ANNUAL REPORT BTFS 2022

HELP FOR SELF-HELP IN LIBERIA, WEST

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS WHO DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY HELP THAT YOUNG PEOPLE SEE AND MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVES THROUGH EDUCATION THAT ARE ECOLOGICALLY AND SOCIOLOGICALLY VALUABLE

EXPOSEE

In my 2022 Christmas letter to our sponsors, I mentioned a quote from the German philosopher Richard David Precht: "*Morals are to a large extent a matter of self-esteem and that in turn is a matter of upbringing*".

My dear Rotary friend, Dr. Peter Werder, made this statement after his first project visit to Liberia in June 2022: "*Everything is fundamentally different. It's about understanding others' priorities and circumstances. Anyone who is economically secure for no more than one day hardly plans for the following week*".

What am I getting at, dear readers? It is about the much-cited term "sustainability". As we understand it, investments in humanitarian projects must be "sustainable". Sure - of course I also want what we do to last a long time and be "sustainable". After 10 years of experience in a war-torn country where everything is different, my clear conclusion and my credo is: Education of young people is the key. They are the ones who can change things in the long term and live up to our claim of "sustainability".

Our current water kiosk and solar projects can save lives for a while—but not for the eternity. Our commitment to education strengthens self-esteem and the effectiveness of young people in the long term and thus their moral understanding of responsibility and long-term planning of a self-determined and socio-ecologically meaningful life.

Felix F. Walz
Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland

Engineering 1

Safe drinking water kiosk and solar project Rockhill Community

Expenditure per 2022:
14'441 CHF

Children and young people fetch clean drinking water every day and bring it to their homes in buckets and canisters – often over long distances

BTFS NGO Chief Operations, Laryee A. Sannor (Bob) with OST student Simon Grundler assemble GDM filters in the tank

GDM-2 Rockhill Community Block four:
Thanks to great support from BTFS Vice President Beat Jud and our friend, Prof. Dr. Hansruedi Schneider (em), extended geological investigations and soundings were successful. Together with an electrician on site, our team was able to put the system into operation in spring 2022. Initial frictions with the operation and maintenance of the water kiosk were resolved with staff training; with operating regulations and, above all, with the formation of a steering-committee made up of the community, women, the Youth, Elders and the family of the landlord. BTFS NGO Community Engagement Team (CET) was challenged and, through frequent presence, ultimately managed to ensure that the water sale generated just enough money so that the operating staff was paid and water samples could be carried out regularly.
After a few months of operation and some technical problems (including a cable fire), three bachelor students from OST Rapperswil and ETH Zurich traveled to Liberia for seven weeks in August/September to inspect the entire system together with the BTFS team and its partners. to undergo fine tuning. Today the technology, operation, maintenance and water sales work well and several thousand people have access to bacteria-free water - especially in the hot dry season.
The learning effects achieved on both sides and the intercultural exchange of experiences was a formative experience for everyone involved and led to friendships and a lot of motivation to get involved in environmental technology.

From left: Dylan J. Derradj, Laryee A. Sannor, Julian Rieder (ETHZ) and Simon Grundler

Engineering 2

Solar-Projekt
DOLOTOWN Health Clinic

Expentiture per 2022:
9'101 CHF

The team with "Bob" (left) and OST student Dylan Derradj that built the solar system

SOLAR PLANT DOLOTOWN HEALTH CENTER: The Dolotown maternity hospital is one of around 10 so-called "health centers" far away from civilization that are part of the HMNL program (reduction of maternal and infant mortality). The impetus for this project originally came from the former LINTH hospital director, Dr. Peter Werder, who paid a visit to our NGO in June (picture above). This "Bush Clinic" was to receive electricity, light and thus security with a solar system. Our students – or as I used to call them: our Eagles – developed a project design in a team with our NGO, which was expertly assessed and supported by Professor Christof Biba from the OST Institute for Solar Technology during a short stay in Liberia. Together with a reliable and competent electrician, they planned and built the PV system.
On December 8, 2022, the project was simply handed over to the clinic. Guests from Switzerland, as well as representatives of the local Rotary Clubs in Liberia, honored the occasion with their presence.
There is now light at night and the nursing staff no longer have to stumble over patients lying on the floor in the dark. As a side effect, it turned out that the staff are happy to come to work at night and punctually, and crime has decreased massively since the facility was flooded with lights at night.

On the occasion of the handover of the project on December 7th, 2022, the clinic management called out the first two mothers, who were the first to give birth to their small children at night with light.

Staff of the maternity clinic with guests from Switzerland on the occasion of the handover of the

HEALTH 1

Maternal & Infant Mortality
HMNL program

Expenditure per 2022:
24'930 CHF

Our very committed and reliable HMNL project manager Lela Precious Dolo (medical student) with a pregnant woman in the Margibi area

The gala event on December 7, 2022 generated net proceeds of around US$5000, which will be used to continue the HMNL project in 2023.

Note: The 47-page final report of the HMNL project can be viewed in D and E (original) under News on the BTFS homepage (Red)

Annual project "Help a mother and a newborn in Liberia" (HMNL) successfully completed

From November 2021 to December 2022, after extensive planning, ten "clinics", 25 professional and 50 so-called "traditional midwives" were trained in the far-flung district of Margibi under the guidance of qualified nursing staff, such as women before, during and after childbirth with regard to health and hygiene must be taken care of. Auxiliary and care material was given to the trainees. So-called "health clubs" were founded in ten selected schools from around 30 small communities with the aim of reducing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases by means of adapted sex and hygiene education. In the year under review, more than 500 young adults and 250 women received information and training before and after childbirth.

During this time, the services provided by teaching staff and school administration with regard to the importance of hygiene and sex education could also be improved. The fact that the efforts of the Liberian authorities were decisively vitalized is verifiable and cannot be marginalized.

The team was able to demonstrably report on cases where the lives of women giving birth could be saved (i.e. Ma Musu case published on the BTFS homepage).

The budget for the annual program was originally around US$ 26,000. As a result of changed costs compared to the planning date and the period affected by Covid, and above all due to significantly higher operating expenses (transport needs, especially in the rainy season and the large distances), the final balance reached an effective expense of almost US$ 40,000.

The HMNL team under the extremely successful and committed leadership of Lela P. Dolo and co-initiator, Bernice M. Kromah, independently organized a worthy conclusion on December 7, 2022 in the capital Monrovia with over 200 participating guests. Switzerland was also represented with members of the main sponsor, ROTARY, represented by Dr. FP Steiner and Felix F. Walz, both Rotary Club Oberer Zürichsee, as well as the professional partner, LINTH Spital Uznach, represented by independent physician, Dr. Sebastian Thurnherr, Rapperswil and the Eastern Swiss University of Applied Sciences OST Rapperswil, Cornelia Haueisen from UMTEC Institute and project manager NEWAL West Africa. With the ticket sale, the HMNL team generated proceeds of over US$ 5,000, which was increased to US$ 6,000 with a grant from the BTFS Foundation, so that the continuation (sustainability) of the successful project has a chance in 2023.

The HMNL team, but also the BTFS administration, experienced the following issues as complex and demanding: Team mobilization and communication internally and externally; Dealing with financial processes and document management or understanding how to deal with donations from Switzerland.

HEALTH 2

Shippin-Container
Hospital supplies for Liberia
from the LINTH Hospital
Uznach

Shipping Costs 2022:
7’500 CHF

LINTH SPITAL Uznach SG March / April 2022 / around 8 tons of hospital material and around 4000 stuffed animals for hospitalized children in Liberia

Material loading / April 21, 2022 / trip to Basel and Rhine shipping to Antwerp / ship loading to Tanger and Monrovia

After three weeks, the vessel reaches Monrovia and the 40" container arrived in Margibi County Republic of Liberia - Cotton Tree Community at the end of May

Hospital beds, birth tables are distributed in 10 clinics. At the end of June 2022, hospital director Dr. Peter Werder the clinics in the Margibi area

EDUCATION
Academic knowledge and student exchange

Expenditure per 2022:
21'191 CHF

PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION

OST UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & UMU UNIVERSITY LIBERIA

From left: Prof. Isabelle Zulauf-Poli, Dr. Yar D. Gonway Gono, Prof. Dr. Daniel Seelhofer, Prof. Dr. Michael Burkhardt, Felix F. Walz, Prof. Christof Biba / 2. May 2022 Memorandum of Understanding

The aim of this scientific transfer is capacity building on the one hand to enable talented students to successfully participate in the construction of the catastrophic infrastructure in their home country and ultimately also to set economic accents. On the other hand, established science from Switzerland can learn from the subtropical environmental and climatic conditions and at the same time create and pass on interesting socio-economic incentives, which also represents an important contribution to combating poverty and a lack of education in Africa.

On May 2, 2022, the President of the United Methodist University of Liberia visited at the invitation of OST President, Prof. Dr. Seelhofer, the Rapperswil campus and other institutions and companies involved in the partnership. Through this network, students from Switzerland and Liberia were able to take part in the winter school in Ghana and work on hands-on water and solar projects in Liberia. Further exchanges as part of bachelor theses are planned for 2023 to 2026.

Picture below: Workshop with NEWAL students and BTFS NGO with guests from Switzerland on December 7, 2022 in Paynesville, Liberia.

EDUCATION
(Selection of) KEY MEETINGS 2022

May 2, 2022 Prof. Dr. Seelhofer and Dr. Gono sign the MoU between OST and UMU

May 4, 2022 Prof. Dr. HR Schneider (2nd from left) and Dr. sc. ETH Zurich, Pierre Jaques FRANK (right)

May 4, 2022 Invitation from Minister of Education Stefan Kölliker SG (2nd from left)

May 5, 2022 Visit to the mayor of Rapperswil-Jona, Martin Stöckling, with CEO of the Rapperswil-Jona waterworks, Martin KURT (far right) and BTFS Vice-President Beat Jud (left)

June 9, 2022 Visit of the Swiss Ambassador to West Africa, Anne Lugon-Moulin (3rd from left) with members of the BTFS NGO in Monrovia / Liberia

October 28, 2022 Rotary Club President of Monrovia, Ms. Mai Bright UREY (center) receives BTFS Liaison Officer, Ms. Gertrude Harmon, who receives a US$1000 cash check for the Dolotown Solar project

BTFS NGO
OPERATION

Expenditure per 2022:
17'894 CHF

BTFS NGO – ORGANISATION 2022/23

TECHNICAL TEAM:
BTFS-NGO CHIEF OPERTIONS
LARYEE A. SANNOR (BOB) BSc Civil Engineering,
FESTUS BOLEN, BSc Civil Engineering, BTFS Staff
VOLUNTEERS from Engineering Sector

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM (CET):

ELIJAH B. DUNOH, HEAD CET-TEAM
MYRTLE BOWIER (NGO Co-Founder)
WONDA N. ALLISON
HAMSON B. GAYE
ESTELLA KANGAR (House Keeping, Cooking)

LIAISON OFFICER / SPECIAL PROJECT COORDINATOR:
GERTRUDE HARMON, BSc IT Technology/Administration,
NGO SUPERVISOR
Link between Swiss & LIB-Institutions
Project Management / Planning / Administration

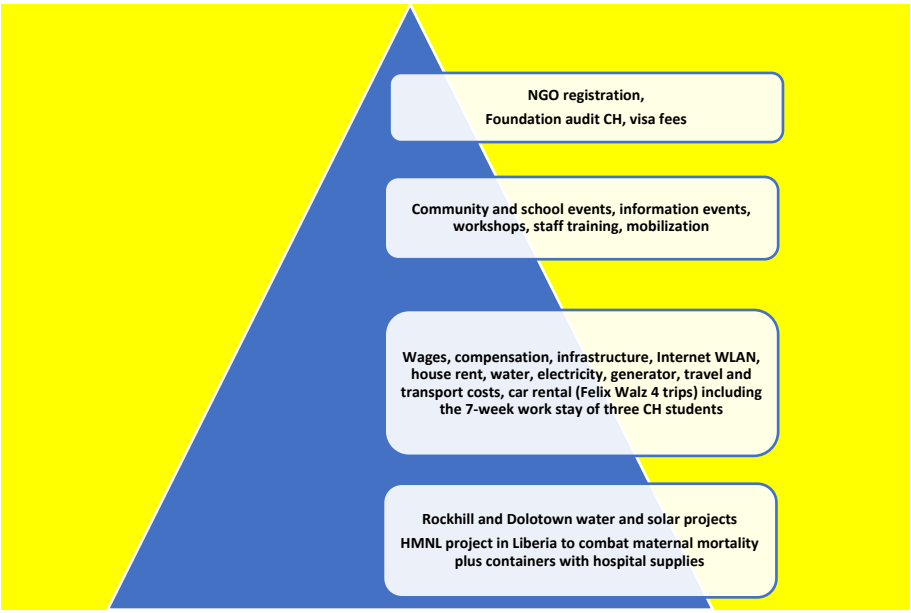
HEALTH TEAM:
LELA P. DOLO BTFS Health Team/HMNL Project Initiator (left)
BERNICE M. KROMAH BTFS Health Team/HMNL Co-Project Initiator (right)

Volunteers: Julian, Agnes and many more….

"Impact – Trust – Sustainability"

Use of the donations in 2022

(The auditor's report can be made available to the supervisory authority upon request)



Launch of the NEWAL-SHIL team education and training project in a school in Duazon Community

BTFS partners and sponsors 2022

OST Ostschweizer Fachhochschule

JMS SCHAFFT WERTE

Rotary Club Oberer Zürichsee

Frei + Krauer AG - Ingenieurbüro

SpitalLinth

Gossweiler

Swiss TPH
Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
Schweizerisches Tropen- und Public Health-Institut

aebersold kopie·plot·print

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy Abidjan Cote d'Ivoir
Responsible for the Republic of Liberia

Praxis Dr. Schulte
ZahnarztTeamLuzern
"... wir verstehen Ihre Zähne"

GEO-CONSULTING
DR. H.R. SCHNEIDER

R.Geigy·Stiftung

Rapperswil-Jona Wasserversorgung

DR. MED. SEBASTIAN THURNHERR
Facharzt FMH für Hals-Nasen-Ohrenkrankheiten