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Dear donors, dear members!

Developing countries are said to benefit from globalisation. According to various studies the way out of misery should be possible, economic growth is supposed to be linked with the reduction of poverty. However, things cannot be that simple, at least not in countries where good governance is not guaranteed.

Thinking small

Such studies ignore a central aspect. Hunger is a local problem or maybe there is no fresh water well in the village. Without a functioning regional economy, the production of goods for the world market is impossible. There is often a lack of financial means, knowledge and specialists. Thinking big does not work in these places. Small local progress and organic growth are the only way to build a lasting development. For many years the controversial question, whether it is possible, with the support of the industrial nations to skip certain stages of development in poor countries, had been discussed. For us, the answer is a clear no. Step by step, but very carefully and always in close cooperation with the direct beneficiaries, that is our belief and our motto.

Nicole Delavy
Managing Director IPA

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Lusangazi, North Malawi

Education for 3,500 children

In Malawi IPA supports TDCs (Teacher's Development Centres) and their libraries. The project in Lusangazi had an effect on the whole region.

Joseph tried to smile. In the TDC in Lusangazi he was responsible for the lending of teaching aids and teaching materials. In a side room there were in fact a few books which he now showed the IPA representatives. „None of these belong to the curriculum any more“, he said, „they were probably disposed into this room because we are not allowed to use them any longer in our lessons.“ The TDC is accommodated in a small, former staffroom of a school. Nine



So many new coursebooks – it is hard to believe!



A big event for the TDC: the day of the hand over

primary schools with a total of 3,500 children and 120 teachers should have been able to borrow coursebooks and teaching materials here because they do not have any themselves. The TDC however had nothing to offer neither a proper desk or an up-to-date book or a wall chart. Least of all a computer.

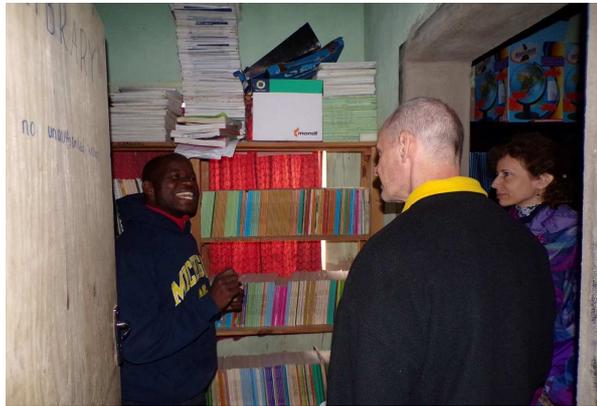


Wall charts from the TDC in the school of Matula

The effort of a ten year old girl

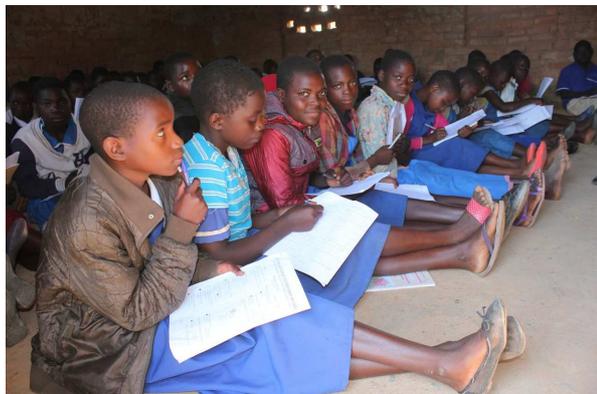
It was an ideal project for the meanwhile officially registered IPA operation in England. The aim was to furnish and equip the TDC so that it could fulfil its function. Many people got involved in England where charity events are quite common. A charity concert with a band, a lunch including a presentation and a tombola provided a sound financial basis. And then Chlöe appeared, she was ten and wanted to help the children in Malawi. But what can a ten year old girl do? She went on a walk, a sponsored walk. Her parents helped her with the organisation of the event and the fundraising, but Chlöe

herself had to do the walk. And so she did, for about 12 miles! Her effort evoked a lot of admiration and people made many donations. Chlöe's aim had been to collect £1,000, but in the end it was much more. A few donations from Switzerland completed the collection.



A beaming Joseph shows the visitors his treasures

In Malawi people are excited. The next IPA visitors hardly recognised Joseph. „The project has motivated us tremendously.“ He spins around in his empire, pulls out books and rolls out a map of the world. Then he shows them various wall charts, balls, pairs of compasses, magnifying glasses, thermometers and many other things which can now be used during the lessons. The teachers come here from schools some are up to 15 miles away. „They order complete sets and then come back with their students who carry the books to their school“, Joseph says. Yes, there is more work to do now, but his job is also more rewarding. Year end



Final examination in Matula – prepared at the TDC

examination papers can be typed, printed and copied here which is an enormous help for all the schools. The centre is now self-

financing and it is also a copy-shop for schools and private persons. So the future is secure. The efforts of Chlöe and all the donors have been worthwhile.

Bulqizë, North Albania

A small project with a big effect

Before the environmental work project 2017 was started, the young participants had decided to support a hospital in Albania. They became life-savers.

“The young people in Switzerland made a big effort, but compared to all the problems this hospital has, a big project is not possible.” Co-Managing Director Pietro Tomasini made his point clear when he spoke to the senior physician. Perhaps he had hoped that at long last an operating theatre could



Making hay in Soazza for a hospital in Albania

be opened or heating installed in the multi-storey building. These are only two of many things which are lacking and which show how difficult the working conditions in Bulqizë are. “Most lives are not lost in the hospital, but in the ambulances”, the hospital director then said. Because there is no operating theatre, seriously injured patients often have to be taken to Peshkopi or Tirana. The vehicles are not properly equipped. They consist of different and partly very old ambulances. There is not even one which can guarantee an appropriate monitoring of a patient during the transfer and so many of them die on their way to a hospital that offers the necessary infrastructure. Therefore, it was clear: This is where we could invest

the money which had been collected in Switzerland.

Teamwork brings people together

Lookback: In August 2017, 14 highschool and university students travelled to the village of Soazza, in the mountains of Switzerland. During six days they were going to work for biodiversity in the county of Grisons in Switzerland and by doing so raise money among their relatives and friends for their chosen project in Bulqizë. The funding for this commitment was provided by the Lions Club Zimmerberg and for the first time university students were able to take part. This turned out to be a stroke of luck for the younger participants. Many questions concerning various study courses were answered. The job in Soazza was hard work. The fight against gorse and brambles, the steep slopes and the high temperatures, all this brought them closer together. They even developed their own techniques to get the hay down into the valley, and in the evenings, they played games and had fun. “I love getting up every morning”, said Philipp,



In a good group of young Swiss, even heavy work can be fun



Full commitment, also when posting fundraising letters

“and I am happy to be a member of this project.” The two leaders made the biggest contribution to the success of the week. Susanne Kiefer had even planned her holiday around the project.



Bulqizë: Fitting the new equipment inside an ambulance, ...

Such an exemplary commitment was later invested in a good project in Bulqizë. An ambulance was properly equipped which is now used for transporting seriously ill pa-



... including instructions

tients. “Nobody has lost their life during these transfers any more”, the hospital director says beamingly. Although it was a comparatively small project, in Bulqizë it is highly appreciated.

Zebediya Kazeze, North Malawi

A new partner – a new drinking fountain

Zebediya Kazeze is a good example for showing all the problems connected with the lack of drinking water. Thanks to the cooperation with a new partner organisation, the village can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

“We cannot promise to undertake a project here.” You can always hear this remark when IPA representatives have analysed the problems of a village, a school or a medical station. This statement was also made at the village assembly in Zebediya Kazeze in July 2017. It is essential to tone down the big hopes people usually have after such a visit. Suddenly a man in the crowd stands



July 2017: Those times are over

up, a tall, sturdy man who is used to tackling things. Then something happens that is extremely rare in these regions, he is near to tears and in a trembling voice describes once more the situation in the village before he begs the guests to help.

What they had seen a short while before, had shown them all the difficulties and consequences people who live in villages without access to drinking water have to cope with. They had accompanied a group of women on their way to fetch water and had

finally reached a pool where brown, muddy water was bubbling to the surface. The families had to share the water with their animals, but they could not boil it. They had neither enough wood, nor enough money, nor enough time. Diarrhoea, infections from water-based parasites and cholera were common diseases in the village. But this



Practical training by experts

was not all, they often got up in the middle of the night to go to the pool. Girls were late for school every day because they had to queue up for water. Snake bites, the loss of countless working hours, quarrels at the pool and women who had to look after their ill children in medical stations are some of the problems, however the list could be much longer.

Test passed

Fortunately, IPA still had some substantial and unallocated donations which is a double blessing in such a situation. So, IPA decided to tackle the problem in Zebediya Kazeze as quickly as possible and to give our new partner organisation the chance to prove itself with this project. This is exactly what Phillip Nyasulu and his colleagues did. The well has been built and a committee that will maintain it has been trained. The rules are



The villagers are building a wall around the well

clear: Each family has to pay its share for the maintenance and help to keep the well clean.

When we visited the village after the completion of the project, many people reacted spontaneously. "In my whole life I have never had the possibility to get water out of such a well", an old woman said. Others remembered the times before the project and



Applause and deep gratitude

told us what had changed since. "Thanks to this well my performance in school has improved", Costace, a 17-year-old pupil of the seventh form said. "Words alone cannot express our deep gratitude for this priceless present", Ms Mwenechanya, who works as a volunteer in the medical field, added. "The number of patients from our village who have to be cared for in the nearest medical centre has decreased considerably."



July 2018: Problem solved

The Interview

“It makes me happy that we can help so intensively – thanks to IPA”

Zollikon-Zumikon Secondary School has been working together with IPA for 13 years. How did everything begin?

During my time at the teachers' training college I once travelled to Gjirokastër in South Albania together with Pietro Tomasini. Some years later he contacted me and came up with the idea of introducing “Helping Days”, which has been a success until today. We all welcomed the possibility to support a partner school.

How does this cooperation work?

Very well indeed. I am glad that IPA takes the reins and is in charge. Our students look for a short-time job, for example in an industrial establishment or in a home for the elderly. They work there for two hours and get a donation for the project in return. It is particularly useful that before the assignment starts IPA informs each class about development cooperation and the ongoing project with our school.

What effect do these class visits have on the students?

I have never heard anything negative. The students are very active. They learn a great deal and IPA becomes familiar. It is essential that the Helping Days are carefully integrated in the curriculum, which is why the visits are so useful. They also create confidence which is absolutely necessary for a successful cooperation. What Pietro Tomasini tells us fascinates our students.

In what way do the youngsters benefit from the Helping Days?

They benefit in various ways. For those who work in a firm it is an important experience. It is a gentle initiation because later they have to look for a trial internship or an apprenticeship. For the students it is also great

to see how much they can achieve when they all work together, even if it is only for two hours. It may only be a small social commitment, but can also be an experience for life.

So far you have supported four schools in three different countries. Did you have a favourite project?

I have never been in direct contact with any of these partner schools. It is IPA that puts its heart and soul into the projects. Therefore, my favourite project is always the ongoing one. At the moment I am deeply impressed how committed the parents and the director of the school in Rumphu in North Malawi are. It makes me happy that, thanks to IPA, we can help so intensively.



Jacqueline Huber, 44, has been a secondary school teacher in Zollikon-Zumikon since 2000. Together with her school and with IPA she has been actively involved in supporting partner schools in Albania, Cameroon and Malawi.

Preview of forthcoming IPA projects

Derven, North Albania.

For several years the International School of Zug and Luzern (ISZL) has been supporting a partner school in Mamurras in North Albania. Together with IPA they have modernised it in various phases. Now the time has come to start a new venture, for the benefit of the school in Derven. There are defects wherever you look. In a first phase the roof will be repaired.



Sao, North Cameroon.

The students at Hottingen High School in Zurich who take part in the course "Practical Development Cooperation" have decided to help the malnourished people who live in the village of Sao. Together with a group of farmers the cultivation of rice and vegetables will be boosted and with the building of a big storage facility, the young Swiss intend to prevent a possible loss of the crop.



- 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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