



Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung

Dear supporters and friends of ICol,

Many things happened the last year of 2019...

Change in our work

In 2019, we again noticed that refugees in Germany are less willing to accept the help that we provide with our vision. Instead of building and cultivating friendly relationships, some refugees no longer want to integrate at all, unfortunately some specific communities seek their fulfillment in the sale and consumption of drugs, and yet others are so very busy with a job, education or study, their family or learn German that they also take little time for the essentials.



The main thing that we think refugees should take with them in their limited time here in Germany is not primarily to save a lot of money or to have a relaxed life at the expense of others. Rather, it is about integrating into German society, building friendships with Germans and other cultures and, being able to be taught. Rethinking and changing one's own, sometimes corrupt, ways of thinking and behaving could help as well as thinking about Christian values. The goal is to return to their home country with a renewed mind and a new heart at some point and to be able to help with the reconstruction and to encourage their own people to change their attitudes. Because with "old" thinking, the "old" problems come back.



We have the feeling that it is time both in Germany and worldwide that we should question our characteristics, the teachings of societies and our traditions and, if necessary, put them aside. This applies to the refugees as well as to us here in Germany. In spite of all this, we had again twice support from volunteers from Brazil and England in Germany, who worked with us, among other organized multi-day KidsGames events.



New Vision

In the home countries of the refugees, we initiate sustainable projects to fight poverty / hunger, create jobs and clean energy, improve agriculture, as well as offer seminars on the correct use of medicinal plants.

These projects aim to give the local people a meaningful reason to stay in their home country in order to strengthen the local economy and take over social and political responsibility.



New funding opportunities through BMZ

We have passed the Schmitz Foundation's agency examination, which awards funds for development aid projects of the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development). That means additional bureaucratic effort and time, but at the same time we get access to new funding (see project in Sutukoba / Gambia).

Our projects in Gambia

Seminar to learn about the effectiveness of tropical medical plants

After members of our association again attended a seminar on medicinal plants here in Germany, they were able to apply their knowledge in Gambia and organize a 7-day seminar on the cultivation of medicinal plants. 20 interested participants from different regions and background of Gambia were all surprised at the potential that they can get in their own country at low cost for plants that, among other things, help against malaria.



Agricultural project in Saba

Furthermore, our engineering project went into the last phase: Together with a total of around 30 students from the Engineers without Borders (EWB) group at KIT Karlsruhe, we completed the "Gamiyo" project in four visits lasting from two weeks to two months, completing the project end of 2019. The project included a reliable water supply on two vegetable fields in the village of Saba (approx. 3.1ha). A well was built, photovoltaic panels for operating the pump, two high tanks in which the water from the well is temporarily stored, pipelines and approx. 30 water reservoirs, to which the water is finally pumped. The manual extraction of water from self-dug holes is a thing of the past and the approximately 300 women can now manage their gardens more efficiently, experience a significant reduction in workload and now have a secure livelihood. In addition, a fertilizer tank was built by making compost faster using special biological processes. A detailed project brochure and further pictures can be found on our website (www.icoi.info).



Boundary wall construction in Sutukoba

This project consists of the construction of a stable boundary wall (approx. 550m) made of cement blocks with stable iron posts and cement foundations as well as the construction of a removable wire mesh fence (approx. 70m) in two sections around the largest vegetable growing garden in Sutukoba (approx. 3.3ha with 1,000 women for cultivation).

The aim is to increase productivity, protect the garden against animals, minimize maintenance costs and generate savings for new projects. Furthermore, the continued existence of this vegetable growing garden should minimize the causes of flight that currently exists due to the prevailing poverty. We are currently waiting for the approval of our sponsor BMZ.



Greece, Lesbos – „Camp Moria“ / supporting on-the-ground partner organisation

We have been three times as volunteers in the “Camp Moria” on the Greek island Lesbos. Due to its geographical location close to Turkey this island is the first step on European ground for many refugees from the Middle East. As soon as they have arrived there, they are able to apply for asylum in Europe. Our tasks in this camp were to offer practical help on the one hand. On the other hand, we have protected particularly vulnerable refugees against e.g. sexual assaults, and we have tried to give those refugees a new hope who became deeply depressed and desperate.



Our newly designed homepage

Our homepage is finally redesigned and full of new information, take a look:

www.icoi.info

Everything depends on employees and finances

We are thankful for every volunteer and employee who was working together with us so far. More than ever, we are currently looking for relationship-oriented and culturally experienced people who enjoy spending a colorful life with different nations. Challenging tasks and many experiences await you whereby your own limits can be overcome on a daily basis.

We don't want to stand in the way of an idea, but rather are open and try to give motivation and support. If you are interested in working with us, you are very welcome to contact us!

Many ideas also need many finances. You are more than welcome to donate to us and thus participate in how peace comes to the people all over the world!

Bank account:
Name of the bank: VR Miba
IBAN: DE60 6656 2300 0075 6500 00
BIC: GENODE61IFF