



January 2015

Newsletter

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1 Greeting

UNCESO is committed to change the life of children in Usakos for the better.

It is with proud that we can announce the new management members for 2015/ 16.

As Chairman Mr Eriki Simeon, Vice Chairman Mr Izak Izaaks, Treasurer Mr Evaristus Muyeghu, Secretary Mrs Pamela Simeon. The additional members are Mrs Johanna Khaises, Representative of the parents, Mrs Kham, Representative of the school and Mrs Marianne Izaaks, the Project Manager. The management consists of people with expertise in different areas. We are very grateful that they deliver their free time for the OVC (orphans and vulnerable children) in Usakos and wish them all the best.

We express our gratitude to the leaving Mrs Swartbooi and Mr Hermann for their services.

Our German counterparts are Mrs and Mr Pfannkuchen. Thank you for your support and your hard work during the year.

If we look back on the last ten years, we can clearly see how UNCSO has developed successfully and effectively supported many children. This gives us good hope and makes us being confident of that, as well with our new team, UNCSO will continue prospering in the future.





2 Past and future

The work at the centre always goes along with receptions and farewells.

Since the first term of 2015, the following children are not in the centre anymore:
Frans, Rauna, Grace, Criselda, Patricia, Rejoice, Desi, Elizabet, Mischelle



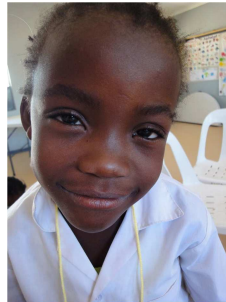
As the Namibian school year starts in January, many children in Usakos and Hakhaseb were about to experience their school enrolment. This term a group of eight year one pupils was welcomed to the centre:



Fabianus



Hendrina



Johanna



Jonas



Merry-Ged



Petrus



Richard



Sally

Furthermore, we have got three new students in grade three, four and six:



Hilaria



Richarge



Alluis



3 Working at the centre

Every day at the centre is subject to a fixed predetermined structure.

It all begins at 12 o'clock, when the younger kids from grade one and two are done with school for the day and arrive at the centre. The remaining time until lunch is spent with the volunteers playing games, reading or simply talking to them.

By one o'clock, all 42 children ranging from grade one to seven have arrived at the centre and lunch is served. This meal is set in motion and enclosed by the kids singing their prayers.

Following this ritual, the whole group goes to the toilets together. Along the way, it is the volunteers' most important job to remind the kids of the necessity to wash their hands afterwards. In connection with the following collective teeth-brushing with water and tooth paste, this is supposed to provide an appropriate health education.

At two o'clock, all kids and volunteers meet up for joint sporting activity in form of short exercises (Exercise-time). With this step, the kids' need for movement is positively implemented and they can, in the best case, gather even-tempered in their so-called 'Study-time-groups'. These groups consist on average of six children and are each looked after by one volunteer that helps with homework as well as prepares additional worksheets for times without homework.

After Study-Time, the kids assemble for Activity time from three o'clock to four, in the framework of which they will get physically active (on Mondays), creative (on Tuesdays) or musical (on Wednesdays). The weekly programme also includes a so-called "Hygiene Day" (health education: hair washing, nail cutting, ear cleaning, etc.) as well as a "Conversation-Day" (discussions and education in small groups on topics such as education, respect or abuse).

The entire weekly plan including study-time preparations is designed by the volunteers and agreed upon with project manager Marianne.

In spite of the standardised structure and well-thought-out plans, every day at the centre entails plenty of surprises.



In the beginning of the term, each and every child received a new school uniform. Proud and chic, the center kids started the new term:



4 House Visits



On two mornings in March, Marianne took the volunteers on a tour through the township in order to visit the centre kids' houses and families. This interesting and valuable experience allowed the volunteers to get a first-hand impression of the children's backgrounds that they are faced with every day at the centre.

After Marianne had quickly talked to the family members in English or Afrikaans in order to get a rough impression of the current situation in the house, the volunteers could ask questions and exchange their feelings about the kid's situation with the particular family member.

This opportunity granted the volunteers a good insight on the family's needs and problems, as well as on ways to improve their current situation.

Even though the shacks that most of the centre kids live in together with their grandparents or parents and siblings seemed extremely small and poor, and even though it often lacked of many things that are considered indispensable in Germany, it was eventually nice to see how loving and carefully some of the small houses were decorated and taken care of. In the end, the volunteers got the impression that there is a number of children that in spite of severe poverty is growing up in caring circumstances.



5 Easter Party



On the 27th March 2015, the volunteers organized an Easter Party for the centre kids and Marianne.

Preparations for this party had already been made together in the centre during several activity-times, colouring Easter eggs and making Easter baskets out of coloured paper. The party was located in a dried out river bed in the shade of a few big trees that granted a lot of space for jolly games like pretzel-snapping, can-throwing and egg-running. In addition to that, the kids were also offered to get their faces painted by the volunteers, which resulted in numerous colourful faces at the end of the day.





A special wish of the volunteers for this event was to prepare food for the kids that is resolutely different from the food they get at the centre and at home. In order to fulfil this plan, they offered them Hot dogs, as well as a fruit salad and Nutella-filled fat-cookies.

The party reached its highlight when the volunteers started an egg hunt, where every child received his/her volunteer's goodbye-present. For this game, the volunteers had prepared one coloured egg per kid that was labelled with their names and hidden near the river bed.



After a short speech by Marianne and in exchange for finding their eggs, the kids then received their Easter baskets full of sweets and a small present.

Happy and exhausted after a long day, both the kids and the volunteers headed home.



6 Reading Corner



Our group's main project was to build a Reading Corner. This idea arose as follows:

During our preparations for Study- and Activity-Time we continuously had to face a severe lack of teaching material, particularly in the form of books - resources that in our perception form the epitome of efficient education.

A great deal of the centre kids can hardly read even if they already attend higher grades. Added to that, most of them are also struggling with the English language (official language in Namibia), as, while growing up, they are mainly exposed to their tribal languages.

In order to support this learning process, English books to read and to be read to, as well as a cosy and quiet atmosphere to do so appeared to us as absolutely necessary acquisitions.

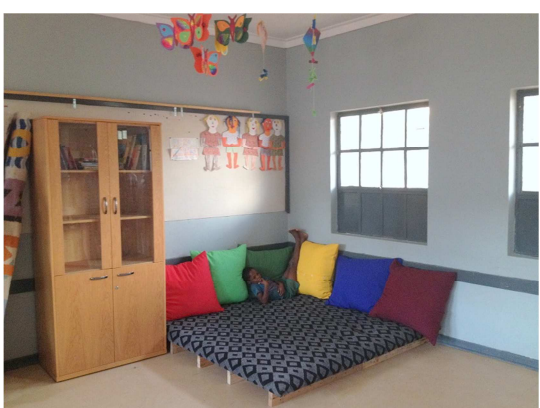


In our effort to put this plan into action, we chose one of our available rooms to set up a comfortable corner: we used pallets to build a platform on top of which we put mattresses and a carpet and lots of colourful pillows. Furthermore, we gathered numerous books appropriate to the different kids' age that invite to be read by themselves or to be read to them by others. These books are all stored in a lockable cupboard that we purchased by auction on a Namibian equivalent to 'eBay'.

This cupboard is accessible exclusively for volunteers and the project manager, which means, in order to maintain a controllable atmosphere, the kids are only allowed to receive books on enquiry and are obligated to return them at the end of the day.

Through these precautions and also through several conversation-days on the topic of 'Handling and Valuing Books', we are hoping to guarantee that our books retain a useable condition as long as possible.

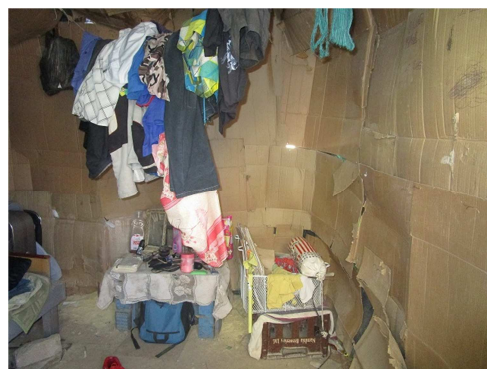
The Reading corner came across much enthusiasm from the kids and will hopefully contribute to a successful learning process of language- and reading skills in the future.



7 House building



In the context of the house visits, the group of volunteers noticed that one child lived under especially poor circumstances in the family's shack. The building mostly consisted of cardboard boxes and was thus neither resistant against rain nor against the heat. For this reason, the volunteers decided to invest some of the donated money to build a new house for Agnes from grade two. In collaboration with some family members and a so-called construction manager a new house arose that is separated into two parts by a dividing wall. In this manner, the family has a bedroom and a nursery at their disposal. Additionally, Agnes and her elder sister, who had shared an old bed frame before, received two beds provided with colourful bedding. Happy and proud, the family moved into its new home.



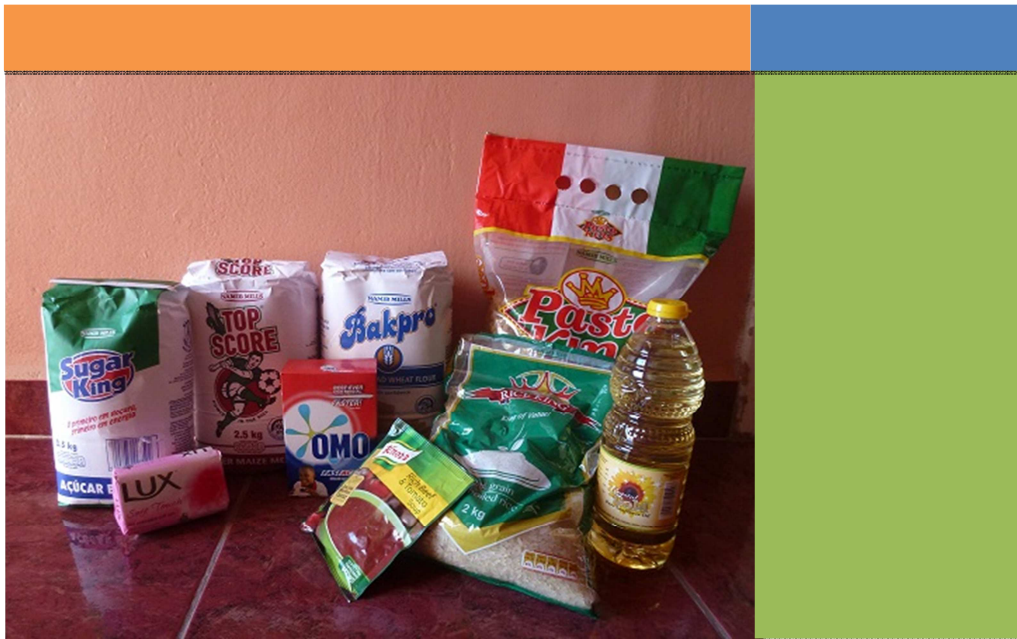
The old shack (on the left hand side) from the inside...



The proud owner -
only the door is still missing...



8 Food packages and water bills



Due to several donations, the volunteers were moreover able to compile a food package for each family consisting of flour, maize meal, sugar, oil, soup, rice, pasta, washing powder and soap. In total, thirty-three families received the food packages. Furthermore, we settled some of the unpaid water bills to financially relieve the families.

9 Volunteers



Annika Hornberger (19)
High-School graduate
Königswinter, Germany
12.01.15-01.07.15



Caroline Elfe (19)
High-School graduate
Frankfurt, Germany
14.01.15-08.04.15



Cynthia Stapornwongkul (23)
Student of mathematics
Freiburg, Germany
15.01.15- 04.04.15



Joana Voss (19)
High-School graduate
Frankfurt, Germany
14.01.15-08.04.15



Katharina Wellig (25)
Teacher studies
Münster, Germany
15.01.15- 13.04.15



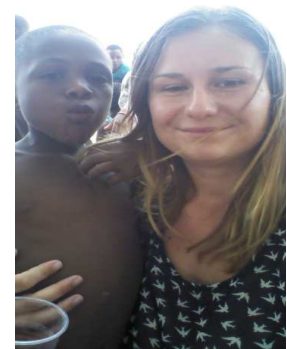
Kerstin Hüttner (27)
Student of care/ children's
nurse
Nürnberg, Germany
27.02.15-14.04.15



Meike Panzer (19)
High-School graduate
Leiferde, Germany
27.02.15-16.04.15



Nora Kainz (20)
High-School graduate
München, Germany
14.01.15- 16.04.15



Sara Stekla (23)
Student of social work
Nürnberg, Germany
02.09.14- 27.02.15



Anne Kuch (23)
Student of social work
Nürnberg, Germany
02.09.14 – 27.02.15

10 Donations

The work at the centre was supported by many donations:



Our special thanks go to the volunteers' families and friends who enabled us with the aid of their donations to finance the reading corner, the Easter party, the construction of the house and the food packages as well as to pay the outstanding water bills.

11 Wishes for the Future

- In general, donations in the form of **clothes** are always helpful, especially needed are **underwear** and **warm clothes** for children aged between six and sixteen.
- As particularly the younger children love playing **parlour games**, they would for sure be happy to have a wider range of games. Especially some **puzzles** would be great.
- To upgrade the assortment of **books** in the reading corner, all kinds of books – preferably in English – are very welcome to practice self-reading or to be read to the kids.
- Last but not least, we need ink for our printer and copier (**HP 5525/ Type 65**) to print out our work sheets for the daily ‘study time’.

Donation account:

Deutsch-Namibische Gesellschaft e.V.
Account number: 2 113 508 00
Bank identification code: 300 800 00
Bank: Commerzbank AG
Subject: project's name [UNCSO/Usakos]

UNCSO / Usakos
Savings account:
First National Bank; Branch Karibib
Branch code: 281073
Account no. 62124732258
SWIFT;BIC: FIRNNANX

Contribution receipts over more than 200€ can only be issued by DNG e.V. Therefore send an E-Mail with your contact details to Marianne Izaaks or Ingrid Pfannkuchen, please. Thus, we will be able to issue a certificate for charitable donations. Thank you! For more information, please contact Marianne Izaaks (Namibia) or Ingrid Pfannkuchen (Germany) furthermore.

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Ingrid Pfannkuchen: ipfannkuchen@web.de