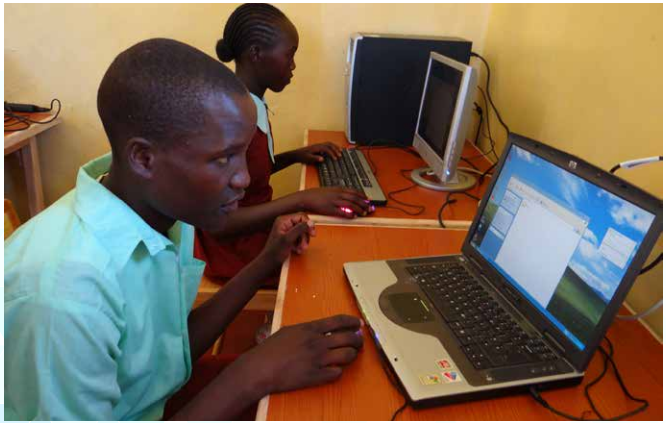

GFA
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CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES

GFA CONSULTING GROUP BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

GFA BRIDGES – SOCIAL PROJECTS WORLDWIDE



As an expression of the social commitment by GFA staff, we foster small projects in developing, newly industrializing and transition countries. GFA staff and their dependents propose eligible projects in which they are actively involved. A limited number of these projects are selected and financed by GFA on the basis of transparent criteria. GFA staff coordinates and supervises the implementation of these projects. For further information refer to our website:

www.gfa-group.de/gfa-bridges

GFA established GFA BRIDGES in 2010. In this brochure we describe projects from 2012 ongoing.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2024



PALESTINE: SPARK BRINGS HOPE FOR CHILDREN IN GAZA

Spark Association for Innovation and Creativity has launched a series of impactful initiatives to bring hope and comfort to the children of Gaza. Through the transformative power of art, Spark has connected with over 250 children, providing them with a space to express their emotions and find moments of peace amidst the ongoing conflict.

Using drawing and painting as a therapeutic outlet, our initiatives aim to alleviate the immense stress these young people face on a daily basis. Each brushstroke and colour on the canvas symbolises not only artistic expression, but also a step towards healing and resilience.

These efforts have sparked creativity and created safe spaces where children can temporarily escape the harsh realities of their surroundings. Our commitment to their well-being is unwavering, and we are deeply grateful for the support of our partners, donors and stakeholders who make these vital activities possible.
Following the initial response of EUR 17,835 from GFA BRIDGES, the GFA BRIDGES team organised a fundraising campaign for all GFA staff, with an overwhelming response of EUR 6,530.

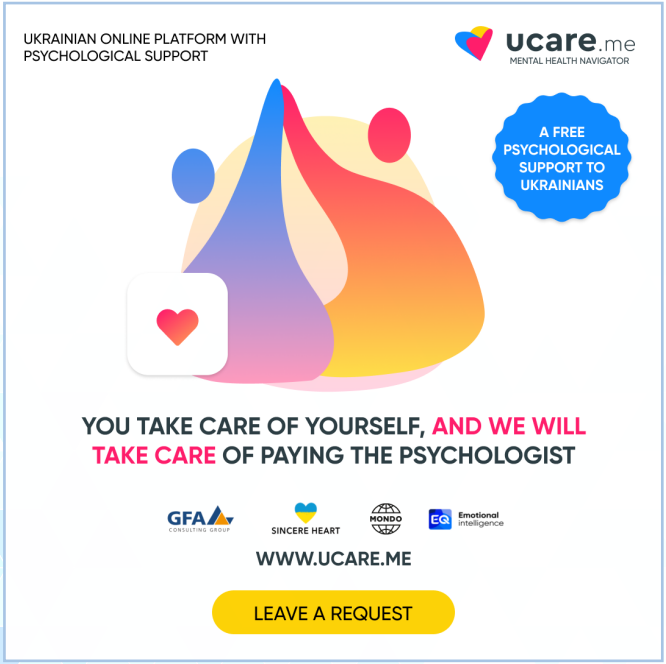
Website SPARK: sparkgaza.org/en

This project was initiated by Karin Baumert from GFA.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2022 & 2023



UKRAINE: EMERGENCY PROJECT IN UKRAINE

In 2022 and 2023, GFA management donated EUR 41,807 for emergency projects in Ukraine. GFA BRIDGES supported a professional initiative for the psycho-social support of victims of war. The GFA-funded initiative is well connected with the mental health project in Ukraine that is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

This assistance enabled the translation and production of teaching materials and provided trainings for 76 psychotherapists to counsel people who experienced traumatic events during the war. A dedicated GFA staff member provides coordination and supervision of this initiative.

Patients who met the eligibility criteria received free therapy sessions through the call center. A total of 494 (85% women; 15% men) traumatized victims attended an average of three sessions and achieved a 90% reduction in symptoms, according to the accompanying scientific research.

This project was initiated and coordinated by Heiko Königstein from GFA.



SYRIA: EMERGENCY RELIEF PROJECT FOR THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKES

The Syrian relief organization Shafak implemented the emergency project in Syria with a donation of EUR 12,000 from GFA. Following the initial response of EUR 4,000 from GFA BRIDGES in February 2023, the GFA BRIDGES team organized a fundraising campaign for all GFA employees with an overwhelming response of 68 staff members donating EUR 6,935.

Together with a matching fund from GFA BRIDGES the second transfer of EUR 8,000 was made to our local partner.

Shafak used the funds to support the affected population in northwest Syria. A total of 104 households in the governorates of Idleb and Aleppo, all these families received food aid, clothing, shelter, medical assistance, and cash transfers to enable poor families to decide on their most urgent needs.

This project was initiated by Rafif Alshater from GFA SysCom.



CAMEROON: SUPPORT TO THE ORPHANAGE POO KWE´N

Thanks to the GFA grant, the POO KWE'NI orphanage in Bafang, Cameroon was able to purchase furniture to furnish the rooms and bedrooms, as well as paint. The work plan for this project went very smoothly from the start with the participation of volunteers, staff and very happy children.

This project was initiated by Le centre d'accueil POO NKWE'NI via William's Essouma from GFA.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2021



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: THE "LISANGA YASIKA" TENNIS-SCHOOL PROJECT FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KINSHASA

The project name: „Lisanga yasika", in the local language of Lingala represents; "Foundations for a new generation", and aims to provide new perspectives in the lives of street children within the capi-tal city of Kinshasa, where the project is based. The project holder is the NGO Zoo Tennis Club situ-ated in front of the national Zoo in the northern region of the city. The club was established as a not for profit organization and one of the management team's objectives is to help children in need who live in the surrounding areas. Through the support of GFA, an additional 60 street children aged be-tween 5 and 14 years will be able to participate in various sport and education programs. The social workers and trainers consider tennis as a useful vehicle for developing social cohesion as well as for structuring the lives of children and youths. These children will also enjoy the access to out of school classes for writing, reading, languages (French and English), as well as music; that are all carried out via the teaching methods inspired by the Montéssori and adapted to the rhythm of the children. GFA finances the construction of the three-rooms-school premises.

This project was initiated by Laurent Verschueren, GFA Procurement Expert of the Fiscal Agent of the Global Fund in Democratic Republic of Congo.



TANZANIA: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PRORAM – TENNIS LESSONS FOR COVID-19 RECOVERY

The Youth Development Program (YDP), aims to use sport, especially tennis, as a tool to empower disadvantaged and vulnerable youths. Sport improves health, emotional well-being and develops the life skills surrounding teamwork, leadership, decision-making and communication. Tennis lessons are provided twice a week and English is also taught on Saturdays which simultaneously enables discussions on critical issues such as HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 to take place in a fun and interactive way on sport courts. The improved education provides talented and committed youths with a path-way to success via enabling a way for them to qualify for international scholarships. Two tennis tournaments are planned during the project period.

This project was initiated by Dr. Thomas Walter (TL GFA) - he is the captain of the tennis section and a passionate patron of the YDP since 2009 in Tanzania.



TOGO: CONSTRUCTION OF A WELL-EQUIPPED AUTOMATIC WATER STATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF KOVETO

In partnership with the NGO Action Charité et Développement (ACDev), a GFA BRIDGES project completed the construction of a borehole with an autonomous water station in the community of Koveto, Togo in 2020 – 2021. The project aimed to solve the problem of drinking water in this community of 2,273 inhabitants. With the completion of the project, the community residents have access to drinking water, which reduces the time they spend searching for water and increases good hygiene practices that prevent water-borne diseases.

This project was initiated by Kossi Assafogan and Juliette Berdaguer from GFA.



UGANDA: LIKIDO COMMUNITY CHAPEL HALL REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR THE NATIONAL AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY

The Likido village is host to part of almost 925,000 South Sudanese refugees living in Uganda and forms part of the Imvepi Refugee Settlement. It comprises the national and refugee community. These communities congregate under a multi-purpose make-shift hall structure built from local materials, (mud and wattle). It provides a space for religious and social community activities, (village meetings, and safe spaces for women). Of late it became infested and was then destroyed by ter-mites and is currently uninhabitable and therefore the community currently congregates under a nearby tree. The GFA project aims to rebuild the hall using hybrid technology consisting of earth bags and Interlocking Soil Stabilised Block (ISSB), technology, (bricks made from compressed mixed soil). Most of the materials are locally sourced. The community will support in the hall con-struction by doing the roofing with recycled materials and thereby be able to transfer the attained skills to construct more environment resilient infrastructures within their neighbourhoods.

This project was initiated by Raymond Lukwago (consultant) and Mareike van der Ende (inhouse employee GFA and Team Leader) in the GIZ-project WatSSUP, Uganda.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS





GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

▶ 2019



COLOMBIA: ENTREPRENEURIAL AMAZONIA

AISO, the Academy for Innovation and Sustainability, bought a 30 hectare piece of land in Colombia in the Florencia-Caquetá Department and called it Amazonía Emprendedora. The Academy will build a Green Business Training Center on this plot. Entrepreneurs, tourists and consumers will learn about sustainability in tourism, ecological business models, and green marketing in specialized seminars. AISO plans a Maloka (an indige-nous word for „house" or „cabin") for the visitors of the Training Center, in which the trainings and events will take place. Also, dry toilets and a camp-ing site will be built.

The project aims at improving training opportunities in tourism to counteract environmental destruction. The local population should have access to ideas and opportunities for environmentally friendly income alternatives so that local people can protect their environment and do not need to migrate to urban areas. The initiative is to make an ecologi-cal contribution against de-forestation and destruction of the environment, and to present income-generating alternatives to the local population. The initiative began in February 2018 and enters its third phase with the con-struction of the Training Center.

The project was initiated by Julio Andrés Rozo, the founder of AISO, and is realized by him and his partners, and local communities.



KENYA: WATER SUPPLY IN FIVE VILLAGES

The Southwest Sakwa Community Water Project is a community initiative 400 km northwest of the Ken-yan capital, Nairobi, which provides sustainable water supply solutions. The GFA-funded project will supply piped and portable water to approximately 25,310 people in addition to children in eight primary and four secondary schools.

Previously, these communities depended on untreated, unhealthy water drawn from a few scattered earth pans storing surface run-off rainwater. When the earth pans dry up, both women and young girls have to walk up to 12 km to draw dirty, untreated water from Lake Victoria.

The proposed initiative will impact communities in five villages in Kenya's West Sakwa Ward. As water-borne diseases are rampant, these particular communities have endured a higher morbidity rate among children under five years than the national average. This initiative provides for them increased availability and access to water. Moreover, the initiative will have a positive impact on women and girls who will be able to spend less time fetching water and instead have the opportunity to go to school or engage in productive activities. In a nutshell, the project's benefits will improve the socio-economic status of the community. Beneficiaries in these villages have made in-kind contributions by donating small parcels of land, on which the water points can be constructed. Young people there will provide subsidised casual labour for clearing bushes at the construction sites and participate in the construction work of the platforms.

The project was initiated by Greg Umaya, Regional Coordinator, East Africa GIZ-CAADP-ATVET



GUATEMALA: SUPPORT OF A SCHOOL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The public school Semillita de Esperanza (Little Seed of Hope) located in Petén, Guatemala was founded in 2009. Today, 52 children and young adults with different mental and physical disabilities attend the school regularly. One of the main challenges is that the school does not have the appropriate technical capacities and infrastructure to specifically encourage the students' emotional and communicative de-velopment and motor skills.

Therefore, the project supports the installation of an "Active Space", a room for multi-sensorial devel-opment, with the appropriate equipment for sensory therapy, as well as necessary training for the teachers who will be in charge of the Active Space. The aim is to facilitate playful experimenting and learning to improve the physical and emotional well-being and promote the integration of disabled people in the long-term. . At the same time, the Active Space will also strengthen the school's capacities.

The project started in November 2019 with the planning of trainings, acquisition of materials and prep-aration and improvement of the facilities. By February 2020, the Active Space will be equipped and the teachers trained so that the new school year can be started by integrating the sensory therapy into the daily schedule. In a second training, related experiences will be evaluated and the findings will be used on site to further adapt the Active Space to the students' needs.

The project was initiated by Elena Baumanns, consultant at GFA's NRM department, and Ángeles Barros, an art therapist living in Guatemala, who will closely accompany the project implementa-tion together with the school team.



BURKINA FASO: CONSTRUCTION OF A CLASSROOM AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

The non-profit association Wir für Burkina e.V. was founded in 2007 to promote local education in Douroula, a small municipality in western Burkina Faso. Since then, the association has been involved in the construction of schools, teacher flats and sponsorships for children and young people so that fami-lies can afford school attendance involving school fees, uniforms and food. With the support of GFA Bridges, Wir für Burkina e.V. will construct and equip a classroom and an administration building, in-cluding a secretariat, a teachers' and a storage room for the school canteen of the secondary school in Bladi, the second largest village of the Douroula municipality.

By completing the secondary school (grades 7 to 10) in their home village, the distance to school for many children can be significantly shortened. The school is fully integrated into the national education plan of Burkina Faso, and the state covers teachers' salaries. A representative of the Ministry of Education visited the municipality last year and recognized the efforts of the association, which helped increase the nationwide school enrolment rate that currently stands at only 40 percent. The construction of the buildings started in October 2019 and will be finished by the end of 2019.

The project was initiated by Johannes Kinzinger, Consultant at GFA Consulting Group.





GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

▶ 2018



MADAGASCAR: RECEPTION CAPACITY OF THE ARNAUD ORPHANAGE IMPROVED

La Maison d'Arnaud or Arnaud Orphanage is a center receiving orphans, homeless and malnourished children, as well as babies or children of women imprisoned at Diego Suarez's jail. The center is located in Antanamitarana village, 12 kilometers from Madagascar's capital Diego Suarez. Currently, the center shelters 29 children and is funded by Arnaud Foundation. Due to the lack of furniture, budget and staff capabilities, the reception capacity of the orphanage is limited. Therefore, GFA Consulting Group is financing the acquirement of computer and audiovisual teaching materials set for the library, and a first aid nursery box. In addition, training and inputs needed for permaculture, poultry and livestock breeding in order to increase crop and livestock yields at the center's farm, and to enhance children's food quality.

The project has been initiated and implemented by members of Maison d'Arnaud, and by trainers from Ecovillage specialized in permaculture and livestock. Its main goal is to improve the quality and quantity of the orphanage's reception capacities, and to enhance children's livelihood.

The project was supported by Local Economic Development Volaniaina ROBSONA in cooperation with the Executive Director of Maison d'Arnaud, Rachidy Ali.



VIETNAM: TOTAL SCHOOL SANITATION

GFA Bridges supports a middle school in Vinh City, Central Vietnam to achieve Total School Sanita-tion, a concept including the construction and maintenance of hygienic sanitary facilities and effective wastewater treatment systems on school premises along with environmental education and hygiene behavior change of students and their social peer groups.
Managers, teachers and students of Nguyen Truong To Secondary School in Vinh have been sup-ported by GFA in the past when school latrines were reha-bilitated following child-friendly WHO hy-giene standards. In addition, an on-site wastewater treatment system using low-tech and easy-to-maintain process technology was constructed and has been successfully operated by the school for years. Also, education and hygiene communication activities were implemented. The ongoing GFA Bridges initiative builds on these experiences and will focus on their upscaling. To this end, a Project Week on water-related issues will be organized at school and results of students' projects will be pre-sented at a Water Festival, which local officials, representatives of the German embassy in Hanoi and donor organizations will be invited to.
Nguyen Truong To Secondary School is regarded a pilot for the Total School Sanitation concept. The long-term objective is to roll-out the approach to other schools in the region and beyond. Therefore, the GFA Bridges support will culminate in a final stakeholder workshop inviting relevant local politi-cians, officials and representatives from nearby schools to share experiences and explore opportuni-ties for a replication of the concept.

For the implementation of the initiative, GFA expert Christopher Scharfe teams up with volun-teer teachers and managers of Nguyen Truong To Se-condary School and volunteer sanitation professionals from Water Solutions International (WSI) e.V., a German NGO.



ECUADOR: SUPPORTING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEAR GUAYAQUIL IN ECUADOR

In 2018, GFA BRIDGES supports the Ojalá e.V. association, which runs the Jesús de Nazareth primary school in a poor community on the outskirts of Guayaquil in Ecuador. „Ojalá" means „hopefully" in Spanish.

In 1988, the Ecuadorian teacher Margarita Richard founded the primary school as there was no local state school. For support the school financially, she founded the non-profit organization Ojalá e.V. in 1996. The school is completely financed by donations, which are mostly provided in the form of sponsorships. All contributors to Ojalá e.V. work voluntarily.

Twenty-six years ago, a two-story school building with an attached kindergarten was built, in which the children have been taught ever since. Currently, 235 children attend school and many of the teachers have been involved in the school for years. After so many years, large parts of the building are in poor condition. Urgent renovations of the roof, supporting structures of the building, stairways and toilets had to be postponed repeatedly because of a lack of money. The funds from GFA BRIDGES will be used for these indispensable repairs so that the children can continue going to school safely. This will form the basis of their education for a better future for themselves and their families. The construction measures are planned be finished by January 2019, just in time for the 30th anniversary of the school. More information on Ojala e.V. is available at www.ojala-ev.de

This project has been initiated by Julia Augustine of the GFA team in Ecuador.



LEBANON: ULTIMATE FRISBEE WITH VULNERABLE YOUTH

GFA Bridges has financed trainings for refugees, orphans and vulnerable children and youth in the Burj Hammoud and Kahaleh neighborhoods of Beirut, Lebanon. Children are the most vulnerable groups of the more than one million Syrian refugees currently living in Lebanon. They mostly cannot enroll in schools and rarely have an opportunity to play sports.

The project has coached Ultimate Frisbee to children and youth from two informal education centers and provides the centers with the necessary equipment to continue playing. Ultimate is a non-contact team sport played with a flying disc (or Frisbee™) that can be enjoyed by children and youth of all ages and abilities. The game is welcoming and inclusive, and a great platform to develop life skills and social values such as teamwork, leadership, confidence, empathy, etc. Two teams of seven players, both girls and boys, compete on a playing field about the same length as a football field, but more narrow. At each end of the playing field there is an end zone. Each team defends one end zone. A team scores a goal if one of its players catches the disc in the opposite end zone. Project activities will introduce 80 refugee, orphans and vulnerable children and youth to Ultimate Frisbee and teach life skills through sport and fun. Following the training sessions, boys and girls from the two centers will meet to play a friendly game. The project will also train Ultimate coaches in Lebanon on how to include life skills to youth through a Training of Trainers provided by German Ultimate players and coaches with many years of expertise. This will create a lasting impact on the vulnerable children who will learn a new sport and have an opportunity to know children from other areas. It will also prepare the Lebanese Ultimate community to accommodate young players from vulnerable backgrounds.

The project was initiated and supported by Johanna von Toggenburg, Robert Roth, Sabine and Andreas Glindemann.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2017



RWANDA/BURUNDI: IKONEKT – ICT TRAININGS FOR BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

Since the outbreak of the political crisis in Burundi in April 2015, more than 400,000 Burundians have fled their country and sought shelter in neighboring countries. The Mahama refugee camp in Eastern Rwanda is currently hosting more than 50,000 Burundian refugees without access to information and communication technology. Especially teenagers and young adults suffer from limited access to modern ICT infrastructure.

The skillful use of IT hardware and software, internet and social media provide refugees with important employment skills, and enable them to access online courses and low-cost communication with families left behind.

In September 2017, GFA Bridges launched the iKonekt project. GFA funds the establishment of an internet café and ICT trainings to camp inhabitants through a train-the-trainer (ToT) scheme. This creates employment and education opportunities for young adults, promotes social inclusion and alleviates the growing digital divide.

The projectwas supported by Pauline Krebs together with Burundian friends and founders of YUULY (http://yuuly.rw), a social IT start-up, and the volunteer network In-for Refugee.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: IMPROVEMENT OF AN ORPHANAGE

In October 2017 GFA Bridges launched a project to support the only orphanage in Madimba, a town about 100 kilometers far from the capital city of Kinshasa. The project aims at improving the equipment and infrastructure of the orphanage originally established in 2007. The center provides food, shelter and basic education. The total funding provided by GFA is EUR 5,000 to for beds, mattresses, tables, chairs, and a solar equipment to make the center energy self-sustainable. Further, one newly constructed room in the backyard will be finished, walls be plastered, windows and doors purchased to create more space for the children and equipment for home gardening will be purchased.

Currently there are 24 children between a few months and 17 years living in the orphanage and being supported by the project. Most of these children were found on the streets abandoned at birth, others lived on the street since their parents died.

This project was supported by by Laure Mbiakop Ndom, spouse of Martijn ter Heegde, Kinshasa.



INDIA: PROMOTING LOCAL LIVELIHOODS AND GENDER-SENSITIVE SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

In 2017, GFA Bridges supports a project aiming at promoting local livelihoods and gender-sensitive sustainable forest management by supporting sustainable harvesting and marketing of NTFPs and by strengthening capacities of women and community-based organizations in the Sirsi landscape (Uttara Kanada District, Karnataka, India).

The projects includes the implementation of three measures: the installation of a fuel-efficient drier for Non Timber Forest Products, the establishment of a tree nursery for native fruit tree and NTFP species, and trainings on sustainable NTFP harvesting and improved NTFP marketing, especially for women.

This project was supported by Alessandra Große in collaboration with Narasimha Hedge, Director of the NGO Life Trust, based in Sirsi.



MADAGASCAR: RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN THE VILLAGE OF AMBATOHARANANA

In October 2017, GFA Bridges launched a rural electrification project through the installation of solar energy kits in each of the six hamlets making up the village of Ambatoharanana, in Madagascar.

This village, situated in the rural commune of Antanifotsy, 100 km from the capital Antananarivo, has about 1,146 inhabitants and no access to electricity. Street lighting is one of the main needs expressed by the village population. The project aims to provide the population with an environmentally friendly renewable energy source that benefits all families of the village.

GFA finances the purchase and transport of complete energy solar kits. The community supports the installation of the kits with man power.

This project was supported by Jaona Andriamampierika.



BRAZIL: FOOTBALL FOR DEVELOPMENT

In October 2017, GFA Bridges launched a project to improve the social and emotional development of children and young people in Ceilândia using the Social Training methodology developed by GIZ together with Brazilian and German football organizations. Ceilândia is located on the periphery of the country's capital Brasília.

About 200 boys and girls attend the House of Hope, a non-profit football school. The initiative uses the project to take these young people of the street and away from risky situations by offering a safe space for football training, social and emotional learning, and social security.

GFA finances the capacity building of House of Hope football trainers and social workers, and the purchase of materials to improve the conditions of the football and social trainings. The Ceilândia community supports the project with a newly renovated indoor soccer field, locker rooms and a hall for activities on rainy days, as well the salary of a football teacher and an assistant coach.

This project was supported by Armin Deitenbach.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS





GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

► 2016



MADAGASCAR: IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

In October 2016, GFA Bridges launched a project to improve the water supply, sanitation and public hygiene in the village of Amboniarivo. The village is located in the rural area of Tulear, about 240 km south-west of Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar.

As the village has about 475 inhabitants but no water supply at all, children in particular are suffering from waterborne diseases. The new water supply system installed by the local community will benefit the entire village and neighboring communities as well.

GFA Bridges finances the purchase and transport of all required materials to the construction site. The community supports the construction of the pipeline with manpower to connect the village to the main water pipe along the road.

This project was supported by Jaona Andriamampierika. He was born and grew up in Amboniarivo where she has supported a few development projects in the past.



AFGHANISTAN: EXTENDING OF DIGGING THE DRINKING WATER WELL OF NEESWAN BENTULHODA HIGH SCHOOL

Everyone knows about the war in Afghanistan, but few know about the water difficulty in the country. Afghanistan was once a flourishing country with beautiful panoramas and plentiful food and water supplies. But decades of war have affected the infrastructure providing people with water that is safe to drink. The population of Afghanistan is approximately 29 million people with 79% of them residing in rural areas. However, only 27% of the population have access to sources of drinkable water. In rural areas, this proportion decreases to 20%, the lowest coverage rate worldwide.

In Daikundi Province, people mostly get their drinking water from wells and aqueducts that are criti-cally dependent on rain and snow fall. Due to reduced snow and rain fall and climate changes, the water supply problem has recently become worse as the environment has become drier and the ground water level has fallen. Hence, we have some schools without drinking water in Daikundi. In Ulqan village of the Shahristan District, there is a general state high school for girls, called Neeswan Bentulhoda. The 20-year old school building has one principal room, one small warehouse and seven classrooms. There are about 700 schoolgirls studying from first to twelfth grade in two shifts. The personnel comprise a female principal, 13 female teachers, and two male support staff. On a little hill in front of the school is a twenty three meter water well. It had enough water to use for six or seven months. However, the water in the well is not enough anymore as the well needs to be deeper by about ten meters. GFA Bridges will finance the drilling for this extension so that the school girls and the nearby population are going to have enough and clean water all year long.

The project was supported by Ghulam Hossain Parwiz, Kabul.



RUSSIAN FEDERATION: WASTE SEPARATION AND COLLECTION IN THE VILLAGE OF PASHA

GFA Bridges has financed a project related to separate waste collection in the village of Pasha, which has about 4,000 inhabitants and is located 175 km away from St. Petersburg in Russia. The residents of Pasha and the local authorities have supported the idea of introducing separate waste collection in the village, but the establishment of such a system requires significant financial investments, which are not available at the local level. The project, built upon the previous related initiatives of the Pasha community, has allowed creation of the minimum infrastructure required for a functioning separate waste collection system. Two container sites for separate waste collection have been installed and are regularly controlled, and two large-scale exports of recyclables for processing have already been organized. At the same time, the project supported establishment and equipment of a school-based environmental education center. This allows continuous awareness raising on waste management, targeting different social and age groups among the villagers. Within the project timeframe, 27 events (lessons, clean-up actions with separate collection of recyclable materials, competitions, meetings and celebrations) have been organized and conducted. As a result, more than 300 local residents have either switched to separation of waste or have at least been contributed to it on the irregular basis.
The project has been initiated and implemented with the significant support of a team of local volunteers, who in turn mobilized local organizations and broader public. The goal of the local community running the project is to become independent from external funding in the future, and to make a significant contribution to solving environmental problems in the village. The proceeds from recyclable materials have been invested into further development of the separate waste collection system in Pasha.

The project was supported by Irina Kozban in cooperation with the local environmental specialist Elena Gretchina.



CAMEROON: SUPPORT OF IVORIAN IMMIGRANTS

Members of the Association of Ivorians in Cameroon have diverse backgrounds. Some settled as craftsmen in Cameroon to earn their living and others are just passing through the country with Angola, Gabon or Equatorial Guinea as their final destination for work in the oil fields. The objective of the association is to strengthen the solidarity and fraternity among the Ivorian community, to improve living conditions and cultural identity, and to provide advice. The association maintains a center in Yaoundé, the capital city of the country, where all activities take place.

GFA finances the purchase of furniture for a dormitory hosting about 25 persons and a kitchen as well as accessories for the cultural programs. Theatre performances will be presented in Yaoundé and Douala.

This project was supported by Pascal Cuny and his wife Fatoumata Cuny-Coulibaly, honorable president of the Association of Ivorians in Cameroon.





GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

► 2015



NEPAL: EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FOR PEOPLE OF DAMADHUNGA

Damadhunga is a three hours drive to the west of Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal. Due to the two earthquakes on 25 April and 12 May 2015, most of the Damadhunga villagers lost their houses and family members. Mirzas Roshan, the husband of a GFA staff member, proposed the first emergency project after he conducted a needs assessment among community members.

By now, the total amount of EUR 3,382 has been spent on three sustainable earthbag toilets in Amot village and 15 temporary toilets in Damadhunga and surrounding villages. Additionally, he and his friends distributed 100 hygiene packs to each family and provided basic hygiene orientation.

This project was supported by Miraz Roshan, Nepal.



RUANDA: FOUR RAIN WATER TANKS FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MASAKA

After the genozide in Ruanda in 1994, the Makasa community established Project Ruanda which is supported by the Pallottine Missionary Sisters from Poland, who have been involved in the country for 30 years. In the beginning, an orphanage was assisted, then schools in Kabuga und Masaka. Two small centers for women with many children were built. Children and parents are integrated in Project Ruanda activities. The sisters' work is supported by the catholic parish in Farmsen, a district in Hamburg. Every year, approximately 10,000 Euros can be sent to Ruanda as a result of collecting donations and staging Christmas markets and Thanksgiving days. The continuity of the project is as impressive as the sustained involvement of the parish since more than 20 years.

In the beginning of 2015, Project Ruanda opened a new primary school for approximately 1,000 children in Masaka, about 20 km from Kigali, the capital city. The proposed four water tanks are a meaningful investment to complement the newly established school building. The rain water is collected for class room cleaning, toilet flushing and irrigating the school garden and parks near the school. The new primary school is very important for Masaka, which did not have a school before. Due to a desolate infrastructure, more than 70 children were forced to walk 5-11 km and many other children were not able to attend school at all.

This project was supported by Sister Marta Litawa, Ruanda.



UGANDA: KEEP A GIRL IN SCHOOL

In October 2015, GFA BRIDGES launched the Keep a Girl in School program in Uganda to promote girl child education along with menstrual hygiene management. The project aims a positive impact on the school attendance of girls within the urban setting who are facing challenges of how to handle menstruation in a way that does not affect their studies. In extreme cases, girls miss class because they do not have any absorbents during this period. The intervention of GFA BRIDGES, especially during the critical time of National Examinations in Uganda, will hopefully retain more girls in school and sensitize them on how to manage that special time in the month. More than 1,000 girls at Kitebi Senior Secondary School benefit from this project. Each will receive two packets of sanitary pads per month until March 2016. So far, the project has successfully donated over 3,000 pads in October. In addition, the project prepares to install two incinerators that are meant to assist with proper disposal of sanitary waste at school.

This project was supported by Rhona Nakakande, Uganda and Maria Auma.



BURKINA FASO: CONSTRUCTION OF A CLASSROOM FOR THE PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN LOUNGO

Loungo is a village in the La-Toden community, Passoré Province in the Northern part of Burkina Faso. According to UNDP, the poverty level of 68% in this region is the highest in the country, which has an average poverty level of 44%.

Loungo's 4,500 inhabitants are mostly subsistence farmer growing sesame, millet, and cowpeas, and raise livestock for meat production. Due to the dynamics of its population, the village is renowned for its economic and social development. In cooperation with partners and the government, people were able to build stocks of cereals, a health centre and schools. Three schools with a total of six classes have been completed. But conditions at school, especially for girls, need improvement and more positions for children from poor families need to be provided. Therefore, the BRIDGES project aims at building a new classroom of 63 m2 for 60 students. Tables and chairs will be supplied by the ministry responsible for primary education. The school belongs to the village community and parents are responsible for taking care of the buildings. Villagers will also help in the construction of the classroom by buying materials at local markets and transporting it to the school. They also plan to plant trees for the school yard.

This project was supported by Denis Zoungrana.

GFA CONSULTING GROUP

BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2014



EGYPT: MINI-MEDINA – HELPING CHILDREN TO GROW UP SELF-CONFIDENT

Mini-Medina (Arabic for mini-city) is a not-for-profit social enterprise aiming to help children create their own learning experience, expanding their skills, giving them a platform for expression, interaction and teaching them civic engagement and social responsibility through the implementation of their imagined city. Mini-Medina aims to offer children (ages 7 to 15) a mostly adult-free play environment in which they create their own version of society on a small scale. The city is managed and organized by children, following in the footsteps of mini-München, where the educational model of the mini-cities was first applied in the 1960s. It has been replicated in over 70 countries around the world, promoting citizenship and democracy values among children.

The children learn about their society and develop skills to deal with the different adversities that might arise. The different lived experiences of the kids in their daily life, bring to life, in play, complex situations and their pertinent different world views. It is through the play that the different children explore the different means to address the problems, creating solutions that might make their play-based society, a better one. The children thus learn about their society and become more apt to apply the solutions they proposed in a real life scenario. GFA Bridges grant will be used to organize two Mini-Medina Events in Aswan and Alexandra, organize a screening of a documentary on the concept, conduct Training of Trainers and develop an open-source manual for Egypt Mini-Medina.

This project was supported by Helen Naser.



MOLDOVA: SCHOOL FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

A few years ago, SOS Autism Moldova created the only school for the care of autistic children in the country. The school welcomes 35 children and teenagers today, age 2 to 16. Its good reputation results from high quality care and teaching. Even though the school is officially recognized, the state does not support it financially. Funds exclusively come from parental contributions and are relatively low as Moldova has the highest poverty level in Europe.

The school's sanitary facilities are in a deplorable state – no heating, no isolation, a bad ventilation system and old toilet and wash hand basins not suitable for the younger children. The governmental threatened to close the school if no renovations are made. Therefore, the BRIDGES project aims at renovating the sanitary facilities in order to prevent the school's closure and to safeguard its services for autistic children in Moldova.

This project was supported by Angela and Sébastien Santens.



BURUNDI: FOOTBALL FOR ALL KIDS

Burundi's population still suffers from the civil war in the 1990s. The country's economy in 2013 just made position 178 of 186 in the UN Human Development Index. Ethnically and politically motivated tensions between different ethnic groups remain.

The Rutegama Football Club in central-western Burundi was founded to allow children and young people enjoying sports together irrespective of ethnic lines. The kids should simply experience fun and laugh with each other while, at the same time, they can share values such as tolerance, team spirit, determination and stamina.

The project was initiated by local staff of a GIZ water program GFA is involved in. GFA BRIDGES supports the newly founded club with necessary basic sports equipment. In addition, a call for commodity contributions at GFA headquarters received positive feedback so that respective goods could be supplied to the project.

This project was supported by Moussa Hassan and Eveline Stoffel.



The project was supported by Dr. Max Lessle.

ACAMEROUN: IMPROVING THE LIVES OF HEARING-IMPAIRED CHILDRE

About five million inhabitants in Northern Cameroun suffer from a very poor public health system. Hearing-impaired people have no access to audiology services and hearing aids. Being deaf or hearing-impaired can have a devastating effect on children as learning at school becomes incredibly difficult. Despite a private initiative of German doctors in cooperation with the Hospital Protestant' in Ngaoundere, special hearing diagnostics for newborn and pre-school children is not possible.

GFA supports the project by purchasing a screening device for the audiological assessment of difficult-to-test patients such as newborn and small children. This makes the first step of treatment possible, namely the identification of the hearing-impaired children. Children can then be referred to special schools, hearing-aid technicians or, if necessary, to surgery in the project's department.



This project was supported by Ghulam Hossain Parwiz, Kabul.

AFGHANISTAN: SCHOOL COMPLETION IN PALIJ VILLAGE

Suitable learning conditions are a basic requirement for Education, one of the fundamental human rights. For most Afghan parents educational attainment is highly valued for their children to find good jobs and improve their livelihood. But in war-torn Afghanistan, many children in remote areas have no chance to go to school at all. In many villages schools are in a very poor state of repair.

The school project is located about 400 kilometers west of Kabul, the home town of the office manager of a GFA TVET project in Kabul. He is committed to improve the learning environment of about 2000 children in Palij village. The project is supported with a total amount of 4,490 euros and includes completing the school building and roof, plastering the walls, and comissioning and installing doors and windows. Construction work started in October 2014 and will be completed in January 2015.

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BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2013



CHINA: NOMAD SCHOOL PROJECT IN TIBETAN HIGHLANDS

Students of an international school in Beijing support a primary school for Nomad children in the Qinghai Province of the Tibetan highlands. 170 children from ethnic minority and Nomad families attend the school where most of them live together with teachers and support staff.

The idea for this project was raised during a practical school training of the international students in Qinghai. When they visited the primary school, they set up a sanitation project in collaboration with teachers and local students that aims at improving the school's sanitation status. The Beijing students contributed their academic award and collected funds for repairing the school's sanitation facilities, kitchen and dormitory, improving waste management, buying winter clothing and providing training on basic health. They themselves developed the information material and conducted the training. GFA complemented the efforts by financing two solar water heaters and training material on individual hygiene.

This project was supported by Sylvie Dideron in partnership with Lijia Tsering, Gangcha school headmaster and Donke, Xunhua County Governor.



MADAGASCAR: SCHOOL KITS FOR STREET CHILDREN

Since the crisis in 2009, Madagascar stagnates as a country and poverty levels are increasing sharply. As a result, school enrolment is decreasing while the number of school drop-outs increases. This is the case not only in rural but also in urban areas. Many poor families cannot afford to send their children to school, depriving them of the right to education.

The Centre Akanifitahani, a small day-care centre and school for street kids and other poor children, has been trying to counteract this trend since 2006. For the school start in October, GFA supports the Centre in purchasing 300 school kits and other essential school supplies. This will enable 300 non-privileged children aged 3 to 17 to start or continue their education. Each school kit contains a small backpack, a small pencil case, basic stationery, and pens, crayons, erasers and sharpener. The remainder of the funds will be used to repair some of the school's furniture or manufacture some new benches.

This project was supported by Michel Jamar (CTA Madagascar National Parks) and Susanne van Lieshout.



MOLDOVA: AUXILLIARY SCHOOL NO. 6

The Republic of Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. Since the fall of communism, social infrastructure has collapsed. Mentally or physically handicapped children are suffering the most. Auxiliary School Nr. 06 in Chisinau tries to alleviate the hardship of over 300 handi¬capped children aged 6-18 which currently live at the boarding school. The pedagogical team is dedicated in their support to the children despite the lack of financial resources.

Grants received in recent were too small to have an impact. Therefore, the Bridges project financed by GFA aims at renovating and equipping the speech therapy unit, which will have a positive impact on the future life chances of the children supported. Improving speech and talking skills will enhance the children's ability of cope with social skills. The school is committed to maintain the renovated speech therapy room and the purchased equipment. The number of children receiving speech therapy at the therapy unit will be increased.

This project was supported by Philip and Angela Santens.



INDIA: A MARKETPLACE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

World Volunteer, a Swedish organization, has worked with Women's Education for Development Trust (WEDT) in India to support self-help groups for women entrepreneurs some of who struggle with profitability because of unfair pricing, low product quality, and gender discrimination.

In order to address these challenges a marketplace will be built as a key trading link between rural communities and urban trading centers. The increased range of products available will benefit all entrepreneurs but it will be designed with particular consideration for small-scale women entrepreneurs.

The marketplace will be built in collaboration with entrepreneur associations and the local municipality which will own the market upon completion. GFA will provide planning and management expertise and construction materials while WEDT will contribute expertise regarding entrepreneurship, trading patterns, and local regulations. International volunteers will join community members in the construction of the marketplace.

This project was supported by David Jonsson, World Volunteer, Sweden.



YEMEN: HOME GARDENS FOR FOOD SECURITY

The project aims at assisting poor households in Hodeidah with vitamin and mineral rich vegetable seeds to establish home gardens. Young local volunteers will learn sustainable gardening skills which they will later share with their families and other local households in an effort to improve community food security.

The project was developed in preparation of the International Youth Action Day for Climate Justice 2013, an initiative of German youth and church organizations. Yemen is very vulnerable to climate change impacts and among the most food-insecure and poverty-stricken countries in the world.

The youth project will work at a local and practical level, building on a recently completed GIZ food security program. The home gardens will be self-sustained as households provide land, natural fertilizers, and water. Volunteers and steering group will be in charge of contributing to the training, establishing home gardens, and ensuring sustainability through follow-up visits.

This project was supported by Hanan Khaled.




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BRIDGES SUPPORTS SOCIAL PROJECTS

2012



LAO PDR: ECO BUNGALOW PROJECT IN BAN LONG LAO MAI

The region of Ban Long Lao Mai is in the vicinity of Luang Prabang, Laos' fourth largest city. This scenic region with its picturesque countryside and its approximately 700 inhabitants is increasingly visited by tourists travelling through Laos. The presence of increasing numbers of tourists gave rise to the idea of building an ECO bungalow that can be used by groups of tourists for overnight stays. Certified guides from the village will offer hikes in the limestone mountains in the area, to caves and to the Kuang Si waterfall.

The goal of this project is to create a sustainable new income source for the region's inhabitants: through accommodation for and catering to tourists, and through the sale of local handicrafts. The construction of the ECO bungalows will be supported by the GFA BRIDGES budget through a grant of € 4,000. The money will be used to buy building material, paint, shovels and gloves, among other things.
Volunteers from Sweden will join forces with the villagers at the end of 2012 to begin work on the construction of the ECO bungalow. Current plans are that 50 per cent of the revenue be transferred into a fund intended to benefit the entire village. This could then fund projects such as the construction of further ECO bungalows and various classrooms.

This project was supported by Aydin Inchiyev.



LEBANON: TRADITIONAL SEWING AS A SOURCE OF INCOME AMONG WOMEN

In the Minya region near the Lebanese capital of Tripoli, sewing arts have a long tradition, having been practiced by the women living there for centuries. Sewn pieces are an integral part of every household, and are put on display at weddings and other special occasions.

„Brode tes idées" – or, "sew your ideas", is how women describe their approach to sewing. Ms. Wafaa Oman learned traditional sewing techniques over many years of training and practice. She now runs the sewing project for women in the Minieh region. In the two phases of a project to support this craft, Ms. Wafa will first organize seminars during which she passes on her knowledge to the region's women. In the second phase of the project, she will develop further sewing workshops for women. The seamstresses will thus exercise and improve their craft, making popular products for the market. GFA BRIDGES has made €5,000 available for the purchase of material and sewing machines.

The aim of the project is to pass on traditional sewing arts and preserve them, while supplying women in the region with an additional source of income. This not only contributes to women's self-esteem, but also to their reputation in the area. The seminars and study rooms are also intended as a meeting place for women – a location in which they can promote the exchange of ideas and find mutual support.

This project was supported by Catrin Schreiber.



VIETNAM: SWIM FOR LIFE – SWIM LESSONS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Drowning is the leading killer of children in Vietnam. Across the country, an average of about 3,500 children drown every year. Worse, an unknown additional number of children suffer brain damage, and often these children end up permanently handicapped, which puts an enormous financial and psychological burden on their families, particularly affecting poor households.

The vast majority of drowning deaths are preventable. They tend to occur within 20 meters of the home and are often the result of unsupervised children falling into local water hazards.

The project, which is conducted in cooperation with a primary school in Hanoi, aims to help school children aged six to eight, as well as their parents and teachers, become life-long multipliers and swim coaches.

This project was supported by Frank Pogade, Le Thi Tü Anh, Hoang Kim Chi, Ngüyen Thüy Ha, Dang Thüy Linh and Ngüyen Thi Minh Tam.



AZERBAIJAN: SCOUTS TEACH DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Currently, around 41 million children and young people worldwide belong to the scout movement. There is even a scout group in the extreme north of Azerbaijan, in the Zagatala region. Scouts do a great deal of good, especially for children and young people, and in keeping with that tradition the Zagatala scouts came up with the idea of giving young people in the area something meaningful to do in their spare time. The scouts decided to help disadvantaged young people to come to grips with computers and a foreign language: English. In order for this to happen, a suitable classroom needed to be found and equipped.

With a donation of €5,440 from GFA BRIDGES, the scout group was able to renovate a classroom and purchase furniture, internet-enabled computers and teaching materials. The scouts contacted volunteers from the American Peace Corps for help with the project, and they can now provide a group of around 30 young people with regular lessons in English. The scout leaders provide the computer lessons on a voluntary basis. This helps local young people not only to build up their skills, but introduces them into an international social community.

This project was supported by Aydin Inchiyev.

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