

Sustainable Villages Foundation - the third year!

Dear friends and supporters,

The third year of the foundation has brought great momentum. Fundraising successes with pledges totaling over EUR 180,000 have made it possible to successfully implement a large number of projects and also to move into new areas. The impact of the projects from the two previous years is now clearly visible. The local population is working very closely with us and is delighted with the progress made. The local and national authorities have also placed their trust in us and cooperation is generally running smoothly.



We have trained 50 smallholder farmers in agro-ecological farming techniques and built six pilot drip irrigation systems to increase yields, improve nutrition and create more resilience to drought.

The big highlight in spring was the opening of the kindergarten we built with numerous guests. Up to 90 children are professionally cared for, taught and provided with a nutritious lunch during the day. As the building is already bursting at the seams, we are building two more classrooms and a playground in the new year.

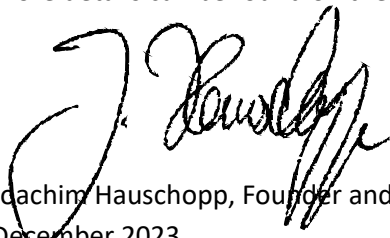
Another highlight was the construction and very emotional handover of a house built with clay bricks to a homeless family of seven. The Catholic Church provided a plot of land for this purpose.

We are particularly pleased that we were able to equip two more primary schools, each with around 1,000 pupils, with a powerful AC solar system and Smart Classroom. Our training courses in IT and English for teachers are extremely popular, with everyone taking part. The pupils are also enthusiastic about laptops and IT lessons. At the suggestion of our sponsors, we also organize child protection training courses at schools and kindergartens.

The inadequate water supply remains a major challenge. Improving this is one of our major topics for the coming year 2024.

We appreciate any form of support so that we can continue and expand our successful work. You will find the link to the online donation form at the end of this letter.

More details can be found on the following pages. Enjoy reading!



Joachim Hauschopp, Founder and Executive Chairman
December 2023

Agricultural training

During the needs assessment in 2021, we heard repeated requests for agricultural training. In several discussions with the local community, 50 farmers who own a maximum of 2,500 square meters of land were finally selected to take part in a ten-month training course in cultivation techniques and irrigation.



Our agricultural trainer began theoretical training in agro-ecological cultivation techniques in December 2022. As part of the subsequent practical training, in which the participants worked together in groups of eight under the guidance of the trainer, "kitchen gardens" were planted on the participants' plots. Learning about healthy and balanced nutrition was an important part of the training.



The following activities were carried out in practice:

- All 50 participants have planted a kitchen garden
- Production of compost. The compost can be spread on the fields after around six weeks.
- Production of liquid fertiliser
- Production of liquids to combat insects and fungal infestation
- Plant arrangements that keep insects away
- Create mandala beds that can also be watered with kitchen waste water
- Measures to improve the quality of the soil. Protecting the soil from drying out



- Construction and operation of six drip irrigation systems with 5000-litre tanks
- All 50 training participants received a goat or a sheep
- Construction of simple facilities for hand washing
- In addition, water reservoirs lined with plastic sheeting were covered with wood and foil to improve the hygiene of the water and prevent accidents involving children



Construction of a kindergarten

The foundation and the Bugesera district had already signed a memorandum of understanding on the construction of a kindergarten in 2022. Early childhood development is an important part of the national education strategy.

The kindergarten was built by a local construction company between autumn 2022 and spring 2023. In the first construction phase, it consists of a classroom, an office, a kitchen and toilets.



Power is supplied via a "solar home system". Rainwater is collected in a large tank with a filter system for the water supply. The project was supported with funds from the Rotary Club Munich Lehel.

The kindergarten was opened in April 2023 in a ceremony with speeches by the district education director and the local mayor and handed over to the Bugesera district, which now owns the building. A total of around 100 adult guests and numerous children attended the opening ceremony.



Due to the high demand for childcare, up to 100 children aged between two and five are enrolled at the kindergarten. An extension to the building is therefore urgently needed.

The children are taught by two teachers who were hired by the Bugesera district specifically for this purpose. The aim is also to provide the children with a nutritious lunch. The food is paid for by the Bugesera district.



The kindergarten is managed by the nearby Juru Primary School, which also has a pre-school class with five-year-olds in the school building. The Sustainable Villages Foundation has been working with Juru Primary School for two years.

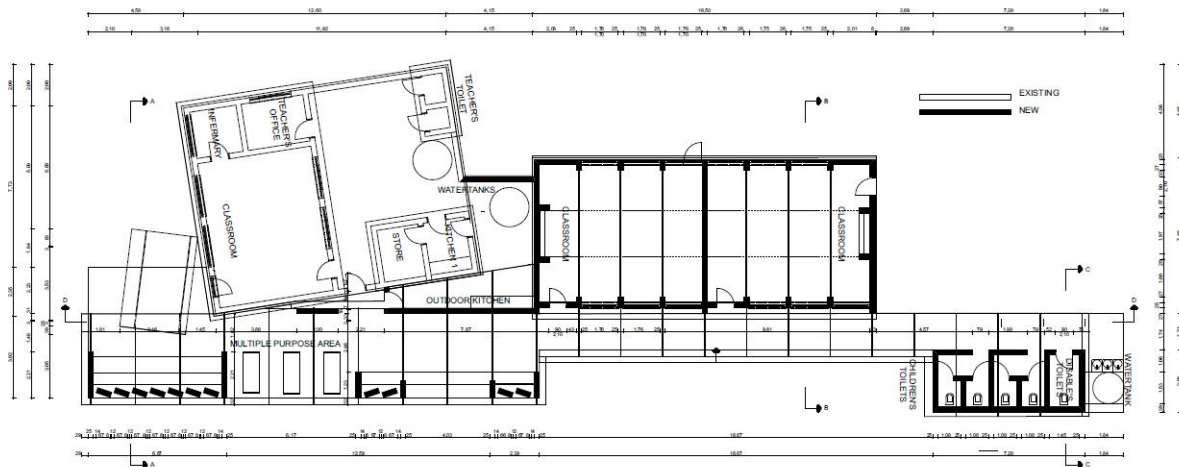


The foundation hired a kindergarten specialist who conducted a five-day training course in May and June 2023 for the people involved in running the kindergarten. The teachers, the cook, parent representatives, the deputy head teacher and the village chief took part. Not only were the most important aspects of early childhood education and the importance of good nutrition explained, but the establishment of the kindergarten committee was also initiated.



The foundation has received a significant funding commitment from the "Access to Energy" (A2E) programme of the Portuguese energy supplier "Energias de Portugal" (EDP). Part of the funding is earmarked for the expansion of the kindergarten to include two classrooms and a partially covered outdoor area with a playground.

Our architect Daniel Schmidt has developed a sophisticated design using predominantly local building materials. Construction is scheduled to start at the beginning of 2024.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
RUGARAMA, RWANDA
CONSTRUCTOR:
SUSTAINABLE VILLAGES FOUNDATION
DESIGN: DANIEL SCHMIDT
DATE: 31.10.2023

English lessons for teachers at Juru Primary School

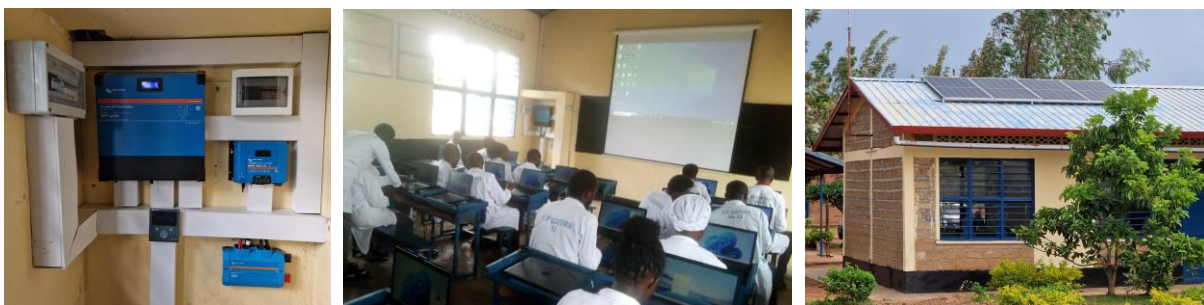
In April 2023, our English trainer started English lessons for teachers with four lessons every Saturday. All teachers at Juru Primary School take part. The aim is to improve reading, writing and speaking skills. There are also practical conversation exercises, as can be seen in the photo below right.



Lessons take place in the Smart Classroom. Exercises are projected onto the screen via the projector and small films can also be shown. Access to learning material that is available online is an essential part of the lessons. The Smart Classroom is also available to teachers outside of lessons so that they can use the internet to further their own education.

Solar electrification, installation of smart classrooms and IT training for teachers

In 2023, the foundation was able to electrify Cyirabo Primary School and Gatora Primary School, each with around 1,000 pupils. Solar systems were built, lithium iron phosphate batteries were installed and all rooms were fitted with lights and sockets so that standard electrical appliances can be supplied with alternating current. Both schools have also received a smart classroom with over 30 laptops each, a projector and a combination device for printing and copying. The internet runs via a 4g mobile router, but is expected to be converted to fibre optic or high-speed wireless connection in the course of 2024. IT training for the teachers began immediately after completion.



For the measures at Cyirabo Primary School, we were able to obtain a 75% grant from the Schmitz Foundation's small project fund. The measures at Gatora Primary School are financed by the "Genialsozial" programme of the Saxon Youth Foundation.

Building a house for a homeless family

In just a few months, the foundation had a house made of clay bricks built for a homeless family by a local construction company according to our architect's plans. The land was provided by the Catholic Church. The house was transferred to them with the obligation to use it permanently for the accommodation of homeless families.



The house consists of a living room and four small bedrooms. The outbuilding houses a kitchen with storage room and a composting toilet. Electricity is provided by a small DC solar system with battery. Rainwater is collected in a large water tank for the water supply. As the family did not have any furniture, we also purchased beds, a table with benches and chairs. An optimized stainless steel wood-burning stove is available for cooking, which uses 80% less wood compared to the traditional three stone fireplaces.



The ceremonial handover of the keys by the architect took place on 11 November 2023, the 3rd birthday of the foundation. In addition to the homeless family with five children and the neighbours, representatives of the Catholic Church and Caritas as well as the local administration took part. It was a very moving moment for the family and all the other participants.

Scholarships for attending a vocational school

Secondary schools and vocational schools charge school fees that many families cannot afford. In addition, vocational schools are often located far away from the student's place of residence, meaning that boarding school accommodation is necessary, which entails additional costs.



For the first time, the foundation has provided scholarships for two young women and two young men to attend a one-year vocational school with boarding facilities. One young woman will be trained as a dressmaker, the other as a hairdresser. The two young men will become car mechanics.

IN PREPARATION

The funding from the Portuguese Access to Energy Programme enables three projects, all of which use solar energy:

- Extension of the kindergarten we built
- Electrification of a further 430 households with small solar systems
- Construction of an agricultural "aggregation center" with a solar-powered cold storage as a contact point for buyers of vegetables, fruit and grain.

The following projects are being planned in the education sector:

- Reading and writing training for adults: around a third of adults are illiterate
- Expansion of English training for teachers to all schools that we support
- Electrification of further schools with the installation of smart classrooms and teacher training
- Supporting a local vocational school in setting up a training programme in the IT sector
- Expansion of the scholarship programme for attending a vocational school
- Establishment of a school partnership between a Rwandan and a German school



Drinking water: Together with a friendly German foundation in the financial sector, a local cooperative bank and local savings groups, we are preparing a microfinance product in combination with a subsidy that will enable many households in the village to afford the purchase of rainwater storage tanks. We are also investigating the construction of centralized storage capacities in every village in our project area. This will serve as a bridge solution until the national water supplier installs a pipeline for drinking water in the project area. As tap water for irrigation is too expensive, the water reservoirs can be used permanently to irrigate the fields.

Expansion of the project area

While we focused on the "Juru Cell" with its six villages, two schools and a total of around 7,000 inhabitants in the first two years, a project in the neighbouring "Mugorore Cell" was added for the first time at the end of 2023 with the Gatora Primary School. The expansion of our projects with schools and vocational schools planned for 2024 will mean that we will cover the entire Juru sector with around 35,000 inhabitants in the education sector. In the other areas, we will continue to focus on the Juru Cell and Mugorore Cell in order to expand our geographical reach in all areas at a later date.

Further professionalisation

Until now, the foundation has worked with freelancers and volunteers. We have now started to build up a small team of employees, starting with a project manager in the area of agriculture. In terms of fundraising, we are increasingly able to apply for larger amounts of funding. At the same time, we want to professionalize the acquisition of private and corporate donations. We are also aiming to cooperate with a large German foundation that is active in development cooperation.

We are well on the way to getting a little closer to our vision in 2024!

Vision

"Residents of 'sustainable villages' lead healthy and self-determined lives, have access to education and professional training, earn a good living in their village environment on their own, and at the same time are connected to the outside world."



If you would like to support the work of the non-profit Sustainable Villages Foundation, you can make a donation using our new online donation form. Convenient payments can be made by SEPA direct debit, credit card or PayPal. The internet address is

s-v-f.org/donation

Alternatively, especially if the payment is to be made before the end of the year, a direct transfer to our donation account is also possible

Sustainable Villages Foundation
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