

Newsletter Mutanyana Weru July 2010

Father André van Zon has been in contact several times with his brother Sjef (chairman of our Foundation) who noted the following:

1. Situation winter 2010

By the end of 2009 the provision of housing for people in the re-integration project has been realised. No spectacular matters seem to have taken place. But this is apparent truth!

Apart from his daily visits to the hospital Father André also visits the families 2 – 3 times per week. These families (resident groups) are very busy with the new circumstances. They are learning to be responsible for growing market garden products on the fields. The cooperative clearing of a new fields is taking a lot of effort. But motivation is such that heavy labour is not avoided; even by those who are seriously handicapped. Spring provided sufficient rain and the first yield of peanuts and sweet corn became a fact.

There are contacts with an organisation that is looking for possibilities to start a larger agricultural project. This could be done in cooperation with the agricultural group of the Maputo University in combination with an N.G.O. (Non Government Organisation). If this is successful, money will become available for mechanisation of clearing large pieces of land. Also organisational and technical education will be provided then. It would be great if this could happen!

The relations within the families develop very well. The normal domestic problems sometimes need some additional care, but in general we can say that the mutual relations and ties within the families are doing well. The English couple, Patricia and Paul, give organisational support. They have some small funds available for regular teaching and practical lessons on the subjects of personality building and housekeeping.

Specialists in a variety of matters like: health, 1st. aid, aids treatment and prevention, are hired for assistance. Unfortunately this help is limited because Paul is very often abroad and because of Patricia's mothers illness, she spends a lot of time in the UK .

A Mozambican assistant takes care of all the on going matters as good as possible.

Finances:

Unforeseen circumstances at the time of the transfer of the Centre in 2008 to the Orionites resulted in a



substantial financial backlog.

Investment reserves had to be used to cover this backlog. Fortunately in 2009 three engaged donors also helped in this process. An advance payment of a regular Belgium donor and another one of our Foundation secured the funds for carrying out regular investments and exploitation according to the 2009 plan.

It concerns the following rough amounts in 2009:

- Investments in houses, huts and furniture: €30 000
- Costs main project re-integration and rehabilitation: €38 000
- Emergency help and prevention (1st. side project): €7 500
- Aids help and prevention (2nd. side project): € 4.500
- Day and night care in hospital (3rd. side project):€ 2 600

With the promised financial support of regular main sponsors the budgeted for 2010 is covered.

Association: Filhos de Mutanyana Weru.

The progress of starting a housing association turned out to be a time consuming action. A concept plan of the statutes, including management organisation and structures, has been submitted to the local Ministry of Justice.

Before this plan could be discussed there, new rules of the new government showed some new conditions; one of them being the fact that all Mozambican residents have to apply for new papers of identity. The government organisation however is not capable of in handling this matter in a timely way.

Another rule is that the management of the association has to consist of minimally 10 members with the new identification papers. So this will need money and a lot of time.



2. Situation Spring 2010

Pater André has a severe cold. The temperatures are rather low: at day 28 and at night 15 degrees C. There is little rain but the crops are ok yet. A Dutch couple from the city of Baarlo has visited Maputo. They have been invited to meet the people of the re-integration project and their fields. They provided the photo's for this newsletter. In close cooperation with a local Mozambican consultant, Patricia planned to organise a 6-day course (2x 3 days). The education program addresses the subjects of self-supporting and cooperation. This training had to be postponed because of an important government order with high priority.

Father André is 3 days per week busy with his protégées and their agricultural activities. Almost all families (houses) possess their own garden of 100 sq. meters. More fields became available for cooperative agriculture: good low level vegetable fields in an old riverbed. Momentarily 2 separated fields of 2500 and 1000 sq. meters are in use. Clearing the fields from wild grass (elephants grass) is very heavy work. Several water wells have been dug and, for the time being, these wells provide sufficient water for watering the plants. Preparing the fields for use is all done by hand but studies are going on to mechanise this work. Most people do not avoid this heavy labour (some of them even are handicapped). Because of the large size of the new fields there should be help in this work.

Also Father André is looking for an experienced farmer. An extra problem is that the fields are on remote locations (about 2 hours from families houses). For this reason Father André's jeep is a

necessity. An advantage of the remote location is that the risk of stealing vegetables is low. It is in the plan to also employ the farmer (who must be found yet) as a guardian and to provide housing for him on the spot.

The people now grow sweet potatoes (are in bloom now), lettuce, cabbage, sweet corn, carrots, onion and manioc.

At this moment for about 30 children schooling is provided, and this program runs fine.

3. Visit from Baarlo (nl)

A Dutch couple from Baarlo gave the following reaction:

The couple (with a lot of Mozambique experience) was very impressed by the way the project with small families and their housing and garden and the cooperative fields have been organised. Also the enthusiasm of all involved people was striking. Especially of those people with a heavy handicap. In their opinion is the process of starting an association the only proper way to deal with the local circumstances. This association will also stimulate self support and responsibility. They foresee that for the coming years a lot of financial and technical support will be needed.

They also provided us (the Foundation) with a number of photographs and promised to write a visit report with their experiences of the visit to the project.

This report will be placed on our web site.

4. Situation June 2010

After 2 months there has been some rain in Maputo. This was very welcome with temperatures ranging from 25 to 30 degrees C. at day time.

Within 2 weeks the first yield of vegetable products is expected.

Lettuce and cabbage will come first. During the yielding time work has to start very early in the morning, allowing the products to be sold on the street market that same day. Sales people will be selected for this job and proper deals will be made. This also will be done for pricing, checks and payments to the association.

The project and its chances for success meanwhile has been noted by the local people, resulting in offers to buy or rent fields.

In the meantime a farmer with lots of experience and known as reliable has been appointed as paid work force.

Currently in total 1300 sq. meters field is in use for gardening.

5. Training

A 5-day training has been giving for 2 weeks. The interest of the families was overwhelming. The training program dealt with subjects on household matters and personal care, but also time was reserved for questions and for brainstorming ideas. Some of the questions were:
What will the association mean for the participants?
How should the organisation, motivation etc. be in order to be successful?

The views and interest of the participants was very promising for the future. Now it is time to see how the whole project further develops.

6. Donations and Legaties

We continue to ask you for your generous financial support. As can be read in this newsletter, the costs of starting the re-integration and rehabilitation of the families have drained our financial reserves. The efforts of all volunteers in Maputo and the families deserve our support.
May we count on an additional gift?

It is good to know that periodic gifts are fiscally most attractive. If necessary our Chairman, Sjef van Zon, can give detailed information. (phone +31492321626)

7. Website

Our website will be changed soon and adapted to the new situation in the near future.

8. Foundation board

Our board member Marja Dijkshoorn wants to create more time for family and other matters and informed us to discontinue her role in the board of our Foundation.

In her 8 years of board membership she showed a very positive motivation and dedication to our project in Mozambique. We are very grateful to her and thank her for all her efforts.

8. Finally

We wish you a good summer and vacation period.

Thank you for your support and may we count on it again in the future?

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