



Meeting Minutes

Vocational Training Centre

Kilema/Tanzania November 2018

Location: Kilema, Tanzania

Date: November 15th to 17th, 2018

Participants from Tanzania:

Entire project team with Father Dr. Aidan Msafiri, Thobias Makundi, Sr. Mary Cecilia, etc...

Participants from Austria:

Walter Koch / Chairman of PAPA Bridge, Heinz Sackl

Quick Facts/Short Summary



In a nutshell, we can report that we have made considerable progress. The investments from our last visit in February 2018 in particular have been successfully used and are showing first positive effects. Likewise, with the new principal we now have the opportunity to strengthen education and production.

Visiting the village

Our trip took us to Kilema in Tanzania for three days where we met our friends and project members. The hospitality was as always overwhelming. In good tradition, we held the school board meeting with all decision makers, and based on that, made a lot of important decisions. We also took our time to look into all individual production areas in order to understand the struggles, concerns and needs. In this way, we can offer very targeted help for self-help and promote helpful existing options.



P.A.P.A. BRIDGE		CATHOLIC		KILEMA		TRAINEE	
DUTY MASTER / MISTRESS		MR. AD					
TRADES	LEVEL	BOYS	GIRL	TOTAL	BOYS		
CATERING	I	01	13	14			
	II	01	06	07			
	III						
TAILORING	I		14	14			
	II		03	03			
	III		02	02			
ELECTRICAL	I	15	02	17			
	II	03	01	04			
	III						
MASONRY	I	14		14			
	II	03		03			
	III						
MVM	I	03		03			
	II	05		05			
	III						
WELDING	I	03		03			
	II	01		01			
	III	02		02			
CARPENTER AND JOINERY	I						
	II						
	III						
TOTAL		125	51	176			

Running of the school

We were able to convince ourselves that the ongoing school operation is satisfactory. At the beginning of December, the final examinations of VETA will take place (VETA is an official government office of Tanzania for all vocational schools). The results will then reflect the current status with regard to the quality of our school's education. We are happy to report that the number of students has risen again to around 180 – this goes to show that our measures have made an impact!

Staff and teaching content

This time, we tried to focus on the transformation of the school's leadership. Mr. Thobias Makundi has now officially resigned and remains an "ordinary" teacher at the school. We would like to thank him at this point for almost ten years of work in our project. He was and still is an important support for all of us and we wish him all the best for the future!

His agendas were taken over by the new principal, Mr. Joel Zawardi. He is around 35 years old and holds a Bachelor's degree in Education. He is from the city of Dar Es Salaam and now lives with his family in Kilema. He is a strong team player and has been in office for about 6 weeks. To complete the team, former teacher and mentor Mary Mchaki has been appointed as his deputy, forming a team of three (our dream team) along with financial supervisor Sr. Cecilia. We hope that with the beginning of the new school year (January 2019), many educational topics will be developed significantly by this new promising team. They will focus on the selection of new students, improved separation of education and production, as well as the further development of the teaching staff which could still be improved!



Dormitories

As for the students' homes, all renovations have been completed. In the last few months in particular, we have brought the girls' home to a very good level through manageable funds. This completes this renovation project with an investment volume of EUR 54,000. There is still a possibility to further extend and

renovate the toilet facilities and

showers in the area of the boys' student home to make daily life easier. This idea, coming at the cost of around EUR 10,000, - is currently being looked into.



Business Development Center (BDC)

The so-called BDC (Business Development Center) has now been the focus of our help for self-help for quite some time. It is awesome to see that some areas are developing well and are already making profits (e.g. truck rental and the chicken farm with a quarterly profit of EUR 1,700 each). This brings us closer towards our goal that one day the school can self-finance all running costs. Unfortunately, we don't only see positive developments.



It takes bold changes that require a strong responsible person. That's why we now appointed Deputy Principal, Mary Mchaki, to head the BDC and put the external search for a new BDC director on hold. We trust her as BDC coordinator to work with the principal to develop and improve this area for the better. To support the upcoming tasks, we decided to take two important actions: Firstly, we want to build a showroom for the products produced in our school as quickly as possible in a very busy place outside the village. Secondly, we will invest in a used pickup truck to deliver the products on a daily basis (for example, chickens, bread and pastries, etc.). With these two steps, the presence and scope of the BDC will increase significantly beyond the village.

Welding & Metal fabrication

Our metal fabrication workshop still has not fully taken off. Despite great used equipment and machines that we imported from Austria, the production and sale don't show any progress.



Since we brought an experienced teacher into the workshop a year ago, there has been a leap forward; however, we are now stuck at the current level. We are pretty sure that changes in personnel, infrastructure and processes will be necessary. We are pleased that the company SAB from Deutschlandsberg wants to support the metal workshop with know-how and direct investments. Especially the exchange of experience will be very important to learn quickly.



The bakery

Our bakery is a success story that is going very well and was created upon the people's own initiative. Since our last visit, we have invested in more space and equipment. There are currently three people working with professional equipment and enough space in the bakery. We now also want to double production by serving our customers outside of the village with the new pickup truck.



The carpentry



of course many other products such as armchairs and tables, as well as various small furniture. According to our analysis, we see the next challenge



The carpentry currently needs continuity. We have managed to build a solid base, the machines are running and the team is working very well. Since our last visit, the product range has been expanded and there are three particularly popular "bestsellers": doors, beds and coffins (these are very important in Africa and beautifully designed!).

There are of course many other products such as armchairs and tables, as well as various small furniture. According to our analysis, we see the next challenge in the area of wood quantity



and new employees. That's why we want to invest in a larger lumberyard and another vocational school teacher to at least double production. We look forward to seeing the fruits of these ideas the next time we visit.

The chicken farm



After our last visit, we invested in a significant expansion of the chicken farm. The small additional building was built and the number of chickens increased to around 2,500. Sr. Cecilia's dream has come true, and we are pleased about the really strong economic contribution of this area to the overall success. We want to wait with the next expansion, so we don't grow too fast. We also want to gather more experience if we



significantly expand our range of action with the planned pickup truck.

Brick production

As we reported during the last visit, we invested in better infrastructure and resources. So far,



however, it has not been possible to achieve profitable production. Our assessment is that there is an interesting market for construction bricks, but the quality of the bricks and the manufacturing processes are not sufficient. It is planned that Mr. Makundi now addresses this challenge specifically, as it falls into his expertise. This could lead to further necessary risk investments in order to serve customers more professionally.

The solar team

For quite some time now we have been trying to determine whether there is a sufficient market for small compact photovoltaic systems around Kilema. That's why we established a new solar team during our last visit. Philip Msoma, Emmanuel and Marc have been traveling extensively for the last few months marketing the solar kits. The results are 11 installed systems and 20 more leads for the next months. Likewise, a solar team office was set up in one of our buildings. We support the Solar Team with marketing and start-up investments. Of course, the new showroom for the BDC will also be important where the Solar Team can also exhibit their products.





The school shop

For the last few months there has been a small shop at the school, which carries some necessary products and is increasingly interesting for business in the village. Now, the existing space is to be extended significantly in order to enter the market for food. From this shop we want to supply small dealers in the village and of course cover the needs in the school. We are taking this step to promote a new promising initiative

Alumni program

We want to launch a new initiative to make the success stories of the VTC graduates visible. For this, we will start an alumni program. A competition with an interesting prize for the best success story of a school graduate could be advertised. The prize is awarded to a former graduate at the end of a school year and then published accordingly. We will report more on the development of this idea in the future.



The sponsorship program

Our sponsorship program is going great. Mary Mchaki from Kilema and Claudia Schanes from Austria are important pillars in this initiative. In just a few weeks, some of the sponsored children will complete their 3-year training, which is the best example of solidarity between Austria and Tanzania. Any support is welcome.



That is why we ask you to continue to talk to people you know, whether they want to personally support a child or just generally, donate to our sponsorship program.





New projects

The Kilema Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in Tanzania. It was built by missionaries at the beginning of the 20th century and is owned by the diocese. Currently, there is a significant lack of many necessities. We are thinking about supporting the hospital through equipment and building investments. We are looking forward to report on that more thoroughly next time!



Next Steps



- In March 2019 the next project trip to Tanzania is planned.
- In July 2019, Rev. Josef Windisch will travel from Austria to Tanzania with a group of parish people.

At this point we would like to cordially thank our donors and supporters. This is an important and great service for the poorest people in Tanzania.

 Regards and blessings,

Walter Koch – Chairman
 Father Aidan – Tanzania
 And the board of the P.A.P.A. Bridge