



Technology without Borders Newsletter II / 2023

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Editorial

Dear members, dear friends and supporters of Technology without Borders,

Covid has lost its fright and with that the projects at TwB are starting up again. In 2022, we realized more 19 projects and for 2023, 10 projects are already planned and/or implemented. Unfortunately, in the number of members both in Germany and internationally decreased due to Covid. In this respect, we want to remember the good practices that allowed us to grow as an association over the years. In § 2 *Charity, Purpose, Tasks, clause 5* of our regulations, we have expressly stated that

Within the scope of our activities as defined in our regulations, we also aim to promote the transfer of knowledge for students, so that they can gain an international and culturally influenced perspective on problems and people of other nations. We should think back to this essential purpose of our regulations!

Then and now, our projects were and still are the purpose of our association. For these projects, in accordance with the above statutory purpose and in our strategy clauses, we have established framework conditions as follows:

- TwB does not go on emergency missions, as we are not equipped to do so, neither in terms of personnel nor equipment.
- Since we have a natural fluctuation because of our intentionally high percentage of student members, we standardize our projects so that new project participants can fall back on this standard and do not always have to start from "Adam and Eve". For this reason, we have also said that a normal project should be completed within one year, which in turn suggests a financial framework of donations in the range of €10k to 20k.
- Normally, one tandem always goes into action, supported by a back-up team in the home country.
- Such a tandem ideally fulfills the following criteria:
 - It consists of one female and one male participant.
 - A member with no experience abroad learns from a member with experience abroad or in the project, whereby the member with experience abroad is to teach the tandem partner about the cultural challenges in the country of assignment, so that the number of members with experience in the assignment increases continuously in the association.
 - Regarding the qualifications of the project participants, it makes sense to send complementary qualifications (e.g., mechanics and electronics etc.) to the outreach.

Of course, the above describes only the ideal case and reality sometimes catches up with us very quickly. Nevertheless, let this approach be both a inspiration and a motivation for us.

Sincerely, your board

R. Schullan
M. Reinhard

F. Schofer
C. Zeidler

L. Hachmann
F. Enzmann

A. Fenn
A. Vierling
H. Blumenschein

A. Bruns
D. Schaffert
J. Mechau

480 trees for schools in Tanzania

Together with the Jali Foundation - a Tanzanian NGO - we facilitated the planting of a total of 480 fruit and shade trees at four schools in the region around Boma Ng'ombe in November last year. These included orange, mango, avocado, papaya, jackfruit and tamarind trees.



The students were actively involved in the planting process. Under the guidance of a local tree expert, they planted the trees and learned about the importance of trees for the environment and the sustainable use of resources. Although the rainy season almost stayed out once again at the end of the year, students and teachers did their best and diligently watered and tended the trees by hand so that all the trees survived and grew well. The students will soon be able to harvest fresh fruit themselves and plant vegetable fields in the shade of the trees. With such an agroforestry system, we want to protect the environment and improve the nutritional situation at the schools.

This project is part of a larger initiative to promote sustainable agriculture and environmental education in the region. The schools use the trees not only to harvest fresh fruit, but also as a learning resource for biology lessons and as a practical example of sustainable agriculture. The pupils learn how to take care of the trees and how to harvest and process the fruit. They can use their knowledge to support their families at home.

Planting the trees will also counteract soil erosion and the negative effects of climate change, as well as improve air quality. This tree planting project is an important step in promoting sustainable practices in Tanzania and shows how small initiatives can have a big impact. It is an example of the importance of environmental education and the need to actively involve young people in environmental protection measures in schools.

Christine Dillmann and Franzi Enzmann, RG Rhine-Main

Expansion of the Recycle Up! Water Sachets to the Eastern Region, Ghana

My project GHA058 was about the expansion of the *Recycle Up! Water Sachets* project in the Eastern Region, Ghana. The three-month project took place mostly in Koforidua, although visits to participating schools in Asesewa, Akateng, and Accra were also part of the project.

In Koforidua, 10 new schools with a total of 18990 pupils were recruited to the project. The schools now have a total of 118 trash cans in which the Water Sachets that are so often used can be disposed of. A new transport partner was found and a small contact list of people interested in recyclable plastic was created. Contact was also established with the local Rotary Club and the *Recycle Up! Water Sachets* workshop was held in front of the local Rotaract club.

RECYCLE UP! WATER SACHETS

WHERE DOES PLASTIC GO?

LAND	SEA	AIR
		
General waste ends up on landfills and poisons the soil we plant our crops in	Waste in the gutters and rivers end in the sea. Fish eat the poisonous plastic	Burning waste pollutes the air we breath

WHY IS PLASTIC WASTE BAD?

The elements break down the plastics into small pieces, so called **"microplastics"**. These microplastics are small enough to enter our system through our food, our drinking water, and the air. It is a **risk for our health**, and it is not going away. Plastic does not decompose but stays there for centuries!



we must
**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**
plastics



Recycling means making a new product out of old plastic.

Help the environment and

put your
WATER SACHETS
in this bin,
so we can recycle it!

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In addition, a new regional group was formed in Koforidua. The members are teachers, bankers, students and radio hosts. The contacts were initiated through the project, as they are all interested in recycling and a clean Ghana. Now they capable of starting projects on their own and helping their community. The first projects were already planned. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Energy and Sustainable Development was also formulated and signed within the project. Thus, there is now a foundation for the establishment of a regional group in Somanya.

A 2.5 week stay in Sunyani was also part of the project. During this visit, the laboratory container was extended a bit further, so that it has now become a usable space. A visit to the Agroforestry Demonstration Farm in Drobo and the African Future Kids Kindergarten together with TwB members from Sunyani also took place. Thereby the project could be evaluated and data for improvement could be collected. Shortly before departure, there were two recycling workshops with the members from Sunyani and the members in Koforidua, in which various everyday items such as purses and bags were produced with an iron.

In addition, a meeting was held last week with the Health and Sanitation Coordinator of the Ministry of Culture in the Eastern Region. They discussed ways to bring the project to all schools in the Eastern Region and hand over management to the Ministry of Culture.

Jonas Groß, RG Bayreuth

Teaching Computer Basics in Agona Abodom

The TCB Maintenance project in Agona Abodom was the fourth project in the town. The aim of the project was to bring both the equipment and the teachers of the Catholic and Methodist up to date to help the schools with holding practical ICT lessons once again.

In addition, we wanted to verify whether we could send laptops to Ghana by ship in the future. The first step in our project was thus to gather used laptops in Germany and prepare them for their use in Ghana. Four laptops were then sent to Ghana via ship, while 16 laptops joined us on our flight to Ghana.



After arriving in Agona Abodom, we were welcomed by our TwB member in Abodom, Derrick. He introduced us to the teachers and students at both the Catholic and the Methodist school, who welcomed us very warmly. During the next 3 weeks, the teachers at both schools participated in a workshop we prepared for them. In this workshop, they learned how to work with the usual office software (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) and the internet. According to the principle of teach-the-teachers, they will pass on this knowledge to their students, using the laptops we brought. During the workshops we realized that the teachers had vastly different knowledge on ICT subjects. Still, all the workshops were well attended, and all teachers were able to learn something new.

After seeing that all the laptops we sent via ship arrived in Ghana, and successfully finishing the workshop with the teachers, we can call our project a success across the board.

Felix Schofer, RG Erlangen

Newsflash

Invitation to the 1000 Miles Run - the fundraising run of Technology without Borders e. V.

The regional group Erlangen is organizing the “1000 Miles Run” – the 4th fundraising run of TwB – on July 3, 2022 to support current projects.

For this we need your athletic support: Together we want to run at least 1000 miles. Local companies will stand at the finish line as sponsors to reward each of your hard-won miles. However, the 1000 Miles Run is not only about athletic performance. Everyone is invited to support us with a few laps.

Here is an overview of the most important information:

- Participation is **free of charge**.

- The event will take place from **11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.** at the university's sports campus in Gebbertstraße 123. The run itself lasts until 5:00 pm. The individual start time can be selected freely.
- We will also provide **entertainment and catering**: during and after the run, there will be barbecue, drinks, music and great prizes to be won in our raffle.

Don't miss when Erlangen's mayor Dr. Florian Janik opens our charity run and bring friends and family along. If you want to run together in a group, feel free to sign up for our team challenge. Look forward to a day full of sports, fun and good humor!

Registration can be found at: <https://survey.teog.ngo/363452>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: 1000milesrun@teog.de

Your 1000 Miles Run Team



1000 Miles Run Team, RG Erlangen

V.i.S.d.P. Robert Schullan, Annika Mücke, Stefan Leimbach

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