

## IPA Annual Report 2021

The past “IPA year” since the AGM 2020 was marked by a multitude of changes and adjustments, especially within the association, but also at our partners in Zimbabwe.

### A Managing board

Since the AGM 2020, the cooperation and communication within the managing board has been shaped by transparency and clear structure, regular and effective conference calls. Interested members were involved as often as possible.

### B Finances

The clear allocation of the IPA funds to the currently three projects (OEAS, MCH Rosedale, Mutoredzanwa Primary / Neshangwe Sec.) has proven itself as a working structure. The board agreed that the treasurer would regularly update all those responsible for the three projects with a financial report. Donations that were explicitly made for one of the three projects can easily be allocated since then.

Transfer costs depend on fees and the respective underlying exchange rate. Due to the sometimes-dramatic devaluation of money, cash pick-up with US \$ was previously useful. Due to the stabilization of the ZIM \$ / RTGS, we made bank-to-bank transfers again.

So far, relatively large amounts of money (donations of different donor groups) have been transferred to MCH Rosedale. It was agreed with the Swiss church group as the main sponsor of Rosedale that a large amount from the IPA account would be transferred to the Swiss Church account. From there, it will be forwarded in installments to MCH Rosedale on request from the director Ms. Lenzeni Kamwendo.

The main goals of the board after the AGM 2020 were, among others:

- Consolidation of revenues for the support of the various projects, in particular the medium-term support from OEAS, which has been uncertain to date
- Clarification of how long-term the cooperation with OEAS can be clearly structured and whether OEAS can be financed by IPA alone in the medium term, i.e. initially for 1 year.

The great (and with only a few members controversial) obligation and responsibility for OEAS is the continuous support of the beneficiaries of OEAS. This represents a change in the previous IPA association work, “from the selective and non-binding support of a project towards longer-term program participation”.

### C Members

New active members: Ina Weber-Gerhardt, Meinrad Armbruster

Total number of active members: 11

New supporting members: Marlene Bosse, Ulrike Weber-Berger, Mareike Berger, Josef Kruck, Jochen Jaeger, Ursula Jander, Rudi und Mechthild Bilfinger

In order to ensure more financial planning security, more members should join the association so that the regular contributions provide solid funding.

## **D Public relations**

Homepage: Marlene Bosse has agreed for further maintenance of the homepage.

The homepage ([www.ipazim.de](http://www.ipazim.de)) was updated at the end of the year and important information on the various projects were added. It turned out to be useful that those involved in the various projects post their own contributions to the homepage, if necessary after consultation with the chairmen of the board.

- Information materials on the cooperation between IPA and OEAS have been created,
- Active advertising among friends and family, especially in the context of Christmas fundraiser,
- A new IPA flyer is to be created.

## **E IPA income since AGM 2020 (see treasurer's financial report)**

- Membership fees (total, active members, project-related sponsoring members). The monthly contributions of the sponsoring members (from € 20, -) were paid self-determined by the new members.
- In addition to the financial foundation through contributions, there are also project-related donations. Fortunately, there were several donors (especially for OEAS) who were very generous last year and therefore our support services in Zimbabwe were very generous and enabled planning security for a further year.
- The Christmas fundraiser for OEAS was a great success.
- A form has been developed for "gift donations".
- Both the income and the expenses have been communicated to everyone by treasurer Rainer Pleser since the last AGM.

## **F Expenses (see treasurer's financial report)**

All money transfers to OEAS were made by Willie Chakauya upon request. They were confirmed by him in his monthly reports. All major expenses (and many minor ones) were documented by him via photo / WhatsApp and forwarded to the IPA board. Willie often provided the current US \$ / ZIM \$ exchange rates or excerpts from them confirmed by the daily press, as well as by other information (Reinhard Thiemann, Emily). The expenses for project activities in Neshangwe were made as well as controlled by Reinhard Thiemann. MCH Rosedale was sponsored by both the Swiss parish and diocese and controlled by a law firm in Gweru (Naisbitt).

## **G Our current programs in Zimbabwe**

In my opinion, the term “project” is no longer appropriate for our activities because the support we have provided has been operated continuously for years and the cooperation with the partners in Zimbabwe therefore has become more of a "program" character.

### **1. Midlands Childrens Home „Rosedale“**

Reports from Lenzeni Kamwendo on the situation in Rosedale, as well as money requests from IPA were usually sent to Rainer Pleser. The IPA association account was in this regard, used as a transit account, as donations from German sources (friends in Rosedale, Rotarier Berlin, Konrad Meyfarth and others) accumulated and were forwarded in portions at the request of Lenzeni Kamwendo.

### **2. Neshangwe Secondary und Mutoredzanwa Primary**

Reinhard Thiemann's annual report on those IPA activities initiated and carried out by him in Neshangwe Secondary and Mutoredzanwa Primary School can also be found below. He shows with what great and continuous commitment technical improvements in the two schools were organized. This project's success is only possible if technical prerequisites (car, safer money transfer etc.) are available and if a reliable local partner, here Israel Mutamiri, can be permanently integrated. (The same goes for Rosedale with Lenzeni Kamwendo, as well as for OEAS with Willie Chakauya.)

### **3. OEAS**

(This section shows all activities in which OEAS was involved or required, as well as activities for all persons originally cared for by OEAS).

Unfortunately, since our (Susanne and Klaus) last visit to Zimbabwe in 2019, no IPA visit to Gweru was possible due to the corona situation. Information about the project situation in OEAS we received through monthly reports from Willie Chakauya, Sister Anna from the Hozheri Clinic and occasionally through phone calls with Werner Burkhard, Harare.

#### **3.1 Communication IPA – OEAS**

Exchange of information and discussion of the activities carried out and upcoming activities in OEAS:

- Monthly reports from Willie Chakauya on project activities, planning, situation in Gweru / Zimbabwe on finances, school policy, Corona; financial situation in OEAS.
- Weekly phone calls / WhatsApp / email communication with Willie Chakauya, image documentation of OEAS activities.

#### **3.2 Situation of OEAS in Gweru**

OEAS still has its office in Gweru on the premises of the archdiocese of Gweru, does not have to pay any rent, but as always must pay for costs such as telephone, water, electricity, internet. Willie is in talks with all of the diocese representatives, mostly with the vicar general. He was invited to the Inauguration ceremony of the new Bishop of Gweru, Rudolf Nyandoro, in his function as OEAS Head. The work of OEAS is highly valued by the Catholic Church because ultimately aid programs are carried out which are the original activities of the church. Willie Chakauya is also invited to Gweru City Administration meetings. He has a

Personal ID as “Facilitator” in the “National Strategy on Children in Difficulty Circumstances”. With this ID he was able to look after the orphans and their families during lock down periods.

Sister Claudette Laverdière, a friend of the late Sister Frances and former President of the Maryknoll Sisters in New York, wrote to Willie and said she was delighted, that the OEAS project will continue after the death of Sr Frances. She has contacted me too and expressed their great gratitude for our commitment to IPA. All in all, Willie is very well networked both in Gweru and in the school sector and his obliging and humble nature is valuable to work in a very difficult environment.

### 3.3 OEAS Beneficiaries

#### Number/ statistics:

The core activity of OEAS was and remains the support of children from HIV-infected families. The number of beneficiaries had decreased from 2014 to 2018 under Sister Frances steadily from 85 to 55. This was probably a consequence of the lesser donation income in the United States. In 2020 the number had risen to 70, for Willie as the sole supervisor, a still feasible number. Currently, 55 supervised are due to graduations, but the number should be increased again to 60 through new admissions if our finances allow this in the longer term. The attached table on the currently funded beneficiaries (as of April 2021) provides information about their distribution in schools and their family situation. Willie Chakauya also organizes this documentation thoroughly.

The number of 70 beneficiaries is currently hardly reachable because the school fees in Zimbabwe have been increased by many times, i.e., fivefold! \*, and thus, a medium-term obligation for a higher number of students through funding from IPA cannot be guaranteed with certainty. The care of the OEAS beneficiaries not only requires school fees, but also teaching materials, possibly school uniforms and in times of need food support for the families.

(\* The school fees for 63 beneficiaries were around 1,600 US \$ in 2020. For the school year 2021, OEAS must provide US \$ 7,700 for 60 beneficiaries. This amount is debited to the IPA budget in particular. At the same time, the schools attended are also relieved with this money, as fewer and fewer parents in Zimbabwe can now pay school fees.)

#### School diplomas of the OEAS Beneficiaries:

Grade 7: The results of the elementary school diplomas were published in January. Considering the difficult circumstances in which the beneficiaries attend school (destitute families, poor rural schools, few materials, teachers' strike, corona shutdown, ...) their results were not bad: 5 out of 7 passed, even if in some cases barely. Particularly noteworthy given that 88 of all primary schools had 0% pass rate nationwide. The nationwide pass rate sunk from 47% to 37%. The best results were found in the subjects “indigenous languages”, the worst in E and M.

O-level: The national results were published at the end of April but have not been analyzed by OEAS yet.

#### **4. Emergency relieve / food support**

Until November 2020, the extreme multi-year drought in Southern Africa led to great bottlenecks in food supply. The prices exploded due to the scarcity, plus the rural population did not have access to supermarkets because of the months-long lockdown.

OEAS has, with the funding of IPA, school meals in Hozheri Primary and in the neighboring school Tangwena Secondary organized as long as the schools were open. At the beginning of the year, only the classes in exam preparation could be supported, which later was also no longer possible. During the lockdown period, Willie could at least provide food supplies to all the families of the beneficiaries as he could pass police checks with his special ID more or less easily. Supplying the widely dispersed in the countryside living families was only possible with the help of OEAS. This support continued until the harvest in April.

Vegetable seeds, mainly beans, were distributed to the families of the beneficiaries in February, so that, in addition to corn, protein-containing products could also be planted.

Christmas package:

As in previous years, a Christmas gift package was sent to all beneficiaries in December (corn, rice, sugar, dish oil, flour, Kapenta i. e. dried fish, Mazoe orange syrup, biscuits, soap, seeds and 1 youth novel).

#### **5. Health/ Corona**

Since the beginning of 2020, the corona pandemic has apparently had less impact on health than on the economy. In the meantime, the medical staff, the military and the police was vaccinated first. Willie received his first vaccination with SinoVac. a second shot in June. All educational institutions such as schools were closed for many weeks in 2020. They were then gradually reopened for the examination classes (see also the report by R. Thiemann).

During the last year, IPA has

- mouth-nose masks sewn in Harare and sent them to schools and beneficiaries and distributed via OEAS (Organized by Renate Bösche)
- bought soap and disinfectant for victims and schools
- Willie kept up to date on the latest developments regarding Corona and he passed the rules of conduct to the beneficiary families. To date, Willie hasn't had any (severe) coronavirus cases reported in the families.

In the neighboring Hozheri Clinic, Sister Anna is in constant contact with Rainer Pleser. He sent two aid packages of children's clothing and masks to the clinic via Rosedale.

#### **6. Hozheri**

Hozheri Primary School is located in the Vungu Rural District, approx. 1 km south of Mvuma Road. The school was particularly supported by OEAS during the time of Sister Frances, as it is in a resettlement area which is particularly poor and several OEAS beneficiaries go to school there. The number of beneficiaries here is now 20. Unfortunately, in April the teacher

in charge, Godfrey Marume, was unexpectedly transferred. He was a great support to Willie in all activities in Hozheri.

The Hozheri water supply:

As decided at the AGM 2019, we have assigned in October 2020 Werner Burkhard (Techelec) from Harare with a system analysis of the still non-functioning water supply (a Rotary project, "Bridge of Unity" e.V. / Berlin and Gweru). As a result of his analysis, the following aspects were carried out by him and OEAS with the help of the Hozheri Community.

- The power supply for the motor was repaired by ZESA (at Willie's insistence).
- The motor and pump were repaired and tested in Harare and are now working.
- The pressure build-up is strong enough and the output of approx. 2500 L / h is great.
- The pipes currently have fewer leaks and are mostly installed underground.
- The water pipe no longer leads from the Dam to the cow drinker, but up to the school.
- A division of the water into service water (for school gardens) and drinking water is planned.
- It is not yet clear what quality the water has and whether it is urgent that drinking water needs to be cleaned. Some Hozheri residents, like the headmaster, are currently drinking the raw water without cleaning.
- On April 29th a water sample was sent to Harare for analysis (right now the result is still open)

Contacting and online discussion with Solar Global e.V. from Forschungszentrum Jülich / FH Aachen has so far not led to any results. It was considered (with no useful result), whether water purification in Hozheri is possible with the help of solar energy. Water purification with help of SODIS (= solar disinfection) or chlorine is to be discussed.

Balance of the cooperation between IPA and OEAS:

The decision of IPA to accept OEAS as a local cooperation partner in Gweru made it possible to continuously and reliably look after and support the approx. 60 orphans, as well as organizing the aid in the famine and the gradual structural improvements in schools. Willie Chakauya has been a dedicated and reliable leader of OEAS. Without him none of the above-mentioned activities would have been possible.

## **H. Additional information**

Sister Janice McLaughlin, who founded OEAS together with Sister Frances in 1999, died in New York at the age of 79. She was in Rhodesia during the War of Liberation, was arrested in 1977 for her work against the Smith government and later deported to the USA (see also: [www.maryknollsisters.org/obituaries/](http://www.maryknollsisters.org/obituaries/)).

**Dr. Klaus Weber (for the IPA Board)**

**05.05.2021**

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## **Report on IPA projects at Neshangwe High School and Mutoredzanwa Primary School, Sadza from June 2020 to April 2021**

Schools were closed in Zimbabwe from late March to September 2020. Only a few final exams were held. In May, Israel Mutamiri bought material for around 500 cloth masks for Neshangwe High School and the home economics teachers at Neshangwe sewed the masks. In the months of June, July and August, Israel, together with its daughter Fadzai, transferred data packages for WhatsApp e-learning to the phones of 11 teachers and 59 A-level students.

A large number of the students were reached and were able to stay in contact with the teachers. Before school started in September, Israel brought Covid19 hygiene materials such as electronic thermometers, water containers, soap, hand gel, etc. to Neshangwe.

Werner Burkhard installed a switch from solar to ZESA electricity in the solar water pump system, so that water can now also be pumped at night when public electricity is available and thus the pumping capacity is temporarily doubled. W. Burkhard had to travel again to repair the solar power plant that had been struck by lightning. Thanks to built-in fuses, only the ZESA supply line was affected, and little damage was recorded. Four new batteries for the solar power plant were bought because the power was exhausted after 5 years. 8 more batteries are to be replaced in May / June.

In December, the headmaster, Mr. Guvhu, asked to support his 5 school-paying employees such as caretakers, office workers and 3 security guards, as they had not been able to get a salary for months due to the lack of school fees. IPA funds paid them back for 5 months. Because of the low salaries, the total amount was only around 250 euros, which Israel Mutamiri transferred directly to their accounts. In January, Israel supplied Neshangwe again with hygiene products for the school opening. Since the school of the former headmistress, Ms. Chakoma, near Murewa, Hokodzi, had no hygiene products at all, she bought as an exception for around 180 euros PPE.

In February, rainfalls caused sewage tanks on Neshangwe to collapse. Israel Mutamiri brought building materials there and wages for repairs. In March, Mr Chomusina, a committed teacher who had taken part in the two school exchanges, initiated another e-learning for his students and received data packages from IPA in return. The work ethic of the other teachers seems to have suffered greatly under strike conditions. Sometimes lessons are only given 2 days a week. After salary increases, teachers' salaries are still below the government poverty line of around USD 220.

At the Mutoredzanwa Primary School, the electrification of the school buildings and the teachers' houses continued after the cabling began at the end of 2019, for which IPA provided around USD 2,000. Due to the pandemic, the work dragged on until the beginning of 2021 and an additional approx. 2500 USD were provided by IPA for this purpose. Israel bought the material and brought it to Mutoredzanwa. ZESA then assessed the work and made specifications for the connection to the public network. This follow-up procedure proved to be time-consuming and cumbersome as ZESA did not work with the official quotes I requested and only received after the school sent someone to Marondera.

ZESA's work should cost around \$ 800 but be paid in local currency. Israel Mutamiri had to go to Marondera twice and make payments on site. In addition, he had to buy cables in Harare (approx. 450 USD) because ZESA had no material to bring them to Mutoredzanwa. ZESA was also unable to provide the required 8 prepaid meters (approx. 800 USD), Israel had to pay them to a company in Harare and present the proof of payment to ZESA. A very complicated process from ZESA.

Israel solved this problem with great care and expenditure of time with trips to Marondera. How long it will take ZESA to connect the school to the network cannot be foreseen because of ZESA's chaotic organization. For IPA, the project is actually completed with payment from ZESA. But lamps etc. may have to be procured in addition.

Israel's old Mazda truck was a great help with the errands. During the pandemic, his truck was the only way to procure material for IPA in Harare and bring it to Neshangwe and Mutoredzanwa. However, he cannot maintain his truck with the mileage allowance received for this and the payments for the implementation of the respective projects. An overhaul of the engine is pending. A grant from IPA is essential so that the projects can continue to be carried out in the countryside during the pandemic, as I myself cannot carry out projects with trips to the schools myself. Israel is currently collecting estimates for the repair. Thanks to Israel Mutamiri, the projects at the schools could be carried out as planned during the pandemic. Communication with him via WhatsApp is excellent, and he can work for the projects immediately and at any time, as the pandemic made him unemployed.

The teaching situation in the schools cannot be clearly identified at the moment. Because of the "incapacitation" of the teachers due to their low salary, it is not clear to what extent lessons are actually taking place and certainly not with what quality. In any case, the effects on the learning process must be viewed as devastating after a year of pandemic in which hardly any classes took place. It will not be possible to make up for this lost time. The schools are financially at the end, because school fees are rarely paid due to the many school failures, which office workers, caretakers and security guards as well as office supplies, electricity, infrastructure etc. have to pay. For these basic requirements, comparatively more would have to be invested by IPA in the future before the procurement of textbooks can be thought of.

The pandemic has also caused problems with the implementation of projects here in Germany. The fundraising process for the most part came to a standstill because, for example, no more donations came from my former school because collecting donations became impossible (e.g., DVD sales at Christmas concerts) and there were no lectures. For the individual support of Fadzai Mutamiri's studies, however, I was still able to find donors among private friends. It is to be hoped that once the pandemic has subsided, more donations will come in for the projects at schools in Zimbabwe.

Reinhard Thiemann