

May 2023 Nr.10

Newsletter



Friends Association
Namwala Secondary School
Zambia

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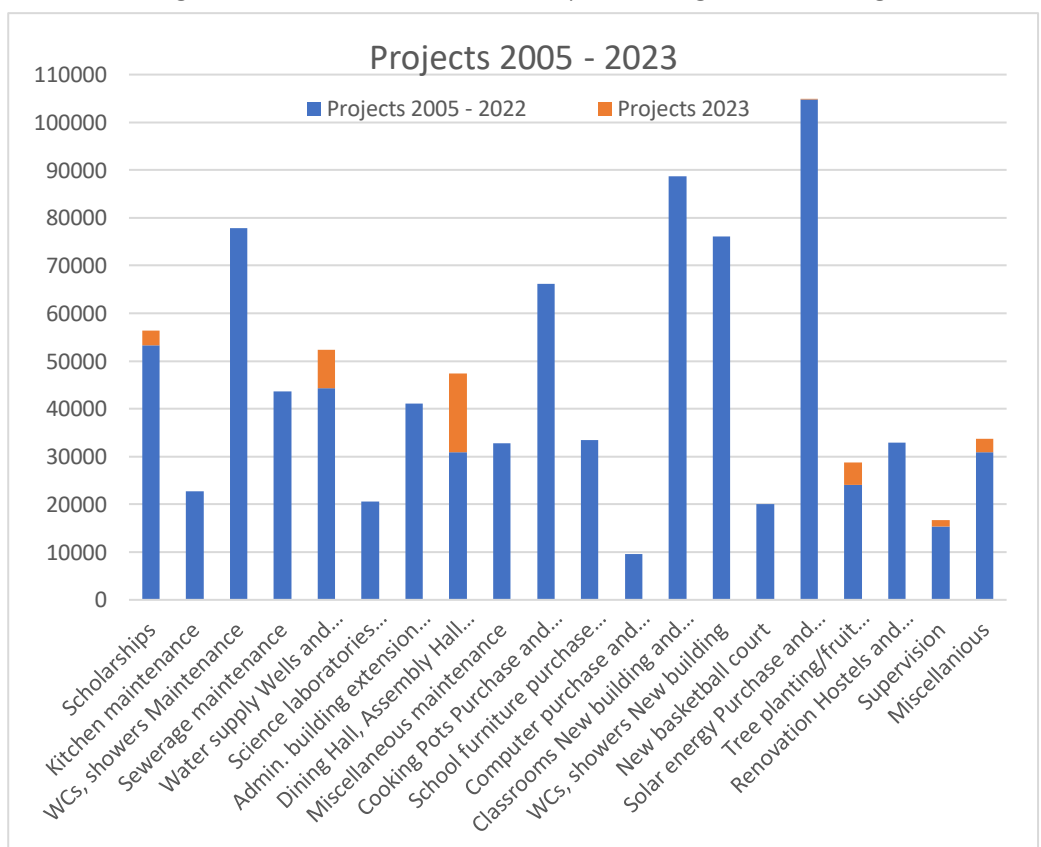
1. Introduction

On February 1, 2013, i.e. 10 years ago, the Friends Association Namwala Secondary School Zambia was founded. In November 2004, almost 20 years ago, the Stiftsschule in Einsiedeln decided to enter a partnership with Namwala Secondary School and in January 1973, 50 years ago, I held my first lesson as a teacher at the school in Namwala. For me as a math teacher, this is an interesting constellation of numbers, but even more of a reason to look back. When I see these numbers, I feel great gratitude, because what we have achieved has become possible due to the support of many people again and again. The Friends Association Namwala Secondary School Zambia grew out of the **partnership** project between Abbey School Einsiedeln and the school in Namwala. Many donations still have a direct or indirect connection to the Abbey School and the Einsiedeln Monastery. Other donations come from the Claro store in Baar, from my place of residence Baar, the church choir Hünenberg and from my circle of acquaintances.

During these years it was not only possible to repair parts of the school infrastructure, but it was also possible to set new priorities. A first impulse was **the planting of trees** on the school grounds. It started in 2006 with the planting of trees along the school's access road on the first visit of students from the Abbey School Einsiedeln. During subsequent visits, planting continued regularly across the school grounds. Most of the young trees were gifts from Lydia Maonde, former teacher at the school and wife of the first principal. A few years ago, an environmental group was formed at the school under the leadership of teacher Fred Chikwanu. The students regularly plant new trees and take care of those already planted. Last year, this work was recognized nationally when the school received an environmental award. The current school administration has strongly supported these activities since taking office 2 years ago. These activities have now become a major focus of the school's extracurricular activities and hopefully has a spillover effect on other schools.

A second focus was the **cultivation of fruit**. The start in 2010 was difficult: three times we had to improve the fence. The banana plants and orange and lemon trees didn't really want to grow for a long time until

we found a local planter as a consultant three years ago. This year we were able to harvest properly. Soon we will begin planting the orchard expansion, which is almost twice the size. The trees and plants always need to be closely monitored as there are many diseases in Zambia that spread quickly. The gardening and the tree plantings are worthwhile projects because they bring great benefits at, compared to other projects, low costs. (See picture on the right, 4th bar from the right and also p. 31).



These activities also have educational value because students play a large role in gardening and tree care. Perhaps later, when the students have long left school, they will remember these experiences.

A third renewal were the **solar power backups** built in 2010. At that time, there were very frequent power interruptions, which meant that no homework could be done in the evening. The solar system now guarantees uninterrupted homework in the evenings during power outages. All classrooms and the administration building have such a system.

As mentioned above, most of the money has been used to improve the **building infrastructure**. During the April vacations, the final work on the auditorium and the water tower will be completed. This will be followed by the dining hall. All buildings need to have their roofs replaced and floors and walls repaired. One dormitory, the administration block and the science laboratories have already been completely renovated. Two new toilet and shower facilities for the girls' department and two new blocks of three classrooms each have also been built. The school's old and new toilets and washrooms are the most vulnerable parts of the school's infrastructure and have needed constant renovation. Here too, the new school management has taken its responsibility and has taken over their maintenance including financing since last year.

The **water supply** is important for the students and for the orchard and school garden. An additional well was drilled, and the original system had to be completely renovated. A big challenge is the dilapidated water treatment plant. For technical and financial reasons, we had to postpone this project until now.

Other projects included the construction of two basketball courts, the installation of computer labs and the purchase of machines for handicraft classes. We also financed the production of school furniture. Here too the new school management took the initiative and repaired 450 desks and 150 chairs last year using its own funds.

Every year we pay the school fees for a number of students. What began with the **sponsorship** of one student by a class of the Einsiedeln Abbey School has now grown to the sponsorship of 28 students: 19 girls and 9 boys.

In the almost 20 years that we have supported the school, more than USD 1'000'000 has gone into the projects. One might wonder whether the pace at which the infrastructure is being renovated is not too slow: a large construction company could do the work much faster. Apart from the fact that so much money was never available at once and school operations would certainly have been affected during this construction work, our pace allows **local companies** to carry out the work, which benefits the people of Namwala. Because the scope of the projects is manageable, inspection is less demanding.

When it took office, the new Zambian government made improving education one of its top priorities. 30'000 teachers are now employed in schools. The construction of new primary and secondary schools has fallen behind in recent years despite rapid population growth in Zambia. Such programs have now been relaunched. However, they represent a major burden on the national budget. Renovating existing schools, some of which are nearly 60 years old, like the school in Namwala, will therefore take longer, despite the often deplorable conditions that exist in many schools. I hope that the **experience** we have gained at the school in Namwala can later be of use to other schools.

On behalf of the German foundation "Forest creates Future", our team in Namwala is also carrying out work at the **Lubanga Primary School in Namwala**. So far, this foundation has donated a new well, a water tower and a fence around the school grounds and financed the renovation of the kindergarten with new playground equipment. In recent months two new toilet buildings have been constructed. The foundation will continue supporting this school this year.

The Corona isolation ward **of Namwala District Hospital** whose renovation and furnishing was financed with contributions from our circle of supporters will be used temporarily to house the nursing staff provided by the new government once the epidemic wave has subsided. No accommodation was available in Namwala so soon.

At the end of this newsletter you will find a report about the efforts to turn the old colonial administration building (Boma) into a **museum**. Since this building has been empty for a long time, the main focus at the moment is on its restoration. Contractor Thomas Phiri has taken the lead. The initial work is being financed with the proceeds from my book on local history. There is great interest among the local population in its creation. In addition, the Namwala Museum could be an incentive for tourists who want to visit Kafue National Park to take the Namwala route, and thus the village could receive an economic boost. Kafue National Park is only 60 km away from Namwala. However, it requires crossing the Kafue Plain and this is an arduous but also adventurous journey.

Namwala is located in a remote area, 170 km from the nearest town and 450 km from the capital Lusaka, and is largely self-sufficient apart from government support for teachers' salaries and partial payment of school fees: urban schools have it somewhat easier in this respect. It is very gratifying that the **new school administration** is very committed to improving the situation. It also intends to release funds for the maintenance of the school infrastructure this year.

Although there is still a lot to do, I am very grateful for what has been achieved so far. Therefore, I would like **to thank** all donors, the team in Namwala, the new school management and the teachers at the school in Namwala as well as my colleagues in the board for their commitment and support.

For the Board



Hannes van der Weijden

2. People

The Team in Namwala, Zambia



Project supervisor
Joseph Chipindi

Contractor
Brian Chilala

Contractor
Thomas Phiri

Electrician
George Mubiana

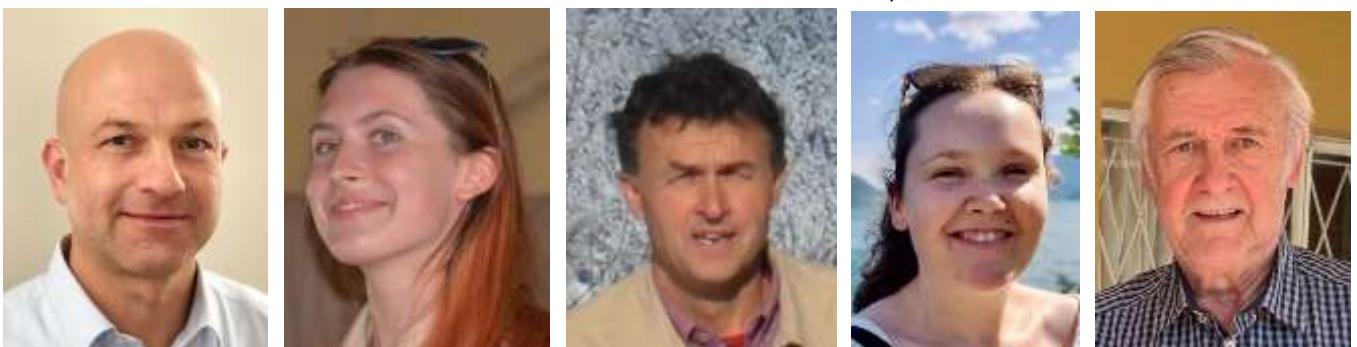
Lehrer
Joseph Mudenda

We are in contact with project supervisor Joseph Chipindi almost daily and often several times a day. The contractors Thomas Phiri and Brian Chilala take turns in looking after the construction work. Electrician George Mubiana takes care of the cooking pots in the school kitchen and the solar system. Teacher Joseph Mudenda looks after the students we support.

The new principal Likando Mande (pictured right) has now been in office for two years and since then the working atmosphere among the teaching staff has improved significantly. He stands fully behind projects such as the tree planting and the orchard. They have become a trademark of the school. In addition, he has initiated major maintenance work, which is financed from school funds and previously took place only sporadically. We are therefore very happy about this cooperation and hope that he will remain with the school and Namwala for a long time to come. I have been informed that the results of the final examination in November last year have improved significantly. Unfortunately, the comparison with the results of other schools is no longer possible because they have not been published for two years.



The board of the Friends Association Namwala Secondary School in Switzerland



Beat Oetiker

Thea Berchtold

Fredi Trütsch

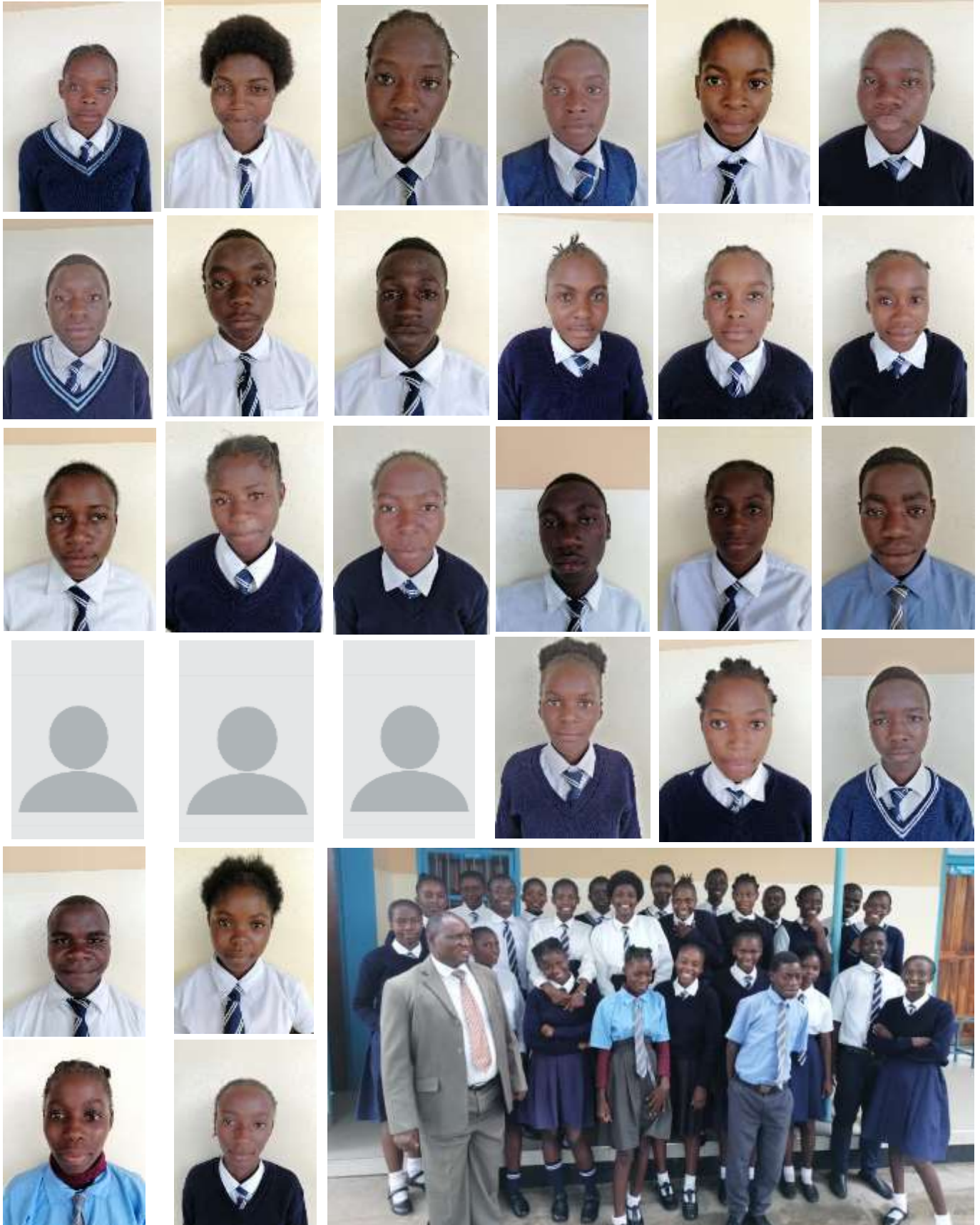
Angela Steinauer

Hannes van der Weijden

In the association board Beat Oetiker is responsible for the website and the email dispatch. Thea Berchtold and Angela Steinauer translate and edit the texts for the website, the newsletter and the annual report. Fredi Trütsch is our contact person at the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln and Hannes van der Weijden is responsible for fundraising and project management.

3. Scholarships

Every year we support pupils whose families are heavily burdened by school fees. The teacher Joseph Mudenda selects with a committee the pupils according to clearly defined criteria and is responsible for their care. This year we are supporting 19 female pupils and 9 male pupils. Girls are often still disadvantaged, hence this distribution. The school fees amount to K 3000, i.e. Fr. 145 per year. In addition, the students receive pocket money for detergents etc. (now K 150 instead of K 100, i.e. Fr.. 7 per month). Three students were not present at the time of admission.



4. Extension of the orchard

At the beginning of the rainy season the extension of the school's orchard was fenced. The area of the orchard will thus be almost three times larger. We hope that we will then be able to add fruit to the menu on a more regular basis. Farmer and consultant Dennis Mainza (middle row, left) gave instructions for planting the young trees. Contractor Thomas Phiri did the work, including two water reservoirs and gate. This project was funded with proceeds from this year's Soup Day campaign at the Einsiedeln Abbey School (see Chapter 18). Costs Fr. 4200.







Soon after the first bananas were planted. The banana plants multiply very quickly and are in large numbers in the old orchard. The new plants are simply separated from the old plants with a shovel. Farmer Dennis Mainza supplied another strong local variety.



5. Orange harvest in the orchard

The pictures on this page are from mid-January during the rainy season. The ripening process is in full swing. It will not be long before the oranges can be harvested.



At the end of January, the oranges were harvested and then distributed at lunch. Each student received two oranges. With 1500 students that makes 3000 oranges or around 600 kg. In a few weeks the mandarins, lemons and a similar number of oranges will follow. The teacher in charge, Chris Munachoonga, explained to me that he did not wait until all the oranges were completely ripe when harvesting as to not tempt potential thieves. However, green oranges are surprisingly sweet.





6. Flooding in Namwala

The rainy season was very heavy this year, especially in the Southern Province of Zambia. Large areas of land were under water. In Namwala district 18'000 of the 60'000 inhabitants were affected. Not only material damage was caused, but the just sown maize, especially in lower areas, suffered heavily from all the rain. Therefore, a poor harvest is expected this year.



7. Diseases in the orchard

Unfortunately, a month later there was a disease outbreak. The leaves of two young avocado trees withered in a very short time. On one orange tree the leaves turned yellow and brown and dark spots developed on the fruit. How different the pictures were in January! A hasty search was made for the cause. Excess water was ruled out. Pictures of the roots were submitted to experts via WhatsApp. A few days later, consultant Dennis Mainza (pictured below left) arrived from Maala. He diagnosed a bacterial disease of the roots and aphids. Based on his recommendations chemicals were purchased in Choma, 170 km away. Together with the students the roots of all trees were watered. Unfortunately, because of this treatment, we had to forego a second harvest of the same size as in January because the fruits may not be eaten for the next two months.





Teacher Chris Munachoonga is ready to pick up the chemicals in Choma. Right: In the evening the chemicals are in the school. Consumption of the fruits is only allowed again 60 days after application.



During my visit in April, I could see the success of the treatment and eat some mandarins. The fruits were successfully sold at the Namwala market because it was still school holidays.



8. The tree planting project

The local branch of ZANCO Bank donated five trees to the school. On January 23 they were planted during a small ceremony attended by the Namwala District Commissioner Mr. Shandavu, the District Education Standard Officer Mrs. Mweembe, the ZANACO branch manager Mrs. Mumba, the school principal Mr. Mande and pupils and teachers. The school's Chipembele Club is responsible for tree maintenance among other things.



9. Tree Planting with the Chipembele Club

Teacher Fred Chikwanu and his club continue unwaveringly with tree planting. Here are a few pictures from March 3, 2023. As soon as the trees are strong enough the protective cages are removed (picture above left). They will then be put back in place for new young trees as soon as possible. The bottom two pictures were taken in January when trees were planted around the administration building.



10. Visit of the Maonde Family to Namwala Secondary School

On November 25 and 26, 2022 Lydia Maonde, former teacher at Namwala Secondary School and spouse of the first principal of that school, visited her old school along with son Arthur and daughter Lily. She and her husband worked here from 1966 to 1975. Lydia comes from Baambwe, a neighbouring village of Namwala, where she still has relatives and who she visited again on this occasion. Lydia is still full of energy despite her 88 years. Among other things she raises young trees which have also been planted on the premises of the school. So far, she has donated 150 trees to the school. Lydia promised that she will continue to raise trees for the school.

Picture above left: Principal Likando Mande and Lydia with a tree donated by Lydia. Top right picture: with son Arthur Maonde and daughter Lily Maonde. Bottom row: pictures of the Maonde family's farewell to the school in 1975; Lydia and daughter Lily, late spouse Simon Maonde, and students.



11. New machine for maize processing

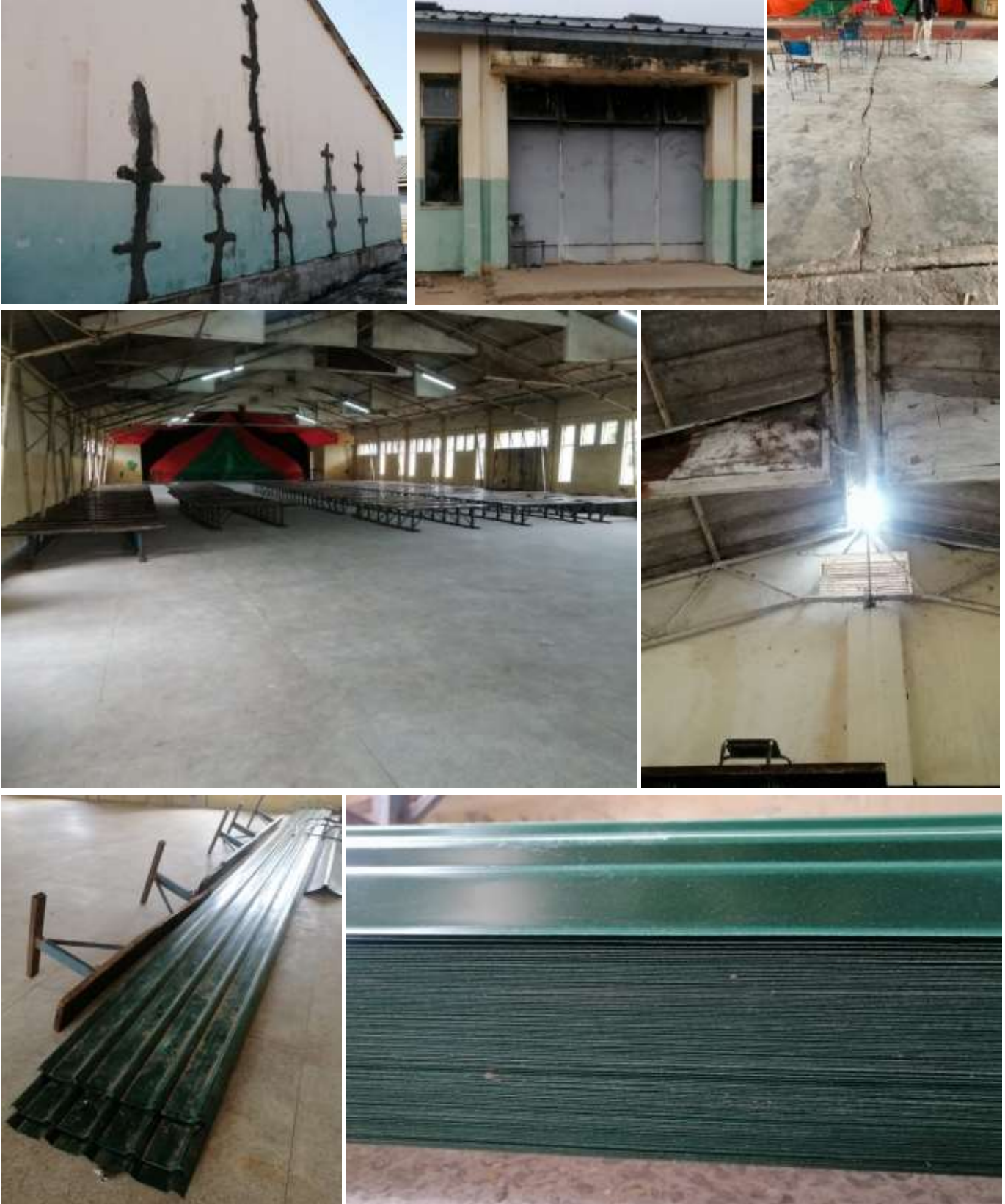
The skin of the corn kernels is removed with the so-called dehuller. In 2009 we financed the previous machine for the school. However, it has now reached the end of its service life. This time we shared the costs with the school. The machine is also used to process maize kernels for outsiders and thus brings additional income to the school. Our share Fr. 1500.



12. Preparation for the completion of the Assembly Hall

Last year we started the first phase of the renovation of the Assembly Hall. At that time the cracks in the walls and floor were repaired and the floor was covered with a layer of terrazzo (see pictures below).

In February the preparations for the second part of the work began. We would like to do this during the vacations in April in order to disrupt school operations as little as possible. This work includes replacing the roofing, painting the building and replacing the doors. Contractor Brian Chilala has already purchased the corrugated metal panels for this purpose. They have been temporarily stored in the hall. Cost Fr. 22'000. The total cost of the renovation will then be Fr. 53'000.



13. Preparation for the completion of the water tank renovation.

The repair of the tank wall of the large water reservoir last year could not be fully completed because three large gate valves still need to be replaced. Due to delivery problems of the gate valves, this work was delayed. Brian Chilala will install them during the vacations in April because it is necessary to empty the water tank and this is not possible during school operation. Cost so far Fr. 18'500. Total cost after completion will be Fr. 27'000.



14. Enrolment

The number of pupils is in the same range as last year. The numbers can still change in the course of the year.

	Number of Classes	Number of Girls	Number of Boys	Total number of pupils	Average per Class	% Girls	% Boys
Grade 8	4	81	57	138	34.5	58.7	41.3
Grade 9	4	91	81	172	43.0	52.9	47.1
Grade 10	7	184	150	334	47.7	55.1	44.9
Grade 11	7	185	142	327	46.7	56.6	43.4
Grade 12	7	173	152	325	46.4	53.2	46.8
Total	29	714	582	1296	44.7	55.1	44.9

15. The solar power backup

At the beginning of January ZESCO, the national electricity company of Zambia, announced that due to the low water level of the Kariba reservoir the electricity supply would be rationed again. Electrician George Mubiana therefore checked the functionality of the batteries and converters so that the classes could do their homework in the evening when the electricity supply was interrupted. Fortunately, all the devices were in working order. In addition, the rainy season was very extensive this year and the water level of Lake Kariba recovered faster than expected (see also chapter 6, page 17).



16. Cattle herd of the school

In March I received beautiful pictures of the school herd. I have added some pictures taken during my visit in April. The herd now consists of 130 animals and serves mainly for meat supply of the school. Milk production played a small role until now. The animals are here in the new kraal which was built two years ago. (Google image, taken during the dry season: the fine straight lines are the fence. The orchard is on the left). Here the animals spend the night while during the day they are led to the fields on the plain of the Kafue River.



17. Repair of school furniture for other schools and handcraft lessons.

Last year we bought two welding machines and a blade sawing machine for handcraft lessons and for maintenance. This equipment was subsequently used to repair school furniture. We reported on this in the 2022 annual report. This year the handcraft teachers and their students repaired 240 pieces of school furniture from elementary schools in the area. The net profit of Fr. 700 will be invested in a new wood milling machine so this work can be done in-house.



The equipment purchased last year and the year before was also used in the classroom. Handicrafts teacher Jones Chinkuli repeatedly thanks us for this support in our correspondence.



18. Soup Day at the Abbey School in Einsiedeln

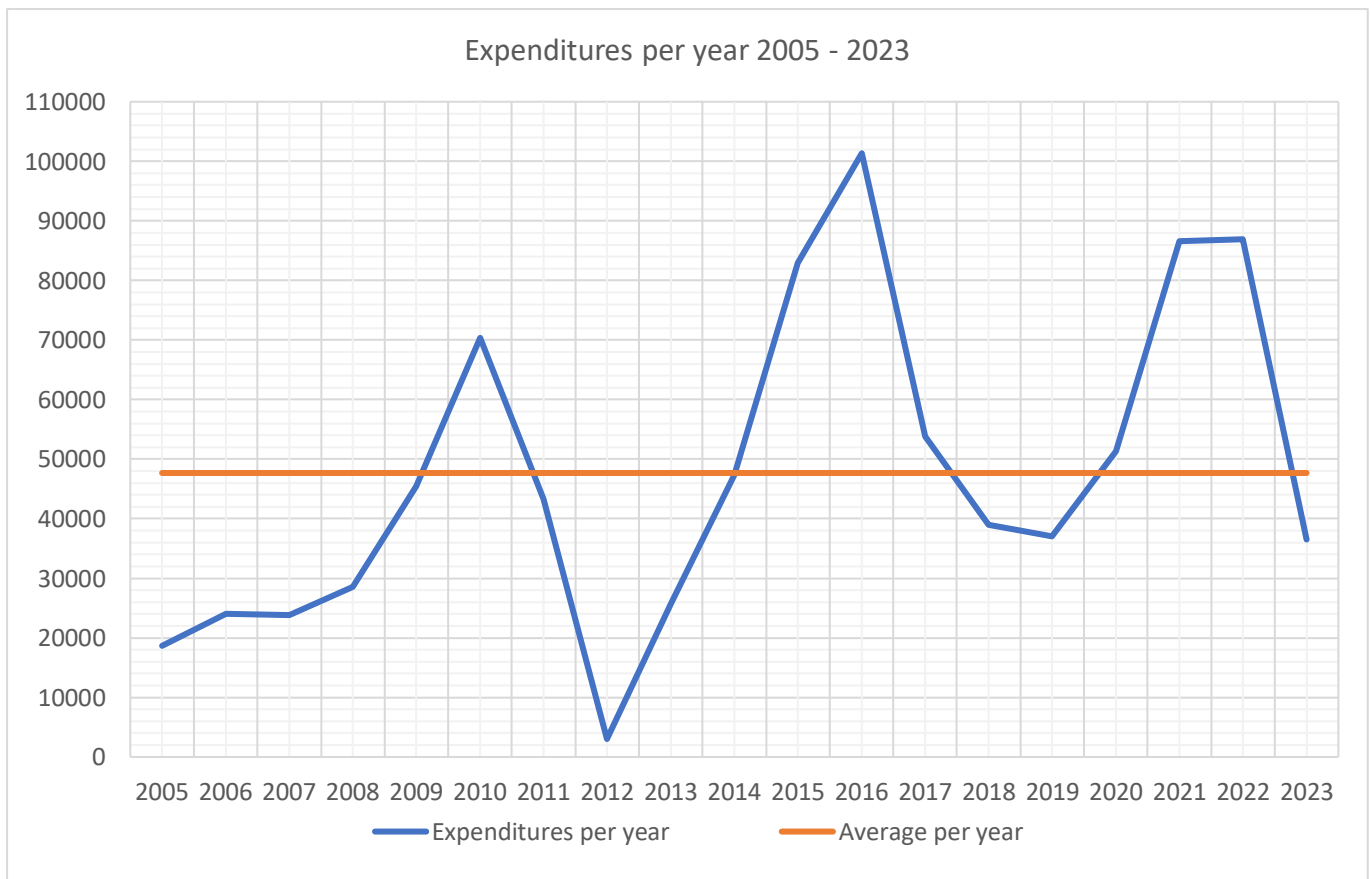
For the 9th time Father Cyrill organized the Soup Day at the Einsiedeln Abbey School during Lent for the benefit of the school in Namwala, this time for the extension of the orchard. 90% of the students participated this year. During religion class I was able to inform the students about the status of the projects in Namwala. This year's earnings were Fr. 7515!



19. Half-yearly financial report

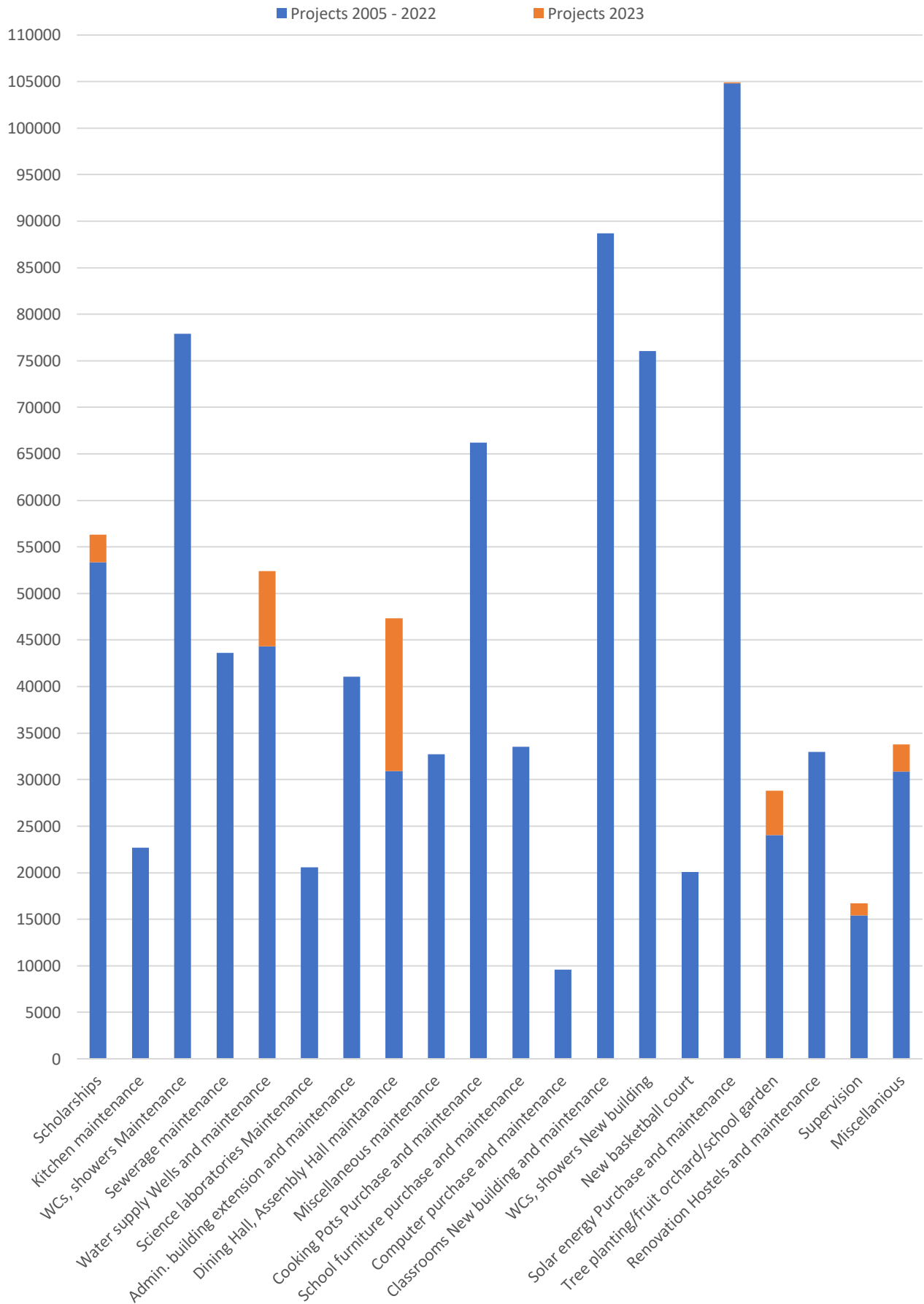
Income	P/L Statement 2022	Budget	P/L Statement 2023
	2022 (Oct-Sept)	2023 (Oct-Sept)	2023 (Oct-Mar)
Private Donations	34038.42	37000.00	27382.96
Institutional Donations	29042.75	37000.00	27515.00
Members	109.50	200.00	40.00
Total	63190.67	74200.00	54937.96
Expenditures	2022 (Oct-Sept)	2023 (Oct-Sept)	2023 (Oct-Mar)
Projects	80741.70	48000.00	33538.65
Vulnerable Pupils	6163.05	6000.00	2995.75
Administration	234.60	250.00	36.05
Profit/Loss	-23948.68	19950.00	18367.51
Total	63190.67	74200.00	54937.96

Bilanz März 2023			
Assets		Liabilities	
Bank Account	7582.25	Loans	16500.00
Accounts receivable	0.00	Sccounts payable	0.00
		Loss carried forward 2022	-27285.26
		Half year profit 2023	18368.21
Total	7582.25	Total	7582.25



Stand 31.03.2023	Total	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Vulnerable Pupils	56333			1853	2841	2396				4110	3759	4221	3585	5420	4400	3633	3539	7417	6163	2996
Repair Window panes	23533	18663												4870						
Renovation Ablution Blocks	77893		12893							13850				22050	27838	540	722			
New Basketballcourt	20068		10794	2703		6571														
Orchard/Schoolg./Tree plant.	28819		312									1827	950	846		3737	11279	3970	1124	4775
New Cooking Pots	66185			19251	9683	22357	4958	2316										4932	2678	
School Furniture	33512				13433	6802						3956	2946	1292		5083				
Maize Mill	6987					5471														1516
School Premises	9198						9198													
Solar power	104895						49878	40961				430	639		40			12847		100
Oxcart Project	5379						5379													
Supervision	16703									760			1480	920	1180	1068	2527	4165	3335	1289
First 1x3 Classroom Block	25896								7030		17493							1372		
Renovation Dormitories	32964										6716		1687	300	3380	325			20556	
Tools for Metal and Woodwork	6197										4785							300	1113	
Renovation Kitchen	22686										14482	8131	73							
New Computer Lab	9694											130	4292					3950	1222	
Second 1x3 Classroom Block	62777											62728	49							
New Ablution Block Girls	76056												62626	13430						
Sewer Lines	43597												18307	4120	2130		19039			
New Water Tower/ Borehole	16747												4742			2083	4470	5452		
Renovation old water tower	35633																8035	1022	18505	8071
Renovation Science Labs	20597															20597				
Administration Block	41081																	40589	492	
Dining Hall, Assembly Hall	47342																		30928	16414
Miscellaneous	15195				2615	1854	921		3010		160	1526		600			1751	596	790	1373
Total	905868	18663	23999	23807	28582	45452	70334	43277	3010	25750	47395	82949	101356	53848	38968	37067	51362	86611	86905	36534

Projects 2005 - 2023



20. New Projects

For the time being the repairs to the building foundations and roofs will keep us busy for a while longer. After the Assembly Hall the Dining Hall will follow. First the floor and walls will be repaired and finally the new roofing will follow. This work will continue into the next year.



In the meantime work continues on preparing the restoration of the school's water treatment plant. Tree roots have caused cracks in the concrete walls and since everything is overgrown, water no longer flows

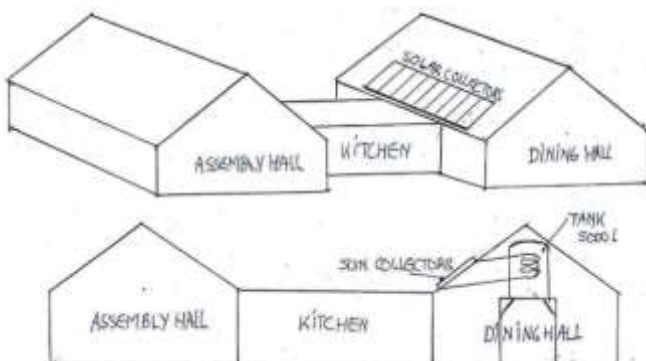
between the three basins. It is also not clear whether the old system can be repaired or whether a new system makes more sense. We are looking for experts with the appropriate knowledge who could advise us. Various enquiries have been unsuccessful so far. We are grateful for any advice.



Alte Wasserkläranlage

For years we have been trying to send used tools, workbenches and other materials for practical lessons to Namwala. These items, although sorted out, are often still in good condition. However, container transport is very expensive. We would be grateful for any information so that this transport to Zambia can still be made possible.

A solar hot water system for the kitchen could significantly reduce the electricity bill. However, the technical implementation is proving to be a lengthy process because we have not yet found the expertise for projects of this size in Zambia.



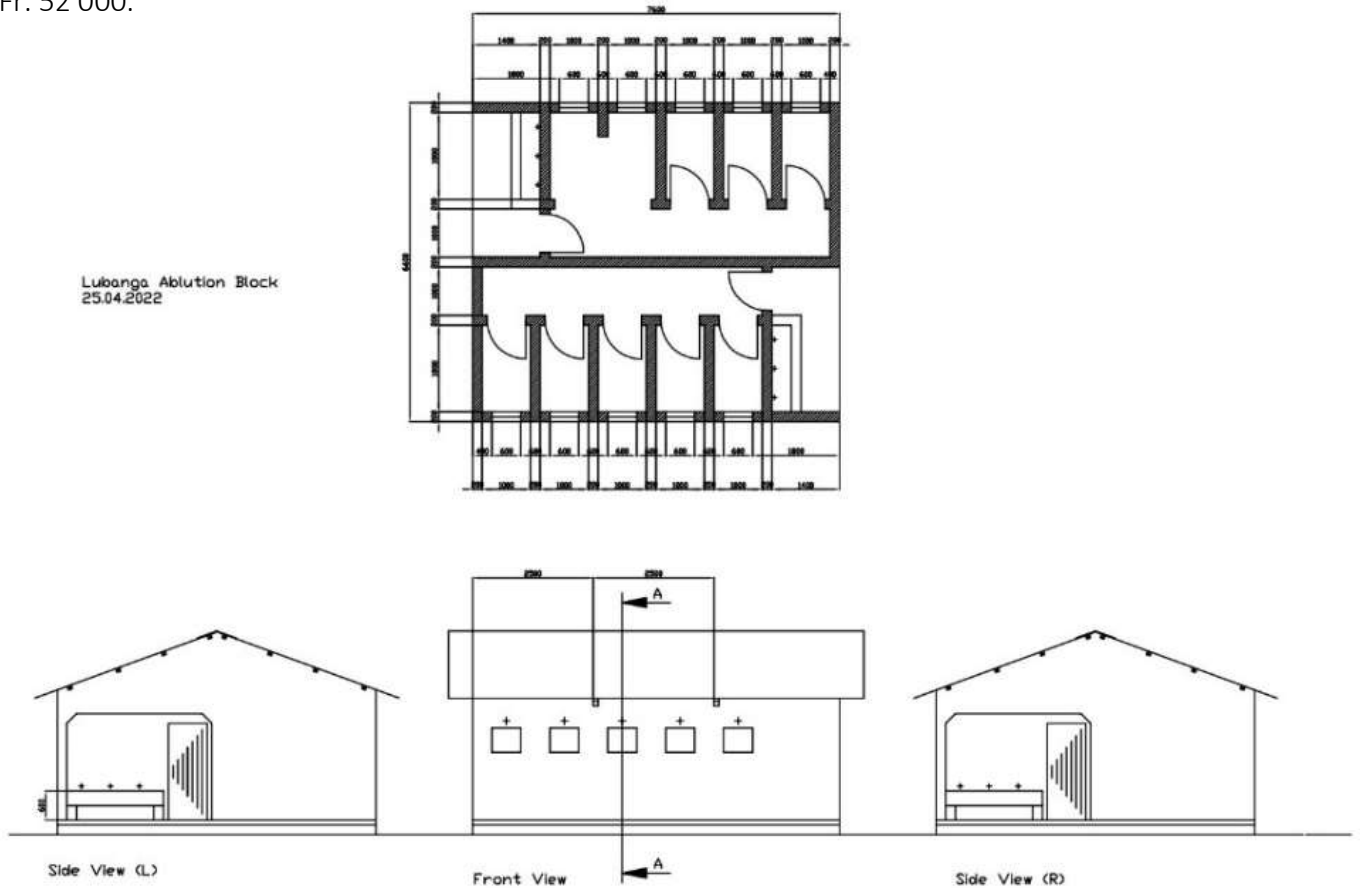
21. Visit of President Hakainde Hichilema to the school.

Chapter 6 reported on the floods caused by heavy rain. Especially the Southern Province of Zambia, including Namwala, was affected. On 5 February, the Zambian President visited the victims in Namwala. He landed at the school compound and took the opportunity to visit the school. He had his picture taken with the Chipembele Club milieu group and met the school management in the recently renovated administration building.



22. Toilets for Lubanga Primary School

The German foundation "Forest creates Future" has continued its support for the Lubanga Primary School in Namwala with the construction of two toilet buildings. The rooms are identical and contain five toilets each for the girls and three toilets and two latrines for the boys. Brian Chilala was the contractor and Joseph Chipindi was responsible for supervision. Due to the flooding caused by the heavy rains the construction work was delayed, but hopes are high that the new rooms will be available at the beginning of May. Costs Fr. 52'000.











At the top right is a picture with the team that created the terrazzo floor. In the bottom right picture the slurry hole is being prepared. Unfortunately, there were delays at the end because the grinding machine for the terrazzo floor was not available until later. I will provide the pictures of the completion in the annual report. The group picture at the end was taken during my visit after the meeting with the school management and parent representatives.



23. Namwala Museum

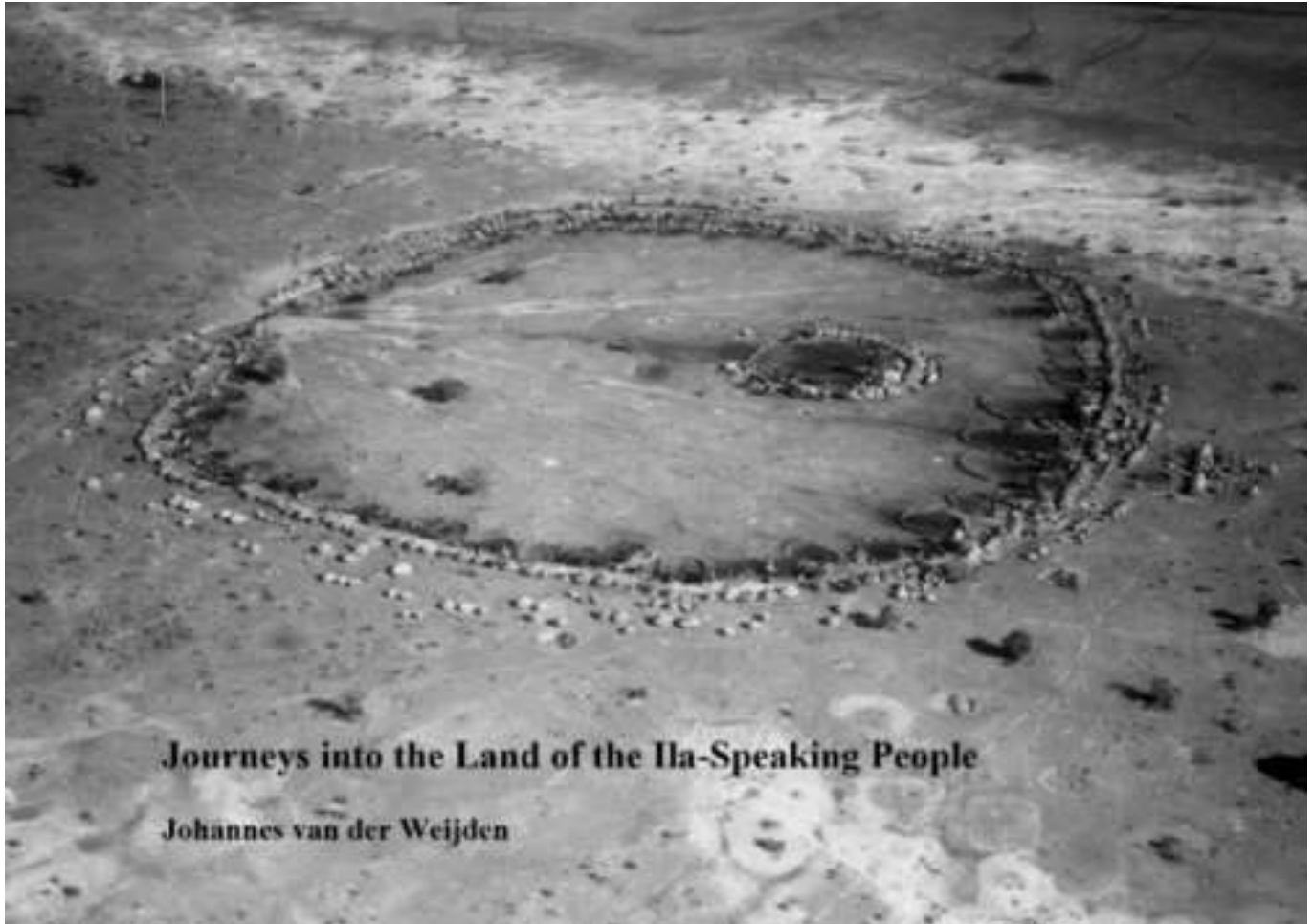
At the end of August 2022 the group around Thomas Phiri started with the first works. Specifically, some threatening branches of the surrounding trees were sawn off and some trees that had become embedded in the masonry with their roots were removed. Afterwards, the masonry was repaired. The costs of the work were financed with the proceeds from the book "Journeys into the Land of the Ila-Speaking People". The complex consists of a longer plastered building with a smaller brick building next to it.





24. Book: Journeys into the Land of the Ila-Speaking People

More than ten years ago I started work on a book about the Namwala area. I have tried to capture historical, geographical and political aspects, if possible, from direct eyewitnesses. The book is written in English and self-published in A4 landscape format. It contains 152 pages of text and 104 pages of pictures. The price is Fr. 50, including Fr. 22 printing costs. All proceeds go to the initiative to found a museum in Namwala. It is also available in Zambia. The first edition of 100 copies is now out of stock. The second extended edition is in preparation.



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