



Dear friends of the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation,

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

Annual report 2020 in brief

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Very difficult times are behind us, but the ravages of the pandemic remain. In difficult times such as these, most people reassess their priorities, thinking about what is important in life. It's clear that most of you made helping the poorest of the poor a priority and supported us, just as you have done in the past. For this we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please continue to support us, we have a lot more to do as together we help poor children and their families around the globe.

We have one additional request:

We distribute more than 2000 newsletters, approximately 1000 via mail and the other 1000 being hand delivered by our booster club members. Our goal is to deliver most of our newsletters by email: email is much more cost efficient (and whatever we save in postage costs will be used to help children). If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please send bettina.haubner@thomasengel-stiftung.org a short request. Thank you.

We hope that soon we will leave this pandemic behind us. We wish you all the best, but most of all good health.

Best regards

Bettina Haubner

Deputy Executive Director of the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation



www.thomasengel-stiftung.org

Annual report 2020 in brief

We believe credibility and transparency are of critical importance to any organization that asks for financial support. This is especially true for the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation as most of our work is done on a volunteer basis and our projects are funded by donations. The following annual report details financial aspects of the club (money raised and spent) as well as brief project status reports from the various countries where aid was provided.

Expenditure on aid projects:

Eswatini	\$ 178,178
Tanzania	\$ 19,312
Uganda	\$ 5,206
Ecuador	\$ 13,148*

*An additional sum of \$19,427 was generated by the Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL, the local THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation booster club in Ecuador.

Administration expenses:

Administrative costs are kept to a minimum and are paid by the founding family.

Travel expenses:

The volunteers pay for their travel expenses to the different aid projects.

Revenue

Income from the foundation capital	\$ 2,598
Donations	\$ 251,033
Donations in Ecuador	\$ 19,427

253 donations were paid directly to the foundation. Many other donors supported their local booster clubs, indirectly supporting the foundation.

70 % came from organizations and companies. These include the more than 150 members of three booster clubs, such as **Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V.**, **Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Nastätten e. V.** and **Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL** in Salinas/Ecuador.

These three booster clubs collect not only donations and membership fees, but they also organize events that produce an essential source of income. Because of the Corona pandemic regulations prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 to 20 people, most of the planned events had to be cancelled, making the very substantial amount of donations raised all the more remarkable.

THANK YOU ...

..., IN ORDER THAT THE WORK OF HELPING POOR CHILDREN MAY CONTINUE, WE NEED YOUR ON-GOING SUPPORT. AS THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS OF THOMAS-ENGEL-FOUNDATION PROJECTS WILL ATTEST, YOUR SUPPORT IS TRULY MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Why are the relief measures of the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and of the Möwenweg-Foundation so important to the children in eSwatini?

The following information was submitted by **Khulekani Magon-go**, Executive Director of the **Young Heroes** organization in the kingdom of eSwatini, formerly known as Swaziland.



Khulekani Magon-go

"**Young Heroes** are happy and grateful to have started the aid project "**Litsemba**" together with the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and the **Möwenweg-Foundation**. "**Litsemba**" translates to "Hope" and we reach out to approximately 2,900 needy children from the age of birth to eight years who are orphans or half-orphans. We help in the very rural, difficult to reach, district of Shiselweni with the following measures:

- Basic medical care, such as vaccinations using our so called "Mobil Clinic;"
- Nutrition in form of a daily warm meal;
- Early childhood development assistance and education;
- Income-generating measures for the volunteer caregivers of the children; and
- Construction of many two-room houses for particularly poor families.

For the last one and a half years the German organization **Kinder-nothilfe (KNH)** has supported the Litsemba project. The KNH concentrates on further expanding the early childhood development and education (**ECCE**) and measures to uphold children's rights.

According to the *Swaziland HIV Incidence Measurement Survey-2 2016-2017* no other country in the world has so many Aids infected people, 27.72 % live in eSwatini. That is why so many children grow up without at least one parent. Many of them raise themselves or are taken care of by the grandparents, mainly grandmothers. About two thirds of the population grow up in great poverty, well below

the poverty level. Litsemba's goal is to improve medical care and give these children an education as a way of improving their living conditions. Furthermore, Litsemba focuses on child protection.

The Litsemba-staff maintains intensive contact with the "Communities" to increase the community members' understanding of the various relief measures as well as to get backing support in using existing resources.

The THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and the Möwenweg-Foundation have always kept their promise to the children in eSwatini to give them hope. That shows in the following numbers from 2019, the last representative year before the pandemic:

- 2,162 children and 3,340 adults were examined and treated by the "Mobil Clinic" team.
- 387 children qualified through our pre-school program for entrance to the Primary School.
- 109 adult volunteers were trained as lay teachers for pre-school.
- 1,192 children received warm winter clothing.
- 475 care givers and pre-school teachers received a Christmas thank you gift for their volunteer work.
- 10 houses were built for very needy families, assuring they finally had a roof over their heads. These houses were replacements for their dilapidated mud huts.
- 2,824 children received, often over many weeks, a warm meal. Normally the World Food Program of the **United Nations** takes care of that, but there are always supply gaps.

These aid measures raise the awareness of the needy population that someone is looking after and caring for them, and this creates HOPE.

We understand that this help comes from the hearts of the individuals that support the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and the Möwenweg-Foundation. They want to make the world a better place. This help means a lot to the children of eSwatini. I plead with you to continue to support both foundations."

Khulekani Magongo

Two new aid projects in Tanzania

The approximately 56 million residents of Tanzania live in one of the poorest countries in the world. The country is located in the East of Africa on the Indian Ocean.

In cooperation with the German organization **TAKE A MALAIKA e.V.** the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation has the financial responsibility for two new aid projects. The organization TAKE A MALAIKA e.V. was established in 2019 and supports different projects in Arusha, Tanzania. These projects focus on promoting education for children and young people as well as providing financial and other support for adults as they step into a self-determined life. This project is closely allied with the local NGO TWIGA VISION, which runs a preschool for approximately 150 children. The children receive basic education and a daily warm meal.

The THOMAS ENGEL-foundation pays for all the 24 employees of the TWIGA VISION and also for employees of the affiliated sewing project health insurance. This helps them immensely.

As part of the "Family-Friends-Project," five, needy, large families with single mothers receive financial support for a period of five years. Their income often is not enough for food or school fees. By paying for their rent, electricity and water, this project helps



Employees with their health insurance card

those families financially, at the same time they are trained vocationally like opening a hair salon, or becoming a seamstress or selling street food or other local specialties. For that the families receive an interest free micro loan.



Single Mother with 5 children

How is the current situation of howareyou in Uganda?

Charlotte Campbell is responsible for the aid project **howareyou** in Uganda. She reports as follows:

"The schools remained closed until recently, only the graduation classes were held. So, our children received a form of "home schooling" which was not particularly effective.

Skovia Mukahirwa, the project coordinator locally, kept in touch with the families. Because of COVID-19 the family members could not go to work and many lost their jobs. That is why supplying food had absolute priority. Consequentially it was decided to spend the saved quarterly school fees of 50 Euro per child for food.

How are you want to provide education to as many children as possible. The procurement of school fees is therefore essential. For adults the most important thing is a regular income. When that is achieved, school fees can be paid. Therefore, the focus is increasingly on income-generating measures. In the village of Kisowera a family of nine received two pigs and building material for a pigsty. A few weeks ago, the first piglets were born and, in a few months, they can be sold at a profit.



The beginning is done ...



Christmas 2020: A Lions Club from northern Germany donated money for urgently needed food and soap.



Distribution of seeds in Kasala, April 2021

Together with the local project group **Balinda Kimeze** agricultural activities are to be intensified, especially in the village of Kasal with the rearing pigs and goats on the one hand, and fruit, vegetables and grain cultivation on the other. In this way, self-sustaining projects can be created with relatively little effort thus reducing dependence on external help. How are you supported the local project group Balinda Kimeze recently with the purchase of seeds.

Exactly at the right time, increased support measures in Ecuador

In comparison to other South American countries Ecuador (besides Brazil) has been especially hard hit by the consequences of the Corona pandemic. In April, the number of new infections reached a new high. A state of emergency was declared in 16 out of 24 provinces. Hundreds of thousands day workers without social benefits have lost their jobs and thus their income since the outbreak of the pandemic. These individuals live from hand to mouth and do not have the means to feed their families.

Even if it does not significantly decrease the suffering of the country as a whole, it is a good thing that the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation has considerably strengthened its aid measures. This was made possible by their relocation of **Edith and Jaime Garcia** from Virginia, USA to Ecuador. Jaime is one of the two Deputy Executive Directors of the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and also the representative for the Americas.

A particularly helpful action in the past year was the purchasing, packing and distribution of more than 4,300 food filled bags to particularly needy families. For this, Edith and Jaime Garcia not only received a donation from the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation, but also collected most of the money in the country itself, especially from foreigners living there, predominantly Canadians and US citizens. Many of these expats helped with the purchase, packing and distribution of the food bags.





Distributing grocery bags



On October 25th, 2020 a new Booster Club of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation was established and called **Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL**. Already it has attracted 22 active members.



Board of directors of the Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL

According to the principle of helping people help themselves, the Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL has started a new, novel, and highly effective aid program. In the last few months, the Booster Club has granted 19 interest free microloans in the amount of \$ 3,900 to small business owners who were in need as a result of Corona. The average loan is \$200. Based on the results of this program thus far, the sustainability of this loan program is absolutely clear. To date, every single local businessperson who has obtained a micro loan from the Booster Club has paid (or is in the process of repaying) what he/she owes. Repayment is a significant part of the success of the program; as loans are repaid, repayment monies are recycled, making it possible to provide more loans to an ever-expanding number of local vendors in need.



Elsa and her prepared "meals to go"

One example is **Elsa Juana Quinde Baque**. She used to sell fruit and vegetables on a borrowed tricycle. After she had to return the borrowed tricycle, her business came to a standstill. She had the idea to prepare meals in her kitchen and sell "food to go".

With a micro loan Elsa was able to obtain the equipment needed to make her idea become reality. Since many restaurants are closed because of the Corona pandemic, the demand for Elsa's meals is very high.

Independent of and in addition to the micro loan program, the Amigos also take care of individual needs. For example, they helped **Rosa Angelica Figueroa** and her four children to renovate her dilapidated bamboo hut. Before the Amigos donated \$400 for building materials and the neighbors helped with the renovation, the dirt floor of the bathroom area of the hut was wet, muddy, and malodorous due to urine and feces (which were being collected in plastic bags). Now the hut bathroom area has a new cement floor, a toilet, and a shower. Additionally, the hut has a new roof to protect the family from rain. The family is overjoyed.

While responding to the housing needs Rosa faced, the Amigos identified a problem faced by the residents of the small community of **Fe y Alegria**, which is located between a dump and a sewage treatment plant and is where Rosa and her children live. The residents had enough land to start a community garden but had no viable means of doing so. For \$100 the Amigos bought garden hoses, seeds and chemicals to start a garden.

Whenever possible, if the Amigos identify a child with a significant health problem they try to help. Recently, for example, they helped 7-year-old **Mayckel Joel Palma Holguin** who suffers from the rare skin disease Epidermolysis Bullosa, also known as Butterfly Disease. It is called Butterfly Disease because the skin is as vulnerable as a butterfly's wing. There is no cure for this disease. Only the symptoms such as blistering, wounds, inflammation and pain can be treated. Mayckel lives with his mother **Jessina**, his siblings **Milan** (9 years) and **Marle** (3 years), and his grandparents in a dwelling without running water or a toilet in a bamboo hut. The Amigos have committed to helping to supply Mayckel with medicine, bandages, special shampoo, and lotion at an approximate monthly cost of \$125.



Mayckel, Medikamente und Zuhause

Apart from these new auxiliary measures, the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation, respectively the **Amigos de la Fundación THOMAS ENGEL** continues to help both the **Melvin Jones School** for handicapped children and young adults and the organization **Helping Kids in Ecuador**. The money that was spent in 2020 helped pay for the printing of calendars which raised a significant amount of money for the school's operation. Profits from the calendars paid for health insurance for the employees of the school as well as for medicine for some of the elderly who visit the school. The donation that was sent to the Helping Kids in Ecuador Foundation helped eight children in obtaining operations, and provided for other medical needs such as prostheses.

Presentation of our volunteer staff

We have decided to present in the next issues of the newsletter our volunteers and want to start in this newsletter with Bettina Haubner, Deputy Executive Director of the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation.



Bettina Haubner

Bettina Haubner

54 years old, born on February 16, 1967 in Nastätten/Rhein-Lahn-Kreis; married since 1996 with Axel Haubner, 2 children, living in Lierschied near St. Goarshausen.

Education: High School in Bad Ems, degree in business administration with specialization in foreign trade.

Stays abroad: 1989 5 months in London (worked in a hotel), 1991-1993 two years in Mexico City (worked at Mercedes-Benz).

Professional experience: Employed since 1996 with KAPP-CHEMIE in Miehlen as Deputy Director and HR manager.

Hobbies: Played many years actively Volleyball, now only watches sports on TV (winter sports, soccer, etc.), theater/opera/cabaret/travel, reading, playing games and good food and drinks.

"I have known Ernst Engel since he hired me at KAPP-CHEMIE. I eventually became the assistant to the management. In 2006 he sold the company, but we stayed in close contact. In 2008 he founded the THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and I became involved right away. Together we decided that the foundation should help needy children in poor countries. The first contact was to eSwatini in 2009 through a friend in Nastätten.

At the foundation, I am responsible for the finances, looking after the donors and sending out the newsletter, etc..

It is interesting that I wanted to become an international aid development worker while I was still at school. In the broadest sense, I finally achieved this goal through my work in the foundation."

Trips and events

The pandemic has slowed us down quite a bit. For example, we have not been able to visit our largest aid project, Litsemba in eSwatini for more than a year and we assume that a trip there will not take place until the first quarter of 2022. Through today's communication options we are in close contact with all the responsible local project managers. Nevertheless, occasional visits to the projects are indispensable in the long run and hopefully will be possible again soon.

Because of the pandemic we could not hold many events that are organized by the Booster clubs to generate income for the foundation. In Germany we had to postpone the popular benefit concert "ovations" several times. The last time we had it was April 2019. We also had to cancel the two planned concerts in the fall of 2021 due to restricted numbers of participants because of the pandemic. In Ecuador we also had to cancel the event "An evening for children" planned for March 28, 2020 benefitting the Melvin Jones School.

Adapting to the new normal, we will try to hold some events. Please visit our website for further announcements.

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TERMINE

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V.

09.10.2021 Höfe- und Garagenflohmarkt in Fulda-Haimbach

12.11.2021 Mitgliederversammlung im Hotel Am Dom in Fulda

11.12.2021 Weihnachtsbaumverkauf zusammen mit dem Haimbacher Sportverein 1952 e. V. auf dem Gelände des Vereins

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Nastätten e. V.

18.07.2021 „Offener Garten“ in Buch

05.09.2021 Musikalischer Brunch mit dem **A-Capella-Ensemble Vocale Grande** im Limeskastell in Pohl

27./28.11.2021 „Weihnachtsstraße“ in Nastätten



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