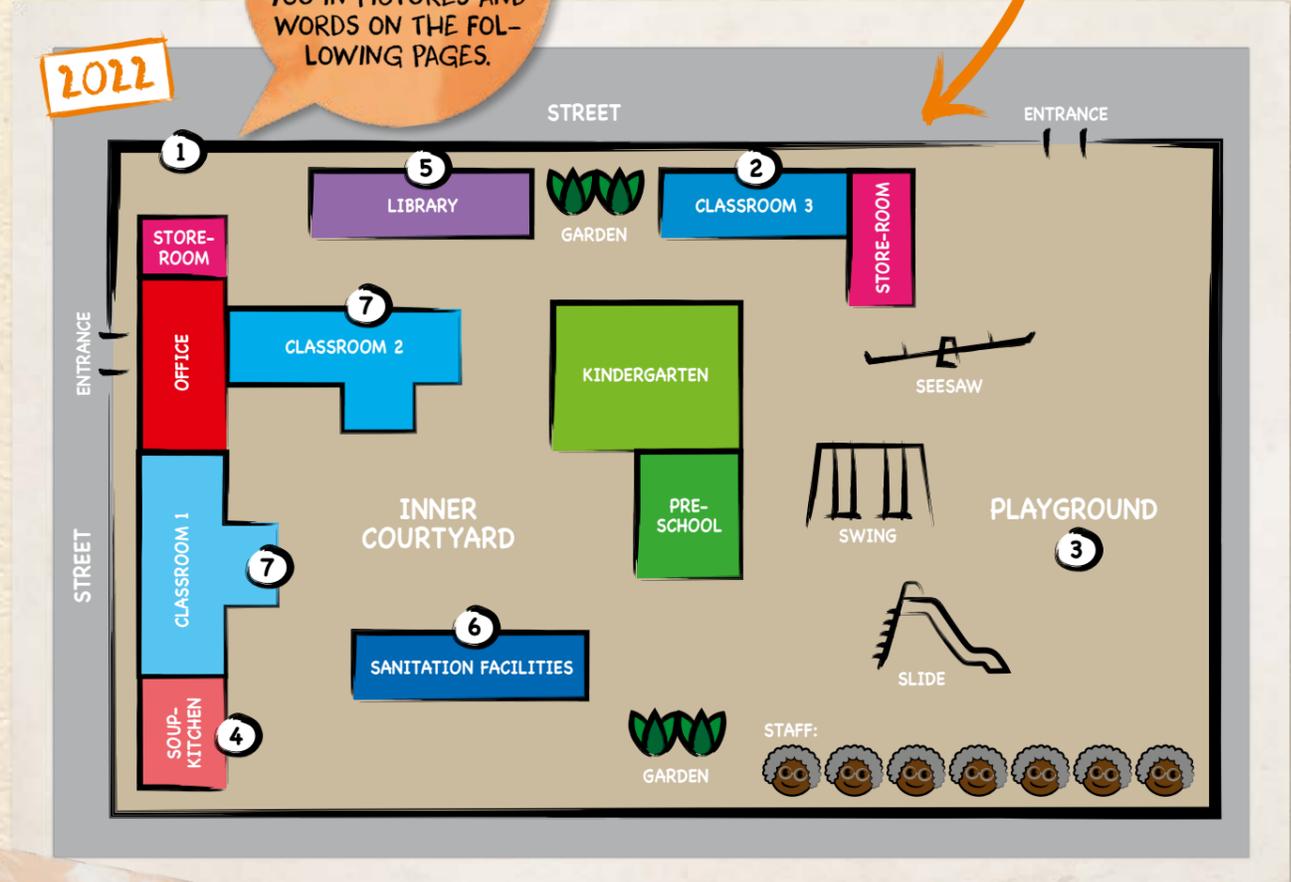
It is beautiful to see that such a wonderful place has evolved between all the corrugated iron huts, where children and youths can have fun and enjoy their childhood. We can't determine where the children grow up, but we can give them the chance to decide about their own future.



## Overview of the development



EACH NUMBER IS ASSOCIATED WITH A STORY THAT WE ARE ALL TELLING YOU IN PICTURES AND WORDS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.



# Building of a Concrete Wall: To Protect Children and Teenagers

1

The DRC School Project & Community Centre is on a busy main road. Parents and teachers alike were very worried about the children's safety. We shared their concerns and thought about how we could create a safe space and prevent horrific accidents.

We offered our assistance, put our heads together and looked into the options available to us. A fence would soon become damaged and serve as firewood someplace else. So a real wall - sturdy, long-lasting and unfit for lighting a fire. Together with a building contractor from Swakopmund, we decided to build a "mobile" concrete wall because we had to adhere to an important regulation set by the Municipality of Swakopmund: There was a ban on building permanent structures that are difficult to remove in the township DRC. The staff and project initiators welcomed the decision.

There was one other obstacle to overcome. We only had very few donations at the time, meaning that we had to start a campaign in the "Allgemeine Zeitung" daily newspaper in Namibia. Lore Bohm, initiator and founder of the "Kleine Engel" (Little Angels) project responded to our campaign and pledged to cover the rest of the costs. The building work got underway very swiftly and the School Project soon became an eye-catcher in the entire township, because it is not every day that such big building projects take place there.

Volunteers, children and teenagers from the School Project had great fun creatively decorating the wall in small stages between 2015 and 2019.



The whole community and us helped in painting the walls.

## QUICK FACT

The "Allgemeine Zeitung", or AZ, is a daily newspaper published in Namibia. It is the oldest daily in Namibia and the only German-language daily in Africa.



## QUICK FACT

The Municipality of Swakopmund prohibited the building of houses or walls with concrete foundations or which are no longer mobile in the Democratic Resettlement Community (DRC). They had to be "movable", like our concrete wall. The city wanted to thereby ensure that when required the houses and walls could immediately be relocated elsewhere. This has now changed after years, and the first permanent houses are erected in DRC.



The School Project before the construction works, with no protective wall.



The concrete pillars are now in place.



The wall is finally built - but it looks a bit sad, doesn't it?



The wall is now a lot more inviting. Excited coming to school? Yeeees!

# Construction of a New Classroom

2

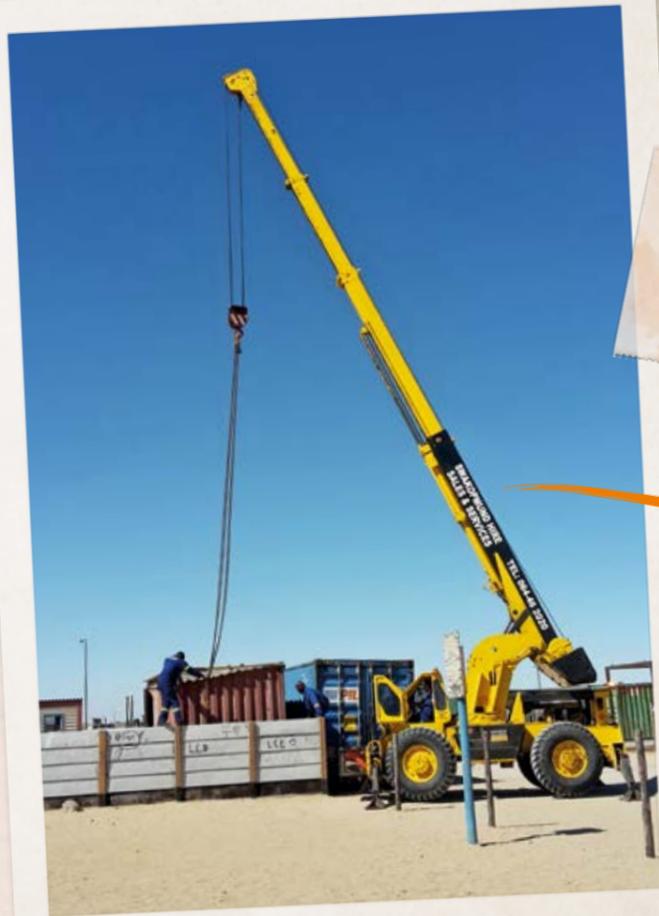
During our project trip in March 2016, we travelled to Walvis Bay, a neighbouring port city 30 km away. We had an appointment with the Namibian Port Authority, the operators of the port. Why? Because we wanted to find out about buying a shipping container. We all agreed that more children could benefit from the DRC School Project if only we had more space. And so it came that we didn't end up just getting information - we bought one straight away.

We decided on a 12 m long shipping container which we converted into a library and classroom in the following months. It had to be refurbished, painted, supplied with electricity and a door and windows fitted. We hired a carpenter to build school benches and bookcases that we filled to the top with books of all genres, for young and old. Last but not least a seamstress made the cushions for a comfy reading corner and the new classroom plus library was perfect.

The shipping container, which in its former life was transported all over the world, now has its fixed space at the School Project and became a place of learning and relaxing. By now, it has been entirely converted into a classroom because the library moved to another room.



Tadaaaa. Now that everything is comfy and furnished, the lessons can finally start.



We hired a crane to transport it. Quite the undertaking!



The container had to be lifted over the wall.

ABC



Finally at its place, the container not only got a new painting, but also windows and doors. Additionally, electricity was installed.



Renovations were also necessary from inside. And of course, furniture can not be missed.

# Building of a Playground: Aim, Idea & Implementation

3

The DRC School Project & Community Centre owns a large piece of land which is already well equipped with a number of school containers. The rest of the land was used as an area for fun and games, but without any apparatus. Just a patch of sand, that rather sad and boring space was not a permanent solution and not terribly attractive to the kids. That is why we decided to apply to the BILD Hilft e.V. "Ein Herz für Kinder" (A heart for children) aid organisation for support in building a proper playground and to fund the extension of the concrete wall we had already put up to also enclose the play area. The pupils were immediately taken by the playground and the new soccer goals and basketball nets were perfect for all sorts of sporting events.



Theresa is testing the sea-saw together with the kids.

## There was an awful lot to be done...

The extension of the wall got underway before the playground was built and installed. That laid a key foundation to making the playground a safe space. When the swings, see-saw and slide were installed, a big group of children soon formed to watch astonished as the playground was built. We knew that for many children it would be the first time they would ever be able to use such a playground - particularly because there is not a single public playground in the whole of the township. The children's excitement and smiles were infectious and heart-wrenching. That immediately confirmed that the months of hard work were more than worthwhile.



However, we realised that the play area could by no means be used without supervision because there was such a crush to use it. We, the volunteers and teachers, obviously couldn't help ourselves and had to swing, slide and see-saw to our hearts' content.



The children were all completely overwhelmed by the equipment and barely understood how the see-saw worked. They all stormed over to the see-saw and sat down on it, waiting for something to happen - for instance, that one of the teachers would move it up and down. We first had to explain how it worked.



**...the efforts were well worth it.**

On the streets, the children and teenagers often come into contact with drugs and alcohol, theft, violence and abuse. The School Project offers children and teenagers a peaceful, safe environment with a community centre for young and old alike in addition to the educational aspect, where the enjoyment of learning, awareness of the importance of decent qualifications and a civilised community spirit are promoted. The School Project gives all children and teenagers the opportunity to explore their physical abilities and discover their own limits. The playground is a perfect place for this, giving everyone the chance to let off some steam alongside the learning. Together with the teachers, we try to offer fun, games and enjoyment with a view to ensuring a carefree childhood.



We waited a long time for the last, long-anticipated piece of equipment to be installed and finished: the slide! We were all able to breathe a big sigh of relief once the slide had been built. The "playground construction" project was finally finished!



We submitted the BILD hilft e.V. "Ein Herz für Kinder" application in July 2016, received confirmation of partial funding in October 2016, and were able to successfully implement the project in April 2017. As a crowning moment, founder Volkan Sazli was invited to the ZDF donation gala in Berlin where he took to the red carpet as representative of the association.



We cheered when we got the following message: "We are very pleased to inform you today that BILD hilft e.V. "Ein Herz für Kinder" has authorised a total donation of 5,634.82 Euro (~ 95,000 NAD) for Tangeni Shilongo Namibia. The donation is to be used for the construction of a playground (remaining payment for the construction of a wall, swings, see-saw, slide) in the DRC School Project and Community Centre in Swakopmund, Namibia, as outlined in your application."

# Building of a Kitchen

4

A healthy, balanced diet is essential for the development of a child. However, this is not the standard in the township DRC. We have often seen children who had no or only one meal for the day. The one then consisted of one-sided carbohydrates or cheap snacks like chips. Malnutrition is a serious problem in the DRC.

For the children of the School Project, we wanted to change this. Therefore, we bought a small shipping container in May 2018 that we converted into a kitchen. We provided electricity, fitted a sink, stove and fridge.

We are serving a hot meal and a piece of fruit every morning. But also the children attending only the afternoon programme shall benefit from the kitchen. That is why our diligent kitchen manager Grace also cooks in the afternoon twice a week. Once the homework is done, everyone gathers for a steaming meal in the courtyard. Yummy!



The container had to be lifted over the wall.



The kitchen has now been installed on the School Project premises.



## QUICK FACT

"Pap" is from Afrikaans, means porridge, and is a traditional staple food. It is made in most of Namibia from maize flour, water and milk, except in the north, where "pap" is made from pearl millet. Food is traditionally eaten with the hands. The maize porridge is shaped into bite-sized portions using the fingers of the right hand. When necessary, the thumb is used to make a small hollow in each ball to scoop up sauce or meat and vegetables. And then you pop the delicious pap into your mouth. Yum!

# Our Soup Kitchen in Action



The Soup Kitchen did not only receive a new painting and roof but was finally also supplied with running water. Now it can regularly be used for real cooking.



A HOT MEAL FOR YOUNG AND OLD EVERY DAY.



Everyone lends a hand to cut up the fruit...



...and then enjoy it together.



Mmmmmm, yummy!

5

# Library and Community Room

The School Project developed more and more and additional children made use of its offers. The former classroom next to the kindergarten that was initially used for a small group of children without school place, had been converted into a second kindergarten class, meaning that double the amount of the little ones were coming every day. At the same time, all the other programmes also had increasing numbers of participants, so that we decided to expand the School Project complex by one additional classroom in 2018. For this, we bought - surprise - two shipping containers and converted them into one proper classroom. Nothing is set in stone, especially not the fate of a shipping container in Namibia. It is home to the library that moved here and is used for the much-anticipated TV-Day that takes place every Friday. It is also used by the Community for courses and self-help groups.



Our Library is delivered.



And there it finally is.



With a new painting.



And soooooo comfy.



Here it is being taught.



And much is read.

# Renovation & Extension of Sanitation Facilities.

6

The sanitation facilities at the School Project had deteriorated over the years due to overuse by too many children and teenagers. The toilets were broken, too small, too cramped and had become very unhygienic. It wouldn't have been acceptable to carry on using them. We jointly decided to renovate the toilets and to build a washroom and additional facilities. These facilities are not only accessible to the children, teenagers and staff but also to visitors.

## QUICK FACT

There are no sanitation facilities connected to the sewage system anywhere in the DRC township, not even at the School Project. However, we have the following advantage: there is a subterranean septic tank beneath the School Project complex where the excrement is routed. The septic tank serves houses which are not connected to the public sewers. The septic tank has to be emptied every couple of years by a suction lorry.



Our sanitation facilities are finally fit for purpose.



In the School Project we also teach hygiene routines. This involves brushing the teeth.

# Renovation of the School Containers



We soon realised how quickly everything rusts while we were in Swakopmund. Nothing is safe from rust: bikes, iron shelves, windows, screws, cars, even the corrugated huts in the DRC, much to the annoyance of the people who live there. But why? There are harsh weather conditions in Swakopmund: The salty humidity, the wind and the desert sand damage all building materials – our School Containers included. This leads to regular maintenance costs.

We renovated all classrooms most recently in 2016. In 2021, the time had come again to renew everything and make it fit for the next few years with a large-scale campaign and in cooperation with BILD hilft e.V. "Ein Herz für Kinder" (A Heart for Children). For this we got 12,888 € (220,000 NAD). Unbelievable, isn't it?



Theresa gives the containers a lick of paint.



Damaged doors were replaced.



The broken window frames were repaired.



A good feeling to enter the classroom upright.



All of the School Containers were painted and glimmer in their new colours.



The paintwork is pretty impressive.



All School Containers were renovated and painted.

# Organised Excursions

We try to work with the tourism companies based in Swakopmund as often as possible to organise excursions. We frequently receive help and support. It is very important to us that the children and teenagers in the School Project can escape from their daily lives now and then. That way, fun and games can be combined with education. We are delighted that we and the volunteers are able to organise one or more school trips every year.

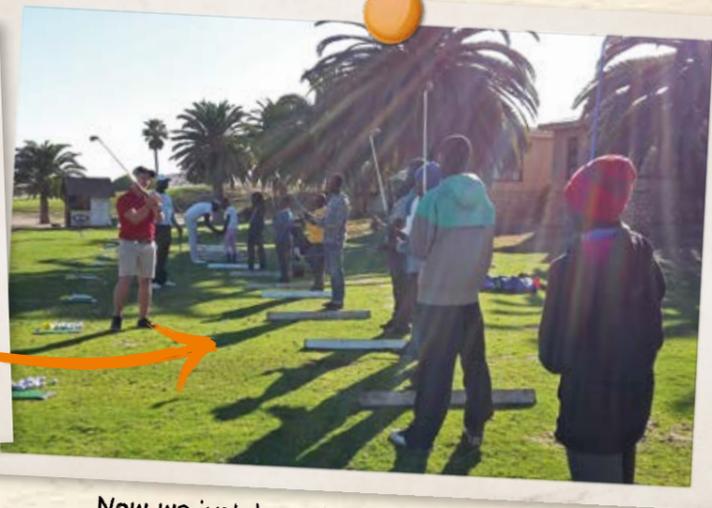


Teacher Dina is also having fun in her pedal car.

## Golf



The owners of the "Rössmund Golf Resort & Lodge" invited the kids to a free half day of golf with individual support from a golf coach.



Now we just have to stay very focussed...



## Horse riding

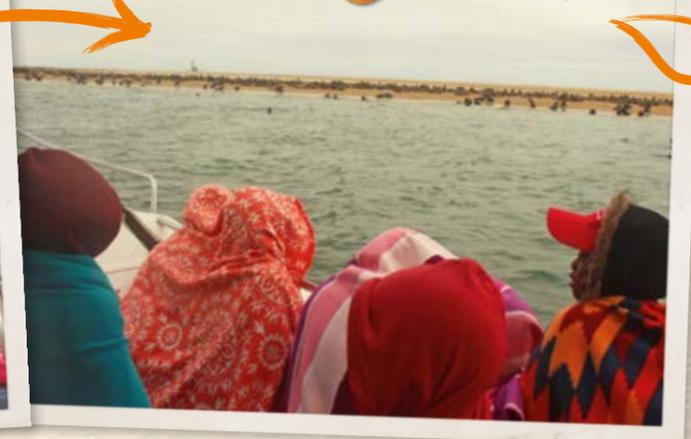
The children get to know some larger animals, in this case horses, at the "Okakambe Riding Centre".



## Boat trips



We organised a boat trip on the Atlantic Ocean together with "Laramon Tours". There was plenty to see: dolphins, seals, pelicans. Our captain gave us great insight into life in and on the water.



Soooooo many seals in one place.

## Camel rides



Thanks to "Desert Explorers" and "Swakopmund Camel Farm", the kids get the chance to ride a camel to not only have the time of their lives but also learn to trust such big animals.

## Living Desert Tour



"Tommy's Living Desert Tour" regularly offers children and teenagers the opportunity to get to know the desert from a completely new perspective because: it is alive. What tiny creatures can be spotted behind the bushes and beneath the sand? Tommy impressively unveils a fascinating world to the children and teenagers.



The caravan continues.



Tommy lifts the lid on the secrets of the desert

# Special events at the DRC School Project

The School Project thrives on recurring traditions that the teaching staff, pupils and all children look forward to. Everyone celebrates each special event together, creating memories and strengthening a sense of cohesion. We are very pleased to be able to bring festivities such as Christmas and Easter to life, time and again, because children need traditions that give them a sense of security and belonging.



## Easter

The focus is on being together, having fun, and of course the end result that everyone can be proud of.



Pupils have the opportunity to let their creative juices flow every year at Easter.

## Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day - a celebration of love and appreciation. We also make the most of this day to highlight love and pay respect and celebrate being together. Not only the pre-schoolers are excited to get a balloon.



The older kids also celebrate Valentine's Day and release their balloons with secret wishes. We won't tell you any of them. Shhhhh!

## Cultural Day

The Cultural Day takes place every year at the School Project, to familiarise the children and teenagers with their traditions and roots. The children's families proudly participate in this special festival.



The soul of the project: Dinal! Together with the volunteers, she takes care of the planning, preparation and perfect performance. Here she is in her traditional Herero dress.



## Graduation

Every year, we say goodbye to a handful of children with mixed feelings. They are ready and old enough to attend state school. But it isn't Goodbye forever. Many of them will still frequently visit the School Project for homework classes.



## Sports Day

Children have to be able to let off steam. It is important that they move about a lot for their bodies to develop properly, and the teachers make sure of that. The Sports Day takes place once a year. It gives the children a chance to put themselves to the test in a variety of events.



The children often compete against neighbouring kindergartens and pre-schools. Sack racing is the name of the game here.

# #FUNDAY at the School Project



On the one side it goes up in the air...

The last day before the summer holidays 2021/2022 should become a very special one. With great anticipation everyone waited for it to come. We wanted to greatly celebrate this day with all the children of the School Project and end the school year in an unforgettable way: Our FUN DAY took place. For this date, we provided the playground with slide, swings and see-saw, rented a jumping castle, water slide and swimming pool and build up the trampoline.



Not only the children but also the staff and us had a lot of fun.



Splashing around for all it's worth.



"Children? We will practice the use of a see-saw again, okay? That works a bit differently!" :D



...and on the other side back to the ground.



The group picture speaks for itself. Don't you think?



Help comes with Theresa.

# Soccer in Namibia

Soccer unites people of most different backgrounds everywhere on the world. Also here in the School Project, amidst an area where crime and violence are part of daily life. Young people learn vital values such as fairness, respect and teamwork in a playful way through soccer, and it helps them to develop a sense of self-esteem and responsibility whilst also giving them a positive balance in their lives.

## The soccer team "Desert Rollers F.C."

The School Project is proud of "Desert Rollers F.C.", its youth soccer club, which was initiated by our teacher Dina in 2013. Since then, we have not only supported them financially here and there, but also with plenty of adrenaline, sweat, tears and cheers - all the emotions that soccer evokes. We collect and pass on donations such as football boots and shirts, and sometimes cover participation fees and travel costs to tournaments a little further afield. We never want to see passion and ambition fall foul of a lack of money, but always expect a certain private contribution to be paid. We primarily try to encourage young people to stick up for what they are passionate about and fight for their dreams. By the way, even such glistening careers as Cristiano Ronaldo's began on a simple shale pitch.



The whole team with coach Dina.

SUPPORT FROM THE GERMAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (DFB) AND ADIDAS.

Every player from the "Desert Rollers F.C." received his own new pair of boots and an original Germany team shirt. The boys were incredibly proud, grateful, and even more motivated to bring home a win from a tournament.



Good game, keep it up!



Tactic is needed.



W000000000000000000M!



We feverishly follow the game from the spectator stand - it must have been an exciting moment.

# OPEN DOORS Scholarship:

## More than just good grades



We launched our OPEN DOORS Scholarship Programme in 2018 because we felt it was our duty to support young people without means who wanted to study. We saw potential and great will and motivation to further educate themselves and are delighted to be a special part of these young people's educational careers. With our scholarship, we want to support them in finding well-paid work; but more importantly, they should have the privilege and opportunity to determine their own path in life.

By being able to study, our OPEN DOORS scholars are beacons of hope for their own country. The increased chances of finding work after graduation can give the scholars a voice in society, turning them into people who advocate for change in the system. That kind of change can only be effected from within, not from a different country. We want to open up perspectives, broaden horizons and offer hope.

The requirements for receiving a scholarship are:

- Namibian nationality,
- financial need,
- voluntary community work,
- successful graduation from high school,
- outstanding performance with good school grades,
- motivation and reasons for choosing a degree course,
- overall impression in personal interview



### Scholar Maria E.

Institution: Lingua International Training College  
 Degree course: Finance  
 Dream job: Bank clerk  
 Supported since: 2018

»It was my dream to study accounting and finance. OPEN DOORS scholarship empowered me to study hard to achieve my goals. I like the personal and trustful contact and can talk about all my daily challenges.«



The time has come. Our first OPEN DOORS scholar Maria has successfully graduated after 4 years of study. She excellently completed her course with a 3-month internship at Food Lovers Market which she gained through good grades and references. Congratulations, Maria! We are excited what the future brings.



We visited Maria E. at her training college in September 2018. She was incredibly proud to show us around.



Tulimeke N. moved from the coast to the capital, Windhoek, for her studies.



It is important to us that the scholars get to know and support each other.



(Left to right: Tulimeke, Volkan, Maria, Malina, Theresa)

We met up with our scholars Maria and Tulimeke during our project trip in Windhoek in November 2020. It is very exciting to see how the young women are progressing. They tell us about the challenges they face, their successes, and their future plans. Maria could even envisage soon helping us with our Namibian accounts. And so we come full circle!



### Scholar Tulimeke N.

University: University of Namibia (UNAM)  
 Degree course: English (Bachelor of Arts)  
 Dream job: Teacher or Lecturer  
 Supported since: 2019

»I wanted to become a teacher or lecturer, but it was not possible to finance it cause I am daughter of a single mother. Thanks to the scholarship I am proud to call myself student of UNAM.«

# A new generation every year

While we only supported 2 scholars during the years 2018 until 2020, we felt that after 3 years of testing phase, we were ready to publicly communicate the scholarship programme and spread the news of it in whole Namibia. We had seen the good impact it had on our scholars and gained first experiences with the Universities and student hostels.

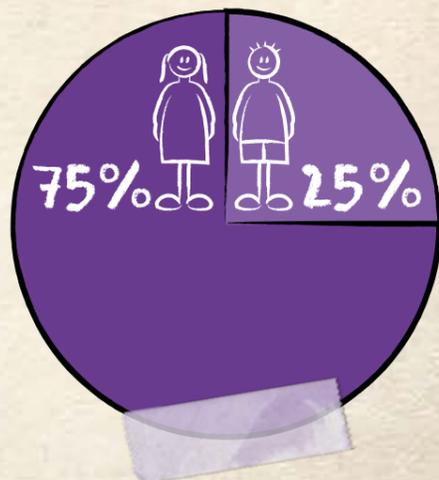
Now we wanted to give young people from whole Namibia the chance to apply for the scholarship. In the first year, 2021, we started with 50 applications, and they were already 160 in 2022. And we have to honestly admit: All of them would have deserved the chance! The applications reached us from all parts of the country. Unfortunately, we don't have the financial capacities to sponsor everybody but with the help of generous donors that agreed to sponsorships, we were able to grant a good part of them a place in the scholarship programme. We are looking forward to the time together!



Due to the pandemic, we also conducted interviews online.



Some of the applicants were from close to the coastal city of Swakopmund, so we were able to meet them over a cup of coffee.



## Women to men ratio

We are committed to equal opportunities and gender equality between women and men and want to contribute to more fair opportunities for women in society, politics and the economy.



**Scholar: Simeon K.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: Electrical Engineering  
Supported since: 2021



**Scholar: Kauzemburukua M.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: Agriculture, Animal Science  
Supported since: 2021



**Scholar: Feni S.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: Military Science  
Supported since: 2021



**Scholar: Maria H.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: Physiology  
Supported since: 2021



**Scholar: Hendrina M.**  
Welwitchia Health Training Centre  
Degree course: Nursing & Midwifery  
Supported since: 2021



**Scholar: Tangi-Sela K.**  
Namibia University of Science & Technology (NUST)  
Degree course: Accounting  
Supported since: 2021



**Scholar: Titus S.**  
International University of Management (IUM)  
Degree course: Marketing Management  
Supported since: 2022



**Scholar: Ester M.**  
University of Science and Technology (NUST)  
Degree course: Environmental Health Science  
Supported since: 2022



**Scholar: Justina H.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: Law  
Supported since: 2022



**Scholar: Rejoice T.**  
International University of Management (IUM)  
Degree course: Education in Senior Primary  
Supported since: 2022



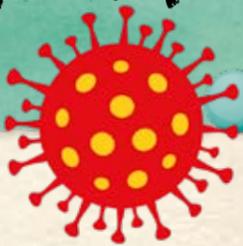
**Scholar: Priskilla S.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: Social Science  
Supported since: 2022



**Scholar: Tulimeke N.**  
University of Namibia (UNAM)  
Degree course: English (Bachelor of Arts)  
Supported since: 2019

# COVID-19 emergency aid

## Our food aid in Namibia



**COVID-19**  
EMERGENCY AID

We launched a food aid programme and distributed fruit and vegetables together with numerous cooperation partners to strengthen people's immune systems during the pandemic in particular. We provided over 700,000 Namibian Dollars (approx. € 38,000) in the years 2020 and 2021.



The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented event in recent history. It is both a health and humanitarian crisis which affects people's lives, health, and livelihoods across the entire globe. And Namibia has not been spared. In the densely populated townships, it hits people who already live in very difficult conditions and have no savings to rely on. Our solidarity and swift action were called for.

We have been working with the local supermarket Food Lovers Market for many years now and have a credit account there. We regularly pay into it to provide the children in the DRC School Project who we support with fresh fruit and vegetables every week. The supermarket invoices us directly after every purchase and sends us a digital receipt. That gives us total transparency and control over our donations and expenses.



We supported the Municipality of Swakopmund with several tonnes of maize flour. The handover was celebrated very officially as a sign of appreciation. The Mayor, Her Worship Louisa Kativa, received the donation from us in person.

Our goal was to provide good food to as many people and for as long as possible, in the fairest possible way. In line with government guidelines, we and our local cooperation partners pooled all of our forces and generated synergies. That allowed us to reach more people - we would never have managed that on our own.

### Hands of Hope Foundation Namibia

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have been supporting the "Hands of Hope Foundation Namibia" aid organisation in distributing over 40 weekly food packages to families in need all over the country. Because the hardship was widespread in the country and more people asked for help than we could provide, we implemented a complex application process to identify those in particular need. Our focus was not solely on financial hardship. We also took factors such as illness, living situation and particular turns of fate into account. Some of the packages were therefore put together individually. The organisation has helped over 1,400 families with food packages during the crisis.

We got stuck in with putting the food packages together during our project trip and have utmost respect for the incredible efforts put in by the volunteer team at Hands of Hope, who have been packaging and distributing these 25 kg parcels for months.



Healthy food is an exception in the townships.



We helped out with packing for a few days and could feel it in every fibre of every muscle by the end of the day.



Every package has to be put together carefully. Teamwork is the be all and end all.



The packages contain food and toiletries.



Very heavy indeed. Guaranteed muscle ache.

## Anja Rohwer – Helping Hands

Anja gave out food packages on a weekly basis that she puts together with her family in their garage. 250 families received a bag of food each week. She took the food packages to the following institutions: DRC School Project, Mondesa Youth Opportunities (MYO), DRC Tuberculosis Clinic, various nursery schools and women's projects, and selected families in the DRC and Mondesa.



Anja Rohwer loads up her car with the food bags.



Her whole family helps out.



This is just a fraction of the weekly deliveries.



The food bags are delivered.



A short break before taking the food home.

## DRC School Project & Community Centre

The DRC School Project received a weekly delivery of food packages which the teaching staff took on and gave out to the families of the children who attend on a permanent basis. The School Project was able to help about 50 families each week who signed up in advance.



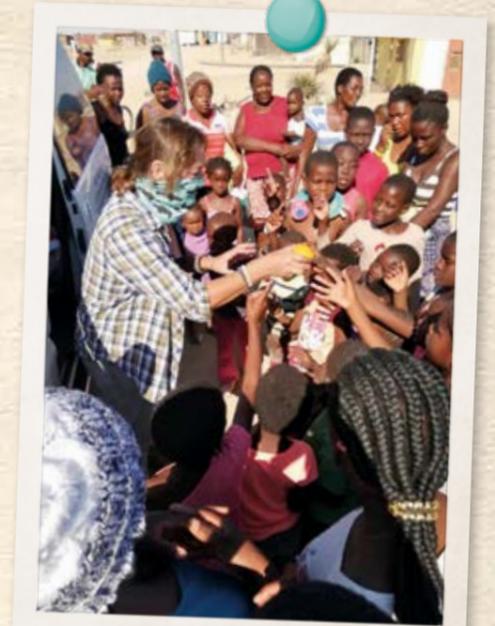
The families queue up to collect their food.

## Konny von Schmettau – Namibia Aktiv & Safaris – Tours for Charity



Konny's VW camper van is jam-packed with food.

Konny regularly supports over 30 single mothers and other families in need with food packages that she puts together herself. During the strict lockdown and the even greater food supply problems, she also took care of families in the neighbouring town of Walvis Bay and of arts & crafts salespeople in Swakopmund who had no income due to the absence of any tourists.



Konny gives out fruits and vegetables to people in the DRC.



Konny regularly delivers food to carefully selected families.



The distancing and hygiene rules are adhered to with discipline.

## Maik & Lore Bohm – Kleine Engel

Maik & Lore Bohm support a number of kindergartens in the townships of Swakopmund. They took a large weekly delivery of food to be able to support the children's families. They were able to help over 70 families and individuals.



The "Little Bee" kindergarten also received weekly deliveries of food bags.

## "HappyLand" orphanage

Our cooperation partners Konny von Schmettau and Jens Detmold joined forces to deliver food to the "HappyLand" orphanage in the neighbouring town of Henties Bay. The orphanage is home to children who have no parents, have been abused, or have HIV/AIDS. The food deliveries made sure they still got plenty of nutrients and vitamins during the difficult times.



Everyone is ecstatic to see Jens and Konny arrive with a large delivery of food and toiletries.



The children are curious and take a peek in the bags.



Days like these are rare.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR COOPERATION PARTNERS, YOU'LL FIND ON [WWW.TASHNA.DE](http://WWW.TASHNA.DE)

## Our supporter – Jens Detmold

Jens Detmold not only supports the families in need that he has identified with weekly food deliveries; he also tirelessly helps out wherever help is needed. And last but not least: he gives us the heads up about organisations and institutions and puts us in touch with them. Jens gives people hope and is always a good listener. He demonstrated such dedication and selflessness throughout the whole food parcel campaign – and always had a smile on his face.



Our OPEN DOORS scholar Tulimeke helped Jens with the deliveries.

## Summary

We had the opportunity to really get to know our local partners and have lots of in-depth conversations during our project trip in late 2020. We all agreed on one thing: we must not create long-term dependency. Once the lockdown had ended, the deliveries of basic provisions were gradually reduced, and completely on hold by now. We have seen how important it is to support each other in times of crisis and to move on hand in hand. Now we can turn our focus back to the main aim of our association – the furtherance of education. Still with all the cooperation partners at our side.

## With friendly support



### Crossroads

Thank you for always providing our representative Jens Detmold with a car for the weekly deliveries.



### FOOD LOVER'S MARKET

### Food Lovers Market

Thank you for always quickly taking care of our short notice orders and for giving us a discount on every order.



### ERONGO social services

### Erongo Social Services

Thank you for letting us know which people were in desperate need of assistance and for helping us to identify them.



Jens loads his weekly deliveries into his car.



Some of the families Jens supports live in corrugated iron huts in extreme poverty.



# OPEN DOORS Education Centre (ODEC)

THE EDUCATION CENTRE WILL OPEN IN 2024

We set ourselves the goal to build the OPEN DOORS Education Centre (ODEC) – a lighthouse project to raise the education standard in the underprivileged communities and thereby contribute to their escape from intergenerational absolute poverty.

At ODEC, we will support and accompany children and youth from preschool age to the successful completion of grade 12. The younger ones will be prepared for school in a playful and efficient way, and the older ones will be offered much-needed additional support during their school years. Additional courses for young and old are also designed to provide valuable qualifications for further education or the job market. As a community centre for the whole neighborhood, we want to provide affordable, high-quality education and thus build a brighter future.

### Programmes we offer in the Education Centre:

- » 2 kindergartens
- » Homework help and library
- » Care and education for children without a school place
- » Vegetable garden & environmental education
- » Community and soup kitchen
- » IT Centre
- » Training & sexual education courses
- » Women Empowerment Workshop
- » Community Centre

### Jobs we generate through the Education Centre:

- » 1 Director/Manager of the entire education centre
- » 1 Co-Director & Social Worker
- » 1 Head of Office
- » 2 preschool teachers
- » 1 teacher for children without a school place
- » 1 teacher for homework supervision
- » 1 IT teacher
- » 2 cleaning staff
- » 2 volunteers sent by the German Red Cross in cooperation with BMZ
- » 1-2 security guards (who supervise the centre in shifts when it is closed)
- » 1 janitor on call



Frontside View!



Inside View



View on the playground



View on the courtyard from the first floor



View to the entrance

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR HOMEPAGE. WE ARE ALSO HAPPY TO SEND YOU A BROCHURE IN WHICH WE LINE OUT THE DETAILS OF OUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.



Bird's eye view!

# YouTube-Star Rewinside

We are lucky enough to have the support of one of Germany's most successful YouTubers: Rewinside. He hosts an annual 24-hour charity livestream. It has been a fixed yearly event in the YouTuber's calendar. Over the 24 hours, viewers are offered an entertaining, varied and exciting programme with celebrity guests, where everyone has the opportunity to make a donation of their choice. Thanks to the participation of numerous sponsors, viewers and guests, total donations of around € 150,000 (~ 2,55 Mio. NAD) were raised for projects in Germany and abroad in 2016, 2017 and 2019. Our association was also a grateful recipient of generous support and was able not only to cover overheads but also fund other projects. We set off to Namibia with Rewinside in 2017 so that he could see the School Project with his own eyes.



Rewinside with his dog Arkani, named after a Pokémon.



The aerial photograph shows the soccer pitch on the School Project complex and the soccer match with Rewinside.



The kids mercilessly beat Rewinside at soccer.

**QUICK FACT**  
Sebastian Meyer, aka "Rewinside" or "Rewi" for short, has over 3 million subscribers on YouTube, making him one of Germany's most well-known YouTubers. But Rewinside has not always been a professional YouTuber. He is also a qualified estate agent.

# YouTube-Star Jodie Calussi

Jodie has been our loyal companion since 2016 and together with her community supports us with our association work. We would like to thank her for her many years of friendship and her regular, generous donations. She once pledged to give 20% of the proceeds from her fashion drop "odd" to our association. When she promised us that, she had no idea that her project was sadly doomed. She didn't make any profit, but still decided to donate € 1,000.00 (~ 17,000 NAD) to us and keep her promise. We were very moved by her decision.

Jodie's vision: A life free from borders, hate and social coercion; a life full of love, creativity and colourful diversity. Jodie's greatest wish is to create things which not only secure her rent but also benefit others. We wholeheartedly support her vision. Thank you for also being part of our vision of providing free access to education around the world.



Jodie also accompanied us in 2017 on our trip to Namibia.



YouTuber Jodie and association founder Volkan SaZli were on the edge of their seats at the 24th charity stream 2017 as the donations flow in without interruption.

Jodie Calussi's donation enabled us to install a gate to protect the children and as a sign of our gratitude we dedicated it to Jodie Calussi. The gate was christened the "odd-gate". Thank you very much!



**QUICK FACT**  
Jodie has been giving viewers regular insights into her life on her YouTube channel since 2014. Her stage name: Jodie Calussi. She started out with daily vlogs, giving viewers a sneak peek into her everyday life. She is now more selective in the content she publishes: she regularly takes her community with her when travelling around the world, sharing her thoughts and giving insight into developments and projects she is passionate about. Along with chats with her friends, her channel also hosts some very serious discussions. She launched her fashion label "odd" (pronounced "comma-odd") in September 2017.

# German TV anchor Barbara Hahlweg

Barbara Hahlweg presents a news show on the German TV channel ZDF and has also been a council member of the Heraeus Education Foundation and patron of the McDonald's Children's Foundation. She is passionate about the issues of children, family and education, not only because she is the mother of three daughters but also due to her daily work, where she is confronted with the plights of this planet. Children, unrestricted access to education, and unconditional support for families are the cornerstones for global peace. Volkan Sazli, association founder, has enjoyed the journalist's support since his voluntary service, and so we asked her in 2017 if she could envisage being an honorary member of our association. Barbara Hahlweg did not hesitate and was pleased about the opportunity to support us in guaranteeing free education to children and young people.



Barbara Hahlweg is a German journalist and anchor.

## Interview with Barbara Hahlweg

**Volkan:** As a journalist, you deal with the imbalances in our society on a daily basis. One major hurdle is education. Schools are being closed, do not all have the same standards of equipment, the classrooms are in need of repair. Germany is simply failing to provide fair education to every child, and we do not have enough teachers. Who is suffering, and who is responsible for that?

**Barbara:** Children from non-academic families are quite clearly bearing the brunt, but the teachers suffer too because the burden is simply too great. Political decision-makers are responsible for this suffering because they ought to be making sure that all schools are equally adequately equipped and that there are enough well qualified teachers.

**Volkan:** You are predominantly active in projects you are passionate about in Germany. That shows that social projects are more than necessary even in Germany, a wealthy nation. In 2017 you decided to become an ambassador for our association. How do you decide what to advocate for?

**Barbara:** Well, either the topic appeals to me -

often subjects such as children, education, equality and tolerance - or the people make a lasting impression. Like you, Volkan, with your endearing persistence and your intense positive dedication.

**Volkan:** When do you realise that you reach the limits of what you can do personally as a campaigner? What are the obstacles? What are your hopes?

**Barbara:** I think like everyone, I have to give myself a bit of a kick and overcome my tiredness, my own laziness, sometimes also my own fears, and take time for myself. That isn't always easy. But when I do manage it, the inner satisfaction is huge. And that is also my great source of hope: that even more people experience how rewarding it can be to dedicate yourself to others.

**Volkan:** Your favourite quotation?

**Barbara:** Beppo, the streetsweeper from the film "Momo", says "We mustn't look ahead to see what still has to be done, but rather look into the past and be pleased about everything we have already achieved."

# Ex-FIFA referee Urs Meier



Urs Meier looks back on an exciting career. But he never forgets to look beyond his own horizons and take note of the darker sides of the country which hosted him professionally. He has been involved with the NGO "Kindernothilfe" ("children's charity") for many years. Urs was very interested to hear from association founder Volkan Sazli about his volunteer service and his work in Namibia and sent him encouraging and motivational messages from time to time. Many years ago, Urs shared a little nugget of wisdom with Volkan. "Visions without actions are dreams. Actions without visions are wasted time. Visions and deeds together can change the world."



Urs Meier with the NGO "Kindernothilfe" in South Africa.

## QUICK FACT

Urs Meier worked as a FIFA referee until December 2004. Over his 27 year career he had refereed 883 matches. Urs Meier was awarded the Swiss "Referee of the Year" prize six times in a row from 1995 to 2000, and a seventh time in 2004. He started working as a soccer expert for the German Television in 2005.

## Interview with Urs Meier

**Volkan:** You were in South Africa in 2010. For four weeks, the whole world was focussed on that country every day. But these global

events are only temporary, and the old problems remain. But did the World Cup in South Africa in 2010 perhaps still cause international organisations to look at issues like AIDS orphans, because they were made aware of them by reports during the World Cup? What is your feeling? Did the World Cup manage to make a lasting impression at a societal level?

**Urs:** The problem is always the same with these large events: the world turns the spotlight on them during that period, governments and associations make sure that everything looks wonderful, clean and TV-friendly. For instance, street children were rounded up and driven to the border, that is to say as far away from the stadiums as possible, and left there, because the authorities knew that they would not make it back before the end of the World Cup. That is how they 'solved' that problem. It was as if nothing had ever

changed after the World Cup - the old problems resurfaced. Because one or other organisation did nevertheless decide to provide local help because of this large event, it is possible that some of that help is still being given. "My" organisation, Kindernothilfe, was already active there beforehand, and still is. That is what I call sustainability.

**Volkan:** You are active in a number of projects. Problems such as poverty, disease and suffering are often not reduced. And you are regularly confronted by new challenges. How do you maintain faith that everything can eventually get better? What are your hopes? What motivates you?

**Urs:** Every bit of help, every person who benefits from that, gives me hope. If we lose that faith, we will lose ourselves.

**Volkan:** What is your favourite quotation?

**Urs:** You already know it. My motto for life has not changed: "Visions without actions are dreams. Actions without visions are wasted time. Visions and deeds together can change the world."

More information on: [www.tashna.de](http://www.tashna.de)

# Our ambassador Eric Sell, aka EES

EES is a German-Namibian musician and music producer. He mixes a number of styles and genres including Kwaito, African House, Afro Pop and Afro Reggae, which he calls "NAM Flava Music" (Namibian influenced music). You can clearly hear the influence of Afrikaans, English and German in his lyrics.

EES has been active as a musician and producer since 2001. He completed his sound engineering qualifications in South Africa in 2003. EES moved to Germany in 2004 to further his career and make Namibia and modern Namibian music more well-known in the German-speaking world. Young Namibians are particular fans of his songs, not least because of the typical German-Namibian language he uses.

EES is not only a musician; he also has his own fashion label, his own energy drink called "WUMA", and his own spice mix called "Nam Flava Spice".



EES was born in Namibia in 1983 and lives between two worlds: Namibia and Germany.

## Interview with EES

**Volkan:** You have used your talents and are now internationally successful. Can everyone from Namibia do that or are there a lot of undiscovered talents because nobody has given them an opportunity?

**EES:** Oh, there are so many talented people in Namibia - I'm talking specifically about music and dance here - who I have seen and experienced myself. I think it is a little unfair to say that they are not given a chance, because there are no boundaries to what you can do nowadays with a simple smartphone and the internet. But because almost everyone has a smartphone and internet nowadays, you have to REALLY hone your talents to be better than the average. Unfortunately, I have noticed that a lot of extremely talented people are also just happy to have a little bit of popularity in Namibia alone and only put in as much effort as is needed to achieve that. Not everyone is prepared to put in the extra work to also become internationally popular.

**Volkan:** What would you do to make sure that every child in Namibia has a chance to make their dream come true? Or: what would you say to a teenager who is trying to make their dream come true?

**EES:** Personally, I would start with motivational coaching, because I've noticed that is often lacking. Inferiority complexes are very widespread, especially in the townships. I would try to teach people that EVERYONE can make it if they have the right attitude. Of course, that path will be a little longer and more difficult for some people if they are starting from further down, but I am convinced: everyone can achieve great things with the right work ethic and consistency. But as I see it, a lot of people often lack the right "go-getter" attitude, because it is often not passed on to kids by their parents or peers. I often have reservations about charity organisations which only provide material things, and nothing intellectual. Because in the long run we need to make sure

## More about EES

What Justin Bieber or Katy Perry are to the United States of America, EES is to Namibia. He is one of the country's biggest stars. He not only combines different musical styles; his music also reflects Namibia's cultural diversity. EES - whose actual name is Eric Sell - was indeed born and bred in the Namibian capital, Windhoek, but now lives in Bonn, Germany.

Some people may find his musical style a little rough around the edges. But if you take a closer look, the rooibos tea drinker EES is a thoroughly fine gentleman. His blue VW camper is known all across Namibia. He is now no longer just a musician but a cultural heavyweight and businessman. He designs fashion and lifestyle products which are absolute hits on the market. EES usually raps in German and along with Gazza and The Dogg is one of the most famous Namibian musicians. Concerts at the Summerjam Festival in Cologne in 2013 and during the football World Cup in South Africa in 2010 gave him even more popularity. He now tours through Germany and is a regular guest on TV shows.

EES loves keeping in touch with friends, acquaintances and fans, and is a truly down-to-earth star. Someone who tries to fulfil other people's wishes. But he also often needs time to recharge his batteries and get some peace and quiet. After a long day, he often sits down on the living room floor, closes all the windows, switches off all the lights and watches a film. He turns his smartphone off for a good while several times a week, just to power down. But when we got in touch to ask him if he would like to be an ambassador for our association, he didn't hesitate. Thank you, EES, for joining us.



In 2018, EES and his band won the music casting show "X Factor" in Germany.

that people are self-sufficient, otherwise we won't find a fast solution to poverty!

**Volkan:** A lot of young Namibians get in touch with you. What do you think are the main worries for young Namibians?

**EES:** Oh yeah, lots. I get a lot of requests every week about signing new talents to my label. Everyone is looking for a fast track to the top. But I often take the time to reply to these young people and musicians and explain that there is no fast track to the top, and that if there is a fast track to the top, it could very easily turn into a fast track to the bottom the next day. I explain to them that it also took me 20 years - without backing from a label. I often give them a lot of motivation in our chats.

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# How was your year?

The DRC School Project & Community Centre enjoys the support of 2 volunteers each year. We as an association benefit just as much from the close cooperation with the senders volunteers. We asked volunteers who have been sent since the programme began the following question and would like to share at least one volunteer's answers from each year with our readers.

WHAT MADE YOUR VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN THE DRC SCHOOL PROJECT & COMMUNITY UN-FORGETTABLE AND UNIQUE AND HOW COULD YOU AND THE PEOPLE ONSITE PROFIT FROM IT?



Period 2014/2015  
Malina John

"A year in Namibia and in the DRC School Project taught me a whole bunge of important things, including: "There is always a plan B." If something doesn't work one way, you just try it another way and eventually you'll find a path that leads to the goal. But the most important things that I took away from that year have made an impression on me deep down and are difficult to put into words. They are based on such valuable experiences and encounters with unique people, and I am still grateful for them today."

"When colleagues become friends and this friendship stays strong over many years and 8,000 km - that's the essence of my volunteer service. I am very grateful to have become part of a community, to have got to know inspiring personalities, to have had so much fun with the children and other people and made the very most of my time there. I learned to question my European upbringing, and to be more optimistic and open to new things. weltwärts guided me into my professional life, but also into volunteering and I am so pleased to still be able support the project and the community beyond my time there as a volunteer."



Period 2015/2016  
Theresa Rhode



Period 2016/2017  
Franca Sailer

"The most special thing about my volunteer service was that I learned so many new things and changed my way of thinking. I gained awareness for things like racism in everyday life. The DRC Project gave me insight into life in Namibia. I also enjoyed working with children because they have a different perspective on the world to adults. The children had just as much fun as I did in our joint activities and excursions. The children now have access to more children's books and schoolbooks thanks to the extension of the project library that we worked on together with the teachers."

"We forged such strong bonds with the kids over time, they really have a place in our hearts. At the same time, it was great to see how they grew to accept and trust us more and more. The project is a key part of their lives and a place where they feel safe. We will never forget our colleagues, either. We chatted to them often, did all sorts of activities and excursions with them, and they always supported us. Along with the great responsibility we had for the children, our work was also unique because of the creative possibilities we had in everyday activities and other initiatives. We were faced with challenges in lots of areas that helped us to grow and learn new things. The volunteer service also gave us insight into the realities of life in Swakopmund and the DRC. At the same time, we were able to contribute to enriching some children's daily lives and supporting them. It was a wonderful, striking experience that we are incredibly thankful for!"



Period 2017/2018  
Carolin & Veronica Koess



Period 2018/2019  
Kira Harting

"The children and colleagues who I spent almost every day with during my volunteer service in the DRC School Project & Community Centre made the most lasting impression on me. They showed me that together you can achieve so much and that you should always follow your dreams. It was always an unforgettable experience if an excursion was planned and you saw the children waiting outside the project, full of excitement. They showed me so much gratitude and openness that I had never experienced in that way before. It was such an incredibly enriching experience for me. Being able to do my volunteer service in the DRC School Project & Community Centre was definitely one of the best decisions I've ever made."

# Lore Bohm with "Kleine Engel" (Little Angels)

Aged 60 and having dedicated her life to educating following generations, the former secondary school teacher Lore Bohm made her dream come true and emigrated to Namibia. She "discovered" the DRC Township by chance, where she first saw the darker sides of Namibia. Lore became aware of a small pre-school, a wooden hut where a young woman took care of 5 children. As a response to seeing such poverty, she first launched an aid campaign in her own friendship group, and over time that evolved into the "Kleine Engel" project. The "Little Angels" now run a number of pre-schools and kindergartens in the DRC and take care of equipment, meals and later enrolling the children in the care in schools.



Children have always been a matter of heart for her.

# Konny von Schmettau - Namibia Aktiv & Safaris - Tours for Charity

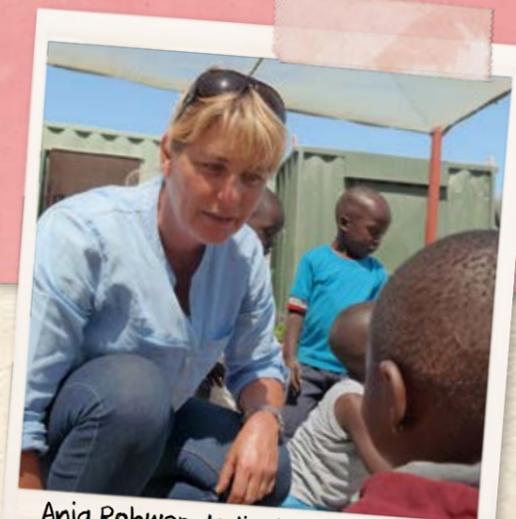
Konny's story is anything but boring and says a lot about her personality. Her strong will and determination, her penchant for adventure, but also her ability to admit and accept weaknesses and always get back up and persevere. Konny already knew when she was 9 years old that she would become a journalist and live in Africa. That is precisely what she has now achieved, and she owns a travel company. Konny is passionate about the people around her and is always ready to stand up for what she cares about. She supports pre-schools, kindergartens, soup kitchens, schools and student homes with donations. However, her focus is on single mothers and their children who she quickly and unbureaucratically provides with school fees, teaching materials and medical aid in emergencies. A percentage of the proceeds of each holiday booked through her company and every book she sells goes to people in need.



Konny von Schmettau is selfless where children are concerned.

# Anja Rohwer - Helping Hands

Good education is essential in finding a way out of poverty. That is why Anja Rohwer's "Katutura Projects" sponsor an orphanage and a number of pre-schools which prepare children for their schooling. But education does not keep hunger at bay. Hunger and malnutrition are a serious problem in Namibia's townships. That is why "Katutura Projects" also runs soup kitchens which provide regular, healthy meals. Another focus of her work is on helping people to help themselves, especially single women. Various projects help the women to learn and produce arts and crafts which are then sold in selected shops. The proceeds go back to the women, thereby giving them an opportunity to earn a regular income.



Anja Rohwer dedicates her whole life to the children in the townships.

# Hands of Hope Foundation Namibia

Everybody can fall on hard times, and everyone also deserves a helping hand to get them back on their feet. Hands of Hope does precisely that, working together with existing social facilities to identify and support those families hit the hardest: single mothers, older people with no family anymore, and people with malnutrition, diseases or a disability. Their head office is in Swakopmund, but in-keeping with their philosophy they work all across Namibia. They carry out various projects, addressing individual problems and needs.



We maintain relations with cooperation partners and also roll our sleeves up.

# Creabuntu

Elke Reinauer is not only a trained actress and author, but also the founder of the Namibia-based "Creabuntu" association. When she got in touch with us, we were impressed by her mission in life and her life project of giving children and teenagers the opportunity to develop abilities such as self-confidence, creativity, integrity, discipline, empathy and courage through art and theatre - to become a strong personality and make a change. Creabuntu is an afternoon activity in the Katutura township in the capital Windhoek.

## The goal

Creabuntu aims to create a space in Katutura where children and teenagers have the opportunity to extend their own horizons and discover entirely new abilities - in themselves and in others. The project name reflects this aspect, too: "Creation" is a source of great power. Creabuntu offers drama and music classes, homework supervision, and lunches.

More information is available at [www.creabuntu.de](http://www.creabuntu.de)



Elke regularly gives workshops and acting classes.



### DONATIONS

Elke Reinauer appreciates any donations, which can be made to our association's account.

Please note "Creabuntu" as the purpose of transfer. We pass on all donations in full. Thank you very much!



Elke in action.



The kids are full of ambition at Elke's workshops.

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# Join in & be a part of it!

We want to continue our commitment to children and teenagers in Namibia and ensure their access to education. Financial support is essential to achieve those goals and master these challenges.

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## Donations on special occasions:

There are so many special occasions: your own birthday, an anniversary, a wedding, a child's birth, or a sporting challenge. By turning your hobby, personal abilities, creativity or a special occasion into a fundraising campaign, you can also do something good for others at the same time. Every person, club or school class can become a fundraiser.

Please enter your name and address in the payment reason if you would like a donation receipt. The donation receipt will be sent within 4 weeks of receipt of the donation.



Steffen Neupert also used his running challenge to support us. Thank you for running 250 km for a good cause and collecting € 1,600.00 (~ 27,000 NAD) in donations. Anybody else fancy doing a Tangeni run?



## MEMBERSHIP

Fill out the MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & provide long-term support: [www.tashna.de](http://www.tashna.de)

## ADVERTISING

If you would like to mention our association in a presentation or advertise for our cause, please get in touch so that we can send you advertising materials.

## SCHOOLS

Communication with young people is key to us. We want to share stories, information and experiences. We are always pleased to hear from headteachers, teachers and pupils.

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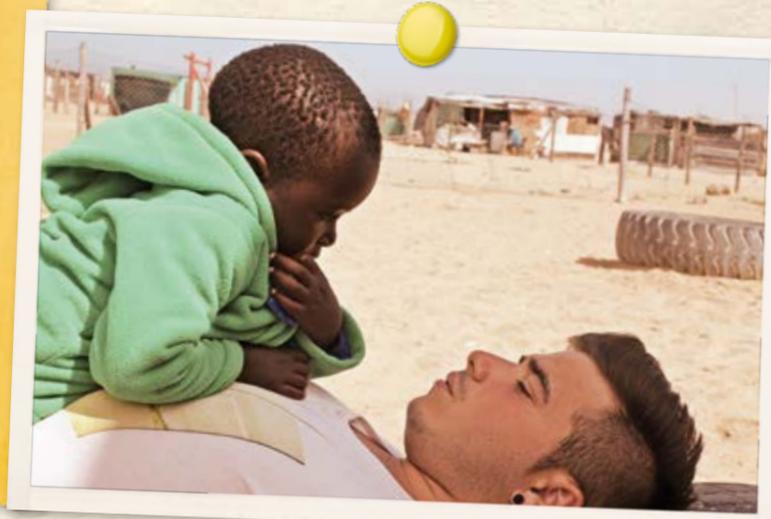
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A picture is worth a thousand words.

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