



Meeting Minutes

Vocational Training Center (V.T.C.)

Kilema/Tanzania April 2013

Location: Kilema, Tanzania

Date: 7th and 8th. of April 2013

Participants from Tanzania:

The whole project-team with Dr. Aidan Msafiri, Prof. Moshia, Msgr. Paul Uriah, etc...

Participants from Austria:

Walter Koch / Chairman of P.A.P.A.-Bridge

Verena Tscherk / Sponsorship program

Josef Koch / Visitor

What happened since the last visit?

It can be said that a lot has happened since the last visit in July 2012.

Currently, there are 162 students and 11 teachers. The workshop is completed and all the essential tools and equipment are transferred to the workshop. Next, we can report that the regular school system is running, and the first results are visible. We could convince ourselves that created pieces are already available and the necessary theory is taught to the students. The euphoria in the village and in the vicinity is still high, so we can look forward to that good news.

V.T.C. Building

Main Building: The main building is fully equipped and fully operational substantially. Unfortunately, there is a lack of chairs because we could not send enough in our last container supply. Now they are made from the welding-course/class in the vocational school with the students on their own performance.

Workshop: The workshop is used about three weeks now and the necessary tools are finally here. The rooms are spacious and it is up to the teachers, to use them best. After we have been long behind schedule, it is gratifying that the workshop is now completed.

Boys and girls dormitory: About half of the students do not come from the village. So it was necessary to create additional space for the children in care, who come from the surrounding area. For this, old buildings were renovated in the parish very easy with minimum standard. The needed steel beds were built by the students of the VTC. The living conditions are extremely modest by European standards, but for the situation in Kilema it is adequate.

Here are some pictures of the buildings:





Report about the first teaching results

We will now report on what has been achieved in each vocational school divisions:

Masonry: There are currently 20 students. They have helped to build the foundation for a new church in the vicinity of the village. Likewise they are helping with the necessary reconstruction of the Sisters Convent, because the old building is about to collapse. They are also creating walls and various necessary additional facilities for the VTC.

Fabrication and welding: There are currently about 30 students. 19 bed frames have been welded, which are used for the boy's dormitory. It was also possible to make iron doors and frames for the workshop.

Sewing and Tailoring: There are 20 students. There were sewn shirts and skirts for girls and pants for boys. Furthermore, priestly robes were sewn for the parish.

Electrician: There are 42 students. Electrical systems have been implemented for the vocational school. It was also possible to built simplest electrical installations in neighboring houses.


Driving School and Automotive Service: There are about 25 students. There is mainly learned theory, because the equipment for practical work repairing is missing. Likewise, a simple driving school could be opened. An old but still roadworthy car is available.

Catering and household: Here, there are 18 students. There were baked cookies, cakes and bread. Likewise, all the essential course content regarding clean financial management were taught.

Computer Training: There are 8 students. The basics of the computer handling are being taught and also the basic functions of the computer operation.

Mathematics and English: This is part of the general education, all students have to attend.

Here are some photos to it:



TRADES	ROLL			PRESENT			ATTENDANCE RECORD		
	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	DATE	PERMITTED	PRESENT
CATERING	10	9	19						
TAILORING	12	7	19						
ELECTRICAL	18	3	21						
MASONRY	13	1	14						
MVM	16	1	17						
WELDING	8	1	9						
TOTAL	115	48	163						





Budget

Construction budget: In sum, we paid EUR 10.000, - during the last few months to finalize the completion of the workshop. So we can say, that Phase 1 of the VTC-project is completed now! A real success! Of course there are always further demand for additional space or on a capacity increase for a carpentry workshop, but we will decide those things when necessary and timely.

Running school budget: Here, the running costs during the year are about at the same level as planned. They are around EUR 3.500, - per month. Our Sr. Innocentia keeps us informed on here. As promised and planned we are paying 50% of the current costs (and a part of it already comes from the sponsorship program in Austria)

The staff at the Vocational Training Center

The Director:

We are not satisfied here, as the new principal should already be on board, but unfortunately, the search turned out to be very difficult. We want to see a good qualification, should fit the age, and he should fit well into the team and the philosophy of the village.

The last candidate we found, wants to continue studying. This means for us, starting again our recruiting process and apply some patience.

The good news is, that our friend and trusted architect and builder Thobias Makundi was ready to take over as interim principal. So, we have a new interim director, who will bring a lot of professionalism in our program; we wish him all the best for this and many blessings.

The teacher:

We have eleven vocational teachers. Some of them, with very good qualifications and a few where we see bottlenecks. It will be part of the new principal's work to raise on the qualifications of the teaching staff.

The CFO:

Our nun, Sister Innocentia is professional and reliable. With her, we have done a really good handle and can look to the future therefore. She takes a wider view and accepts responsibility where necessary.

In addition, some photos:





The challenges

As said already, we have achieved a lot, especially if we consider that we started to build less than three years ago. Nevertheless, we have some current challenges we want to name here:

- a) Bringing the missing, experienced "full-time principal" for the VTC who should bring the next level of professionalism into the school. The current solution is a good temporary solution, but not sustainable. The search for an experienced director/principal has therefore the highest priority.
- b) As described earlier, the teaching is going at an average level, but can and should be brought to a higher level.
- c) Concentration on fewer things. Currently, there are running too many things in parallel at the vocational school on a half professional level. E.g., it would be better to have fewer subjects at the beginning versus deeper concentration on the teaching content. Then the quality of the education could be better.

The water project

As already announced, we will prepare a project for water treatment in the village. In the next few weeks, two containers with water technology are being sent from Austria to the village Kilema in Tanzania. Commissioning should proceed in August. Then we will report separately.

The sponsorship program

This is running very well and we were able to meet local godchildren. There will be a special newsletter dispatch on this subject in the next four weeks.

Next steps

- April: Board meeting of our organization
- May: News about the sponsorship program
- June: Vacation in Tanzania
- August: Visit of Father Aidan in Austria
- September: First operation of the water project in Kilema
- October: next trip to Tanzania of Walter Koch with hopefully some PAPA-Bridge friends

Best wishes and God bless,
Walter Koch - Chairman
and the board of P.A.P.A.-Bridge