

January 2021

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Dear donors,
dear members!

At the moment the world is in a troubled state. It is a world often ruled by unscrupulous politicians, driven by hatred and unrest. Violence, misery and destruction are part of our everyday life. I do not want to conjure up “the good old days”, but in my opinion many people today do not care about the essential values any more – for example respect, decency or tolerance. Children and young adults grow up in this world, very often without guidelines, without a moral compass. What will eventually happen to them?

A moral compass for young adults

Many of them suffer from a lack of direction. They miss the security which protects them from psychological problems that makes them believe in a promising future. Here and there IPA can help to find and strengthen a secure basis which is so important. In groups with like-minded others in the junior team, in project courses or by doing environmental work they realise which values are important to them and that they can turn their lives in a positive direction. In various areas of life, they can then readjust their compass and look more confidently into the future.



Nicole Delavy
Managing Director IPA

Turan, South Albania

Deprived of the highlight!

A big project – and Corona. However, a strong-willed junior team did not want to give up and finally helped not only Turan, but also the hospital in Bulqizë.

October 2019, six young adults were in Albania. In the small mountain village of Turan they encountered the face of poverty. The mood is gloomy, this is not a jolly school trip. Old stone houses surrounded by small gardens and a few animals showed them that



The ruin: elementary school and kindergarten

here people were trying to survive and be self-sufficient under extremely difficult conditions. They were even more shocked when they were standing inside the school build-



ing. “It is even harder to bear when you are face-to-face with the schoolchildren”, said Leonie. The mayor of Tepelenë called the building a ruin and the visitors fully agreed with him. Half of the roof had collapsed and only two classrooms were safe enough to teach in. There was not a single toilet the children could use. “In winter the situation is almost unbearable”, one of the teachers

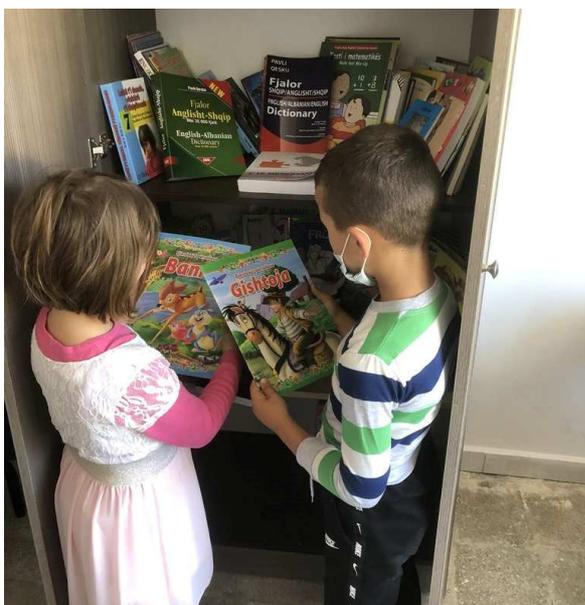


The renovated school building

summed up the situation. “We have been waiting for help for many years.” Her frustration also referred to the IPA juniors. Two teams had visited Turan before, but neither of them had chosen the village as their project.

A lot of help, but finally a big disappointment

But this team did and they tackled the problem from scratch. For them twelve sub-projects for the school were not enough. They also wanted to renovate, refurbish and



In addition to the normal furnishings in Albania: the small, but very popular library

equip the empty First Aid Station. It was an ambitious goal, but they had plenty of ideas how to achieve it. After a thorough planning

period, the well-coordinated team began to raise funds. A piano concert combined with a brunch, trial lessons in yoga and movement and presentations during church services were planned. But Corona spoilt everything. Even a meeting with members of a



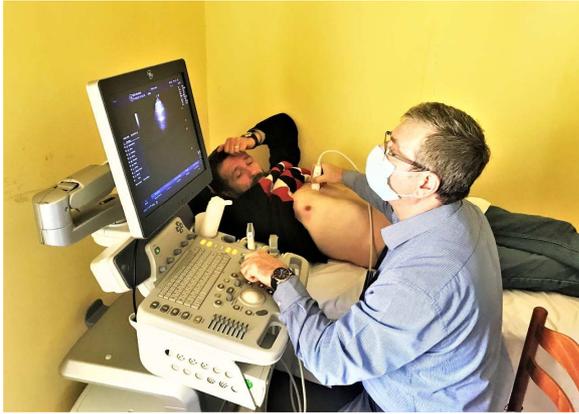
October 2019, before the start of the project: juniors with the male nurse and the IPA partner

foundation which had enabled the collaboration with the youngsters had to be changed into a video conference. The team was extremely disappointed, but despite the new situation they received a lot of donations from private people and institutions. And so, the craftsmen in Albania were able to complete all the sub-projects. The roof was rebuilt and there is electricity, water and toilets now, all in working order. Even the First Aid Station was finally put into operation. The



Here patients can now be looked after

two most important facilities had now been reinstated in the village. Children returned from faraway schools, three families who had emigrated returned and four others have given up their plan to leave the village. As there was still some money left the youngsters decided to support the hospital in Bulqizë as well. They were able to buy an ultrasound scanner, renewed the equipment of the paediatric ward and refurbished the kitchen.



The ultrasound in the hospital of Bulqizë

It was a big success for the students, but it was soon followed by a setback. Because of the Corona pandemic it was not possible for them to travel to Albania to see the result of their work. “I am extremely sorry”, Nicole Delavy, the leader of the junior team said. “The group was deprived of the highlight and the reward for their outstanding work. A vital element of our cooperation with young people is therefore missing.” But perhaps they can visit in the future - IPA cannot promise anything, but have already made many things possible.

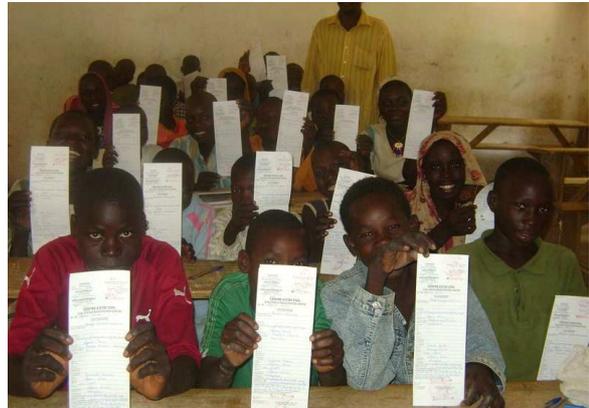
Waza-Logone Plain, North Cameroon

Initiation and own initiative

Ten years ago, IPA launched a project to obtain birth certificates in North Cameroon. The beneficiaries have continued this project ever since.

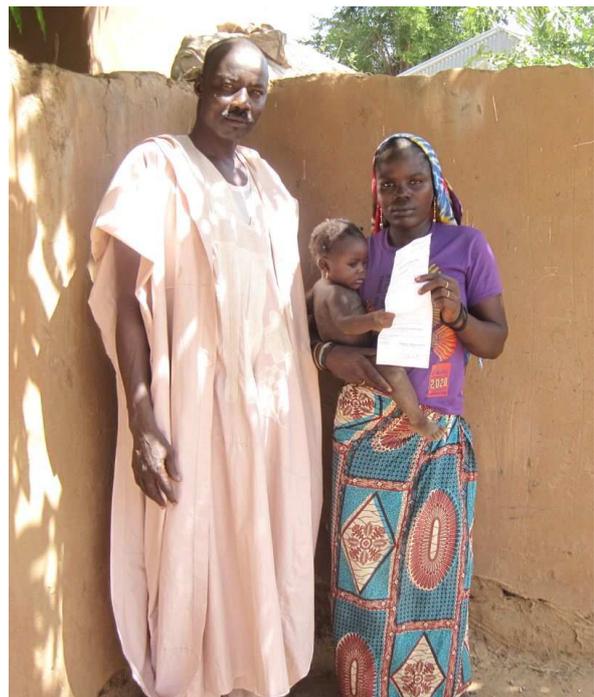
“95% of the children in this region have no birth certificate”, our local partner Aboukar Mahamat described the problem at the time. It was only after an explanation that the IPA representatives fully understood what this meant for the children. If they wanted to continue going to school after six years at primary school, they had to present this document. Those who could not were excluded and remained on a low level of education which would lead to hunger and poverty in the future. In innumerable remote villages many parents never had their newborn babies registered and therefore unknowingly denied them a good education. The nearest civil registry office was too far away and the families were burdened with other worries. A belated entry of the child’s personal data in court would have incurred

impossibly high costs and a lot of time and effort. Therefore, in 2010, IPA started a project in Ngodeni, a region with 11,200 inhabitants, to have birth certificates issued. The



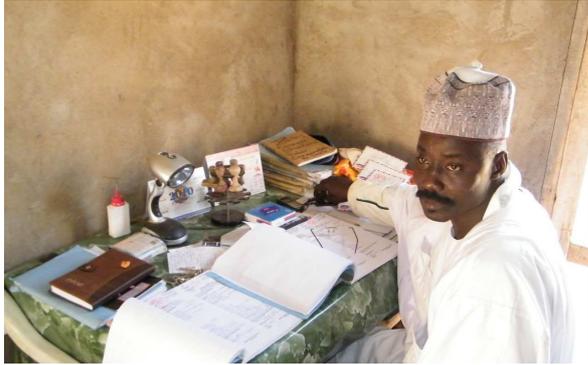
In 2010 the first certificates were issued and the children beam with joy

project was meant to be a startup and later on the authorities in Ngodeni were expected to find their own ways and means to register the newborns.



Today they receive it already as a baby

„Since then there hasn’t been a baby without a birth certificate“, Aboukar Mahamet tells us. Each chief of the 29 villages has a few forms. After a birth a little ceremony is organised at which the name of the newborn is announced. Somebody who is able to read and write fills in the form and the village chief makes sure that it will be sent to the civil registry office within 2 weeks. The family pays about 65 pence, which doesn’t



He is the one who has been making it possible for the last ten years: the registrar in Ngodeni

cover all the expenses, but the village community shows solidarity. In Ngodeni, every year, fish farmed from a pond are sold and the profit is used to pay for the forms and birth certificates.

Copied by other regions

In 2010 IPA had been able to register 1,200 children. Since then another 1,350 received a certificate in Ngodeni and at least 900 are carrying on with their schooling. Many of



Heading for secondary school – thanks to the certificate

them would like to change to a secondary school as soon as possible, but there isn't one yet. Therefore a new school will be built in Ngodeni in 2021. By now people have realised how important birth certificates are in order to get a good education. In the regions of Hinalé, Guirvidig, Maga, Lahaï and Pouss the system has therefore been extended. The same is true for the village of Méwi, where IPA built a new primary school. Tens of thousands of newborns will receive their birth certificates during the next years. Families from other areas moved temporarily to Ngodeni to get a birth certificate for

their children. "Some families even migrate from Chad to North Cameroon only because of this document", IPA partner Mahamat found out. A lot of initiative has changed the prospects for thousands of children. Development cooperation can indeed be worthwhile.

Mzuzu, North Malawi

Going to school in a stable

Unbelievable conditions in a big school in Mzuzu: Children are sitting on the ground in a dilapidated stable in one of the biggest towns. IPA managed to help with a two-phase project.

As usual, the request for help came through a local IPA partner. The place: Mzuzu. Mzuzu is the third largest town in the country with 220,000 inhabitants. Here a school



A stable rather than a school building

could not possibly look like those in remote villages! In 2016, sceptical IPA representa-



Year 6 in their new classroom

tives, visited the Chibanja Primary School for the first time. When they drove into the school car park their preconceived opinion

seemed to prove true. They first saw two unfinished, unfurnished buildings, but built with clay bricks and a tin roof. But then came the shock. There were two buildings which looked like stables. Inside there were

means IPA had available. Such moments make a beginning and a first improvement essential, in order to send out a signal of intent. So, a new building was planned with two classrooms, an office and a room to



Before the start of the project: unbearable conditions for the children

six classrooms and a tiny office for the director, all of them without a proper floor. Hundreds of children were sitting on the damp ground, shivering with cold. Using cardboard and old jute bags, the teachers had tried to protect the children from the icy wind that was blowing through the wide

store books. But at the beginning the implementation was difficult. The new partner organisation was not able to fulfil the standards regarding the quality of the construction or of the project management set by IPA. The cooperation had to be stopped. In July 2019 an inspection in situ and a discussion about the situation took place with an approved partner who took over and completed the project successfully. Two classes now have a proper classroom. The funds to pay for this first part came from Swiss donors. Then money for the second part was



Variation in lessons thanks to wall charts

cracks between the timber planks. There was no furniture inside and there was not a single book. Despite this, the number of schoolchildren increased steadily in this slum quarter. Every year another 100 children arrived to be taught. In September 2019 there were already 1,050.

Support from Switzerland and England

Six new classrooms, a staffroom, furniture for all the ten rooms, books, teaching materials, toilets etc. - the list of urgent needs was long, far too long for the financial



Phase 2: handover of the school materials outside the IPA building

raised in England. This fundraising for books and teaching materials was extremely successful and hundreds of textbooks and thousands of notebooks were bought as well as maps, wall charts, globes, pocket calculators and even a megaphone. For a lot of children and their teachers school lessons now seem to be real for the first time.

The Interview

“IPA works thoroughly and meticulously”

Mr. Wehrli, have you noticed any changes in your cooperation with IPA during the last 17 years?

No, not really. Our relationship has always been very professional and aim-oriented and there is a great deal of humanity regarding the contact with the students. The expertise and the positive attitude towards the youngsters have not changed at all. The students benefit enormously from this and from the experience too.

In autumn 2019 you travelled to Albania together with the junior team. What experiences did you make in that country?

Very positive ones. People are hospitable and helpful. The country still needs a lot of support. I was amazed to see this is still needed in Europe today. It felt like stepping into a different world. However, based on the history of Albania and because of the corruption, it explains a lot. I became aware of many historical facts and aspects. When you look at the projects you realise that IPA chooses them purposefully and that they work thoroughly and meticulously.

In what ways do your students benefit from your project work with IPA?

The main thing is that the project is real, not fictional. It shows the reality. Whether they are in contact with the local IPA representative or present their project in a service club or at a market stall, they assume responsibility and learn to convince people of their concern. Their work is valued and appreciated. Getting into direct contact with their target audience is good for them, so our project work is definitely a rewarding experience.

Do they sometimes surprise you during the project work lessons?

It takes some time until they take the initiative. Occasionally students who are normally rather quiet suddenly take the lead. This is very positive. Of course, there have always been students who pressed ahead

and inspired others. The more things get real and the more often we leave the classroom, for example to raise funds, the more they begin to shine. Then you see who remains a student and who now plays a different role.

For a secondary school class such a project is a challenge. How do you tackle this task?

Yes, the project is usually very big, but this is good. It is clear, transparent and well-planned. It should be demanding, but it is never an excessive demand. You have to work continually and really get involved in the project. It is always possible to implement, although now, with only two lessons a week, there is no time to lose. In the past we had three lessons and could pay more attention to the details of the project.



Dominique Wehrli, 48, is married and the father of two children. He used to work in Zollikon and Barcelona, but has now been a secondary school teacher in Horgen (near Zurich) for many years. Since 2003 he has regularly done project work with his classes in cooperation with IPA. In autumn 2019 he accompanied Nicole Delavy and the then junior team on a trip to Albania.

Preview of forthcoming IPA projects

Goulfey, North Cameroon.

IPA has already opened three savings banks and now a fourth will follow in Goulfey. A class at MNG (a high school focusing on mathematics and natural science) in Zurich wants to provide a basis for an efficient economy for the people in the region. Planning and fundraising are difficult during the Corona pandemic. We hope to build on the remains of a failed project by the African Savings Bank.



Zigodo, North Malawi.

At the Enukwani Health Centre 20,000 people are cared for. However the health workers have to haul water in buckets to the examination rooms and the doctors' offices. Hygiene is inadequate and the danger for both patients and staff is enormous. A class at Horgen Secondary School now wants to provide the centre with clean water and proper toilets.



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

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