

Hamburg, May 2015

Dear friends and supporters,

Our steps-children are on holiday and therefore it is quieter in our projects at the moment. However, in the small businesses like the sewing room, the carpentry shop and the mushroom house our colleagues are busy. The guest houses are also well visited and the first maize is being harvested in the vegetable garden and more goats are purchased.

However, the temperatures in Namibia are starting to fall and the nights are already quite cool. Therefore, we would be very grateful for donations for warm clothing and blankets for our children. The huts in the poor quarters are usually not very weather-resistant and only partially keep the cold out. A set of blankets for a large family costs 240 Euro. Warm clothing for four children costs just 48 Euro. [Give us your warm support! The children's health is a crucial prerequisite for their development!](#)

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Celebration of 25 years of independence

steps-children shortly before the celebration of 25 years of independence in Okakarara

On the 21st March 1990 a freely elected government came into office for the first time. This year the 25th anniversary was celebrated, especially in Windhoek. A little bit later on the 17th April, the last day before the holidays, a celebration also took place in Okakarara. Traditional leaders as well as politicians gave speeches to the numerous guests. The chief speaker was the regional councilor, Vetaruhe Kandorozi. Song and dance performances were also part of the programme and steps was the only school group invited to take part in the performances.

steps in Gobabis

Successful Mushroom Growing



Sowing the mushrooms

In the past year Henk Olwage, the project manager in Gobabis, and the colleague responsible for the mushroom growing got in touch with a similar project near Windhoek in order to exchange cultivation methods. As a result of this the plastic floor in the mushroom house has been removed. The natural earth gives a better climate and the temperature is kept constant. Other ideas and suggestions from the meeting are being implemented with considerable time and effort and the results are very promising. 20-30 bags a month can be harvested and bring in an income of around 1.000 N\$.

Here you can see photos with further details:

<http://bit.ly/ErfolgePilzzucht>

New dining room and reception



View of the fence near the main gate with the street behind.

We are planning to build a dining room and a reception area for our guest-house in Gobabis. On the one hand, it was a requirement of the “Namibian Board of Tourism” for the recognition as a Backpacker Hostel. On the other hand, until now we did not provide a place where our guests could enjoy their self-cooked meals in comfort and protected from the sun, rain and cool weather.

The dining room equipped with a grass roof and two fire walls will be built on the edge of our land, near the main entrance gate towards the street. The new building will make it more enjoyable to sleep in our guesthouse. Thereby we can achieve an optimal occupancy and get the best possible income for our social-steps.

For the building we urgently need donations to a total of 11,500 Euro. Every Euro helps.

Donate Now

We look forward to your donations to the steps for children foundation with the title „Guesthouse Gobabis“: Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, BLZ: 200 505 50, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

steps in Okakarara

„What a change since January“



Christina Gintenstorfer with her steps-children,



with colleagues in the soup kitchen.

Since January Christina Gintenstorfer from Austria has been supporting us as a volunteer in Okakarara. The interaction between the steps-children, the staff and people of Namibia and foreign volunteers is always of immeasurable value to both sides. We thank her wholeheartedly for the commitment that she has shown and we look forward to meeting up again. Looking back on an intensive time she says:

“I’ve just started my last week working here in Okakarara. I can hardly believe how fast the time has flown and, above all, how much has happened during this time. When I compare how a day in the kindergarten in January looked like to now, I could almost weep for joy. I am so unbelievably proud of the caregivers in the kindergarten, how they are continually developing themselves and how they are getting more and more absorbed into their job. They continually surprise me with new ideas and are very motivated and active. Above all I am proud of the children who now stick wonderfully by the rules and have become very good friends.

I am really thankful for this time. I will really miss the children and also my colleagues. Since I will stay a bit longer in Namibia, I am sure that I will come back again, once or twice.”

The guesthouse has been furnished



The second guesthouse in Okakarara has almost been fully furnished. A few items are still missing such as shelves for the bathroom, kettles and fridges for the rooms, fire-extinguishers and some towels, mattresses, beds and bedclothes. We would be delighted to receive your support to cover our costs of 4000 Euro. The income from the new guesthouse will also benefit the steps pre-school.

We look forward to your donations to the steps for children foundation with the title „Guesthouse Oka“: Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, BLZ: 200 505 50, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

Donate Now

steps in Otavi

3rd pre-school class operating since January



In our steps pre-school at the Otavi project location a **third pre-school class has been opened since January**. The demand for pre-school places for the children of farm-workers and from the neighbouring poor quarter has shown that we can prepare well over 40 children for the primary school. Therefore, our project partner, the Khoab St. John's Home, has made another of their rooms available and steps has equipped the classroom with new tables and chairs for the children.

Teacher Desiree Shunyuuni lovingly looks after her 13 schoolgirls and boys and has successfully completed the first term with them. As we reported in February, during the holidays the three teachers from our project will take part in a second educational workshop with AMOS-Namibia. This time our pre-school together with the St. Johns home in Otavi is the host for this further education.

Foto: Teacher Desiree Shunyuuni in her new classroom

steps in Rehoboth

Renovation and building of a new classroom has started



During the renovation work, walls have been pulled down and doors replaced

At our partner project “Heart for the Children” in Rehoboth the renovation work on the old buildings is in full progress. Doors and windows have been replaced and walls have been pulled down in order to extend the existing classrooms. The roof has also been improved. A plumber was in charge of the kitchen. During the holidays the renovation work will be finished and all energy will be invested in the new building. The foundation has already been laid and the first stages of the building have been approved of by the city council. You can find pictures of the renovation and construction work here: <http://bit.ly/BaubeginnHftC>

Once again we send a big thank you to all the donors who helped and are still helping with the extension and improvement of the project. At the moment we still need 15.000 Euro for the completion and further to prepare the additional children in the nursery, the kindergarten and above all in the pre-school for the primary school.

Donate Now

We look forward to your donations for the steps for children foundation with the title „Classrooms HftC“: Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, BLZ: 200 505 50, IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

steps in Germany

Our new ambassadors



From left Andreas Roß, Dr. Hans-Christian Schröder, Dr. Michael Hoppe, Dr. Stanislaw Nawka, Britta Nawka, Sabine Bohlen-Roß, Heike Grunewald, Prof. Dr. Herstatt

We are fortunate that many people all over Germany have committed themselves to supporting our work for the support of children in need in Namibia. They support us in various ways e.g. by donating their own money, through expertise or time, through motivation of other people or through important tips or advice on potential new supporters or donors. Without this valuable support we would not be able to look back on 10 successful years of the steps for children foundation. Many thanks!!

Additionally, there are numerous other wonderful people who have taken extraordinary action over many years, have been important companions and have given us new impulses. Thus, we thought it was time to recognize this special commitment. Therefore, at the end of 2014, we nominated Prof. Dr. Cornelius Herstatt and at the beginning of April Britta and Dr. Stanislaw Nawka as well as Sabine Bohlen-Roß und Andreas Roß were nominated as ambassadors.

A first mutual exchange of ideas, together with our long-standing ambassadors Sabine (not present) and Dr. Hans-Christian Schröder as well as Dr. Michael Hoppe, Heike Grunewald and Simone Damak took place on 8th April.

steps in Switzerland

New impulse for our European partner



From left Bernd Schminke, Dr. Michael Hoppe, Ute Pichorner, Guy Lorétan

At our European partner organisation, the steps for children foundation – Switzerland a change in leadership and then a first planning meeting have taken place. Guy Lorétan and Ute Pichorner have joined the board to which Bernd Schminke und Dr. Michael Hoppe belong. Since the foundation in 2010 the Swiss support has concentrated on the Gobabis project location. With the newly won energy donations are to be increased and viable networks should be set up.

Every donation helps. You will be investing in the future of children in need. Please donate to the steps for children foundation:

Hamburger Sparkasse, Account: 1238149726, Sort Code: 200 505 50
IBAN: DE44 2005 0550 1238 1497 26, BIC: HASPDEHHXXX
or online at www.stepsforchildren.de

In many countries, donations to *steps for children* can be set against income tax. You will automatically be sent a receipt after your donation has been received.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Hoppe

(Chairman)

Heike Grunewald

(Business Manager)

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