



We speak running water

Kraichtal 11 April 2020

Dear friends,

we hope you're well.

Everywhere in the media at the moment you hear about how the corona virus is paralysing our lives every day. Everyone has to change. We can't pursue beloved activities. They want us to stay home to slow the spread of the virus.

In contrast to us in Germany, many people in Uganda and Kenya live crowded together on a few square meters, without water supply. In the slums it is not possible to keep a distance and everybody has to get out to get water. Often this is dirty. In this newsletter we report about the completed water supply for a school, the water supply project in Abedju, DR. Congo and present three projects with which you can help the people.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Water Supply Missionary Hospital Abedju, DR. Congo

From 5 to 29 December we were in Abedju, Ituri region, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Contrary to all warnings, there was neither Ebola nor unrest in this area. The trip was unproblematic. After our arrival, however, the drilling company waited six days for us. On the way to the construction site the compressor fell off the truck. It was not lashed down and the truck was hit on the side because of the large potholes. The compressor slipped off the loading area. Several days passed until a crane was on the spot. So the work started one week later than planned.

After only two days of work, it turned out that the drilling company that had commissioned the hospital had no expertise. The drilling was done to a depth of 84 meters. However, no pipes could be installed because the diameter was too small. On the third day we stopped the work because of this. As the work was not carried out according to the contract, the drilling company was not paid for it. The disappointment on all sides was very big, especially we and the hospital had placed great hope in the company. We agreed with the hospi-

tal and the local church that the project would be suspended for the time being, but not cancelled. We now had to find a new drilling company.

We personally visited and examined two drilling companies, one in Uganda and one in Kenya, in January and February. Two other companies in Uganda were not able to show any equipment or staff when our contact person visited them. One company in the Democratic Republic of the Congo we could not visit because we did not have a Congo visa at that time.



The first two companies, DIVINE WATERS UGANDA in Lira and GROUND WATER ABSTRACTION KENYA OUTREACH (GWAKO) in Kisumu, made a very good impression on us. They have expert staff, geologists, hydrologists and well constructors and the necessary equipment. At the end of our visit we agreed on a cooperation with them. By the way, both are Christian companies, GWAKO is a non-profit Christian NGO that builds wells.



Both companies are ready to go to Abedju and drill there. The contract was awarded to DIVINE WATERS UGANDA, as the journey to Abedju is considerably shorter. They have demonstrated



their skills in a small contract, the execution of a hydrogeological survey for a project on the premises of a sewing school in Aboko. See below.



The planned date for the drilling work in Abedju was April 21, 2020.

COVID-19 - a challenge

COVID-19 has also arrived in Uganda. Uganda has already imposed an entry ban for, among others, Germans at the end of February. Therefore we have tried to reach DR Congo via Rwanda, Burundi or Southern Sudan. These countries also have an entry ban for Germans. A direct entry from Ethiopia to Goma (DR. Congo) is too dangerous because of the security situation in Goma.

In the meantime Uganda has completely closed its borders. This means that DIVINE WATERS UGANDA cannot go to Abedju / DR Congo at the moment. The work at the mission hospital in Abedju

can therefore not start as planned on April 21st and will rest until Uganda opens its borders again. On April 5th we received the message from Abedju that there are still no COVID-19 cases there. Also the

small border crossings are closed. Going to Uganda to buy food does not work anymore. We pray and hope that the situation will soon return to normal.

On Good Friday the news came from DIVINE WATERS UGANDA that they were not allowed to work again until the lockdown was lifted.

Kenya has closed all its airports. An entry is no longer possible.

GWAKO can still move and work freely. Benjamin Koyoo, the boss of GWAKO writes in an e-mail on 7 April 2020:

„They (the Government of Kenya) have listed water and hygiene among the essentials services and we are allowed to drill anytime we have the funding. People need clean water and our work indeed are helping many have water for hand washing. „



During our visit we visited four different primary schools with GWAKO. Partly they have no water, partly too little water.

„How can we wash hands, bath, clean house if we have even no national water since 2 days in the house?“ - a question of a German missionary in Uganda on Facebook.

Skang Primary School Ugunja, Kenya now has clean water

(Project 4003)

To make use of the time during the travel ban, GWAKO was awarded the contract for the construction of a well at Skang Primary School in Ugunja on March 31st. The work was successfully completed on April 4.

The school with 658 students and 10 teachers now has clean water. It will help to contain COVID-19 as everyone can wash their hands regularly. So far about 27% of the students could not come to school regularly. They had to fetch water for their parents and grandparents at a great distance or are ill with e.g. typhoid or diarrhoea.

The project cost 7,904 euros.

We do not want to use the money for Abedju for other projects so that it can be implemented after the opening of the border.

With a donation for the following projects you can help to provide schools with water.

Our new expert partners in Lira and Kisumu will then carry out the work.

1) Hand pump for sewing school in Aboko, Uganda (Project-Nr. 5001)

Aboko is about 30 minutes away from Lira in northern Uganda. There is the sewing school of Chosen Generation Ministry (CGM) for traumatized girls and women. It is located in the former war zone of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The people lived in fear and terror for 20 years. The rebels of the LRA waged a civil war at the expense of their own people. Women were mutilated, raped and abused. Hundreds of thousands of children were kidnapped and trained as child soldiers. Since 2011, the CGM centre has been in Aboko. There, for example, widows, young single women who grew up during the civil war, were traumatized, were unable to attend school, were often forced into a relationship with their family at the age of 15 because the family could not bear the costs, can train to become seamstresses. CGM's center is a place of hope and Christian charity, where the students study and live, receive Bible instruction and pastoral care. The water supply of the sewing school currently consists of a 2,000 litre tank for rainwater. When this is used up, the water has to be bought expensively and dragged in.

The project costs about 8,540 euros and will be carried out when the lockdown is lifted.



2) Hand pump for Nyanginja Primary School, Kenya (Project No. 4002)

The school is located about 100km northwest of Kisumu at 1284m above sealevel. Like many other primary schools in the country it has no well. Hygiene is correspondingly poor. Washing hands after going to the toilet is only possible if you bring your own water from home. Many children come to school irregularly because they have to fetch water for their family from 5km away. A hand pump would considerably improve the situation at the school.

The project costs about 7,448 euros.

3) Hand pump for the Baptist church and school in Miriu, Kenya (Project No. 4004)

The Nyandiwa Baptist Church Kadongo is located in Miriu, in Western Kenya at Lake Victoria. It has over 450 members and over 3000 worshipers. The church operates social facilities such as a school and about ten other branches in the Omabay district.

There is no safe, clean and reliable water supply. This has massive consequences: water-related diseases are on the rise. This leads, among other things, to high health costs and loss of earnings, plunging the community into abject poverty. The activities and resources of this church are the main source of livelihood for the people in the Kadongo community.

A well with a hand pump for the church and the community would help.

The school has 670 students, 17 teachers and 5 other employees. The parishioners whose livelihood is directly or indirectly related to the activities in Nyandiwa Baptist Church are around 2030.

The project costs about 10,079 euros.



What you can pray for:

- protection of our partners and employees and their families - on site, on the road
- fastest possible execution of the work for the hospital in Abedju / DR Congo.
- development of a vaccine, drugs against COVID-19
- lifting of travel restrictions, entry bans, border closures, etc.
- protection of the poor from infection with the virus

Jürgen Baisch and team



Our new bank account

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If more donations are received for one project than needed, they will be used for another of our projects.

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