

Perspective December 2021

Bridge of Hope Foundation

Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke



Dear Friends, Sponsors and Supporters!

Three years ago, we started to work on our foundation's projects, with the main focus on an improved infrastructure for education in Africa: new classrooms, additional desks for students, teacher houses, learning and teaching materials, dormitories with beds at the boarding schools, and much more. Thanks to God, we were able to achieve much of this—to the best of our abilities and with your help. God bless you for all of your support! The children and their families are greatly appreciative. Our experiences of the past three years have been overly positive. The commitment of the local community, their joy, and their trust in God is a great example of how we can live our own lives.

LEA Ministry School in Dongobesh



Students of the LEA Ministry Primary School in front of the washrooms of the new dormitories

A peek into the sleeping quarters of the new dormitories



As with other building projects, additional charitable organizations in the Czech Republic and the USA are also lending their support. The local community is also contributing as much as they can to ensure that the "Dormitory" project can be completed over the course of the coming year. Where needed, we will also source new beds so that each and every child can finally sleep in their own bed.

Since January, children of the LEA Ministry Primary School have been staying in the new girls' dormitories. You may remember the photos from the official opening ceremony from the last newsletter. The construction of the boys' dormitories is now in full swing. Our foundation has pledged to finance the new roof and has already committed €20,000.

Many thanks to those who have helped to finance the dormitory project so far!



Simone & Arnd with Director Martin Tango in front of the site of the new boys' dormitories

Perspective December 2021

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Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke



There's still one problem that can't be solved, even with investments in infrastructure: the acute lack of teachers. Tanzania has a shortage of tens of thousands of teachers. Fifty percent of the country's population is under 18 years old, which means the problem won't get better, but rather much, much worse. Given this situation, technology may be an answer with innovative e-learning programs through digital learning platforms. We've already launched our first pilot programs this year within our development projects in Tanzania.

It was fascinating to see how well the LEA Ministry schools managed with the digital e-learning system since their implementation in January. During our visit in October our hopes and expectations for the project were not only met but exceeded. All tablet PCs were still functional and in full use. Several children enthusiastically and eloquently demonstrated the system to us. It was evident that e-learning had become a big part of their education.



Children of the LEA Ministry school demonstrate the successful outcome of the pilot project of the new digital learning system



Access to (digital) information is causing change, not only in Europe, but also in the rapidly growing economies of Africa. In the LEA Ministry schools in Dongobesh, teachers are using not only the pre-installed programs on the learning systems but also continue to upload new teaching materials from the internet to the school's server. Thus, the content of the system is continuously updated and tailored for teaching in Dongobesh. We're so happy to see how both teachers and students of the LEA Ministry Schools work to get the most out of the digital learning system for their needs. During our visit in October, we brought 16 additional tablets with us. Thanks to everyone who helped to fund this!



Teenagers speak about their lives and their faith

Unlike in Germany, a strong faith plays a central role for most of the youth of Tanzania. Every Sunday evening, the LEA Ministry holds a three-hour youth service—a true highlight of the week for all children. When we asked who could explain the role of Christian faith in everyday life (using a video platform), ten children promptly responded. The videos and the stories they presented are very impressive to watch!



Highlight of the week – three-hour youth church service at the LEA Ministry

Perspective December 2021

Bridge of Hope Foundation

Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke



In addition to e-learning, we also use the platform to promote intercultural exchanges with German partner schools. One of the first school partnerships was developed with the Puricelli Realschule in Reinböllen / Hunsrück.

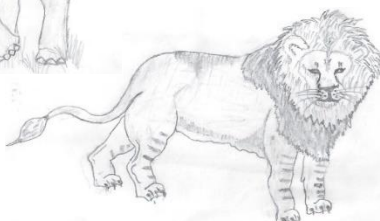
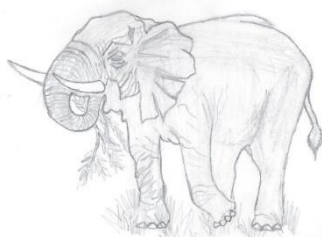


As a first task, students from both countries presented their schools with the help of an English-language video. This project was well received not only by the students and the teachers, but also by their parents. One father exclaimed during Parent's Night that he had never seen his son so engaged at school as with this video project. It's this type of enthusiasm that creates the motivation for more action!

Student drawings – one example of intercultural exchange



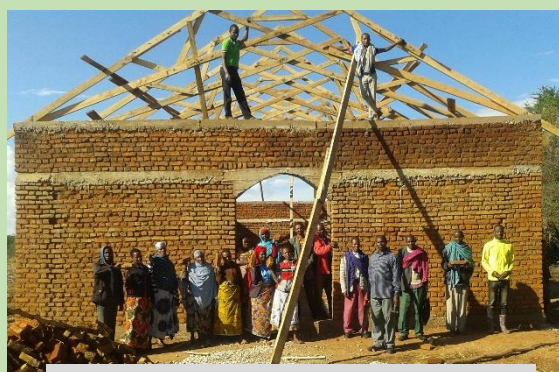
The students from the Puricelli School also presented drawings of rhinos with statements of inspiration to be given to the students in Dongobesh. The response from the children of the LEA Ministry Schools was swift: while we were still there, they managed to draw 60 pictures for us to bring back to the Puricelli School. Here's just a small sample of their artwork:



Visiting a village church in the bush is a special experience. The worship of God here is, in the truest sense of the word, a celebration. Despite their impoverished living conditions, their faith is impressive. Together with our children we financed the building of a roof for a new Outreach Center (right). Four weeks later the roof work was complete, just in time for the rainy season.



Noah, Arnd & Simone with Pastor Zak and community members



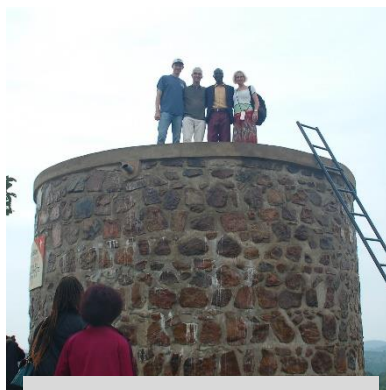
A new roof for a rural Outreach Center

Perspective December 2021

Bridge of Hope Foundation

Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke

Karama School in Rukoma



Noah, Arnd & Simone with Director Cyprian on the water reservoir

Finally, fresh drinking water! The water project, which began in 2020, is now complete. Using solar energy, water is pumped from a depth of 180 metres into a reservoir on a hill. Water stations at the school and in the neighbouring village of Nsheshe will provide access to this water. Water is more than vital for life — for drinking, for hygiene and so that children have more time to focus on school (rather than spending several hours each day fetching contaminated water).



Finally, a water station on the grounds of the Karama School



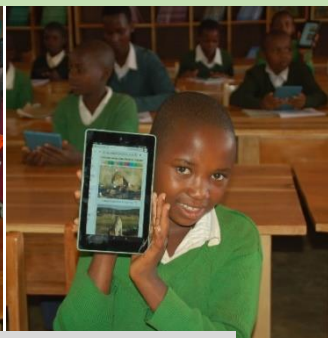
In the Karama School's new library with school director Cyprian Leonidas and the head of the local education office 'Bukoba District', Gregory Fabian

Access to sufficient teaching materials is a wide-reaching problem in the countries of the southern hemisphere. In the past, up to ten children were required to share one textbook. The new library in the Karama School provides improved access to learning, as many current and up-to-date textbooks are now available there. Our foundation helped support this project with a contribution of €15,000. Thank you to everyone who supported this initiative — even more teaching materials and literature will be added next year!

Although the Karama School doesn't yet have a connection to the electricity grid, they do have a digital learning system. For this reason, we brought with us during our visit in October a solar panel charging case for 20 tablet PCs. The enthusiasm during the training sessions was enormous — not just for the students, but also the teachers and community representatives. 550 students, who had never even used a smartphone — and yet, they did brilliantly with the touchscreen-based tutorials. Whoever had a problem, promptly got help from the person sitting next to them. It was a wonderful, interactive learning atmosphere. The children's favourite feature by far was "Ubongo-Kids", a media platform with animated learning videos for children in Africa.



There is plenty of space for digital learning in the Karama School's new library



At the introductory training sessions in the new library

Perspective December 2021

Bridge of Hope Foundation

Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke



Our current fundraising projects



Digital learning will become a strong focus for our foundation in the coming year. In 2022, we hope to expand the library at the Karama School not only with books, but also with additional tablet PCs. Furthermore, we plan to equip even more schools with digital learning systems. The cost to do this stands around €4,000 per school.



The construction of the boys' dormitories is progressing through our LEA Ministry project. Over the next year, 100 additional bunk beds will be needed (with a cost of €100 per bunk bed with mattresses). In addition, we'll also arrange the sponsorship of children from poorer families, who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford such a good education at a private school.



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Simone & Arnd Weil

Kiefernweg 14
64390 Erzhausen

Mobile: +49-172-6765525

Email: Info@Perspektive-Hoffnungsbruecke.de
www.perspektive-hoffnungsbruecke.de
www.bridge-of-hope.org

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Banking info:

Account holder: Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke e.V.
IBAN: DE40 5085 0150 0000 7970 57
Sparkasse Darmstadt

