

ewe Board Report 2020/ 2021

The past year was also marked by the Corona pandemic in the work of the ewe:

Corona -

(stressful events in the pandemic)

- March 2020 Retrieval of Naomie from Zambia. (Our emergency plan worked)
- Q2 2020 Closure of the nursery in Aldenhoven/ Eugene could not work: Priscilla was able to continue working at the hospital but with tightened hygiene rules.
- All board work and conferences and training took place exclusively by ZOOM and eMail, i.e. contactless
- Advertising for the German voluntary service also took place as a virtual info day, accompanied by a social media campaign developed by former ewe volunteers. In November, we only had one application, which made a good impression in the video interview, but demanded a vaccination guarantee for departure, which we are still unable to give, and wanted to be at the same place of assignment with several German volunteers. (She then agreed to a final destination organisation with a project in which 10 volunteers were working).
- Among the most tragic events of the pandemic was the death of Bishop Moses of Monze and, a week later, the death of Solomon Phiri in January 2021. Solomon had also been a personal partner of the ewe for almost 25 years, building and accompanying it in Zambia. We have documented our sadness and appreciation of his work in and for the ewe in a special edition of ewe-aktuell to show his family and those around him what he achieved for the ewe in Germany, the impact of which is little known in Zambia.

At this point, we would like to join Sabine Nilles in remembering Solomon Phiri:

I will live as long as your heart beats.
I will live as long as I have a place in your heart.
I will live as long as you go your way.
I will live as long as a smile appears in your life.
If you look for me, look for me in your heart.
If you find me there, then I will live on in you.
(Milead A. Yousef Shalin)

Until a successor is appointed to the bishop's office, who in turn will appoint the Caritas director and head of the Development Department, i.e. our direct partner, a structural vacuum is noticeable. With the new leadership, our cooperation agreements and the responsibilities attached to them will also have to be re-arranged.

Corona +

(Initiatives and Creativity in the Pandemic)

The challenge of the pandemic was to ensure the continuity of the work or to develop new forms and formats of cooperation:

- *Internal and external communication.*

Like similar organisations, we have changed the board work to ZOOM meetings. This also facilitates face-to-face communication with the Zambian team and collaboration even in smaller groups without long journeys.

Unfortunately, we have done too little on external communication in terms of public relations other than promoting our volunteer services. This will (have to) change in the coming months, as with the School Fairy project we have a project that is also interesting for other circles.

- *Promotion of volunteer services*

ewe is a member of several interest groups that offer international voluntary services. In addition to

our own advertising, we are also present on various corresponding platforms. Overall, interest in voluntary service has declined in recent years, or it has been shortened and commercialised. In contrast, we try to maintain a high level of quality in cooperation with other organisations.

- 2. quality control in the quality association of international voluntary services

In order to participate in the weltwärts programme and to remain in the state funding, we have to undergo an external quality audit every two years. This is a lot of work for the responsible persons Yoko, Helen and Guido. Thanks to the support of the experienced Gesine, we got the certification again.

- Networking with other providers

In addition to quality work, we increasingly need networking with other organisations in order to secure our volunteer work politically. That is why we are not only a founding member of the Social Service for Peace and Reconciliation in the Diocese of Aachen, but also a member of the Catholic Association of International Volunteer Services. As a spokesperson for the interests of the small organisations, I have been elected to the spokesperson's circle of this association. One product of this work is social media campaigns to spread the idea of value-based voluntary services among young people and political communication with representatives of the responsible ministries for development cooperation and youth and family.

**Expanding our profile as a partner of the Diocese of Monze in the field of education:
School Fairy Zambia for more educational justice (Luke).**

Political situation and pandemic development in Zambia

The political and economic situation in Zambia is tense: The pandemic has been developing in 3 waves so far since July 2020, with each wave peaking at three times the previous one. Currently, the 7-day incidence is over 100 with lack of area testing facilities and only 0.8% vaccination so far, mostly by health workers.

The presidential and parliamentary elections on 12 August 2021 are again characterised by polarisation (tribalism) and the controversial candidacy of the incumbent autocratic President Lungu.

On the United Nations Human Development Index, Zambia ranks 146th out of 189 countries, ahead of neighbouring Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Angola and Congo, only 3 places behind Kenya. However, this development is still dependent on the high world market prices for copper and rare earths.

Outlook:

- Zambian volunteers Margaret and Judith (report Irmela)

- Member communication and public relations

ewe currently has 3 internet platforms for its public relations work: the website eine-welt-engagement.de and eine-welt-erleben.de, as well as a Facebook account for several years and an Instagram account since last year. Between July and November, we ran three campaigns on facebook and Instagram about our volunteer work. The image-text combination was intended to present the goals, self-image and locations of the Zambian and German volunteers to potential interested parties. We will repeat these campaigns again this year in summer. However, the basic information is available on the websites. There is also the possibility to apply online.

As there were no volunteer campaigns last year, there was little editorial material for *ewe-aktuell*. At the moment, the editorial team is thinking about using the *ewe-aktuell* for focal topics, such as the special issue on the death of Solomon Phiri, or the next issue with the focus on the school fairy project. News could then be posted similar to Facebook. The effort for this is much less.

Unfortunately, we don't have the email address of all members yet, we are working on that.

- Involvement of former volunteers

In 25 years, almost 100 German and Zambian volunteers have done a voluntary social year at the ewe. After this year, it is difficult to keep in touch with the ewe and to work on individual projects because of studies and training. Therefore, it is a stroke of luck that with Helen and Silja and Evans, 3 former volunteers who live within reach, work intensively in accompanying the volunteers. Others work in the preparation or public relations. Since the anniversary in 2015, there has been a wish for volunteer meetings every now and then, but beyond the wish, there have been no attempts at realisation so far.

Solid cash management:

Cash report and report of the cash audit (Arnold and Sabine)