

Dear EWE Team in Zambia, dear friends,

The Corona pandemic is spreading in Germany and we have almost 122,000 infected and thousands are dead. No end is in sight and a vaccine can only be expected in at least half a year.

Because of the virus, social life in Germany is at a stand still, no more than 2 people are allowed to be together due to the high infection risk. The old and already sick are most at risk.

Our EWE team here in Germany had planned to have a "Kreativtag" last Sunday in order to reflect on the current situation in the EWE and on our work. We also planned on coming up with ideas for the future.

Sadly, we could not really meet for at least 4 weeks due to the Corona crisis and the restriction of contact which is a result of the crisis. Instead, we held a video conference. Thanks to thorough preparations with the Project Team software "Trello", we managed to work through several critical points. We would now like to share these points with you and would appreciate your views on these points.

1. The bringing back of Naomie

-We were under foreign pressure(the German government) and we had no power over the decision.

-Hence, we needed to act quickly and directly inform Naomie, Chrisencia and the team. Helen was in charge of communication while Yoko and Guido under the counsel of Gesine took the necessary steps and took up contact with the necessary offices.

-Helen, who is in charge of the german volunteers handled this challenge well.

2. Cancelling the incoming volunteers of 2020/2021

-Irmela has already sent information on this matter.

3. The foundation of the partnership

The foundation of the partnership between the EWE and the diocese of Monze is the cultural exchange between Germany and Zambia. This is carried through by the youth and is hallmarked by the conservation of respect, sharing and learning.

But, if as in this year no volunteers are sent and it keeps getting more difficult to motivate young people to take part in this service, a part of this foundation will break off after 25 successful years. What will remain then, when even the support of projects in the last 5 years fell out.

We are now challenged to redescribe this foundation of the partnership and to newly motivate and win over more young people to this cause.

4. Target Agreement

We have to work out and describe collective targets.

5. Human Resources and Authority

In July, the EWE Germany will be holding elections for the Board. Responsibilities have changed in the previous two years since personal life situations of some members changed and a complete engagement was no longer possible. Simply put, some members of the team left. On the other hand, we found new former Volunteers who are ready to take up responsibilities. All these responsibilities require a Zambian partner and communication has to be kept up.

How will the Zambian Team change in the near future?

Sister Chrisencia informed us in mid 2019 that she would no longer be available for the exchange since her Congregation had other works for her. Is this still so?

Will the diocese of Monze continue to be a partner of the EWE? An institutional partner organisation is required if we are to keep sending and receiving volunteers. If no partner organisation exists, we will neither receive funds nor will we be able to send or receive volunteers.

6. Regular ZOOM Conferences with the Zambian Team

If we are to work well together, we require regular communication. We have good experience with the following tools,

-Trello <https://trello.com/> for team projects and

-Zoom <https://zoom.us/> for visual and acoustic meetings.

We believe that these tools would make the collective work and communication between the teams in Zambia and Germany easier. We think we should have virtual meetings every two months, these meetings would be prepared through Trello.

7. Prospects

We should use this time in which neither side has volunteers to newly sort our partnership. We should also think through conserved and old ways of thought while also considering necessary changes and prospects.

On the German side, we are pondering over, for example, why it has become more difficult to find new volunteers. Should we consider other target groups? Or perhaps a shorter time of engagement, let's say 6 months?

8.EWE Aktuell

For 3 years, our magazine has been printed in two languages. Till now, most of what was presented were the reports of the volunteers. We are currently considering connecting our social work to other platforms such as websites, facebook or instagram.

Should we continue producing the EWE magazin as ePaper? Who reads the magazin in Zambia? Should we move towards work with radio Chikuni? Which topics of our work interesst the zambian readers and listeners?

We understand that these are a lot of questions but we have to collectively ask them and exchange solutions so that our foundation may be once again visible.