



Meeting minutes

Vocational Training Center (V.T.C.)

Kilema, Tanzania March 2015

Location: Kilema, Tanzania

Date: March 29th to 31st, 2015

Participants from Tanzania:

Entire project team with Dr. Aidan Msafiri, Thobias Makundi, Sr. Innocentia, etc.

Participants from Austria:

Walter Koch / Chairman of PAPA-Bridge

Karl Mörth and Anna-Sophie Koch - Supporter of PAPA-Bridge

Short summary



After the first phase of building construction (2010-2012), we now have the second phase (2012-2014) completed by the first students having graduated after successfully 3 years. This year we start the third phase of our project, which aims to ensure the self-financing of the school and will last during 2015 and 2016.

Our visit in the village

During our stay in Kilema we have noticed many positive changes since the last visit. It was gratifying to see that the current school system is very well coordinated with an average standard. We were able to participate in the village life for a few days, and this time we also had the opportunity to celebrate Palm Sunday with the parish community and got many new traditions to learn. The following Monday, the school board meeting was held, at which we had aimed to understand and appreciate the successes, identify the challenges and also to develop solutions.



The current school operation

We currently have approximately 190 students at the vocational school, which means perfect utilization of capacity. Unfortunately, we also have to live with fluctuation, as some families cannot afford the tuition on time. This is where our sponsorship program helps.



Currently we offer the following training directions at the VTC:

- IT
- Tailoring & Sewing
- Car Service
- Metal fabrication & welding
- Electricians
- Masonry
- Catering
- Carpentry

In December 2014, all students in their last year were able to graduate with positive success. This

is great joy and affirmation for the school management.

Staff and curriculum

With pleasure we welcomed new teachers and currently have 16 people as teachers and another 10 assistants who aid to keep the school running. Our management team still consists of the Principal, Thobias Makundi and Chief Financial Officer, Sister Innocentia. With this management team, we have been able to build a very good running school so far, and are very grateful for their good and dedicated work.

Now that we start into phase 3 (as mentioned in p. 1) we want to take the next steps towards self financing, which additionally takes someone who is developing the school in business matters further. This person is Mr. Anthony Benedict, who was elected as Vice-principal and Center Manager by the entire school board. He studied in Tanzania and completed his master's degree in software engineering.

Furthermore, within the area of metal-working we are searching for an experienced teacher who is also capable of handling the large metalworking machines, so the machines that we provided with the container can hopefully be utilized as soon as possible. With this extension the next steps should be successful.



What is working well

As always, we can tell with delight a lot about positive things, such as:

- The truck (largely sponsored by PAPA-Bridge) arrived in Kilema and is now in operation.
- The vocational training center was classified in the category C at a high level by the government agency VETA.
- The number of devices and tools has increased significantly.
- The graduates have achieved good marks in their final examinations.
- All students were given a “Tool-Starter-Set” to embark on a career (the costs are to be paid back by the time money has been earned).
- Every day there is lunch for the students from our own kitchen and agriculture (eg banana plantation, garden, corn, ..)
- First incomes have been received through short courses, a copying studio, truck transportation, metal fabrication etc.



Our challenges

As already mentioned, we have entered into the third phase of our project, which regards the self-financing aspect of our school. Currently, the school's own income covers about 20% of the total costs, which is still very low.



It is our goal that in 2017, the VTC no longer needs significant financial support by PAPA-Bridge so that we can focus on a new project. In order to being able to provide a sufficient income, it is important that the vocational school in addition to training builds up a culture of production in each area.

Our center manager Mr. Anthony Benedict is now the main responsible for that goal.

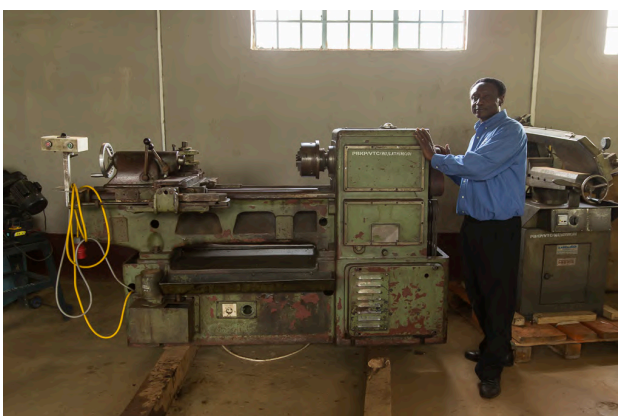
His first steps will be focusing on the following

areas:

- The best possible utilization of the new truck for service transports
- Establishment of a distribution channel for in-house production of drinking water
- Production of cement bricks on a larger scale
- Establishing a catering service
- Production in the metal fabrication department for products sold in the region

Subsequently, there will be a production team in the vocational school, which works in parallel with the students, using the training center as a "mini-factory".

Our first focus lies on the brick production, for which a machine has been delivered with the donation container. An additional challenge is the lack of coverage of electricity. Here, the call for a small hydropower plant is getting louder, however, this will be a separate major project for the future.



The latest Container Delivery

We can report that the 40 foot container arrived with all its donation goods safely in Kilema. All items and machines were brought to the corresponding places and partially put into operation. At this point again a big thank you to all who have helped enabling to send this container in November 2014!



Carpentry workshop

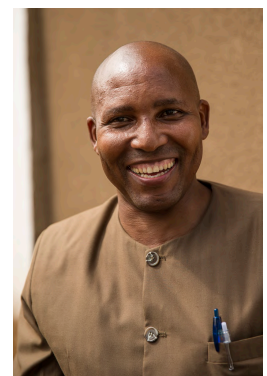
We are making good progress for the carpentry construction. Currently, an old shed in the parish is used, but it does not meet the requirements of the vocational school. Now we have planned an additional building next to the workshop. The PAPA-bridge transferred EUR 12.000,- some months ago, thereby building materials have already been purchased. The bulk of the work was done by VTC students. Currently, there are foundations and columns, as well as the framework. The shell should then be completed in summer 2015.



The water project



Regarding the idea of bottling Kilema's water, the school mainly had to wait for the approval of the official authorities. This has turned out lengthy and complicated. Furthermore, we had to face that the water pump at the source has become defective and is to be repaired. Our center manager



Anthony Benedict has taken responsibility for this project, and he will soon set up a project plan for the water bottling.

The sponsorship program

Our sponsorship program for the poorest children is going well and forms the backing of the monthly financial support of the vocational school. This action is a central part of our efforts for the poorest people in Tanzania in order to allow them an education.

The only challenge that we face is the turnover rate of around 25%, as students are sometimes taken back home to work by their parents. As a result, we need to regularly allocate new children to the foster parents. We ask for your understanding and are currently working to improve this by better suburb education and communication with parents. Our center manager Anthony Benedict is specifically involved in this matter as well.



Next steps



- In June, Heinz Sackl will visit the vocational school with a small team and enroll the teachers on the new machines supplied in the metal fabrication department.
- In July, Josef Windisch will visit with some young people from the parish *Fernitz and Kalsdorf*.
- In August, Father Aidan will come back to Austria and we will celebrate our *PAPA-Bridge Feast of Africa*.

- In October / November, I will again visit with interested parties on the project.

At this point once again a big thank you to our donors and supporters of PAPA-Bridge. This is an important and great service to the poorest people in Tanzania.

 Best wishes and God's blessing,

Walter Koch - Chairman

and the Board of P.A.P.A. Bridge