

October 2017

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Dear donors, dear members!

We are facing a crisis – the refugee crisis. In fact it is the refugees who are facing it, but the industrial states in the western world consider the people from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa who are seeking protection to be their own crisis.

The pipe will burst

The wealthy countries might be able to do more for the refugees, but to absorb them all is neither possible nor a final solution. At the moment escape routes are blocked, fences are built and doubtful agreements with dictators are made so that the refugees are held back in other countries. But a pipe which is blocked up at the end will burst further back. Therefore there is only one solution which is based on the reasons for the migration. Peace, fair trade agreements, constructive development work and honest governments should be the political aims for the next years. Whether this is in the interest of the politicians, who often think in short terms, must unfortunately be doubted.

Nicole Delavy
Managing Director IPA

Tawonana Shaba, North Malawi / Zurich, Switzerland

Rollercoaster of emotions

In Tawonana Shaba people had to drink water from a river which flows – 15 kilometres away – through a town that has no sewage plant. Thanks to a group of students at the Free Evangelical School in Zurich they have at long last access to clean water.



The situation before the project was started

It was a shocking sight. Women were standing in the river, skimmed off the worst dirt and mud, and then filled their buckets with water for their families. Then they made their way back to the village: often barefoot on stony paths they carried the dirty water home. They knew that not only their children might fall ill, but that there was no alternative. Years ago some trucks had arrived, but shortly before the building of a well was started, they disappeared again. The well

the people of Tawonana Shaba had been promised was built somewhere else.



A roleplay helps to understand the problems better

The students at the Free Evangelical School (FES) could not forget the photographs they had been shown. When they were allowed to choose a project they wanted to support in their project work lessons they quickly decided to help this scattered village north-west of Mzuzu. But working on the project was hard for the youngsters. The challenges of a planning phase for secondary school students should not be underestimated. „Is one well big enough to provide water for so many people?“ a girl asked, she was right, she had seen the risk of overuse. That was no reason to give up. They simply planned to build two wells in two different places in the village and hoped to be supported by a foundation.



The moment of relief

Tears and cries of joy

Their plan worked. One of the two wells could be financed through private contacts, small fundraising events and thanks to the help of their school. For the other well, they were supported by the foundation Snow Dreams for Africa.

When IPA representatives spread the good news in the village, people clapped their hands with enthusiasm. But then, when work on the first well was started, a difficult



The supervision committees are being trained

time began. At first they were full of hope, later deeply disappointed, but in the end unspeakably relieved. On both sites, which are about twenty minutes on foot away from each other, the specialists had to overcome serious difficulties and setbacks. A drilling hole collapsed and another remained dry. When the trucks could not get to the second site, the villagers had a sense of déjà-vu. Weeping women and shouting men could not prevent them from turning around. But the people of Tawonana Shaba were desperate to have these two wells. Therefore a solution had to be found and they were willing to invest a lot of work to find it. As the trucks could not get to the building site, the whole village helped to make the street wider!



Progress in the village – not only for the women

And so, the trucks returned. The specialists started drilling again, water suddenly shot up and the joy of the villagers knew no limits. At that moment they forgot all their fears, doubts and sorrows. Today there are two wells in the village which provide water for 2,800 people. Each of them is supervised by a carefully trained committee. Cases of serious diarrhoea are now very rare. Part of the work load has been taken off the women and the children arrive at school on time and with a bottle of clean water. The students at FES have freed a whole village from its most painful misery.

**Mawuyanazo Zgambo, North Malawi /
Wohlen, Switzerland**

Goodbye watering cans!

The farmers in Mawuyanazo Zgambo felt lost, their everyday life was dominated by malnutrition and destitution. A class at the high school in Wohlen freed the village from these sorrows.



Earlier irrigation was only possible with watering cans

Everybody burst out laughing when the IPA visitors tried to pronounce the name of their village. But they were grateful that at last a potential helper had found his way to their area. 30 men and women had formed a group in order to cultivate 7.5 hectares of land. Like everywhere else in the region some preconditions for successful farming were fulfilled, and yet there was no chance of escaping this life in poverty. „We only farm 1.5 hectares, we can not water more with our watering cans“, that is how the leader of the group explained one of the main problems. Also, they did not have enough knowledge and start up capital.



Barbecue day at the high school in Wohlen

When IPA visited the village a second time the women were dancing with joy. In the meantime a class of students at the high school in Wohlen had been dealing with the matter during their project work lessons. Their planning was based on the good experiences IPA had already made with a similar project in Zigodo. Although it was not possible - as some of them had hoped - to organise a big party at the casino in Wohlen, they spared no effort for a barbecue day at their school. The event turned into an occasion for everybody. Sausages, salads and soft ice, accompanied by live music – and all this on a beautiful day. The lunchbreak at the high school became a little feast that brightened up the day. Thanks to further events and a fundraising letter campaign, the budget could be secured. Help for Mawuyanazo Zgambo was on its way.



New irrigation technologies in the project

Hardworking specialists

For the education of the farmers, two specialists were employed who did a great job under very difficult circumstances. First of all they did not find any accommodation in the

village, so they had to ride their bikes for three hours every day. When they later found a shack in the neighbouring village where they could stay, they had to live under very primitive conditions. All in all they ran eight training courses dealing with different aspects of farming, not an easy task if you consider the fact that their trainees were all illiterate. Every day they spent their time with the group in the fields. For six months



Exemplary work of the specialists in the vegetable fields

they showed, explained, demonstrated, helped and corrected. Together with the financial means for the irrigation, the seeds and the tools this was vital. During the first season the group, which meanwhile had grown to 61 people, produced nearly ten tons of maize, potatoes and vegetables. „The project has changed the region“, the group members said. It is a well known fact that long term vision is only possible when the biggest problems have been solved. One family spent their profit on the purchase of a goat, another bought four chickens. The group has enough seeds and is ready and fully motivated for the next sowing season. The fact that students from Switzerland have made this possible fits perfectly in with the concept of IPA.

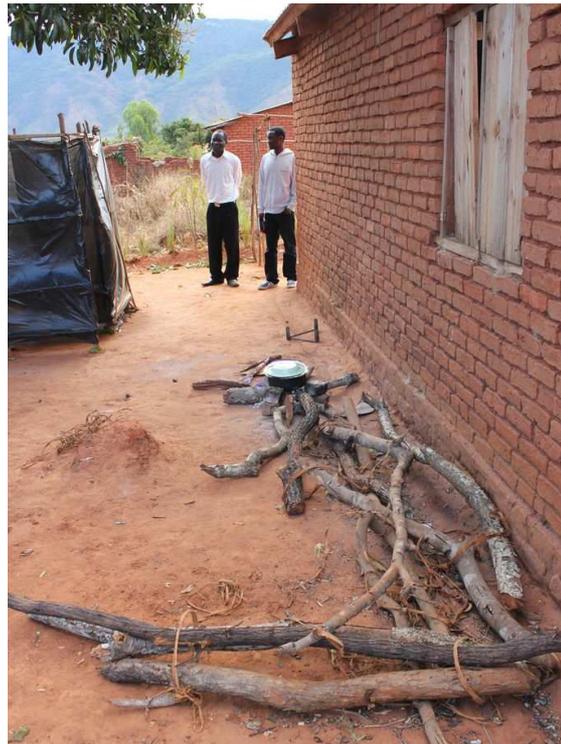


Satisfied with the results: The leader of the group

Nkhomola, North Malawi / Zurich, Switzerland

A new beginning at the girls' boarding school

A class at Enge high school in Zurich decided to give some girls in Malawi the possibility to attend a secondary school. It was the biggest IPA project in that country so far.



Before: the girls' accommodation, with "kitchen" and lavatory

They had taken so much upon themselves. The girls lived under diastrous conditions, in dilapidated huts not far from the secondary school in Nkhomola. They slept on the floor, suffered from hunger and were constantly in fear of drunken men who were sneaking around their dwellings. Their kitchens were outside, behind the huts consisting of some wood and a pot. The latrines and washing facilities – a horror. The girls were only between 15 and 18 years old and they were desperate to attend one of the few secondary schools. But the CDSS (Community Day Secondary School) in Nkhomola had no canteen and the building itself had been uninhabitable for a long time. A life in security and the possibility to concentrate on their studies was no more than a dream.

Commitment even outside school



Successful work at Enge high school in Zurich

In summer 2014, during their project work course at Enge high school in Zurich, several girls decided to work together. It is difficult to imagine two worlds which could be more different from each other for girls of this age. Here the completely and perfectly equipped high school, there poverty and danger which determined school life. The group in Zurich had long discussions. For some members the project of a medical station seemed also attractive, mainly because it was not so big. But finally they agreed to take the risk and planned several part-projects for the rebuilding of the girls' boarding school in Nkhomola. The budget, however, shocked even the most unshakable optimists. The project was



The renovated and extended boarding school

carefully planned and described in detail, and the commitment of the girls was widely acknowledged. The Botnar Foundation did them a big favour: thanks to their extremely generous donation the venture was now within reach. The foundation Kinderhilfe (help for children) of the Swissair personnel invited two students to give them a power-point presentation. „It was nice to experi-

ence so much goodwill“, Tabea Brönimann said afterwards. The term was now over and the project work course finished, but the girls' motivation was still very strong. Even in their free time they organised further events and activities.



Beaming with joy and grateful for the help

It was worth it. Today the boarding school is in operation and the girls are safe. There are places for 72 students and there is a kitchen, a canteen and proper toilets. A matron is responsible for „law and order“, a cook for the preparation of meals and a guard for safety. „The matron is rather strict“, the girls say, „but we are glad. You know, don't you, how we lived before.“ This situation will not be forgotten and it will never come back. The boarding school is financially self-supporting and, thanks to the cooperation with CAMFED (Campain for female education) it will be fully booked next year. This organisation pays the school fees for over 60 girls and so complements the scheme of the project work course in Switzerland perfectly.



Applause in the canteen – for IPA and the sponsors

The Interview

Inspired by the IPA juniors

For many years you have been completing building projects for IPA in South Albania. What has changed during that time?

Shortly after the end of the communist area I founded my own building firm. At the beginning everything went well because there was a big need to catch up in Albania. In the meantime it has become very difficult to get any orders. Fortunately there is IPA. It is mainly thanks to that organisation that I can still keep my firm going. Compared to other building firms I am privileged.

In what way is an IPA project different from other orders? Do you tackle an IPA project differently?

The difference is immense. It is very rare that you find a project partner in Albania who is so sincere and correct. I also appreciate the calm cooperation and the competence in the various fields. Everything is planned in detail. Other projects are often not completely financed when our work starts. You have to advance money and risk never to see it again. It is a big chance for me to be allowed to work together with IPA and during this time I have learnt a lot about smooth cooperation. That is why I approach an IPA project in a different way. I have to be much better organised and more careful than when I work with other partners. I give my best to guarantee good quality and punctuality in the completion of the project. I also enjoy my work more because I can rely completely on IPA.

You renovate a lot of buildings on behalf of the IPA juniors. What do you think of the Swiss youngsters?

I am deeply impressed by them. For me they are heroes. You would never find such young people in our country. This benevolence and all this volunteer work leave their

unforgettable mark in our region. The juniors are an example which our youth should follow. For me receiving an order from them is an additional motivation to work even more precisely and responsibly. They are an inspiration.

You have repeatedly made additional contributions at your own cost. Why does a building contractor do this?

I enjoy doing this because I see that the juniors make an extraordinary and unselfish effort. I am pleased to make my own contribution whenever it is possible.



Delo Banushi, 60, lives in Gjirokastër and is the father of three children. He studied in Tirana and has been working in the building industry for the last 37 years. His firm has already built many schools and roads etc. He cooperates with both private and public clients. Since 2001 he has completed projects for IPA and the IPA juniors.

Preview of forthcoming IPA projects

Vorë, North Albania.

What shall be done with clothes that cannot be sold? Use the material to make clothes for children! The idea helps seamstresses



who are unemployed. By selling these children's clothes the workshop hopes to become self-supporting.

Mtonya, North Malawi.

The women of this village get water from a river with a dubious colour and the health of the population is accordingly poor. A hydrological expertise has helped to find a place in Mtonya where specialists can drill for water.



A class at the Free Evangelical School in Zurich has collected enough money to build a drinking-water well.

Bulqizë, North Albania.

A hospital in this remote area is a rare sight indeed. The hospital has an operating theatre, but no life-saving operations can be performed. The cooperation with IPA in summer 2017 promises a better future.



IPA in a few words

- Swiss organisation for development co-operation with a branch in Beaconsfield, UK. Bulletin of ZEWO and supported by DEZA (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)
- Founded in 1994, since 2001 known and active under the name IPA (International Project Aid)
- Engaged in transitioning and developing countries with focus on learning and education
- IPA offers help for self-help, e.g. through projects in the fields of food production and water supply as well as the issuance of micro 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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