



KUNE ZUVA NEWSLETTER

2020 / 2021 #22

The Foundation

Kune Zuva means 'the sun shines'. This is also the objective of the foundation: 'Let the sun shine for people in Africa by providing opportunities in life'. For 20 years the Kune Zuva Foundation has been creating, running and financing small-scale projects, also on an individual basis. Current projects are in South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Tanzania.

Funds

The 2019 Christmas Newsletter brought in a wonderful € 10,571. Apart from private individuals, there are schools and organisations that support us too. This enabled us to spend almost € 30,000 on meaningful projects in 2020. A great result all round. Thank you very much for this!

Looking back

In Malawi, 7 people started a sewing course. People with albinism or their parents were offered this opportunity because they can provide for themselves indoors, protected from the African sun. Covid-19 still being part of everyone's lives means that they can practice making masks, a useful and simple object on which to learn.

In Kenya, South Sudan and Malawi, booklets from the Aisha & Friends Foundation have been distributed to primary school children. It explains why the schools are temporarily closed and how important washing hands and keeping your distance is. This is not an easy task with hardly any running water and overcrowded living conditions. Because life in these countries largely takes place on the street and the average age of the population is much lower than in Europe, the impact of the pandemic is very different than in the western world.

Due to the long-term closure of many schools, most pupils and students supported by Kune Zuva will need more time to complete their education and

thus will need financial support for longer. Digital education was trialled at some secondary schools and further education. However, few students have sufficient facilities to take advantage of these lessons. In Tanzania, the national exams have been taken as usual. The result of preparation via a battered smartphone is easy to guess. Other consequences of school closures are extreme increases in teenage pregnancy and domestic violence.

In Tanzania, Esther is working on her dream with our help – she wants to improve the future of Maasai girls by ending female circumcision and child marriage. Esther provides information and inspires young girls, and also the village elders and parents. These traditions are a major problem, especially in rural areas, despite their illegality.

In Ruiru, Kenya, new furniture has been made for various schools. The benches were constructed initially for two children per table, but as long as Covid is active, the government has determined that it's one child per table. This is no problem as long as the schools are still largely closed.

Artistic murals with Covid as a theme are emerging all over Kenya. The government is promoting this as an awareness campaign. This is how 'our' orphan care group in southern Kenya came into being. The end result, a mural depicting hand washing, mask wearing and Covid particles is colourful and cheerful despite the serious message.

Extensive background information about our projects can be found at our website www.kunezuva.nl and with recent updates on Facebook and LinkedIn (Dutch).

Neemthok Community Garden, South Sudan

Decades of civil war, religious and tribal conflicts and oppression left deep scars in South Sudan. People have lost their values and standards here; conflicts are fought with guns instead of conversation and compromise. And there has been no mainstream education since 1955. Yet the newly composed community of Neemthok is keen to live in peace, provide their children with education, have adequate food and care for their elderly, widows and disabled people.

Background:

Neemthok consists of approximately 7,000 people from the Dinka tribe. The people have been relocated from conflict regions to this relatively safe residential area. Conflict still rages in large parts of the country. The army keeps the peace and offers protection around Neemthok. Hunger is the other great enemy of the population, aside from the civil war.

The government has divided land among the relocated families. Some of these families have donated a piece of their land to the authorities to build a school and church. The land turned out not to be suitable for this, because although it is flat, it is regularly flooded by abundant rainfall. This makes the soil fertile and fruit trees also thrive. It has been decided to use the land as a community garden. A well was dug a few years ago, so there is always water available. Proceeds are intended for school meals and for vulnerable people in their communities. The garden is 1,200 metres long and 400 metres wide. Parts are ready for sowing and planting, the rest consists of rough bushes, etc. Slowly but surely, 56 families are clearing and maintaining this space. A group of women received extensive basic training in agriculture in 2018: tilling land, sowing, and caring for and propagating plants. Every year they put what they have learned into practice and the harvest increases.

Programme:

Excessive rainfall has recently seriously damaged crops in the area. Fortunately, the plants of Neemthok look good, because the soil of the garden is slightly higher. Food supply, particularly in the months before the rainy season begins, is a top priority here and any contribution to assist them in

their commitment to nourishing meals for the most vulnerable is most welcome. The first funds that Kune Zuva made available were spent on heat-resistant seeds, some tools and the hiring of ploughing oxen.

There are still not enough oxen or ploughs, but also watering cans and the like, available for working on the land. Furthermore, a good fence is necessary. Animals need to be stopped feeding on the crops and people also want to prevent theft. Last year, some of the vegetables were harvested prematurely at night and taken away by thieves.

Because the war has been going on for so long, South Sudan itself hardly produces any products such as watering cans and barbed wire. These are imported from Uganda or Kenya, which makes these items very expensive. The roads are very bad or non-existent and passage through conflict areas requires military guidance. But the distances between villages are also great. Transport is therefore a major cost item.

In order to successfully develop this community garden so that it can provide food, our help is necessary for further cultivation and fencing. This requires ploughs, oxen, and also barbed wire and watering cans. After that, this garden can continue independently.

Foundation Kune Zuva

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Christmas wish from Kune Zuva

As you can see, Kune Zuva keeps supporting marginalized people in Africa. Kune Zuva works hard to continue the support of the various projects. The focus is on all phases of education, from kindergarten to university, for the less fortunate people in society. Most of these projects will extend into future years. In this respect, your financial support is essential to us and will be gratefully received.

Also this year we are sending our newsletter with our Merry Christmas greetings. We sincerely hope you are willing to support our Foundation with a donation via IBAN NL89 INGB 000 5837915 – Swift/ BIC Code INGBNL2A of Foundation Kune Zuva, Tolsedijk 10, 4681 SV Nieuw Vossemeer, The Netherlands. By supporting our Foundation, you are not just wishing us a happy 2021, but you will let the sun shine for people in Africa, and provide them with the key to a successful future. Thank you in advance, and thank you also from our friends in Africa!

Loving Christmas and a Sunny and Healthy 2021!