

Newsletter June 2024

Dear readers,

As has become the custom, we update you every year around this time about the developments of the Kufambatose – Samen op Pad in Zimbabwe project.

In April we went to Zimbabwe with 2 people from the board to see how the project actually works. We remain impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of the local team, the Trust, consisting of the three local therapists, the local project administrator, and the mother. She represents the mothers on the board, in addition to her difficult task as the mother of a multiple handicapped child.

We respect our project coordinator Samson Mazivazvose, how he maneuvers between all rules and obstacles and thus takes steps towards a growing Community-Based program. And we respect Deborah



Team in Zimbabwe

Ncube, the project administrator, for her efforts and support to make the organization increasingly professional.

We have been able to speak to several important individuals and organizations, we had a high visit from the Australian Embassy to the project and we spent 3 days with some mothers and children in a 3-day workshop. We have once again been surprised at a number of developments in the country itself

Enjoy reading!

Introduction

Saturday April 13 Willemijn (project coordinator of the Foundation) and Anne-Miek (treasurer) landed in Harare at the airport. We were very surprised. We were led through a whole new arrivals hall, built by the Chinese. Outside there was still a lot of construction, all Chinese, no local workers. The check of the passports and the payment of the

Visa also went efficiently and smoothly this time. Wow, what progress! There comes the question of what this progress costs and who makes money with it.

Also new was the ZiG, or the Zimbabwe Gold, a new currency, which was just introduced. The Zimbabwean dollar has now been abolished. On the day of our arrival, a new money system was introduced, the ZiG (Zim Gold). \$ 1 = ZiG 18.50. We are curious when the course changes again. You can only pay with ZiG via an online app, no notes have yet been printed. In the store are already prices in ZiG and US dollars. There is no change yet and the old Zimbabwe “bonds ” are immediately worth nothing. Ordinary people lose money and products become more expensive. The reason for change is, among other things, the very high inflation. The name Zim Gold would gain more confidence, but whether it really is a solution to stabilize the economic situation in the country remains to be seen. In any case, the people themselves do not believe in it.

Driving through the outskirts of Harare in particular, it was noticed again. ‘The sun shines on the plastic waste by the side of the road. Busy traffic, street vendors, friendly people. The smell, the red dust, the visible drought. Yes, we are back in Zimbabwe ’.



Waste by the side of the road

New elections were held in August last year. It did not bring about any changed. As always, things were made difficult for the opposition. As was to be expected, the current president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, has been re-elected and can stay on for another 5 years.

Willemijn was invited to attend an official celebration on the occasion of Independence Day on April 18, the day Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980. Speeches were held promoting that the current government was good for Zimbabwe, that people should help make the country better. It was transferred from local Shona to English to say that ‘all NGOs are covered by the ZANU PF, because the ZANU PF

has everything NGOs do in their program'. As a small NGO, we are thus politically engaged, without our wanting to. The downside is that Kufamba Tose is now even more known in the district.

Meeting with important persons and bodies

A visit by a delegation from the Australian Embassy from Harare was scheduled for Wednesday 17 April during that week's 3-day workshop. Last year, the Embassy was an important sponsor for the purchase of therapy materials.

It brought with it an entire organization. The Monday in advance we visited the head of the Zaka district in preparation, which became an official visit, as well as the Social Welfare. Social Welfare co-worker turned out to be an old acquaintance of Willemijn; he did an internship at Social Welfare as a blind man during the time that Willemijn worked in Musiso. Now he is a full employee of Social Welfare and a good example for inclusivity!

At the official meeting on Wednesday at Musiso Mission Hospital, representatives of the Council, of the District Development Coordinator, of Social Welfare, of the Ministry of Education, the District Medical Officer, the director of the Musiso Hospital, 2 parents with their children, representatives of the Trust Kufamba Tose and of the Kufambatose Foundation were present. It was important to put the project in a good light and to show that the program is indeed embedded in the local structures.



Independence Day of Zimbabwe



Speech by the chief physician at Musiso Mission Hospital.

Nyarie, employee of the Australian Embassy, and her driver were warmly welcomed with singing by mothers and children and by hospital staff.

There was an opportunity to meet the mothers and children. Everyone was very impressed with what they saw and what the mothers said about their experience with the program.



Speech from the Matron of the Musiso Mission Hospital during the visit of the Australian Embassy



Visit Nyarie to the mothers



During our visit we also met with JF Kapnek, an organization that amongst other activities has made money available on behalf of the Dutch Liliane Foundation in the past year for the purchase of some wheelchairs and school fees for some children. There was also a meeting with Mr. Turkson, a man who has extensive experience with organizations working for people with disabilities in Zimbabwe. He also worked in the past with, among others, the Lilianefonds, working for Leonard Cheshire Foundation. He offers to volunteer to guide the board of the local Kufamba Tose Trust in further professionalizing the organization. Here too it can be noted that Turkson lives with a physical disability but is very well integrated and accepted in his environment and work. These examples of people

with disabilities also provide other courage and hope to fight for their rights.

Finally, there was a meeting with the current Trust financial advisor. In the past year, he guided the Trust in making its own Financial Statements and the 2024 budget. The way of budgeting and keeping the accounts was discussed and coordinated

3 Day workshop / clinic

An important part of our visit was of course to see how the mothers and children were doing. They came to the hospital for 3 days, slept in the hospital and ate 3 meals a day in the hospital. Group therapy was given, concerns were shared among themselves and towards the therapists and supervisors.

It was seen that the mothers now know each other well, and the children also recognized each other. The children easily contacted each other, visited each other to play together and were open in their contact with us. It is a vicious circle: when the mothers feel seen, know they can share their concerns, know how to deal with their children with their physical disabilities and behaviour, then that has an impact on the children. The children are therefore more open to therapy, also crawl out of their shell and will develop better which makes the mothers happy again. And so on. Not all children make great strides in their motor skills, but we think they do in their sense of well-being, of being okay.

There was an opportunity for the mothers to talk to a supervisor individually about the situation at home, the situation in the community, or otherwise.



Mother in counselling conversation with Deborah

Samson put it this way: when a new mother comes with her child in the workshop, she stays a bit aloof and closed the first day, the second day she opens and starts communicating with us and the other mothers, the third day she is sorry to have to go home again. Samson knows exactly how to best approach a new child or a new family and knows how to give them time to grow confidence.

The project is known throughout Zimbabwe. Sometimes registrations come from Harare, unfortunately that is too far away to include those children in the program. This time we had a child from South Africa in the workshop, which now lives with his uncle in Zaka district to be able to participate in the program. The uncle was very motivated to give his nephew a better future.

We have previously reported on Cynthia, the girl who was born without arms and 1 short leg. She has been at a school for children with disabilities in Bulawayo for 2 years. Because it was now vacation, she was at home with her parents and came to the clinic for a day. She is now 11 years old and is in 3rd grade. She has grown a lot in her confidence, talks openly with us about her life and wishes for the future. She feels very much at home at the school and has many friends. In addition to learning the ordinary school themes, a lot of attention is also paid at that school to building self-confidence and independence. And you can already see the fruits of that. Her leg prosthesis is now on the small side, but due to the donation of Lionsclub Son and Breugel we have an opportunity to have a new one made.

Important this time was a meeting with the mothers with the aim of taking more responsibility for their children and the project. This also applies to looking for your own financial possibilities to support the project. Various ideas emerged and the mothers came up with a joint plan to be able to contribute more to the costs of the workshops. Everyone within his means. There is clearly a better confidence among the mothers, so that savings opportunities can also be sought together. This system already exists in some support groups.

Despite the poverty, there are more and more families who own a Smartphone and can thus stay in touch with each other better in order to exchange ideas and information.



In conversation with the mothers

In the last year, much attention has been paid to building knowledge around general management and financial management, but the development of the work 'on the ground' / with the children and the parents, the work that really matters has clearly gone further. It was nice to see that.

Some photos of the workshop can confirm this.





Play together, feel strong together





Mothers now openly stand up for their children

In conclusion

It was another impressive journey, with many beautiful encounters, both with the children and the parents, as well as with the local professionals, the local authorities, the Australian Embassy, and some important organizations in the network.

We are confident that the project will continue to develop towards independence in the coming year, not only in terms of organization, but also in terms of working with children and parents.

The activities of the Trust Kufamba Tose and the Kufambatose Foundation are possible thanks to the support of various donors. The children, their parents, the local professionals and we as volunteers in

Europe thank everyone who supports or has supported us in this work. Together we can always take a step forward!

If you would like to know more about us or our project in Zimbabwe, please visit our website: www.kufambatose.eu . Perhaps after reading this newsletter, you may want to contribute to the foundation's work. We welcome any support, financial or otherwise.



Yes, I like to donate.

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The Kufambatose Foundation is registered as an ANBI (PBO - Public Benefit Organization in English) with the tax authorities. Gifts are therefore eligible as a deduction for income tax. For more information, see our website or the tax office site.

Your financial support will fully benefit the project.

Sincerely,

Board of the Kufambatose Foundation – Progressing together