

## **Lighting up TUMBATU**

### **SHS installations on the Zanzibari island 8**

#### **Preparations in Zanzibar**

In September 2006, a delegation from Kizimkazi travelled to the island of Tumbatu, which is situated close to the coast of Unguja. This delegation, consisting of Solarworkshop Kizimkazi volunteer Annika Böddeling, solar teacher Ramadhan Said, Uzi electrification project coordinator Mr Mtumweni and DTP chairperson Andrea Karsten, came to suggest a solar electrification project to the village, which has no access to TANESCO grid. Students of the Skuli ya Jongowe in Tumbatu were supposed to install the Solar Home Systems together with a group of students from Hamburg, Germany.



A week later, the Tumbatu community decided to accept the offer. They had identified 16 households to be electrified and suggested furthermore the installation of SHS in the school, the Tumbatu dispensary, and the mosque. In October, Ms Böddeling and Mr Ramadhan presented the function and use of Solar Home Systems to the villagers of Tumbatu. During the following months, they organized a solar technician training for interested villagers, visited the households which would be electrified, and chose 11 students of Jongowe school who would take part in the installations. TASEA volunteer Nadine Balde, who was working with Umeme Jua Ltd. in Dar es Salaam, made sure the 20 SHS would be ready when the project was supposed to start.

#### **Preparations in Hamburg**

At the comprehensive school of Blankenese in Hamburg, the preparations took one and half a year. The students were given an introduction to the Zanzibarian culture and environment by DTP chairperson Andrea Karsten, and furthermore practiced several times how to install a small Solar Home System.

#### **Arrival of the Visitors**

In June 2007, a group consisting of 13 students, their teacher Klaus Heins and the school secretary Andrea Alpen, took off from Hamburg. Three days later, after having travelled by train, plane, another plane, bus, ferry, daladala and motorboat, they arrived in

Tumbatu island and were warmly welcomed. The Germans were accommodated in the school building. TASEA volunteer Ms Böddeling accompanied them all the time and translated nearly everything from Kiswahili to German and back. First of all, the Zanzibari and German students had to get to know each other.

### **The Solar Home System Installations**

The following day, the project was officially opened by the mayor. After that, the lessons started. The German teacher Mr Heins and the Tumbatu teachers worked together explaining the basics of solar electricity to both the German and the Tanzanian students. “I have never had such an attentive class before”, Mr Heins said afterwards.



As soon as the lessons were finished, the practical work could begin. It was a very interesting process, so that even journalists from the local TV station came to shoot a documentary, which was then shown all around Zanzibar. The Tumbatu and the Hamburg students formed five mixed groups and installed 20 Solar Home Systems together. Each system comprises solar panels, a battery, cables, a charge controller, two lamps and a telephone charger. The cost of one SHS including transports and house wiring is approximately 300,000 Tanzanian Shillings. The villagers had to pay for the battery. The rest was funded by DTP. Each month, the households that have been electrified pay an “electricity fee” of 2,000 Shillings. This money is collected by the community and will be used to finance the purchase and installation of further systems. This model of financing has already been implemented at Uzi island and proved very successful.



### **Saying goodbye**

The electrification project ended with a huge celebration, which was full of speeches of thanks, dancing, and great food. Even the Zanzibari Minister for Energy was invited.

The following day, the Hamburg and the Zanzibari students had to say goodbye to each other, and the guests from Germany started their journey long back.

In Tumbatu, everything went back to normal. At least almost. Because for the villagers, the solar lamps and the possibility to recharge their phones without travelling to Unguja will definitely change their lives.

*Report by Andrea Karsten (chairperson, Deutsch-Tansanische Partnerschaft e.V., DTP)  
and Klaus Heins (Gesamtschule Blankenese), translation and adjustment by Lisa  
Bendiek ( TASEA volunteer)*