

Perspective December 2024



Bridge of Hope

Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke

Dear Friends, Sponsors and Supporters,

Rwanda, April 6, 1994: a few hours after the plane carrying Rwandan President Habyarimana was shot down, the madness began - one of the largest genocides of all time with almost a million dead. There is probably no family in Rwanda that has not suffered victims. In the Kigali Genocide Memorial there is a sign that reads: "We will probably never understand what actually happened here." Can such a country ever live in peace again?

Today - 30 years after the genocide - Rwanda is considered one of Africa's beacons of hope. The country is still comparatively poor. And yet a great deal of confidence can be felt among the people. The country invests a lot in education. Reconciliation is one of the defining themes in the country - even today. And this is a good basis for a peaceful life. We are pleased to be able to make a small contribution to this development in our new project with Youth for Christ Rwanda.

The message of hope and reconciliation fits well with our vision of Bridge of Hope (Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke). As Christians, we know that we live from God's forgiveness and place all our hope in him. We thank everyone who has supported us on this path and continues to support us! With this in mind, we wish you all a happy Christmas season!

Digital Learning for Kigali Christian School (KCS)



Arnd with the leadership team of the KCS Secondary School

Youth for Christ Rwanda runs four private schools. Our first project starts in the capital Kigali with the distribution of digital learning systems for the Kigali Christian School (KCS). The first training sessions were already held in advance via video conference.

The reception was very warm and we are grateful to have found such a professional partner in Rwanda with Youth for Christ.

When we trained the teachers and students, we were delighted to see that their prior knowledge was much higher than what we are used to in rural Tanzania: everyone already had good experience in using smartphones and tablets. The students were therefore able to quickly get to grips with the interactive learning programs. And the teachers continued the training independently right after we left.



Arnd at the students' training at KCS Secondary School

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Simone handing over 50 tablets to the KCS team

The starting price per tablet in Rwanda is well over \$200 - too expensive in our opinion. So we looked for alternative ways and ordered the tablets directly from China three months in advance. We imported them via Nairobi into East Africa and had them transported by bus from Kenya to Rwanda. This enabled us to get a final price of under \$90 per tablet. Exactly one day before our arrival in Kigali, the employees of Youth for Christ were able to pick up the tablets from customs. Thank God for this timing!

„Buy one – get one free“ – Participation of the community

Over the last four years, we at Bridge of Hope have equipped 23 schools in Tanzania and Rwanda with digital learning systems. All systems are being used actively. Some schools have already purchased a second learning server. Our 2023 study has shown that digital learning is not just a nice toy. The children and adolescents are empowered to learn independently. If you ask students and teachers in these schools how the system can be improved, you are guaranteed to get one answer: "More tablets".

In total, we have now distributed almost 700 tablets, but the need is constantly increasing. Therefore, we have introduced a new principle. By bundling purchases, we give all partner schools the opportunity to buy tablets locally at a very reasonable purchase price. For every tablet that the school buys, we give one tablet free of charge. In this way, we can fulfill a big request from our partners and at the same time encourage their personal responsibility and participation.



Children in Rukoma show Simone how they use the tablets for learning

Karama School as Highlight in World Vision's Annual Report

Providing IT Solutions in the Field



An interactive class session at Rukoma Area in Tanzania courtesy of E-learning Initiative by World Vision.

World Vision East Africa supports over 900 major projects with a total budget of 944 million USD. Our e-learning project at the Karama School is explicitly presented in the 20-page annual report. This is how a poor area like Rukoma becomes a pioneer for innovation in education in East Africa. The Karama School has been successfully using the digital learning system for three years. Another 12 schools in Rukoma started using it this year.

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Pastor Zak and the Mashahidi Athletics Club



Pastor Zak Malekwa - one of Tanzania's most successful athletes of all times, javelin thrower and three-time Olympic athlete in the 1980s. Even Mwananchi, Tanzania's largest daily newspaper, dedicated a whole page to Zak. Pastor Zak was asked by the local authorities to set up a kind of sports club for young people. On August 17th this year, Zak received the confirmation of the official registration.

Zak's heart beats for people, especially for the children in the Mbulu District. Over the years, more than 50 orphans have found refuge with him and his wife Resieli in their home. Zak is convinced that Jesus Christ has given him a calling for life. With the Mashahidi Athletics Club, he wants to give young people a future perspective. We would like to support him with sports equipment. Thanks for everyone who joins this new project!



Fresh drinking water for LEA Primary School in Dongobesh

Some of you took part in the well drilling project in Dongobesh. We were able to transfer over €13,000 to **LEA Ministry**. The drilling work started in October. Drinking water bubbled up from a depth of 150 meters.

Many thanks to all donors!



Drilling work in front of the new LEA boys' dormitory

The founders of the water drilling company are two pastors from Arusha. Their calling is to provide people with water for life - physically and spiritually. Martin Tango, the director of LEA Ministry, has ordered a wider borehole – enough water not only for the school but also for the entire community. This way, the whole people of Dongobesh will benefit from this fresh water project.

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Our current projects



In cooperation with Youth for Christ Rwanda, we want to equip the Gicumbi Primary School in northern Rwanda with a digital learning system. The standard of living in this rural region is significantly lower than that of Kigali.

The costs are €90 per tablet plus €1,200 for the learning server.



The next step in Dongobesh is to purchase a solar-powered pump. We are expecting a budget of €10,000 for this.

We also want to support the new Mashahidi Athletics Club with €2,000 for various sports equipment.

Would you like to sponsor a child?

Please contact us! The cost, including accommodation and meals, is €40 per month.



Perspektive Hoffnungsbrücke e.V.

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