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umeme

PEOPLE. PERSPECTIVES. TANZANIA



THE FUN PART IS OVER

Photo by Ishan @seefromthesky on Unsplash



From <https://bit.ly/3bOONyq>, under guidelines: <https://bit.ly/3eFH7k0>

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Editorial

Dear Readers,

the entire DTP-weltwaerts year of 2019/20 and I are very pleased that you are holding this special edition of the Umeme in your hands!

Actually, we did not plan to publish another Umeme magazine of the DTP. But then, on the 16th of March 2020, I received an e-mail from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) with the urgent recommendation to return all North-South volunteers back to Germany.

So, on the 21st of March, the North-South DTP volunteers landed in Germany – an abrupt end to their time in Tanzania. The climate-protection volunteers had been living in Tanzania for 7 months (instead of 12). The teacher-volunteers were in Tanzania for almost 4 months (instead of 10). Further intensive months in Tanzania were taken from them. Nobody could know how the Covid pandemic would develop in Tanzania and when airlines would cease operations. So the decision of retrieval was appropriate.

The DTP volunteers are now completing the remaining months of their voluntary year in Germany. They have the BMZ's mandate to engage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Til, a current returnee, writes after dealing with the SDGs for weeks: "The SDGs, for me, are like the guide to a world that is at least a little bit more equal. I think the SDGs should be more accessible, also to the "normal population" (which does not think about these topics on a daily basis), since it concerns us all, and then the pressure on politics to act in a SDGs-compliant manner would perhaps be somewhat higher".

So, let's go ahead and make the SDGs better known and point out hidden opportunities!

The following articles reflect in which of the 17 SDGs the North-South volunteers, now back in Germany, and the South-North volunteers, during their time in Germany, have deepened. Some articles are related to Tanzania and try to give an impression of how far Tanzania or Zanzibar already manage to realize the SDGs. Thereby it is to be considered, that the volunteers partly refer to individual experiences and/or regional examples. It is equally important to be aware of the fact that the goals, in this form, have only existed since 2015 and should ideally be realized by 2030.

So far, no UN member state has been able to fully realize all goals and Germany as well has a lot of work to do in the realization of the goals.

I wish you much joy and inspiration while reading this umeme.

Tanja (managing director and educator of DTP) and the 22 North-South and South-North volunteers of the 2019/20 year

The fun part is over

By Sara Seemann, translated by Jakob Bosse

Sometimes I feel ambivalent. My thoughts jump to and fro between two continents. I look out of the window and see palatinate gardens and trees full of red cherries. The cold air, entering the opened window, blows around my face. But only a short time ago my center of life was quite different. It was Zanzibar. The island off the East African coast is bustling, noisy, dusty, colorful and the life there required all of my senses. Sometimes I would have liked to turn off one of them. But being at one of the many beaches felt just like it. Seeing vastness, hearing the waves, feeling the sand under the feet and burying them in it. Wading in the water, letting it wash around the legs and the mind. Everything feels simpler. Watching the boats in the distance. Sadly Chumbe Island can't be seen from here.

The 20 hectare big conservation area is of great importance for the conservation of biodiversity. In this protected biosphere 59 madreporae species are found. Therefore it is one of the reefs with the biggest biodiversity of East Africa. Corals are like trees of the ocean. They provide a home, protection and nourishment for over 500 different species of fish in this region. Since 1994 the coral reef in front of Chumbe Island is under protection. But because of the rapid growth of population and the high amount of tourism the coral reefs are under pressure of illegal hunting, overfishing and illegal methods of fishing.

The coral reefs are the biggest structures build by animals on earth. Tropical coral reefs are unique ecosystems with a great amount of diversity of animals and plants. They also protect close coast from erosion caused by waves and they provide the residents with work, as the tourists like to visit the coral reefs.

But all over the planet coral reefs are confronted with serious problems mainly caused by the rising temperature of the oceans. Corals live in symbiosis with micro algae, which is 90% of their nourishment. At higher temperatures this vital symbiosis collapses. The coral bleaching is the process, when the algae is expelled out of the coral tissue. Then the white chalk housing of the coral becomes visible. If the temperature stress is only temporary, the symbiosis can go on. The body tissue of the coral can gather the algae again. But if this stress is for a long period of time, the corals starve to death. For them to recover it takes at least 15 years for fast growing corals up to many decades for slow growing and long living ones.

The 40 employees manage to provide Chumbe Island with a big biodiversity and therefore enable many threaded animals to do their breeding there. The women and men are employed as guides, rangers and traffic wardens and care about the reef, forest conservation area and the visitors center. The eco tourism helps them to raise the needed money.

Today I sit here, 7000 km away at my patio looking at the sky and wishing that I had seen this unique conservation area during my time at Zanzibar.

Ahsante kwa ushirikiano wako (Thank you for your commitment)

The crisis as a chance?

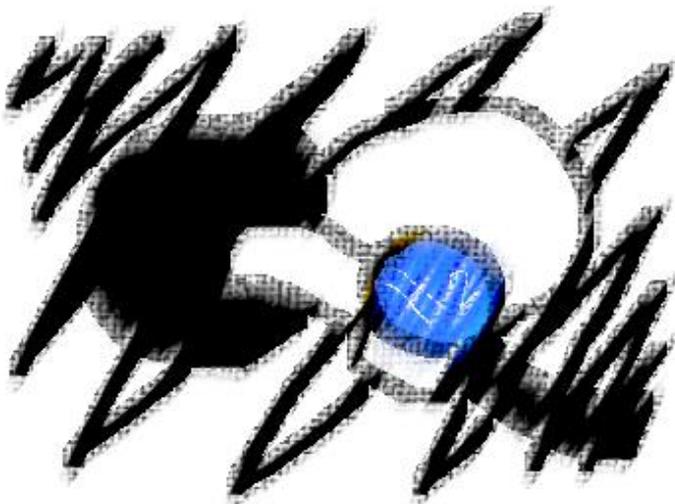
By Hannes Tegtmeier, translated by Hannah Falk

“What we have failed to do in the implementation of the SDGs in the past is now falling on our head in Corona times.” said Zoreh Rezvany, the moderator of a webinar of the Karl Kuebler Foundation, which I recently attended. In fact, the shortcomings and failures of the system become particularly apparent in times of crisis. And in the implementation of the SDGs, there is still a clear need for improvement in Germany - for example, in climate protection. At the same time, however, crises often serve as an impetus for a paradigm shift that will shape the future sustainably. Whether the founding of the United Nations as a result of the Second World War or the adoption of anti-terrorism laws after 9/11, the reality of our lives today is largely shaped by past crises and their effects. It is already obvious today, that the corona crisis will continue to have an effect for a long time to come - a chance for a more sustainable development in the sense of the SDGs? In order to get out of the crisis economically stable, at the beginning of June the German Government decided on a short-term economic stimulus- and crisis-management package, worth 120 billion euros - coupled with a longer-term future-oriented package. The intention? "We want to contain the consequences of the pandemic and invest in sustainable development. Chancellor Angela Merkel said that Agenda 2030, with its global sustainability goals, was the compass for this. To what extent does this economic stimulus-package live up to these goals?

In concrete terms, this package consists of 57 measures that are being implemented in many different sectors. One of the lessons to be learned from the pandemic is that the German healthcare system will be much better equipped in the future, both in terms of its material and organizational structure. The government will play a major role both financially, through increased investment, and organizationally. The aim is to make the healthcare system more resilient to future pandemics - but also more general - and to implement the digital change quickly. A corresponding future program for hospitals and a pact for the public health service are to be developed. Ideally, everyone will benefit from these changes - a good step towards a better healthcare system for all, as formulated in SDG 3.

In addition to the healthcare system, a further focus is on education and research, in order to enable sustainable, climate-friendly industrial and institutional change and to help shape this change in a global partnership through Know-How "made in Germany", a technological leader. Schools and kindergartens are to be renovated faster and with more money than before and are to be clearly strengthened and improved especially in the long-term care and digital change. In research, particular emphasis is placed on innovations in future technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum technology and renewable energies in order to support sustainable structural change. In the field of renewable energies, the cap on solar energy will be abolished and at the same time the expansion target for offshore wind energy will be raised.

However, the price of electricity for the consumer will not increase. In addition, there are plans to invest massively in infrastructure in the area of 5G Internet, electromobility and hydrogen technology. The budget for the promotion of infrastructure development and innovation amounts to an impressive 50 billion euros (!). Especially in hydrogen technology - for many people a key technology of the future - a national strategy should help to effectively achieve climate neutrality and create sustainable jobs and added value in all regions of Germany.

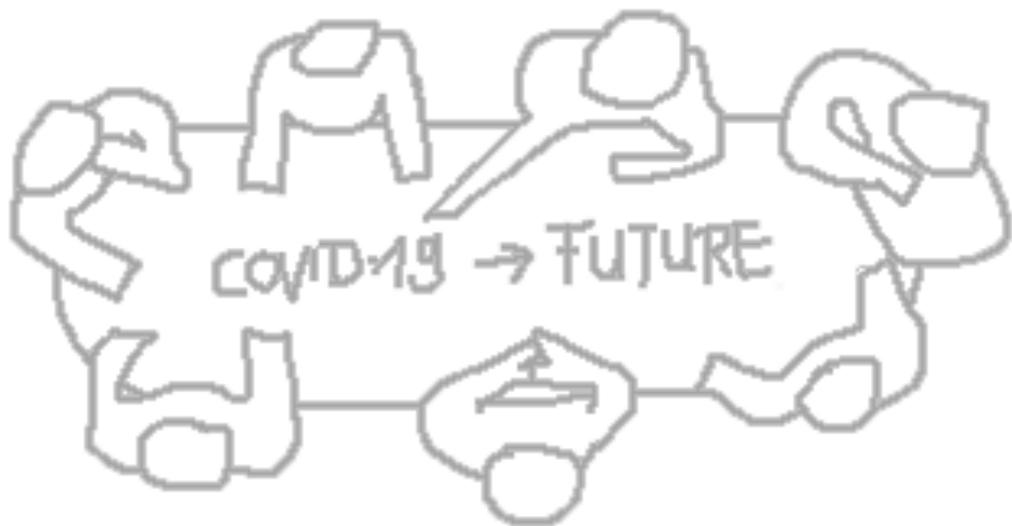


In order to protect the environment and the climate more effectively and to strengthen sustainable consumption alternatives, additional incentives are being provided in various sectors. From 2021, for example, the motor vehicle tax will be based on the CO2 emissions of new vehicles, while electric cars will receive a double purchase bonus for a limited period. The railroads, as a climate-friendly means of transport, will receive an additional 5 billion Euros to optimize their services, too. In the meat industry, an investment-promotion-program for the conversion of stables is also intended to quickly implement more animal-friendly forms of husbandry, which will promote not only animal welfare, but also climate and environmental protection. Further financial resources will also be invested in the preservation and sustainable management of the forests.

Whether these approaches will finally be implemented to the extent that they are now in the resolution, is not foreseeable yet. Many concrete plans still have to be laboriously negotiated, until then it remains exciting. But so far I would say, that this economic stimulus package in its current form definitely has the potential to shape the future in Germany in the sense of the SDGs. And it gives hope. Out of the seventeen SDGs, eleven SDGs are directly or indirectly supported by the measures of the Future Package. In general we can see that in recent years, the social opinion moved towards more sustainable development and climate protection. Also, among other things, through „Fridays for Future“. This also became obvious during the debates prior to the adoption of the economic stimulus package, especially in the dispute over the controversial scrapping bonus, which would probably have had a different outcome five years ago. As this ambitious economic stimulus package shows once again, crises offer possibilities for change. So we can just hope that this opportunity will be seized.

Photo of “Change”-sign
by [Ross Findon](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Other pictures: Private



Enjoy the moment – or think further

By Lennart Sillmann, translated by Josefine Bacher

It's 30° Celsius and a man is collecting plastic bottles on the verge of a street. On one bottle, a red logo with a white lettering can be seen. There's nothing but a little drop left of the brown fizzy lemonade, but the man isn't interested in it. The bottle is thrown into a bag filled with other bottles.

The man could be from Germany earning some additional Euros through the collection of bottles with refundable deposit. According to studies, through the collection of this kind of bottles, three up to ten Euros can be earned per day.

In Germany, bottlepickers have almost become an urban social representation by now. Meanwhile, the sight of a person collecting bottles is by far not a solely German phenomenon. In fact, collecting bottles or aluminium drink cans has become an important income source to many people worldwide these days. Nevertheless, bottlepickers earn much less than in Germany in most countries of



the world. An income of one Dollar a day for a higher number of bottles is widespread. In addition to that, bottlepickers worldwide expose themselves to much higher health risks. In landfills, they search for bottles among contaminated waste, without protective equipment. The goal: PET-one-way bottles, and that as many as possible. The bottles are sold to companies which export them to countries with recycling capacities.

Many of those bottles can be traced back to the Coca-Cola Company. Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite can be recognized easily because of their worldwide similar design. But those are just three of the over 3900 different products of the Coca-Cola Company.

The "Coca-Cola Company" was founded in 1892 and is present in almost every country of the world in the meantime. The company sells more than 3900 products, has more than 700,000 employees (among them so-called Bottling Partners) and had a business volume of close to 35.2 billion US-Dollars in 2017. Not only soft drinks like juices and water, but also tea sorts and coffee belong to its product range. Like that, the Coca-Cola Company owns almost half of the worldwide trade in drinking products. And while the business volume stagnates in countries like the USA, one can note an increase of the business volume in countries of the Global South/ in economically developing countries. According to Dun & Bradstreet, an agency for business decisioning data and analytics, the company earns about 114 million US-Dollars just from Tanzania.

Apart from the 35.2 billion US-Dollars, the company also generates almost 110 billion plastic bottles per annum. That's 3400 plastic bottles per second that pollute the environment after the consumption, for most countries of the world haven't got a deposit return scheme and in many countries waste



management is little developed. Plastic bottles end up next to the street, in rivers and over detours also in the sea. This waste is an enormous risk to humans and the environment.

Since at least the declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals, companies have obligated themselves to support a sustainable development, too. Thus more and more of the international big players have dedicated themselves

to embedding certain goals of the Agenda 2030 in their companies' policy and structure. And also the producer of the brown fizzy lemonade is increasingly promoting itself as a sustainable company.

The Coca-Cola Company sees itself as a part of the global society. For it, the consumer and the company with its employees are in the middle of global processes within its product sector. All of us have an impact on the global society through our consumption decisions. That's where Coca-Cola wants to create a value as a company, a value because of which the consumer decides for their products. Some kind of sustainability shall be associated with the brand, because for clients, whose consumption is a decision, this can make arise an identification with the brand Coca-Cola. Being sustainable becomes "trendy" and Coca-Cola is going along with it.

For instance, the Coca-Cola Company is setting clear standards in its production and supply chain within the framework of its operations. Suppliers are controlled, in the bottling plants standards are in force, humans are strengthened economically and upskilled. For the year 2019, the company explained its ambitions concerning SDG 8, decent work and economic growth, like this: meeting human rights was a prerequisite for a company to be considered to become a supplier. Further, it stated its guideline for human rights was valid for the whole organisation and was fundamental for all of its partnerships. In addition to that, it pointed out that the economical and considerate exploitation of resources was an inherent part of its sustainability strategy. For it, this means: Taking care that all the companies participating in the production or distribution do align with human rights and are sustainable throughout their production. Furthermore, the company is promoting, for example through the 5by20 initiative, that five million women are directly and indirectly strengthened economically in the framework of their production- and distribution chain by the end of 2020. Those programs are used as a figurehead by Coca-Cola. Women, such as the picture of an African woman who has become an entrepreneur thanks to Coca-Cola, are illustrated on the Coca-Cola-owned websites and merchandised as success stories.

However, the Coca-Cola Company sees itself as a solver of problems. In its point of view, it does everything that is necessary to sell a good product to its clients and align with the Agenda 2030 meanwhile. The costumers ought to expose themselves to the value of the brand Coca-Cola - what is happening after the consumption of the product is up to the clients. The coke is drunk and the product consumed. But the bottle is still there. For Coca-Cola, its job is terminated with the selling of its product, it is handing over the problem to the consumer: What to do with the waste?

After consumption, a bottle returns to the deposit return scheme in Germany. In other countries in the world, the bottles are burnt or simply dumped. In the latter case, the bottlepickers come back into play, who collect the bottles under inhuman working conditions. So, at this point of the product's life cycle, you can't call the working conditions decent at all. Because a person who has to work for a famine wage while being scared of becoming ill of this work has no decent work. A humane livelihood can hardly be secured through this kind of work. For Coca-Cola, and many other companies, too, this is just a minor matter. The collected bottle may have a logo of Coca-Cola on it, but it is not a product of the company any more. Like that, the company can claim that it's supporting the Agenda 2030 without worries.

Still, the sale of the bottles and passing on the waste problem facilitates inhuman working conditions indirectly. As this doesn't align with the image of a sustainable enterprise and as it is easier for a big producer to pass on a problem instead of developing a system that is sustainable for real, we can only change something through our consumption decisions.



Gender-based violence

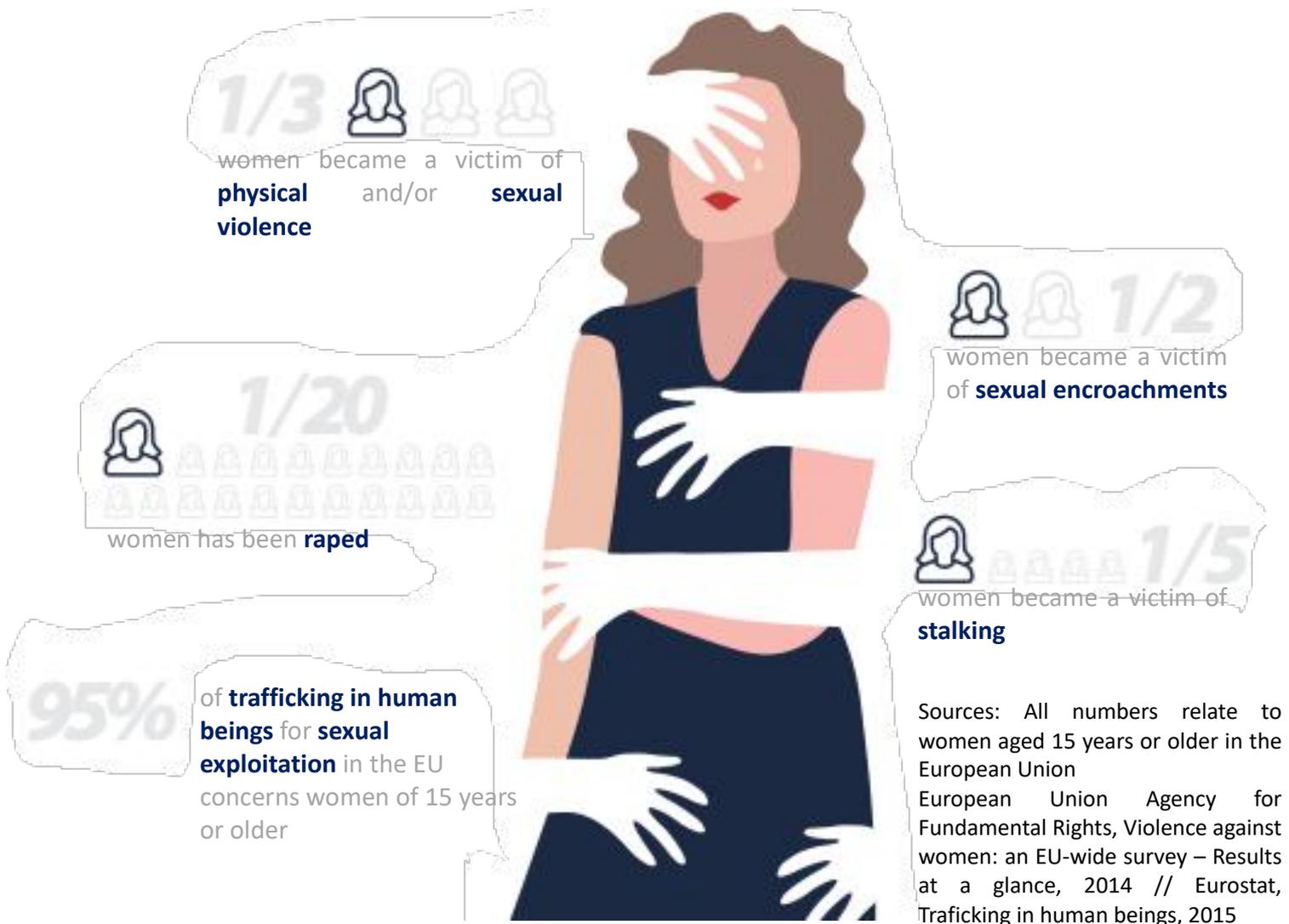
More common than you think

By Deborah James Nnko and Suleiman Sadik Khamis, translated by Josefine Bacher

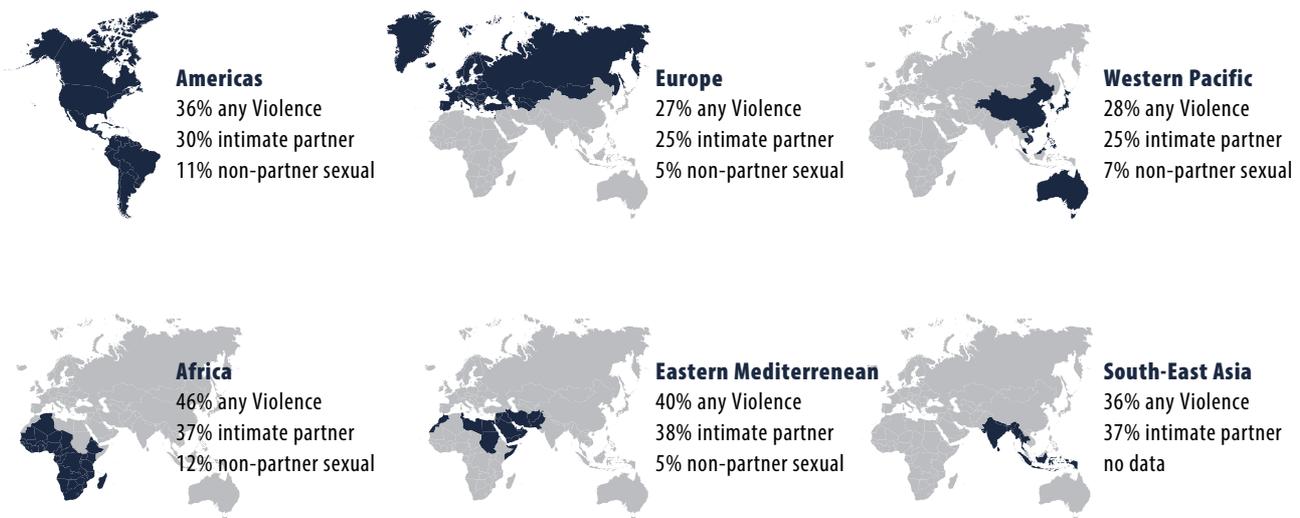
No attention has been paid to the subject gender-based violence in the international discourse on human rights for a very long time. It's been only since a few years that gender-based violence is acknowledged to be a matter of human rights. However, the topic is only regarded to be of higher importance when it comes to the sphere of violence against women. Other forms of gender-based violence which can be found beyond heteronormative borders are still ignored by now. (Elsuni, 2011)

Gender-based violence refers to such acts of violence where the gender or the sexuality of the victim or the perpetrator play a role. Besides, this concept of violence does not only consider interpersonal violence, but also criticizes systematic violence that is to say heteronormative hierarchies of the genders in the society. In addition to that, the term includes apart from physical also mental and sexualized violence. (Gender Institut Bremen)

Tanzania is anxious for reaching the sustainable development goals. In particular, the goals number 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 are of high concern. (UNDP, 2019) Goal number 5 is about gender equality and in this context, we can see an increase of the overall share of female students, female deputies and female personnel. To reach an effective implementation of women and gender development politics from the year 2000 on, a national strategy for the development of the genders (NSGD) was elaborated in order to facilitate equality and gender equality. (URT, 2012)



Share of women with experiences of violence



Pictures: Private

In spite of the determination of the world to advocate gender equality, there's a lot of things left to be desired concerning this issue. Statistics show a significant decrease in the number of women who are genital mutilated or forced into early marriage. However, a person is not a statistic, a person is not a number, but a human, and as long as even just one girl or one boy is exposed to violence, the world hasn't come far enough.

Gender-based violence is discussed loudly in cases of female genital mutilation and early marriage, but there are also other practices of suppression, like the pay gap between men and women, the fact that there's a higher number of men than women in political positions, but also the harassment of and encroachment on members of the LGBTQ+-community.

According to the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform of the United Nations at least 200 Million women were genital mutilated between 2000 and 2018. This data refers to 30 countries. According to current data from about 90 countries, women spend on average three times more hours a day on unpaid care and housework than men, which reduces the time for paid work, education and free time and further intensifies gender-specific socio-economic disadvantages. Up-to-date data from 106 countries show that 18% of women and girls aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their partner in the past 12 months. The highest prevalence can be found in the least developed countries, with 24%.

The world has come very far concerning the issues of gender-based violence, and there is still a long way in front of us. Changes have to start at a local level, because no matter how many laws are passed, it's the thoughts of the people that has to change. I'd suggest that the education of children already starts at an early age.

Elsuni, S. (2011). Geschlechtsbezogene Gewalt und Menschenrechte. Von nomos-library.de/141523/titelei-inhaltsverzeichnis-nis?page=1

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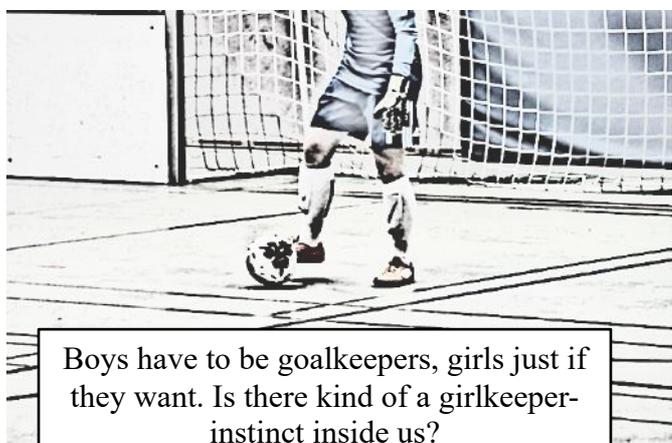
Let's talk about sex. And me.¹

By Josefine Bacher

Doing gender means [...] that belonging to a gender and gender identity can be seen as a constant production process which takes factually part in every human activity. - Therese Frey Steffen in "Gender" (translated from German by Josefine Bacher)

This thought of "doing gender" hit me and made me think about it, when I really became aware of it. I had never really seen that through my daily actions, due to role expectations, I reveal what gender I feel I belong to and like that also contribute to the conservation of these role expectations. May I give you an example?

In the football club at my school no one wanted to be the goalkeeper apart from one or two people. When those people weren't present or wanted to play in the field, people said: "We'll take turns." By



Boys have to be goalkeepers, girls just if they want. Is there kind of a girlkeeper-instinct inside us?

Photo: planet_fox on pixabay

that, no one actually seemed to include girls – it seemed quite normal when for instance I held myself back to "take turns". Sometimes I had the impression that people were more surprised when I went in the goal. Once I had a little bit a bad conscience when I went into the goal because I thought, if I do that, my female-read co-players might have to do it, too. As if I would give up a privilege for them. And somehow I also felt an (irrational) protection instinct inside of me. I also think the opposing team shot less hard when I was the goalkeeper. Whereas I doubt that people who do not assign themselves as female (officially) like it better to be hit by a hard shot.

Except maybe people who really like being goalkeeper and take this as a challenge.

I believe this illustrates how certain role expectations about men and women are so powerful inside of me that I consider actions to be normal, that constitute an unjustified unequal treatment if looked at from outside of role expectations.

I could go further and say the German Basic Law should be changed concerning Article 12 a: That Article says men after becoming 18 years old "may be required to serve in the Armed Forces, in the Federal Border Police, or in a civil defence organisation."² Rejecting this is allowed due to reasons of conscience, but an alternative service has to be rendered. Women, meanwhile, cannot be forced "to render service involving the use of arms", but to render "civilian services in the civilian health system or in stationary military hospitals". But does it really make sense to demand for equal rights or obligation, respectively, in this case? According to onmeda.de women are on average physically less powerful than men – simply because of the build and the hormonal balance. So, shall we leave the vision of a complete emancipation behind? I think, the society and every single person should consider carefully, when thinking about the equality of the sexes/genders, where it makes sense and how it can be executed so that it fits the people and their different needs in a given situation. Meanwhile we should be aware of the fact that not everyone of the same sex/gender imperatively has the same needs. Concerning the compulsory military service in Germany (which is paused at the

¹And gender.

²Translated to German by Professor Christian Tomuschat, Professor David P. Currie, Professor Donald P. Kommers and Raymond Kerr, in cooperation with the Language Service of the German Bundestag ; on http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_gg/englisch_gg.html#p0068 Last visited 30.09.2020 ; under copyright

moment according to an article on the website of the German Federal Agency for Civic Education but could be reactivated) this could mean, for instance, that all sexes are obligated “to render service involving the use of arms”, but to introduce a standardized medical examination which is adapted on the sex where necessary, to check one’s capability to render this service. Thus, it could be avoided that people are recruited who are physically or mentally not able to fulfil certain exercises of the service but don’t have ethical reasons to refuse it. I want to point out that there’s a broader discussion about this subject with more arguments than the physical build and that I just looked at one aspect here. I also want to call on the readers to form their own opinion on military in general, as eliminating the compulsory military service would be an option that would lead to equal rights of the sexes, too.



Sometimes we might have to ask ourselves:
Is an absolute equal treatment always possible and does it always make sense? In my opinion “sometimes” is also when it comes to the military service.
Photo: Patou Ricard on pixabay

Some readers might now be astonished that I am partly just talking about male and female people while there are many people beyond these binary options. First, this is because the Article I mentioned above just talked about men and women. Second, I also realize that in my thinking, talking and writing I often only have the male and female sex/gender on my mind. I actually guess that I’ve already written e-mails full of gender stars * (used as a way to write gender neutral in German), but with the greeting “Ladies and gentlemen” without realizing, that this greeting is excluding people, too. But how should I? In my daily life I mostly see the forms of address “mister” or “miss(es)”. And even though the German language is built upon three grammatical genders (female, masculine, neuter) and all of these genders are equally used when referring to objects or inhuman creatures, most of German speakers refer to subjects with almost no exception by using only the feminine and/or masculine gender, the respective pronouns and quite a number of words that are tailored onto these two genders (In German many nouns describing people only exist as female and male version (no gender-neutral term), comparable to e.g. waiter/waitress in English). If you use the neuter while referring to a person, it’s partly perceived as a reification. A universal rule of how to refer to people who are neither male nor female does not exist in German (it thus has to be agreed on with the respective person). Kiswahili is very advantaged concerning this issue as there is no grammatical gender there and for a single subject there’s only one and thus gender-neutral pronoun used: “yeye” (while this doesn’t suggest that the situation of the LGBTIQ+-community is good in the Kiswahili-speaking part – in Tanzania it is, as far as I know, politically and socially pretty difficult).

To be honest, I thought that there were just two sexes – male and female – until I reached the age of about twelve. Then, I saw a film where an intersex person takes part in – a person, whose sex is neither definitely male nor definitely female (and whose athletic career is endangered if anyone gets to know about this). The first time I heard about non-binary people, which is an umbrella term for people who in diverse forms neither identify as (only) female or (only) male, was about a year ago in a video on YouTube.

I realize more and more that the topic sex/gender is very broad and that I could just throw a short glance on it here. However it is omnipresent in my life, even if I am not always aware of it.

<https://intersex-kontrovers.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/en/intersex-what-do-we-mean-by-that-3/>



SDG 10

Reducing inequalities within and among countries

By Fynn Brackmann, translated by Lotta Schäfer

Inequalities in the world – a broad topic. Every human being can encounter this topic, if not in news, then through political discussions or personal experiences. Most certainly everyone of us can remember at least one time when experiencing inequality. SDG No. 10 is the political goal of the United Nations to reduce inequalities. Though, this goal does not only include the contrast between developed countries and developing countries but also explicitly inequalities within countries. Therefore, reaching this goal is only possible if there will be political actions internationally on the one hand and nationally on the other hand. This is a task to which every country is prompted to solve.

When, for instance, examining the global distribution of wealth, a significant inequality can be noticed. According to analysis carried out by Oxfam, 62 people own a little more than the poorer half of the world – that would be 3.9 billion people. Overall, about 80 percent of global wealth is controlled by 0.1 percent of people. Moreover, there must be considered that the trend of more wealth belonging to a smaller group of people continues. Similarities can be seen with income.

Such evaluations and statistics indicate that members of the UN must confront the increasing inequalities if they are serious about Goal No. 10. Though, if considering the distribution of votes in UN organizations there is little hope. Indeed, developing countries in committees hold more than 70 percent of voting shares, which means that each country has one single vote. The tendency is for important decisions which concern the global governance like merchandise and foreign exchange trade, tariffs and economy are elaborated and decided in other committees. In these committees, such as the International Monetary Fund, the representation of developing countries is considerably lower which reflects in a long term in the decisions of these committees.

However, inequality is more than that. Worldwide, women and girls do not have the same chances as men and boys. Despite the lawful equality of man and woman, in many countries traditional gender roles still define the daily life which results in disadvantages for women.

Girls and women in many countries attend school far less and they must do more work around the house. At the same time, women more commonly work without payment, especially in patient and child care. More examples can be found considering women in executive positions in economy. Only every seventh board member of a German company is a woman. Only once has a woman led a Dax (German stock index) company. On the one hand, this could be traced back to personal, cultural attitudes: many personal qualities are assimilated through culture, mostly in early childhood. Children project their parents' role allocation onto themselves and starting their (grown-up) life they have internalized these gender roles.

On the other hand, presented surrounding conditions effect the perpetuation of structures. This could be the status quo, meaning the condition that high positions are staffed a priori by men and therefore, there is no encouraging role model to show that women can work in high positions as well as men. In other situations women are forced to work for others and are actively prevented from reaching their goals. That is the case if they gain their role less through intuitive personal qualities but more through prohibitions, for example leaving the house. This way they are urged into servility.

Such reprisals can result from the family, for instance the partner, or they can be cemented in law.

In conclusion, to reduce inequalities there is still a long way ahead of us, such as the realization of gender equality. The examples about financial and gender equality described above are only a small part of a much bigger problem. If there will be progress toward a dedicated reduction of prevailing inequalities between different societies or within one society is to be seen.



Used sources:

SDG's <https://bit.ly/2DxhvoJ>

Wikipedia <https://bit.ly/3gTnX7V>

Spiegel Online <https://bit.ly/3iXPFSZ>

Photos:

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Beggar: Jean Pierre Hintze, <https://flic.kr/p/4YNfxE> (under CC BY-SA 2.0)

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Between acknowledgement and despair – my experiences of early childhood education in Zanzibar

By Carla Waldvogel, translated by Josefine Bacher

Nelson Mandela once said education was the most powerful weapon to change the world. But what is education actually, and how can early childhood education and facilitation of children be realized worldwide?

In its plans, the government of Zanzibar explicitly refers to goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which declares high quality education to be the key to individual opportunities and to innovations, and to be a condition for a sustainable development of the earth. According to it, every child should have the opportunity to receive an inclusive and equitable education.

Is this understanding of education put into practice in every day school life on Zanzibar? During my

voluntary service on Zanzibar, I've made very contrary experiences concerning the early childhood education, on which an emphasis has been put in educational politics for several years.

After studying vocational education pedagogics for five years, teaching educators and writing my state examination thesis about the (re-)construction of differences in the intercultural work, I was aware of the diversity of practices and realities in the frame of educational processes in different cultures. I was excited for new experiences and wanted to engage with the otherness of educational processes in Zanzibar. But after a few weeks of work at the Kidutani Nursery School in Stonetown, I had doubts on whether it would be possible to initiate educational processes and facilitate children as early as possible here. Let me explain this to you through one of many examples from my every day life at school:

A few weeks after the school year had begun, the 57 mostly four-year-old children of the first nursery school class were to learn how to write letters. The alphabet had already been recited on a regular basis from the beginning of the first school day on – optionally in Kiswahili, English or Arabic.

Multilingualism right from the start? What sounds ambitious, proved to be difficult for the children, as to them, the letters yet seemed like a riddle. After my tandem teacher had written a, b and c onto



the blackboard, the children were to write the letters into their workbooks several times. Without practice, most of them weren't able to do so, some of them cried, were desperate and pleading for help. There was no time to practice and many children didn't manage to fulfill the task. While I encouraged them to keep trying, my tandem teacher punished the children who didn't copy the letters from the blackboard properly.

The children's right on school attendance was provided to the children in my class indeed, yet it was not equal and inclusive education and facilitation, and neither was it violence free as claimed in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. I had known that many teachers used physical punishment before my departure, and I tried to accept the things that were foreign and different to me while also participating with my own instruction experiences, but it wasn't possible. In the "Zanzibar Education Development Plan", the reasons for the failure of many educational goals are named, and so are the steps that are needed to improve the educational system.

According to the plan, the growth of the population would require for instance the construction of 142 classrooms a year to provide early childhood education to everyone. Programs to train teachers in early childhood pedagogics and to upskill primary school teachers, respectively, do exist, but the implementation takes time and there's a lack of financial resources. Currently it is quite uncertain how early childhood education in adherence to the children's rights will even be able to work if there are up to 60 children in classrooms that are much too small and there's a lack of materials.

Still there are also the positive examples, also in schools on Zanzibar, and I was happy and joyful that after the frustrating experiences I mentioned above I saw other situations where teachers were very committed to making it possible for the children to have positive learning experiences. I want to give you another example for that:

The teacher delivered the science-lesson in the school yard. The 60 children sat in a circle on the ground, and a big flat bowl filled with water was placed in the middle of the circle. The subject of the lesson was to find out which items would swim on the water and which items would sink? First, the children were to guess, then one child at a time was allowed to try what happens. With close attention the children observed whether or not they had been right with their assumptions. In spite of the difficult circumstances for learning, the teacher had managed to make age-appropriate, violence-free and sustainable learning experiences possible for the children.

To provide equal chances on education to all children, structural changes are needed. Workshops at the "Teacher Training Centers" contribute a share to this. I had the opportunity to plan and organize workshops about instruction methods with my Tanzanian colleagues at one of these centers, with the goal to improve the quality of teaching at nursery schools. Unfortunately only one workshop could be completed as my voluntary service had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. Still I will keep sticking to my vision of a good early childhood education as defined by the SDG 4 also in the future.

Photo: Private

Of canoe safaris and digital detox

By Julian Simm and Tobias Krissel, translated by Josefine Bacher

The Lower Zambezi National Park – “Unterer-Zambesi-Nationalpark“, in German, but that doesn’t sound so good – is one of the biggest natural reserves in southern Africa. It is situated in the east of Zambia, which is one of Tanzania’s eight neighbouring states. The national park is impressing through its big elephant herds, untouched landscapes and quite a number of wild animals. In the south, the park is bordered by the Zambian-Zimbabwean border and the Zambezi River, which rises from the popular Victoria Falls. Guided canoe tours are a favoured tourist attraction, where the visitors let themselves float along the river easily paddling while being able to contemplate the impressive nature of the national park from there. Well, that’s what the internet says, at least. We personally don’t know too much about it. All of our vacation plans for the second half of our voluntary service were destroyed by Corona.

Nature is beautiful. Human beings feel like home there, as that’s where they’re from. Nature is relaxation, longing and adventure. Nature is healthful. Nature motivates. To do sports, to be creative or to be caught by actionism. Very few people can withstand the beauty of nature and most people would agree completely with the statement that nature is absolutely worth protection. Nature is inspiring, fascinating and stimulates romantic dreams.

Romantic dreams about canoe safaris.

In Rhineland-Palatinate, there are no wild elephants, and no Nile crocodiles are swimming in the Lahn. Handling this reality took some time at first. We decided to go on a home leave and make our dream of a canoe safari come true anyway.

In the evening, after a tiring biking trip, we are sitting on a campsite in Nassau (Lahn).

“Hey, what topic shall we actually write about in our article for the umeme magazine?”

“Hmm... What about the tall tale of cow tipping?”

“What?!”

“Didn’t you know that? When cows sleep while standing at night, you can secretly sneak up and push them over.”³

“Oh well!”

“Okay, okay. Guess you have a better idea?”

“Ever heard about digital detox?”

“No. What is that?”

“Well, digital fasting! Actually, this would be the perfect moment to lay aside the cell phone and just enjoy the nature. Don’t you think so?”

Digital detox is extremely healthy for body and spirit. It’s crazy at which amount the world slows down when our eyes aren’t fixed on some gleaming screens. Remember the last time you looked up from your phone and thought – yes, now this indeed was very relaxing. Difficult, isn’t it?

When was the last time you got a headache because of watching trees and nature? When was the last time you were stressed and irritated while lying closed-eyed in the grass, letting the sun smile at you? Without the constant sprinkling of dancing pixels on a screen that is either too big or too small, the brain awakens. It becomes regardful, attentive and creative.

“I’m bored.”

³Of course, this is an urban myth. Cow’s don’t sleep standing.

“Then let’s do some yoga! I know a very cool YouTube-Channel about it. Just check it out!”

Well, okay, maybe it is not that easy to fast from technical devices. But it is worth a try. Because this was how the supposed beauty of a national park we had never seen motivated us to write an article on the healthfulness of digital detoxication and publish it in this magazine. The magical impact of nature.

TOOTHPASTE

By Anna Boessneck

Making toothpaste yourself has many positive aspects.

You protect the environment by reducing waste and avoiding plastic and chemicals. Conventional toothpaste also usually contains small plastic balls that end up in nature as microplastics. The ingredients of this toothpaste here gently sand off the teeth due to their natural properties and thus take over the function of the plastic beads without polluting the environment. Brushing teeth quickly when traveling next to the tent is therefore no problem.

In addition, you save costs and everyone who has already made cosmetics knows how much fun it is to use their own products!

RECIPE:

REQUIRED

5 min

Mixing bowl

spoon

Container for the finished toothpaste

4 tbsp organic coconut oil

1 tablespoon of baking soda

1 tbsp birch sugar (xylitol)

2 tablespoons of fine healing clay or chalk

about 10 drops of mint oil

PREPARATION:

Boil the container.

Mix coconut oil at room temperature (creamy) with the dry ingredients, possibly grind even finer beforehand. Stir in the mint oil, fill the container and you're done.

If you omit the coconut oil, you can also use the ingredients as tooth powder.

You can also use activated carbon or turmeric, which brightens your teeth in the long term.

THE INGREDIENTS AND THEIR BENEFITS

How it works:



Photo: Private

By boiling the container, the toothpaste will last longer. You can also store it in the fridge, but it will also become harder there and small amounts can be kept long enough in the bathroom.

Coconut oil has an antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anti-parasitic effect thanks to the lauric acid it contains.

Soda also has an antibacterial effect, serves as an abrasive and, due to its basicity, ensures a good pH in the mouth. Acids causing caries are neutralized. Make sure to use extra fine baking soda or grind it with a mortar. I personally noticed that too much baking soda is not good for my teeth and I reduced the amount. Just try it out a bit and see what is good for you.

Healing earth has an anti-inflammatory effect and binds pollutants an ultra fine powder should also be used here so as not to irritate the teeth and gums.

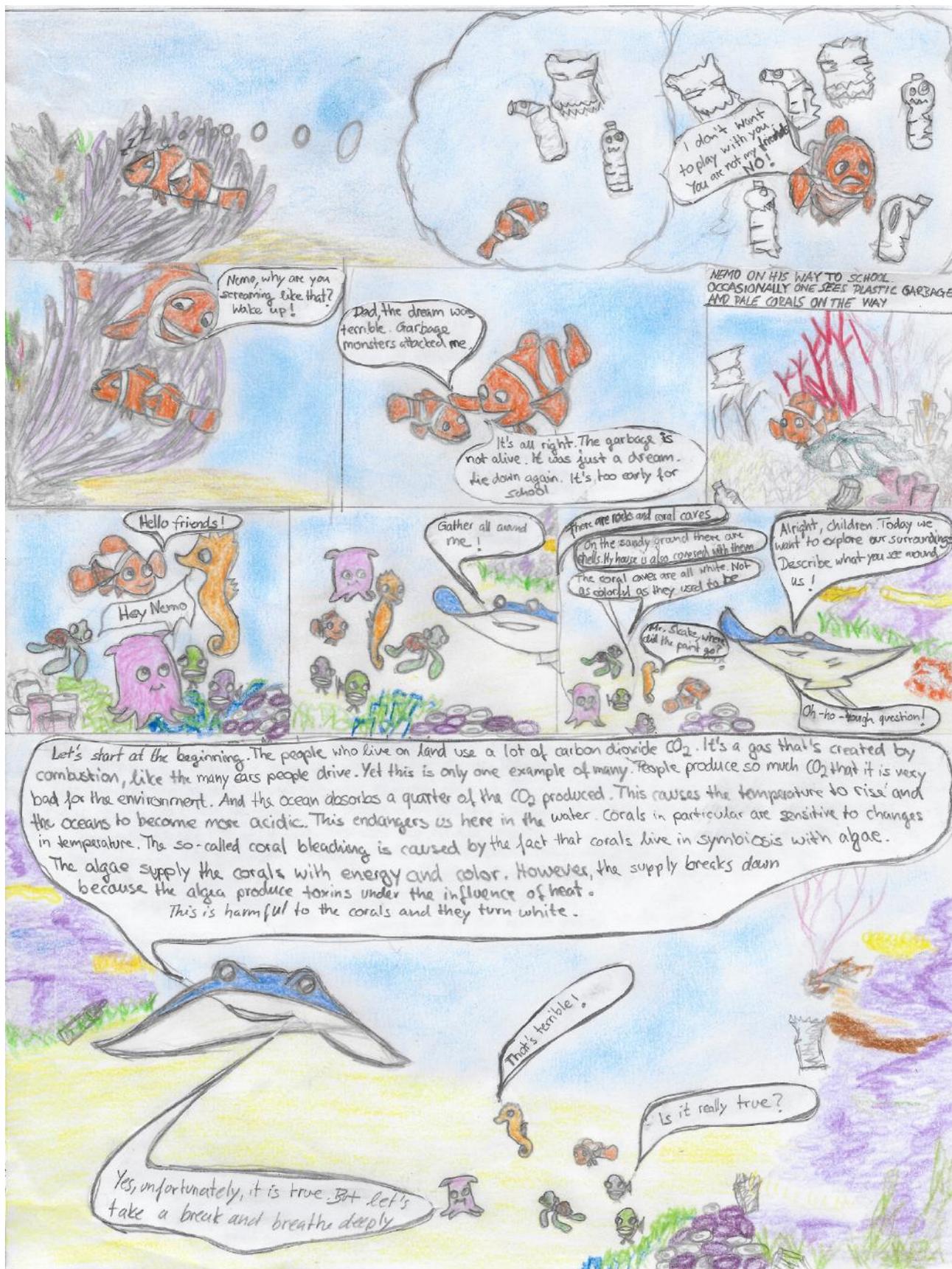
IMPORTANT:

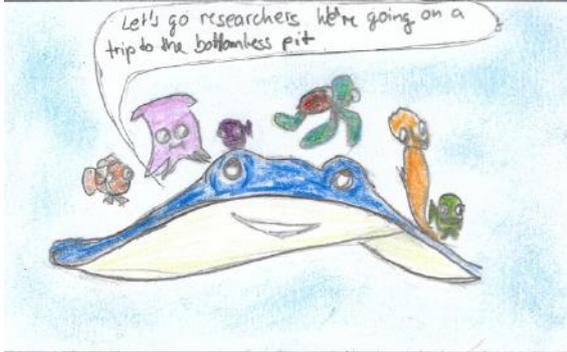
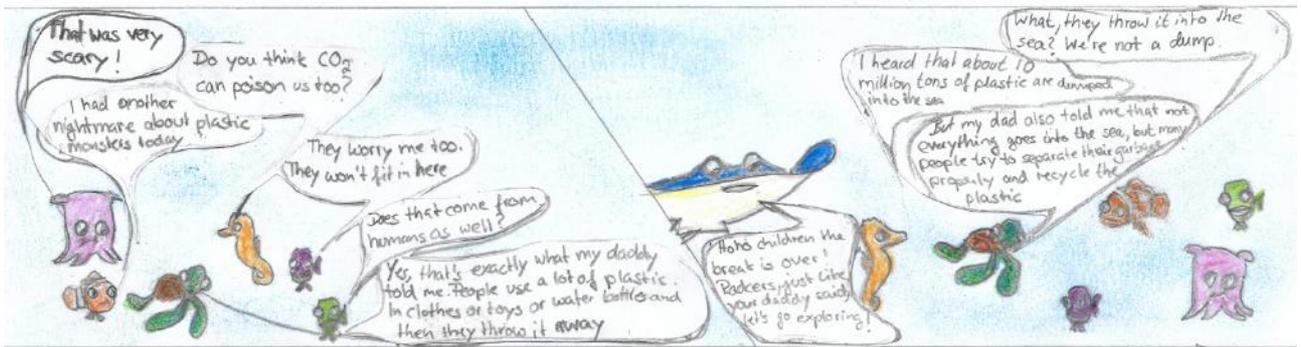
Some of the ingredients are relatively coarse and need to be ground. If you find that the gums or tooth necks are irritated too much, you can do without individual components or use them in smaller quantities. There are many toothpaste and toothpaste recipes that don't always contain all of the ingredients listed above.

There are testimonials from people who have only been using their own toothpaste for years. But if you want to make sure that the homemade product keeps its promise, you should go to the dentist and have your teeth checked before switching and a few months later.

Nemo's dream - nightmare of the plastic monsters

By Anna Boessneck and Christina Albus





Are we at peace?

By Elena Thewes, translated by Lotta Schäfer

Do I live in a peaceful society? I never really thought about this question prior to coming to Tanzania. “Of course I live in a peaceful society.”, I would probably have answered if I had been asked. “In Germany we have peace and no war.” However, it only occurred to me in Tanzania that a peaceful society can be defined differently. For the first time I experienced how different societies can be. For me, especially the rigorous differences in the acquaintance of our fellow men and women were considerable. In the beginning I tried to accustom myself to the



fact that my Tanzanian friends treat foreigners as their friends and relatives. For myself I quickly felt that I belonged to this Tanzanian family and I had no problems treating strangers the same way. Many times I thought about Germany and about my fear of talking to people. I thought about situations where I stressed myself to quickly pack groceries in my bag because the next customers were already coming quickly behind me. I remembered the one time when I was standing in a Berlin train with seven years of age crowded in a group of people and everywhere around strangers were sitting and standing closely together. In busses in Dar es Salaam I found myself in similar situations. Although on this side of the globe I watched sitting adults letting standing children take a seat on their laps. It seemed that the kids did not at all feel uncomfortable on the laps of strangers. In the Berlin train this situation would have been unimaginable, taking me – a strange child – on the lap.

Then there was this experience in a dala dala*: I was on my way to work when someone got upset about paying for the trip. No one around seemed to take care. Even the Conda did not say a word, he only blocked the way out until the upset customer paid. Everyone around only smirked, giggled a little maybe or watched the situation. The dala dala continued its trip as if nothing had happened. The situation was resolved peacefully as if it was the most common thing in the world.



In Germany, most certainly such a situation would have resulted in a small riot and disturbance. The bus driver maybe would have been upset, other customers would have interfered to “solve” the problem, all others would have watched in sensation. After two months in Tanzania if someone would have asked me again “Do you live in a peaceful society?”, concerning Tanzania I probably would have answered “Yes”. “The fellow men and women epitomize peace.” Most commonly there were only

odds-and-ends with people, however my opinion on “Germany's peaceful society” had changed.

The longer I lived in Dar es Salaam the more my view on a peaceful society changed. The phase of Honeymoon** was drawn to a close. I awakened to the extensive problems of Tanzania; corruption,

editorship in reporting, the insufficient health care system etc. Also within the Tanzania society not all people were included in the family of Tanzania. My host mother told me once that women who wear shorter clothes are booed and despised or even harassed. It is a shame to walk around like that so people have all rights to harass them. Moreover, I heard some Tanzanian friends say that gay men (who are mostly equated with transsexual women) are not real people and they are not wanted by God. In international articles I read that regularly people get arrested if they are suspected of “engaging in homosexual practices”. Not long ago a transsexual friend of a friend was beaten to death. Then, Tanzania did not seem as peaceful anymore as before. Germany, with its serious and not as friendly people seemed more peaceful.

Now, back in Germany I have been asking me for a long time: Do we have peace? I conclude: I do not think so, neither in Germany nor in most parts of the world, with or without war. If there is no peace in every single person there is no peace outside. How many people are at peace with themselves? Maybe I am too privileged to recognize peace around myself. After all, how peaceful can a world be in which racism, sexism, homophobia, speciesism*** etc. reigns? Indeed, it relieves me to know that Europe's democracy is more democratic than that of Tanzania, where censorship of the press and corruption occurs daily. However, I dream of global peace which John Lennon portrays in Imagine. Until then there is much to do in Tanzania, in Germany and in the rest of the world.

*Most common way of transport: Tanzanian bus

**In the cultural shock model many phases of living in a new culture/surrounding are defined. The first phase is the phase of Honey Moon in which the person sees everything in romanticized way.

***The discrimination and exploitation of animals because of their species.

Photos:

Pigeon: <https://pixabay.com/images/id-3098446/>

Subway: by Engin_Akyurt
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Overland Bus by imke.sta
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Sustainable economy development based on micro financing

By Jakob Bosse

The 9th goal of the sustainable development goals is to develop the infrastructure and a sustainable economy. To reach this, innovation should play a key supporting role.

Through telling a story, I will show how microcredits can help to reach this goal. The story is fictional, but the people are real and I wish for them that the story might become true one day. They are called Anastazia and Revocardus. Today they live in the Dogodogo Center in Bunju at the rim of Daressalam. There they each learning a craft, but until the end of the year only.

They enjoy the time in the Dogodogo center but also they are excited about the time that will come after it. Finally, at the end of the year, the time has come and they leave Dogodogo. But soon they have to admit that it is almost impossible to find work in Dar. Annastazia knows how to sew but she has no sewing machine, therefore she can't make money through it. Revocardus as well has the knowledge of working with metal but no tools.



Photos: Private

Both of them move into a small house with other friends that have left Dogodogo as well. To earn at least some money, Anastazia starts cooking soup and chapati and sells it on the street. But the income is very little as around every fifth person sells something to eat.

One day they discover with joy a new bank which is lending microcredits. It is giving them only to groups of five people, not to individual people. Therefore Anastazia and Revocardus ask Fadhili, Reonaidina and Nancy, with whom they already share their home, to join them. Revocardus gets the equivalent of €800 for tools and Anastazia €500 for sewing machines. Both of them get some orders very soon and weekly pay back the credit bit by bit. Furthermore they only have to pay 5% interests, because different European countries are trying a new approach in providing development aids.



Therefore they support small banks, so those banks can grant micro credits with little interests. A very important thing is that the banks support the customers to invest sustainably and profitably. In the case of Revocardus they think together about how he can invest his money in order for him to get most of the profit from it in the long term.

After they have paid back the first installments the other three get their credits as well. Two times in a month they meet together with the bank and discuss their investments

and how to improve their business to make it more sustainable. Sustainable for themselves, so they can profit long from their initial investment but also sustainable for the environment and the community. Therefore Anastzia doesn't buy an overlock machine yet. Instead she invests in a second sewing machine, in order to employ a neighbor. In addition the bank cares about investing in a climate friendly way.

The work that seems to be going in getting just under €1000 seems tremendous, but the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh proves that this effort of regular meetings is well worth it. It causes the people to get out of poverty in the long term.

However, do I think this story might become true? Maybe because the Grameen Bank shows in which manner microfinancing can help. And also examples from Burkina Faso show this. Furthermore the European Union grants millions of euros to the developing countries, therefore only a part of it could be spend for micro financing to enable the small banks in the developing countries to grant credits for low interests and to offer good support.

Since 2002 there are banks in Tanzania which are granting micro credits. But the impact they have can only hardly be seen but they seem to help people to become more independent. But as a method of development aid micro financing doesn't play any role.

But now let's go on with the story. Another five years in the future the potential of micro financing



has been discovered and far fewer people work in the informal economy. Only every fourth person works informally. Today, it is about every second person. Therefore the state earns much more tax, which helps Tanzania to become more independent from creditors. Tanzania is also able to invest more money to build up the infrastructure which then again supports small businesses to become more productive.

Sure, probably this story won't become true. And

probably it won't be the fastest way to build up an economy by granting micro credits to the majority of citizens. But it would be a very inclusive way because everyone is able to take part.

I only worked together with Revocardus and Anastazia and all the others for a short period, but it is hard for me to know that it will be difficult for them to find work, even if they are well educated in their craft.

At the end the question is what could happen if we just believe that the described utopia could become true. I think that the past months of corona have shown how fast tremendous amounts of money can be invested without the knowledge of what will happen but with the strong belief that it will help. What will happen if we believe that micro credits have a strong impact and therefore invest some millions?

Modularity vs. e-waste

By Maël Picornell, translated by Josefine Bacher

When I tidied up my room today, I came across a box with all the smartphones inside it that I've ever owned in my whole life. I'm just 19 years old and I'm shocked by the fact that by now five smartphones have piled up there already! I wonder, if every human has "trashed" an equal amount of smartphones or if I am part of a minority concerning this subject.



My smart phones, including my current one. Quite many!

Every day we discard millions of electronic devices. As few of these devices are recycled, 45 million tonnes of electronic waste are generated every year that way. And our phones contribute one of the biggest shares to that number.

In Germany, people buy a new smartphone every second or third year. The reasons for such purchase decisions are often that the device starts working slowly some day or no updates are provided for it any more, the battery span is too bad, the camera doesn't take good photos any more, the storage is full or the display is broken, or even a hardware component is out of order and/or the device doesn't boot any more. Like that, there's a variety of arguments to get the newest model that is making the promise to solve all of these problems.

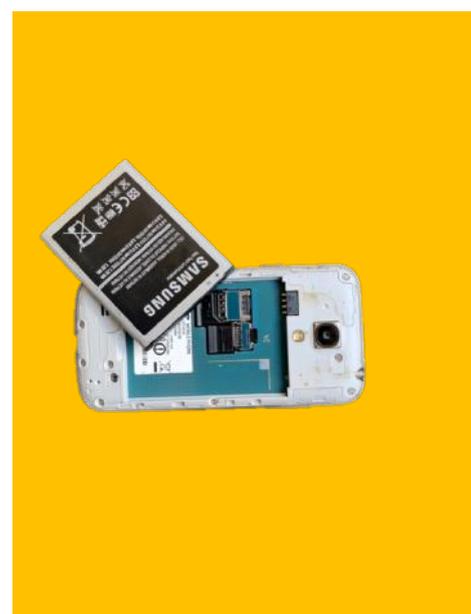
Those exemplarily listed reasons seem to be multifaceted but meanwhile they can be traced back to one single root cause: The smartphone-producers systematically and deliberately construct their devices in a way that makes them work problem free for only a very short time and thus indirectly force their clients through the occurrence of a loss of features on their devices in the sense of predetermined breaking points to buy a new device in the foreseeable future. That way, the producers are securing regular earnings, while the customer and the environment suffer.

This might sound like a great conspiracy theory, but there is a large amount of evidence that companies like Apple, Samsung and co. do design their devices in a manner that makes them perform worse or even become useless after a certain space of time:

RECHARGEABLE BATTERY. The rechargeable battery of a device determines how long the device can be used before turning off and having to be recharged. Lithium-ion-batteries can just endure a specific number of load cycles (= charging from 0 to 100 percent) before severely losing of their load capacity. You could say roughly that the more you use your smartphone, the shorter its built-in battery works before having to be reloaded.

Like this, after one up to three years, you will realize your smartphone is already discharged after a half instead of a whole day.

Now, you could simply replace the old battery with a new one and the problem would be solved easily. However, smartphone producers prevent you from doing so by assembling the batteries fixed in the device. Hence, the battery isn't just hardly reachable for the users, the latter would also be punished with a loss of the warranty, if they would decide to open the device.



Often only one small part is broken, the rest of the device is working perfectly well

SOFTWARE UPDATES. Software updates offer a number of new features, bug-fixing and safety features to a device. Without them, a device would be an easier goal to cyber attacks and would start getting in behind of the concurrence because of a lack of new functions.

Smartphone producers support their smartphones with software updates for on average two years and with security updates up to three years. Apple seems to be the only exception here, the company says in its advertisement that it provides updates for its devices for five years from the date on where they're introduced on the market. But there's a catch here, too: Apple consciously reduces the performance of its iPhones with new software updates. When this reached the public in 2017, it was a huge scandal followed by several court cases against Apple. Apple justified its course of action with the argument that it wanted to slow down the fatigue of the batteries like this. We're in 2020 now and nothing has changed about this practice. Apple still actively makes its devices slow down in performance and thus robs the users of the joy of using their devices fully functional. I personally think this practice is unethical, even criminal.



Software updates, annoying but essential (text on smart phone says: "Your system is up to date")

CONTRACTS. Smartphone contracts in combination with a determined amount of data volume and minutes are "the hit" in Germany. Companies like Telekom, Vodafone and O2 lure their customers with monthly rates and a smartphone for just 1€ to buy a new phone. Contracts like those are usually valid for 24 months. Such offers seem to be attractive and simple at the first glance, and furthermore suggest the users it would be normal to buy a new device every two years.

REPAIR. Every hardware has a natural life span. If, for instance, the processor of a device is broken, there are theoretically two possibilities. Either to repair the device or to get a new one. As repair often is as expensive as getting a new device, we often tend to rather buy a new model. But usually it is just one part of the device which is causing the problems, the other parts are working fine and are discarded senselessly. An isolated exchange of the damaged component in many cases isn't possible, either.

To put it all in a nutshell, I can say that electric devices often aren't designed to last long. The natural deterioration of single components is reached through clever strategies and used to make smartphone owners lose their interest in their devices and seduce them to rather buy new ones instead.

Is it possible to develop a new concept for smartphones, one, that is sustainable and gives the users the freedom to design their devices according to their needs?

Dave Hakkens from the Netherlands asked himself this question in 2013 and then invented the concept of phoneblocks.

Phoneblocks is a concept of a modular smartphone which consists of different blocks and a base that connects these blocks. The hardware of the device can be found inside the blocks.

The blocks, or modules, are standardized and can be of variable size (as long as they fit onto the base). Like this, the users cannot just put together their smartphones the way they want it, but they can also replace old and broken parts easily with new and better parts. So there would be no need to discard the whole phone and thus less e-waste would be generated.

Phoneblocks became viral within a few hours and attracted the interest of big companies. Hakkens met with many smartphone producers, among them Motorola, who were working on a similar project, project Ara, at that time.

However, the project was abandoned after a few years and the development was stopped. The causes for this were multisided. On one hand, the project wasn't supported sufficiently by companies and the politics. The device would have revolutionized the smartphone market with its special idea, the modularity would have been a huge attack against the big smartphone producers, so they gave everything to suppress this idea. On the other hand, many problems appeared during the development due to the complexity of the project (lack of technology & software updates for every single component would have been too laborious).

The target group of a modular smartphone was also arguable. People buy smartphones to make phone calls, to chat, to watch videos etc. Today you can buy a smartphone with your eyes closed that is able to fulfill all of these tasks. For most users it would be too complicated to think about questions like how much RAM (random access memory) they need, which processor supplies their want, how much storage they need for their apps and so on before the purchase.

Nevertheless there is an alternative to the project Ara. The startup Fairphone, also originating in the Netherlands, develops and produces partly modular smartphones. Not only the modular construction of the device leads the customers to have broken parts being serviced and repaired easily, but also the company is trying to source the materials it uses without exploitation of humans and with the goal to damage the environment as little as possible.

As you can see, many things go wrong within our consumer oriented society. We exchange electronic devices as if they were underwear and don't even care for how and under which circumstances they are produced. Smartphone producers are selling us devices that have almost no value any more after three years and we let them fool us. We maintain this system ourselves through our consumer behavior and only we are able to do something against it.

I personally decided to pay a special attention to which electric devices and in particular which smartphone I will buy from now on. For I don't want to support particularly child labor, civil wars and bad working conditions through my purchase decision. In addition to that, my device shall function as long as possible to spare the resources of our planet.

Photos: Private



The Fairphone 3 with its transparent casing is a true eye-catcher

A little bit too much White Saviorism?

By Hannah Falk

I am writing about the startup "EIDU-early learning at scale". "EIDU"s mission is to give children in "the poorest of circumstances the opportunity to learn basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic on their own" with the help of educational software. "By 2030 they want to reach about 1 billion children worldwide who have less than 2 Dollars per day to live on." So there is a lot being planned.

The people who work at EIDU, both in the office in Kenya and in Germany, certainly want to help. They want to change something and make the world a little bit better, and these are really good intentions, aren't they? Due to my lack of education and expertise, I cannot give a well-founded opinion on the software and that is not what this article is about.

First I want to mention the aspects I like about EIDU: EIDU has two main locations, one in Nairobi where Kenyan employees work and one in Berlin with German employees. It is important to establish this cooperation and not just do a start-up in Nairobi without involving people who live and grew up in Nairobi. Four staff members in the Kenyan office have previously taught in Kibera (that is the slum in Nairobi where „EIDU“ is mainly establishing their software). I also think it is important that the founder Bernd Roggendorf in interviews always emphasizes, that the problems are complex and that there is no simple solution. Here I agree with him completely.

But who is Bernd Roggendorf? Until 2015 he was CTO of the company Ableton, which developed - among other things - a music software. Due to health problems, he slowly withdrew from the company. With his wife and two children he travelled to Kenya, where they lived for three months in the slum of Kibera. He describes this experience as an „intense experience“. Back in Germany, Roggendorf started to develop the learning software EIDU.

And now I want to talk about the things I want to critique or question. I have got a problem with the presentation of EIDU, especially with Roggendorf, who gives the most interviews, and the image they create of the "poor", whom EIDU wants to help.

E.g. the video "EIDU-Join us". Not many people remain emotionally untouched when they are shown pictures of slums. In the video we are allowed to watch Daniel, apparently on his way to school, while Roggendorf stands on a hill, overlooking the slum, explaining the mission of EIDU to the observer. The pictures are dark and backed up with dramatic music, just as one imagines the atmosphere in slums. As from minute 1.10 we can see my „favorite part“. Faster movements of the camera, hard cuts, hectic, because now another "saviour of the poor" is coming, Arne Bleckwenn, the CEO of EIDU. How he now explains EIDU is a reminiscent of the staging of a visionary business boss. Towards the end, Roggendorf again looks at "his" slum and says: „Imagine, within 10 years from now, we can have solved one of today's biggest global challenges.“

After these two minutes of a complete rollercoaster ride, I have finally understood that we Germans, we Europeans, we from the global North, must finally intervene in the countries of the global South, because all of this cannot go on like it does at the moment.

In the TedxTalk „How can we provide quality education for all by 2030?“ we see Roggendorf again, who tells an audience in Hamburg about his start-up. And again he mentions already at the beginning: But I felt an urge in me, to improve the world more profoundly, to help the very underprivileged. In

addition, he claims that many teachers in Kibera are not well trained and that learning from repetition is not helpful. However, he does not provide any evidence. I am not saying that it cannot be like he says it is, but I do wonder where exactly this claim about education in the slum comes from. Furthermore, the lack of transparency stands out. On the website I cannot find any links to the assertions made. Do not PowerPoint presentations usually have a reference in the corner when graphics and claims are shown and made?

Even if EIDU has good intentions, I find Roggendorf's self-portrayal difficult. It is not necessarily his fault if an article reads "there were more than enough problems in Nairobi he could try to solve" but it reflects how he presents his project and intentions, his image of Nairobi and Kenya and how he talks about it. What kind of picture emerges when, after his second trip to Nairobi, he says about the schools he visited, that real learning often does not take place there? And when he gives interviews with the title "Interview with Bernd Roggendorf: from Ableton to Altruism", the role models of the white savior and the "poor black people down there in Africa" continue to be drawn. This we-they perspective is part of the problem. If we all globally stick to these role models, we will never reach this goal of "quality education" by 2030. And I ask myself whether living in Kibera for three months is an achievement for a German, or why is his stay there mentioned so often?

Through my voluntary service I came into contact with some critical ideas and aspects regarding development policies. The time in Tanzania does not give me all the answers, if it has given me any answers at all. I have actually more questions than before. I only know that videos, articles and presentations of such projects and startups like EIDU and poverty like here make me angry. They make me angry because they show people who think well and have good intentions but these people are caught up in their thought patterns, they are not aware of their own stereotypes. I expect someone who takes trouble to travel Kibera and experience supposed „miser“ to take the trouble to think about whether this project is really helping, or just serving to operate his White Saviour Complex. I am aware that this article sounds a bit self-righteous and biting. Like I said, I think I have to admit that EIDU has good intentions and maybe a good software (as I said, I cannot assess that). It is just frustrating how counterproductive projects in the education sector can be, and how little the real problems can be solved if there is no systematic rethinking of role models and stereotypes.

Cows for Future

By Tilman Tausch, translated by Jakob Bosse

Yesterday they have already dug a circular hole next to the cowshed. Right now three workers are building up a wall from bricks in the hole, which is spanning three by three meters. With each row of bricks, it gets clearer, it isn't just a simple wall, it is going to be a dome. At the top a small gap stays open and at the front of the dome is a semi circular attachment taking shape. Once finished, the construction looks like an igloo. But this isn't the development of an innovative Tanzanian living space, rather a small biogas plant for Neema and her family.



The past semester I spent at TAHUDE Foundation (Tanzanian Human Development Foundation). Besides of producing nanofilters, they develop biogas plants. TAHUDE is hosted in Arusha and primarily works in northern Tanzania. Since 2019 volunteers of the dtp have been able to join the TAHUDE NGO.

Biogas in Germany.

The criticism is known. Energy from Biogas plants competes with food. Farms grow corn and other energy crops. Caused by the growing population on earth, the competition between groceries and energy goes up as well. In future, experts say, vegetables should only be grown in small amounts for biogas plants. Still, in their opinion, there is no pressure to take action right away. Bioenergy farms should rather be used as a kind of a buffer to reduce the

pressure on territories that haven't been agriculturally developed by now.

Not only the discussion about how to use the available fields is a problem. The final production of electrical energy isn't as ecological as we wish it to be. Already at the growing of the energy crop greenhouse gases get into the atmosphere. Caused by old biogas plants, around 5 percent of the produced methane leaks during the fermentation. Furthermore the smell and noise of big biogas plants is harassing the residents.

The immissions can be counteracted by renewing the biogas plants. To protect the climate, there are good alternatives to energy crops. There is still a big potential of using liquid manure. Right now about a quarter of the droppings is used but according to the biogas association, 60 percent of it could easily be used.

Therefore biogas plants can take an important role in the energy transformation if they are



used close to emission free. But caused by old technology they can as well emit fair amounts of greenhouse gases, against their ecological intent.

But we have to be aware that biomass can only be a limited part. Due to limited cropland the sustainable cultivation of renewable resource is limited as well.

An addition we don't know how long biogas plants will stay in focus after the support from the European Union ends.

But why are biogas plants in Tanzania so important?

Biogas plants in Tanzania, those are not the big one's like they are known in German rural areas. They are small constructions and most of the time hidden under the ground, as seen in the picture.

Until today in Tanzania firewood is the most important energy source. Most of the people cook on fire every day, which is bad for the climate as well as for the health of the girls and women, who are breathing the smoke in closed rooms. The smoke harms the airways of the people as well and it can lead to retinal inflammation. Furthermore a lot of time is needed to gather the firewood. This and other responsibilities at home of the girls can lead to regular absence from school. This causes less chances for good education.

With small biogas plants for private households these problems can be solved. To get one of these biogas plants working, one or two cows are sufficient. Their droppings are essential, but in addition organic garbage from the kitchen or spoilage can be used. The biogas is then used for cooking. It burns without harmful smoke. Furthermore it can be used as a light source, if no electricity is available. The light makes it easier to read and study in the evening. Like this just two cows can increase the expectations of a small family.

The downside to private biogas plants is the high price. But for this TAHUDE offers a solution. For example they enable the customers to pay for the biogas plant bit by bit over a long period of time. And for earning the needed money the biogas plant can already be used, as the byproduct of the fermentation is well suited as a fertilizer. This fertilizer can either be sold or used on their own fields for increasing the crop.



Photos: Private

Biogas plants in households in the developing countries are as useful as they are criticised in Germany. During my work at TAHUDE I heard from many positive developments of families caused by their biogas plants. Mainly because of the local and sustainable implementation I started to really like this kind of energy production. TAHUDE is expanding in this section and more and more families in northern Tanzania are enthusiastic about biogas plants. Just like Neema's family.

The hole at the side of the cow's shed can't be seen anymore. A gas pipe terminates in the kitchen. Now Neema doesn't have to make a fire from wood for cooking, she uses a gas stove. In the garden she is growing Corn and sweet potatoes. The leftover fertilizer she is selling in the whole village. The earnings enable her to buy schoolbooks for her children.

“If I take my waste home, my family will get sick”

By Lotta Schäfer

Three of us are sitting in front of a small group of Zanzibarian youths. We are three prospective teachers who teach at different schools in Zanzibar. The young Zanzibarians are members of English evening classes called “Sparkling”. Every Friday they meet to discuss sociopolitical topics. The topic of this evening is waste management. The three of us were more or less invited as experts to give our opinion to the current situation.

As everyone who has already been outside the center of Stone Town, in our first days we also recognized that far away from the streets filled with tourists there is a lot of waste in the streets. The already few waste bins are always full, empty containers were thrown away without thinking about the consequences and the government does not provide waste management. On our countless trips in the dala dala 405 towards Fuoni, only a few meters after the Mwanakwerekwe market we passed a lake the shores of which, to all appearances, were made out of waste.

Our counterparts were thoroughly aware of this issue and many of those who raise their hands express their concerns and collect ideas to change the situation. We ask them what they think are the reasons why many locals dispose their waste in this way. Some are convinced the missing of a public waste management is the reason, however some few also express their feeling of powerlessness. One student in his early twenties says that “if I take my waste home, my family will get sick“ and therefore he prefers to leave the waste in other places.

We share our opinions with the youths and explain that every single person can be a part of solving the problem, especially to minimize plastic waste and keep it out of nature. The point is, plastic waste does not only increase greenhouse gases while being produced but also during their century-long decomposition, especially in combination with salt water. This way waste accounts for environmental pollution and subsequent illnesses and moreover contributes to the dying of animals and plants and results in climate change.

Compared to Germany however, Tanzania tries to act against climate change by passing the ban to sell plastic bags on June 1st, 2019. The ban is contributes to the 13th of the seventeen SDGs (“Sustainable Development Goals“).

Even if this article subliminally criticizes the way Zanzibar manages its waste, we in Germany can not be proud of ourselves either. Despite the good infrastructure, recycling and waste separation and against the belief of many Germans, an enormous amount of waste is burned in incinerators and produces lots of greenhouse gases. Moreover, many people so easily accuse developing countries while we send parts of our own waste into these regions.

Growing vegetable scraps

By Anna Boessneck

You can not only boil many vegetable scraps, but also pull new plant green from them. This saves you the next purchase, which not only affects your own wallet, but also the environment. You save the transport and all the energy that is put into the newly purchased plant from seed to harvest.

Numerous parts of vegetables can be placed in the water for rooting. Of course, it takes a bit of time, and a green thumb can't hurt either.

The following plants are suitable for beginners:

Lettuce
Celery
Lemongrass
Pak Choi
Leek
Fennel
spring onions

And that's how it works:

1. Cut the vegetables about 5 cm above the root.
2. Place the vegetable in a slightly higher container in 2-3 cm of water.
3. Change the water every two days or add new one.
4. Then just wait for it to sprout and harvest the newly formed, fresh green!

Good luck!



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