



Progress report of P.A.P.A. Bridge Vocational Training Center (V.T.C.) Kilema/Tanzania November 2020

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Introductory words

This year, activities at P.A.P.A. Bridge V.T.C. have been significantly influenced by the corona lockdown regulated by the government. From March to mid July, we had to close our school and could only provide teaching materials, which the students picked up for home study. Another unfortunate aspect is that the P.A.P.A. Bridge team from Austria could not come to visit us as in the previous years. Holding the position of the acting principal at P.A.P.A. Bridge V.T.C., these circumstances give me the opportunity to provide an overview of the ongoing progress here at school to all our dear friends and supporters from Austria. On behalf of the whole staff and students, I would like to say a huge “THANK YOU” for all the support we receive from you. This helped us handle the lockdown relatively well, so that we were able to make a lot of progress in the second half of this year. May God reward all of you with his blessings for all that you do in support of the people in Kilema and surroundings.

Academics

QT classes



This year we have introduced a program to help students be more successful in their studies. Exam results of the past years showed that the main reason why students failed exams was the missing basic knowledge.

In these two years of QT classes, weak students have the chance to improve their basic skills in English, Mathematics and Communication Skills before starting their regular education at P.A.P.A.

Bridge Vocational Training Centre (VTC). We are happy to welcome a large number of 30 students in this year's first QT classes.

To provide enough space, two new classrooms have been built and equipped with 50 new tables and 100 new chairs – certainly made by P.A.P.A. Bridge V.T.C.



Dormitory toilets and bathrooms



The toilets and bathrooms for the boys staying at St. Walter's Dormitory have been renovated. Fortunately, we were able to finance this with the profits created from our production activities. The total costs were TSHS 7,800,000 (Tanzanian Shillings), which is about € 3,270.



Parking Space



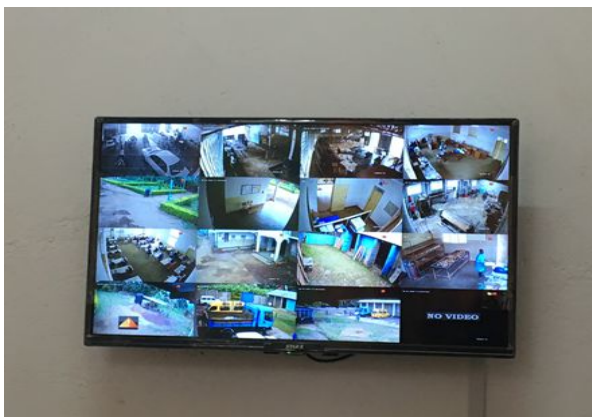
A parking space has been established for all our vehicles we use for transportation and for our 'motor vehicle and mechanics' (MVM) classes. This brings about more space for work and studies in the MVM workshops and increases the security of the parked vehicles due to the added wall. Moreover, people from town can also use this safe parking space (which they already do!). This investment amounted to TSHS 4.7 millions (€ 1,960).



Students' beds

We were also able to make 20 more beds for the increased number of students. The expenditures of this project amounted to TSHS 2.5 millions (€ 1,021).

CCTV cameras and the taking of fingerprints



To improve security, we have installed CCTV camera systems all around our workshops and the surrounding environment of the college, so that we can easily ensure maximum security of the school together with our properties.

In addition, the electronic attendance has made staff aware of reporting and departure time to and from the office. This resulted in the improved punctuality of the working staff. This project cost TSHS 5.3millions (€ 1,960).

Business Development Center (BDC)

The corona pandademic massively shakened the business climate in Tanzania and our V.T.C. as well, especially from month March to did July. However, I am glad to report that we are now able to continue with our production activities and start to recover from the economy crissis we experienced for quite some time this year, but luckily enough the projects are stable and running. The idea of expandig these projects by increasing the capital will certainly be a great advantage to the college.

Metal Workshop



This year, we have also increased the range of products we create in the metal workshop. Products include **door frames, bunk beds and bushes**, which are produced daily and sold in the local area. We are happy to see that our customers seem to like the quality of our products.



Our next step in this workshop is to find an appropriate space like a showroom, where we can store and display our products.



Bakery



After the lockdown, we have managed to run the business with profit while increasing the inventories. This is now the leading revenue generator (TSHS 8,000,000 = € 3,660) at the college. Due to this positive aspect, we would like to increase the investments on this production unit even more.



Carpentry



The carpentry workshop is now generating profits, as we have enhanced productions. Orders have also come in since we opened school again. Customers appreciate the good quality, which is very delighting to us.



Chicken Farm

This project was affected by the corona measures the most because of missing orders from hotels, as they had to close. Hotels usually are our main customers of chickens and therefore, business was stopped. Unfortunately, we had to make the decision to stop the production by slaughtering all the chickens.

Brick Production



In the brick production unit, things are going well, so that we can generate good profit. We have managed to increase the production up to 200 bricks per day. The flow of customers has increased and they love the quality of our blocks. Same as in other workshops, we would also like to increase the



production of bricks, as this is a very profitable field.

School Shop / Wholesale



After investing in the expansion of the shop, the sales return have increased and more profit is obtained from the shop. We are happy that alongside the

shop, we have been able to establish a hardware, which is also doing great and provides a considerable return. Concerning future steps, increasing the inventories in the hardware would be beneficial.



Water project



Thanks to Father Aidan and his friends from Germany, money was raised in the past years to develop our water project. This year, we have completed the construction of the building and now we are waiting for the machines to be imported and installed so that we can start to clean water from Mount Kilimanjaro, fill bottles and sell them. We believe that this project is necessary, as we can provide an alternative to the Kilimanjaro drinking water sold by the Coca Cola group. We are so grateful to all German friends who made this possible.

More photos from activites of students and staff



Appreciations

I would like to thank:

- ❖ Mr. Walter Koch, Pater Josef Windisch, Claudia Schanes and the entire P.A.P.A. Bridge team in Austria
- ❖ My local team for their huge support

Way forward:

We are focusing to improve:

- The quality of education: making sure there is no more failures by by improving the teaching methodology and the discipline of the students and teachers
- aspects of our products: the quality, the range of competitive products and branding

Regards and blessings,
Mary Mchacki – Acting Principal
And the staff of the P.A.P.A. Bridge Kilema