

# REPORT – COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION RENEWABLE ENERGY ZANZIBAR ASSOCIATION (REZA) AND A GERMAN VOLUNTEER (DTP) (08/2016 – 08/2017)



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Since REZA was established in the year 2015, there is a close cooperation between REZA and the German NGO ‘Deutsch-Tansanische-Partnerschaft’ (German-Tanzanian-Partnership or in short DTP). DTP is an organization with the aim to support the development of Renewable Energies in Tanzania and help to build a successful cultural exchange between Tanzanians and Germans. Every year DTP together with the government of Germany are giving young people from Germany the chance to go to Tanzania to do a voluntary service for one year. In this year the volunteers are working in different NGOs that are dealing with Renewable Energies and Environmental protection. The main aim of this project is for these young people to share ideas with their colleagues in Tanzania and support the work of the NGO.

Another aim for those who are coming to Tanzania is to learn about the topic of renewable energies and about the work of their organizations, but also to get and understanding of the Tanzanian culture and to learn the local language Swahili. An import aspect of the project is that the young volunteers are supposed to integrate themselves well in the society of Tanzania. In order to achieve this goal effectively, the volunteers are living with local host families and are taking part in the everyday life of the families.

In August 2016, REZA welcomed me as their first volunteer from Germany to work in their office. My name is Ursula [REDACTED], my motivation to come to Zanzibar and work for REZA was wanting to learn about the Zanzibari culture and also getting to know the work of REZA and wanting to support it.

In August 2017 my time in Zanzibar was already over. With this report I want to give an overview about my activities at REZA in the last year and show my success and describe the challenges that I faced.

## 2 OFFICE WORK

One of my tasks at REZA was creating different flyers. One flyer that I created was about the activities of REZA and another one was about Renewable Energies, their use and energy saving technologies.

These flyers will help to advertise the work of REZA and to educate people about Renewable Energies, how they are used and about energy saving technologies.

The flyers were and are especially helpful for the school project, the village presentations and also for visitors that come to the REZA office.



Picture 1: Front page of REZA Flyer



Picture 2: REZA office front, Michenzani, Zanzibar

Another job of mine at REZA was creating a Newsletter in order to inform REZA partners and members about the ongoing activities. Sadly, due to a lot of activities, I could not go on with this task.

Furthermore I participated in creating the REZA website and writing reports and proposals for various projects.

In the office, I also supported my colleagues with the planning and evaluating of our projects.

What follows is an explanation of the projects that REZA conducted this year with my cooperation.

### 3 PARTICIPATION IN REZA PROJECTS

#### 3.1 VILLAGE TRAININGS ON MINI ECONOMIC SOLAR PLANT (MIESP)IN 25 VILLAGES IN THE NORTH DISTRICTS OF ZANZIBAR (09/2016- 11/2016; 07/2017- 08/2017)

September until November 2016 REZA conducted village trainings on the so called ‘Mini Economic Solar Plant’ (in short MiESP, a small solar home system for working four lamps and a mobile phone charger), supported by the DTP and the URBIS foundation, in five villages of Zanzibar. The aim of the project was to give the villagers a practical training on the small home system and inform them on Renewable Energies and environmental protection in general. In the course of this project REZA also enabled the people to afford the small solar system as an alternative for the expensive, health-damaging kerosene lamps that are commonly used.

In this project I participated in the preparation, for example by communicating with the local village leaders (shehas) and the district office, as well as with the respective organizations, like various departments and ministries and the district council office. I also participated in the conduction of this project. I went to the villages with my colleagues to do the trainings. In the training I held part of the presentations and helped with the practical part of the training.



Picture 3: Villagers are receiving information on the MiESP



Picture 4: Villagers with volunteer at the practical part of the training

The village training project went very well; a lot of people attended the trainings and showed a great interest in the covered topics. In the beginning I found it challenging to give the presentations in Swahili, especially in front of many people, but thanks to the help of my colleagues of REZA, I learned a lot and could improve my Swahili every day.

July 2017 until the end of August 2017, REZA decided to do this project again for 10 villages, as a lot of people still needed the service of REZA. Continuing with the project in other villages, we were also successful and the people were content with our trainings. Doing the project for a second time, gave me the chance to see how much I improved my Swahili compared to when we did the project for the first time. I could also see that my performance at the trainings in front of people improved a lot; I was of more help for my colleagues and for the attendants.

One part of the MiESP project is installing the solar home systems in the villages. REZA has its own technicians to do this work. They are also giving the users information on the correct use of the system.

A few times I also got the chance to participate in the installation of the system together with the technicians of REZA. I liked it very much to experience how the systems are installed and see the reactions of the villagers to the installation.



Picture 5: Installation of MiESP

### **3.2 SCHOOL PROJECT IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE NORTH DISTRICTS OF ZANZIBAR (12/04/2017 – 25/05/2017; 19/07/2017 -02/08/2017)**



Besides doing the village training project, I also participated in the school project. In the course of this project, we went to 10 schools in the North Districts of Zanzibar in order to teach Form 3 and 4 students about environmental protection as well as different renewable energy technologies. In our teaching we intentionally used various teaching methods in order to motivate the students to participate in the class, for example by doing group work and discussions.

**Picture 5: Students are working in groups**

In every school we left the student with a survey about the energy situation, garbage situation and knowledge and awareness about climate change. We asked the students to look how the real situation in their environment is like, what challenges the people are facing, what people know about the topics of our teaching and what ways there are to improve the current situation.

After a few weeks we went to every school again in order to do a “Follow-up” to ensure the sustainability of the project. On the day of the follow-up we talked to the student about the survey that we left them with and we discussed about possible solutions for the problems that were observed in the course of the survey.



**Picture 7: 'Energizer' for the students**

The response of the students to our teaching was very good, they understood the importance of the topics of the teaching and they showed great interest in using their gained knowledge in their everyday life. The teachers were happy about our teaching as well.

After the teaching of every school we as REZA staff did an evaluation of the teaching in order to improve our performance and teaching methods.

Planning and carrying out the school project was very interesting for me, also because I had more responsibility in this project than in other projects. Participating in the project also helped me to improve my Swahili and to get self-confidence for oral presentations in front of many people.

### **3.3 TRAINING FOR DISTRICT LEADERS, ZANZIBAR (12/07/2017 – 16/07/2017)**

In the course of this project, I participated in the preparation and conduction of a two day workshop for 36 shehas (local village leaders), four members of the district office and four council members. The aim of this workshop was to train the participants on the use of renewable energies, to build their capacity, to create a good cooperation between the participants and REZA and also to create a plan in order to help the development of Renewable Energies in Zanzibar. The participants were happy about our workshop, they were particularly glad to be given the chance to explain and discuss the challenges that they and their citizens are facing.



**Picture 8: Presentation on a topic of discussion**



**Picture 9: Participants of the workshop and REZA staff**

My responsibility in this project was to participate in the planning of the schedule of the workshop and also to create the presentation for the covered topics. Moreover I took part in the presentation at the days of the workshop and lead some of the discussions. It was very interesting for me to listen to the discussions of the participants; I gained a better understanding about the leadership of the district and about the challenges of the villagers in Zanzibar.

### 3.4 ,GREEN ENERGY FOR ZANZIBAR – NISHATI RAFIKI’, PEMBA AND UNGUJA (19/07/2017 – 30/07/2017)



Picture 10: Villagers are shown different solar products

The method of sensitizing people was to hand out Flyers and give oral explanations. Moreover local artists were used to attract people. In Pemba a theatre group acted out a play and in Unguja a dance group danced.

I took part in both preparation and conduction of this project. Getting the experience of participating in such a big project was very interesting for me and I learned a lot of new thing. It was also nice to get the chance to visit a lot of places Pemba and Unguja and to see how people are living in different areas.

The project 'Green Energy for Zanzibar- Nishati rafiki' is a big project, sponsored by the EU with the aim to enable the development of Renewable Energies in Zanzibar.

The project started in 2015 and this year, REZA was asked for its support in an activity that was called 'road-show'. This activity aimed to sensitize the people of Pemba and Unguja to the use of renewable energies, the use of energy saving tools, like so called "clead stoves" and energy saving light bulbs as well as to the responsible use of power.



Picture 11: Show of the artists in Pemba

### 4 OTHER ACTIVITIES

Besides these big projects, I also participated in other REZA activities like an Exhibition at Karume Institute of Science and Technology, small meetings with national partners and also bigger international meetings. The participation of these activities helped me to understand the collaboration of REZA and other energy stakeholders and to comprehend how the process of planning and conducting projects in cooperation with other organizations works.



Picture 12: Meeting with EU- representatives

## 5 CONCLUSION AND THANKS

There were a lot of activities carried out successfully during my stay at REZA. In short I can say that I feel very proud to be given the chance to come to Zanzibar and work for REZA. This year I learned a lot for my later life and I would like to thank all of the people that enabled me to participate in this project of the DTP and succeed with my activities in Zanzibar.

I would also like to thank the different organizations in Tanzania, like the department of energy, the department of education, the Tanzania Renewable Energy Zanzibar Association (TAREA), and the Tanzania Youth Coalition (TYC). Moreover I would like to thank the German NGO DTP for their close cooperation. Especially, I would like to thank my colleagues at REZA for welcoming me and my ideas very well, integrating me fully into their team and giving me the best support I could wish for throughout the year. I am wishing them all the best for their lives and work, I have big hopes that we will continue to have a close and good cooperation.