

Dear Members and Sponsors of the Support Group at Swiss TPH,

We all live through special times and many things have changed, for you and for us, the board of the Support Group at the Swiss TPH. We are currently experiencing how fragile our securities and our prosperity are, but also how flexibly many people and areas of society are able to adapt to the new situation.

The end of 2019 had two highlights for the Support Group: a very successful bazaar and the first-time presence at the Winter Symposium of the Swiss TPH. In January, we were able to hold our first board meeting according to our well-established procedures and approve two new projects, namely the support of a literacy course for women in Chad, and water tanks for a children's home in Uganda. Details of these intensively discussed and closely monitored projects can be found on the following pages.

Our second meeting had to take place virtually and was dominated by a discussion as to whether the Support Group should deviate from its established principle and examine requests for emergency aid, given the uniqueness of the current situation. After intensive consultations, we decided that we would continue to focus on helping people to help themselves, because the sustainable improvement of the living conditions of our materially disadvantaged fellow human beings in developing countries is still relevant. Indeed, there is even a danger that fewer resources will be available for this type of aid in the future. We would only consider an exception for emergency aid projects when they are directly connected to an activity of Swiss TPH.

We would be pleased to hear your thoughts on this decision, preferably at the General Assembly that will take place on 22 June 2020 at 2 pm. A physical participation in compliance with the distance rules is possible subject to new restrictions - meeting point is the room "Matterhorn" of Swiss TPH. Alternatively, for the first time there is the possibility to participate in the General Assembly remotely. Please contact me if you are interested (peter.steinmann@swisstph.ch). We are looking forward to your participation, whether personally or virtually!

Finally, a request: Do you know someone who would like to become a member of the Support Group at Swiss TPH? Get in touch with us! In addition, please remember to transfer your membership fee for the year 2020 in the coming months. A big thank you to all who have already done this! We are very happy about generous rounding up and donations, because we regularly receive very solid project proposals and we hope to be able to continue supporting about five projects per year.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Steinmann

President of the Support Group at Swiss TPH



Completed Projects

Moyo Wangu Environmental Educational Centre in Msumarini in Kenya

A report from our partners in Kenya: "With your support we are now bringing solar energy even closer to the people in and around Msumarini, as we have enough sun. We have used the largest part of your subsidy to purchase a solar system and to equip our solar centre shop with many solar products. There are now solar lamps, batteries, power banks and solar panels available. Depending on one's electricity needs and wallet, various solar power kits are available. In the meantime we have already sold several of these solar kits.

With our know-how we also offer a good and comprehensive service. Our solar system is coupled with a charging station. The villagers can now charge their batteries for a small fee and have their own electricity. This creates independence from the expensive public power grid.

Through the solar shop we can now also buy seeds and tools and finance our environmental centre project with many activities and information events. We have invested another part of the money in wood to build more solar cookers and solar dryers in our carpentry workshop (see photo). Thanks to your help, our community hall in the environmental centre is now well equipped with chairs and tables. So everyone can comfortably participate in our environmental lectures and information events.



The Corona crisis has also reached Kenya. We are now concentrating entirely on the local food supply, because supply bottlenecks and food shortages are already becoming apparent. For our grocery store we have bought bags of maize flour, rice, beans, dried fish, other durable food as well as hygiene products in order to guarantee the basic supply in the village. All available fields were cleared, raked and sown with fast growing Michicha (spinach), okra and Sukumawiki (cabbage). In about 1.5 weeks we can harvest and cover the supply situation with fresh vegetables.

The fruits of our banana and papayas trees are also ripe soon. Our solar cooker is in constant use to bake rolls and cakes. Due to the construction of our two wells the water supply is also guaranteed. With our sewing team we provide the surrounding hospitals and the population with washable and reusable protective masks."



The solar centre and the community hall for trainings and lectures.



New Projects

Equipment for Literacy Courses by *Femme Avenir* in Chad

In 2017, the Support Group helped the NGO *Femme Avenir* in the Batha region of Chad to build a training room for the implementation of literacy courses. The first training activities started in early 2018. In 2018 and 2019, one literacy course each was held and important experience was gained in planning, organisation and implementation. The following table shows the number of participants in the first courses.

Year	Registrations	Participants	Certificates	Success rate
2018	32	27	27	84.4%
2019	49	39	30	77.0%

Femme Avenir also organised various adult education events on topics such as reproductive health, access and use of health facilities and school education for girls. Illiteracy is widespread in the region, especially among the female population. Only 15% of children aged 15 can read. In order to combat illiteracy among the young people in Batha and to contribute to the education of girls and boys, *Femme Avenir's* next step is to teach 45 young people over a period of 10 months. The Support Group is supporting the project by financing school benches, teaching materials and building toilets.



In January 2019 a first evaluation visit by representatives of Swiss TPH and its partner CSSI took place.

Two Water Tanks for Children's Home *Sky is the Limit* in Uganda

Uganda is one of the poorest countries in the world and all age groups have been severely affected by the HIV epidemic. With an overall HIV prevalence of currently 6.5% (2016), a total of approximately 1.3 million infected people live in the East African country on the equator. The children of HIV-positive parents are often exposed to extreme living conditions due to their parents' illness or premature death. With approximately 2 million AIDS orphans worldwide, Uganda has the largest number of AIDS orphans within a single country. In HIV-endemic countries such as Uganda, there is often no state network to support such children and help them to have adequate living conditions and school education. In extreme cases, parentless households continue to exist as child-headed households. HIV-positive orphans also represent a special problem group for drug therapy, as they are hardly able to maintain a complex drug regimen without appropriate care and everyday support.



The Institute for Tropical Medicine and International Health of the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin has been conducting accompanying research on behalf of BMZ/GIZ since 2001 on a project for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Western Uganda.

At about the same time, the former Ugandan project coordinator in Fort Portal, Rose Kabasinguzi, founded the *Sky is the limit - Integrated Children's Center* in order to take care of the numerous children affected by poverty in the region, to provide them with basic medical care, food, shelter and social care, as well as basic education in the school she founded. This school is also open to other children from the region who, although they can live with relatives, come from needy families, most of whom are affected by HIV, and are also dependent on care and support. The primary school enables about 300 children to attend school; about 30 children, including numerous AIDS orphans, live permanently in the facility.

Sky is the limit has been supported by donations and about 100 student sponsorships through the Institute for Tropical Medicine and International Health since 2008. However, this only covers a small portion of the need, i.e. mainly school fees. The approximately 30 children of *Sky is the limit* who permanently live in the facility under very frugal conditions represent only a fraction of the children in need of help in the region. In order to be able to take in further orphans and to improve their care permanently, a separate residential building was constructed. However, there is still a great lack of space and need for furniture. To ensure water supply the Support Group supports the children's home with the construction of two water tanks. Our colleague Barbara Bürkin, who was already on site and supports the project herself with a sponsorship, will act as contact person and monitor the progress of the project.



Every Swiss Franc counts! Thank you very much for your membership and support!

With CHF 50 (students: CHF 20) you are a member of the Swiss TPH Support Group and make a valuable contribution to supporting our small projects! The contribution for 2020 and/or your donation can be transferred with the enclosed payment slip or directly to account no. 80-2-2, in favour of CH68 0023 3233 5179 79L1 E, Support Group of Swiss TPH. Please indicate purpose (membership fee or donation).