

Dear friends of Pa1,

it's finally time to sit down at the computer and tell you how we are.

First of all, we hope that you are well and that you have left this difficult time behind. The most important thing is simply our health and the people around us and enough food to get through the isolation. Unfortunately, this is not the case here. Many will fight for survival, because they have to earn their daily bread day by day and rarely know what the future will bring.

Here there are cases of Covid and victims and we try to protect ourselves as best we can and also to inform our girls about the dangers of this disease.

In Dar es Salaam there has been an obligation to wear a mask for several weeks and all schools have been closed since mid-April. We have also temporarily closed our centre and for the moment only Neema, our English teacher, who is the director, Jackline, of the last course, who has no home, and Mariam, a young mother of the current course with her little daughter Upendo, live there because they are having a difficult time at home. All the others are with their parents or relatives and hope to continue the course soon.

Since life expectancy here in Tanzania is 50-60 years, there are not as many elderly people as in Europe and therefore the virus can affect many people, but hopefully won't cause so many deaths. Here people are confronted on a daily basis with diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV, malaria and many others, so they do not see the coronavirus as tragically as we do. Of course, this disease is in addition to all the others that already exist, so we hope that it does not become too serious and we stay at home as long as possible. Unfortunately, our president announced publicly that the epidemic is over and now we see crowds of people everywhere without masks and the subject is almost forgotten. Only a few people still have respect and protection, but most of them believe what the president says! Let's hope it doesn't get out of hand.

But now I come to a more beautiful part of my message. In the middle of the year I wanted to write you a little annual report and tell you more about what we have done and what we are doing.

Just in time for the new year we started a new course. There were almost 30 girls on the list, all of whom had been in contact with us for some time, and we were able to welcome the first 20 of them. Everyone was very enthusiastic and started with a lot of energy and willingness to do. Our English teacher Neema has been very supportive of me since Samir was born and so now she can be our manager and is doing a great job. So I have no worries if I have to go back to South Tyrol for a visit. The course started well, but over time some girls started to disrupt the lessons and didn't take it seriously anymore. Then they also insulted Neema and didn't listen to

her. After several meetings and warnings we decided together to eliminate this group. So after 2 months 4 students were suspended and could not finish the course.

A short explanation:

We have noticed with time that there are always women and girls who don't take this education seriously and only come for lunch or free material and have little intention to learn. After many conversations, even with parents, we decide after the beginning of the course which girls are really allowed to follow the course until the end, because you can't come and go as you want. It is important to us that this education is appreciated and taken seriously. So we have to suspend some girls from the course, which may seem difficult, but it is the best thing for everyone. So after this incident we were able to show the others how important the discipline is, the quality of teaching has completely changed and it has remained a beautiful group. These girls are very motivated and appreciate the teaching very much and a wonderful community has also developed among them. There is a strong sense of belonging at the centre and everyone helps everyone. This is what we were looking for and after a difficult start we found it.

With the start of the course in January my mother arrived on time and this was the best thing that could have happened to us. She helped me, because Samir, Ilias and I moved, and then in the garden of the center. Finally we decided to move to a big house, because we are lucky to have guests who always visit us and our two-room apartment has become too small. Now we have a big house with a nice garden, which my mother helped to create with joy and enough space for Samir and guest rooms.

We're very grateful and we like it a lot. Since I work from home for a travel agency, we can afford this luxury. Although we have yet to see what the future will bring us, because of the Coronavirus work is scarce and Lyas could sell less bricks due to the last rainy season, but we remain optimistic.

My mother has helped me a lot during these two months she has been here and has been a great support for me. Since I still had a lot to do in my job and I was also in charge of the project and the little dwarf Samir needed my attention in the middle, sometimes I was close to the limit...

In February we were allowed to welcome three young women from South Tyrol to Tanzania. Linda, Lea and Judith came to us for a month and did a big recycling project with the girls; a volleyball net made of plastic bottles, which are found here and there, mostly on the side of the street or in the atria of the houses. First we collected enough bottles and then they cut them into rings and tied them in a net.

The result is today in our garden and the girls are playing volleyball every free minute!

They were very happy, because it is good for the girls to change, to get to know other cultures and feel solidarity. It is an honour to receive visitors from Italy, because every guest brings blessings. The three young volunteers also had a lot of fun here and it was a great experience for them to be able to immerse themselves in a completely different culture and far away from tourist places. An experience that, in my opinion, many people should simply have the chance to live. You can take home so many memories and satisfactions. Thank you and we hope to see you again soon in Tanzania!

Then we had other guests: Pastor Tumaini from Tisens came to visit us and brought with him friends and patrons to his hometown where he supports various projects. They also briefly visited our project and we had dinner together. It is always nice when friends come and so I was also happy with the visit of Paula Seehofer, who was with me a few days before her departure. Then there was the visit of Irma Werth and her travel group. Here too she is active in various aid projects and brought a group of South Tyroleans and Austrians to our centre, we had lunch together and had pleasant conversations. At the same time Maria and Brigitte from Welschnofen came to us. From Missio they spent some time in Mwanza, a town on Lake Victoria, to teach German to seminarians who are going to study abroad. It was very nice to get to know each other, because we didn't know each other before and we spent 3 beautiful days together.

Anja Stecher also came to visit me and, as she has been doing for 2 years, she came to the center to welcome the girls who are always happy with her visit.

It's so nice when we from the village meet here, because it brings us a bit of home even though we are so far away. I didn't know before how many volunteers are actually active here in Tanzania. The plan is to create a community where we can exchange ideas and visit each other continuously.

Furthermore, for almost 2 years we have been taking care of a mother of triplets, who lives alone and without family here in Kigamboni. Her husband, who after the birth saw that there were three children, disappeared without a trace and left her alone. She couldn't even pay her hospital bills. So somehow she came to me and our organization and asked for help. We immediately organized a housekeeper through donations, who still helps her and helps with the care of the three children. Since she also has an older child, she was completely overwhelmed. She had too little to eat and therefore too little breast milk to feed all three. So she started feeding the triplets at an early age. So they grew up to be beautiful and happy children and now they are already one year old. We also helped her open her small breakfast room where she sells tea, milk, soups, buns and cakes in front of her house. So she

always has a small income and a little bit more independence. But we still support her with children and when she needs something. Our 3 children Nahia, Samir and Willi still attend nursery school and are supported by the help of teacher Waltraud and the third GS Steinegg class with sponsorships.

They are super happy and give their best. Only Samir has a bit of excess energy and sometimes it almost drives the teachers crazy... almost like my Samir, who is always on the move unless he's asleep! Due to the school closure for the Coronavirus we still don't know exactly what the school fees will be like for the next few months. We're hoping for a reduction in costs.

Berita, a 16-year-old Pa1 student who started the course at our centre last year, is a very diligent and lovely girl. Since her mother is a single parent and Berita has other brothers and sisters, she had to help a lot at home and failed the bar exam. So she attended tutoring for 4 months and prepared for the exam to start the next level right away. Everything went great and she was the second best in her group and now she is studying in a good school and has been accepted to middle school. Her school costs 600 euros per year, which is a lot of money and they could never afford it. Thanks to the donations we were able to help Berita realize her dream and keep going to school. Since Berita started working with us, her mother brings a bunch of spinach for lunch every day to thank us. We think this is very sweet and we grew up together in a family and the girls are always happy when their mom comes on her bike.

For Women's Day on March 8th, the girls were present at a celebration that aimed to increase women's rights in Tanzania. For this also thanks to my mother, who gave them this as a farewell gift and as thanks for the beautiful farewell party (transport and food).

Shortly before we had to close due to the Coronavirus we started a small project to talk openly with students about menstruation and female hygiene during menstruation. Some of them can hardly afford the bandages and after using them they are simply buried or burned. So we started sewing a set of fabric bandages. At first they were a bit skeptical, but when I told them that I use them too and showed them how to wash them properly, they showed great interest and found it a great alternative. Since bandages are still taboo here, they liked the fact that they can be carried anywhere in the bag and look like a handkerchief. As soon as we reopen, we will continue and hope to establish a positive trend.

The last course started in January and the girls studied with us for 3 months. There is a calendar and an agenda. We start at 9 a.m. and everyone should arrive on time, which, after some initial difficulties, is working great. The young women take it

seriously. Two students are responsible for the food, which is eaten together at the big table.

After a short break to digest, classes continue until 4 pm. During the last 2 months of the course we were also lucky that Caritas of Dar es Salaam started its collaboration with us and a farmer came twice a week to teach the girls organic gardening.

Everyone was enthusiastic and since then we have been collecting vegetables and fruit from our garden.

My mother also passed on her knowledge and sowed the seeds of her country with them, put them in cut plastic bottles and planted them. So they also have theoretical and practical lessons on animal husbandry and gardening, which go hand in hand. Once a month a social worker comes to talk to the students and gives them hope as Tanzanians and encourages them to be independent and strong. Independence, without waiting for marriage, because afterwards it is usually the women who have to bear the burden! This is always a very beautiful, instructive day and many things are discussed openly.

The sewing teacher is new with us this year and is a nice woman from the area, about 40 years old, very appreciated and respected by the participants. She is also very precise and conscientious and teaches in a way that everyone understands. In the team there is also Arafa, who is a great support everywhere and takes the leadership with Neema. Since Neema studies tourism and management online and has exams to take in a few days, she might need Arafa's help.

Good news is also the fact that in February we rented a small room where we give the possibility to 4 girls of the completed course to work freely. We bought 4 sewing machines to work on commission and earn our own money. We also sew things for PA1, which we can sell in South Tyrol.

It works almost like a small loan, because the sewing machines are paid through our orders, but at the same time they earn their money. Linda, Juliane and Lea helped them to make the shop a little more beautiful and paint it. We also sell our batik fabrics there. During the Coronavirus epidemic they have many orders for sewing masks, so you can also see something positive in all this disaster.

We also helped Anna become independent and now she has her sewing shop near home. She is very happy with it and still helps us dye the fabric or sew student bags.

Yesterday, June 8th, we started the course again because the situation hasn't got worse and here all secondary schools and universities have started again since June. But always with security measures. This means that we try to find together a way to protect ourselves and our surroundings. First of all, everyone must disinfect their hands at the entrance, everyone must wear a mask and hopefully it will be a little safer that way. If anyone has any advice to give us, we would be very happy to hear it.

The course should last 3 months with the same students, so that they can finish after 6 months and get a diploma, also signed by Kigamboni's Education Councillor. This will be the first time, which we are looking forward to doing. We hope to start well and continue exactly as we left off, and we look forward to welcoming you back here with us.

We will see what the future will bring us, but it looks good and together with the Servus Association there is something very big on the agenda, which we will talk more about when it becomes a reality. Thank you all!!! To every single donor, meanwhile there are so many that we are simply overwhelmed, because everything that has happened here so far has only been possible through and with you. Thanks to your donations and your help we are where we are and this is really far. Thank you all for believing in us so much!

Julia Lantschner and the association Pa1