

Review 2018 Outlook 2019

1. Introduction

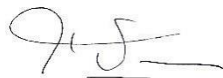
At the beginning of this year our focus was directed towards the financing of the renovation of the boys' ablution blocks as well as refunding portions of the loans with which we have financed the extension and renovation of the girls' ablution blocks. For various reasons, those plans had to be changed. In March, I received a message that during this year's revision irregularities were found in the bookkeeping of the school. When I visited the school in June, I was made aware of its extent: during the last 8 years 5 % of the school fees has been misused. The two accountants involved were immediately suspended and are now awaiting their court case. On the one hand it showed that we are right in paying contractors and suppliers directly instead of through the school. On the other hand, without this incident, the school itself would have had the financial means to react in emergency situations and we would not have had to jump in so often. The second reason has been the changeover of the school administration from Mr. Robinson Mulamfu to Mr. Charles Simaambo. Since this changeover the school administration has been attempting to influence and interfere with the supervision, the suppliers, as well as the contractors of our projects. In the 14 years that we have supported the school, this is the fifth changeover of a head teacher. During all this time, the project management of the renovations in the school has remained under our control. A change of the school management should not go along with a change of the project management. In the past years, we always had a good rapport with and great cooperation from the people on the ground in Namwala and we want to keep it that way in the future.

During my visit in June, I had the opportunity to discuss these two unpleasant issues with the local authorities and supervisory bodies namely the Educational Board and the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA). They share our concerns and have assured us of their full support. After my return from Zambia, I wrote to Mr. Simaambo and asked him how the administration wants to avoid financial misuse at the school. I also raised my concerns about his interference in the management of the projects. Unfortunately, until now I have never received an answer. We did receive a letter from the District Commissioner (DC) who wrote us on behalf of the local authorities. She emphasizes the importance of our work for the school. She supports our project management and has assured us that corruption at the school will be dealt with accordingly. We have received similar reactions from the local (DEBS) and provincial educational officer (PEO). We also have been informed that the former head teacher, Mr. Mulamfu, has been suspended at his new school in Maamba since he has been held responsible for the financial irregularities that mainly took place during his period of office at the Namwala Secondary School.

At the Stiftsschule in Einsiedeln a sponsored walk was held for the school in Namwala. This was organized by four pupils who visited Namwala in 2016, even though they were in the middle of their final exam! This was a big success. Thanks to the new contributions which were received after the sponsored walk and our newsletter of May, a decision was made, encouraged by the local authorities and the PTA and despite the ideas of the school administration, to start, in July, with the renovation of the boys' ablution blocks. Just before the beginning of the third trimester, the renovated ablution blocks were opened for the pupils. The local authorities and the PTA showed again their appreciation by their presence at the official handover of the buildings on the 14th of November.

Although there is still a lot to mention like, the journey of the pupils of the Stiftsschule to Namwala in July, I rather prefer to end the introduction here but not without thanking everybody for their, in many cases, long time support. I also thank my colleagues on the board who help with the work of the Association. And finally: if one realizes, that we are trying to improve the daily life at a school of 2,000 juveniles, then, I think, that the challenges we meet don't look that big anymore. In Zambia I hear often that the infrastructure of the school in Namwala, compared with other schools, is of a substantial higher standard.

For the board of Namwalafriends



Johannes van der Weijden, Baar 17.11.2018



2. Topics

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3. People



Project Supervisor on the Spot
Joseph Chipindi



Contractor
Thomas Phiri



Contractor and
Mechanic Brian Chilala



Supplier from Choma
Jonathan Zuhuli



Electrician
George Mubiana



Mechanic
Christopher Mukuwa



In Charge of Schoolfees
Joseph Mudenda

Association Board



Beat Oetiker



Thea Berchtold



Fredi Trütsch



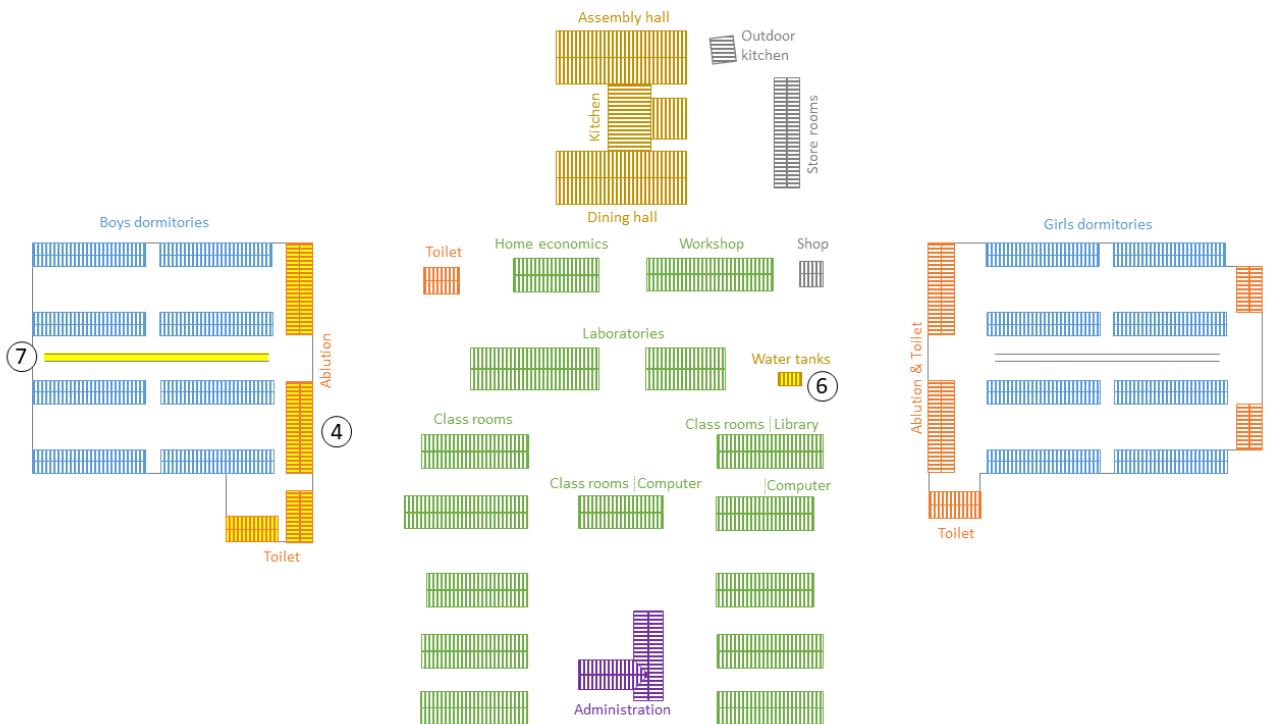
Rahel Fröbel



Hannes van der Weijden

4. Renovation of the Ablution Blocks of the Boys' Section

This year's main goal was the urgent needed renovation of the ablution blocks of the boys' section. This became even more urgent because of the cholera outbreak at the end of 2017. At the start of the new year in January 2018, all schools in the country were inspected by officers of the ministry. Due to many defects in the sanitary installations, more than 300 universities and schools (many of them boarding schools) were temporarily closed. The Namwala Secondary School was also visited by inspectors. Fortunately, thanks to the renovations of the kitchen three years ago, the renovation of the old ablution block, as well as the addition of two new ablution blocks in the girls' section, the Namwala school did not have to close. Because of a financial bottleneck, the renovation of the ablution blocks of the boys' section was limited, provisionally, to the replacement of 21 toilet pans. But the school was able to remain open. As a result of the sponsored walk at the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln, the total renovation of the boys' section was started at the beginning of July. The project involved two bigger and two smaller blocks (picture ④): the orange buildings indicated at the left wing of the school premises). The total costs were \$ 27,000.



Arrival of the building materials



Supplier Jonazu transports the materials free to Namwala (170 km up and 170 km down)

Contractor Thomas Phiri was able to finish the renovation in time, just before the return of the pupils for the third term.







On the 14th of November the renovated buildings were officially handed over to the school in presence of the Deputy District Commissioner and other local authorities.



5. Repair of Beds and Ablution Entrance

Christopher Mukuwa, the oldest son of the late first supervisor of our projects in Namwala, has finished his training as mechanic. This year, he took on several jobs at the school such as the repair of 70 beds, welding work at the boys' ablution, as well as the repair of the handles of the windows in the classrooms and dormitories. It is important that handles function well in order to prevent damages when the December storms come back.



6. Repair of the Third Water Tank ⑥

Unfortunately, cracks were discovered in one of the water tanks which were only installed two years ago (the tank on the left). Initially, it was thought that a new tank had to be bought and regretted not to have invested in a tank of a better quality.

Luckily, supervisor Joseph Chipindi found somebody who could repair the tank. During the August holidays the job was done, just before the return of the pupils.



7. New Wash Lines ⑦

A year after the installation of the frames for the wash lines at the girls' section, wash lines were installed at the boys' section so that the boys are now able to dry their clothes on wash lines as well. Up till now, they used bushes or walls or laid their clothes in the grass to dry. Brian Chilala made the frames and caretaker Jericho Muchindu installed the wires.



8. Repair of Cooking Pots and solar Systems

George Mubiana, electrician and former caretaker of the school, has been working as a driver at the neighbouring hospital for three years now. But he is still prepared to come to the school when the cooking pots or the solar systems need to be repaired.

During the time that he was employed at the school, George took a course at Suntech company in Lusaka, the supplier of the power backup system, so that he can do the maintenance on the system when and if required. This has been a very worthwhile investment!



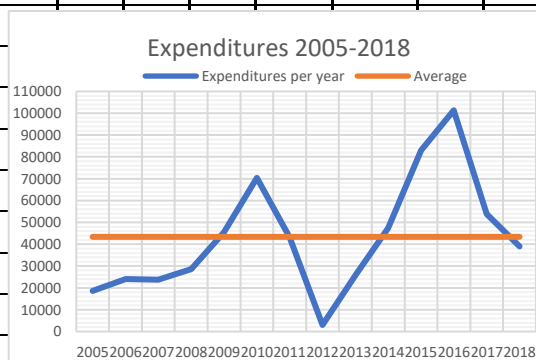
9. Sponsored Walk

On 25th of May, during the sports day at the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln, a sponsored walk was held in favour of the Namwala Secondary School. The walk was organized by Elise van der Kammen, Laura Fürst, Laura Harms und Seraina Muntwyler, four pupils who visited the school in Namwala two years ago. Although they were in the middle of their final exams, they did not want to leave their school before doing something for the benefit of the school in Namwala. They were supported by Silvia Brunner, the physical education teacher. It was a wonderful event and thanks to the 120 pupils who ran for the project, an amount of \$ 12,000 was collected. The money was used for the renovation of the ablution blocks of the boys' boarding section of the school in Namwala.



10. The Projects since 2005

Stand 30.09.2018 In US Dollars	Total	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Schoolfees vulnerable pupils	32585			1853	2841	2396				4110	3759	4221	3585	5420	4400
Repairs windowpanes	23533	18663												4870	
Renovation ablution blocks	76631		12893							13850				22050	27838
New Basketball courts	20068		10794	2703		6571									
8 new Cooking pots	58575			19251	9693	22357	4958	2316							
School furniture	28429				13433	6802						3956	2946	1292	
Grinding mill, dehuller	5471					5471									
School premises	9198						9198								
Power backup system	91948						49878	40961				430	639		40
Oxcarts project	5379						5379								
Orchard	3623											1827	950	846	
First new 1x3 Classroom block	24523									7030	17493				
Renovation Dormitories	12243										6716		1687	300	3540
Tools for wood- and metal work teaching	4785										4785				
Renovation of Kitchen	22686										14482	8131	73		
New Computer lab	4422											130	4292		
Second new 1x3 classroom block	62777											62728	49		
2 new ablution blocks for girls section	77516												64086	13430	
New sewer lines	25477												18307	5040	2130
New water tower	4742												4742		
Divers	12778		312		2615	1854	921		3010	760	160	1526		600	1020
Total	607390	18663	23999	23807	28582	45452	70334	43277	3010	25750	47395	82949	101356	53848	38968



11. About the Financing of Namwalafriends

A comparison of the budget numbers of 2018 with the actual amounts spent at year end shows us that only a few expectations were not fulfilled. Our requests for support of foundations have, up till now, not been successful. The "Aktion für Afrika" in Cham did not take place this year: participation would have meant a nice amount for our association.

But other sources have been found. Thanks to the pupils who joined the journey to Zambia in 2016, a sponsored walk took place at the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln. In addition, we received various substantial amounts from our own support circle after the distribution of our newsletter in May 2018. With these donations, we decided to start with the total renovation of the ablution blocks of the boys' section. Unfortunately, the donations were not enough for the complete repayment of this year's planned portion of the loan. The remainder has been moved to next year. The request for donations to the foundations has to be rewritten since the boys' ablution blocks have now been completed and the request should be focussed on the next project.

Finally, we would like to mention the excellent cooperation with the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln. The school, the abbey and its environment, have this year again contributed more than \$ 20,000. It is quite clear that the majority of the donors reaches us via the Stiftsschule or the abbey. Furthermore, it was also a great pleasure for us to accompany the 14 pupils of the Stiftsschule on their journey to Namwala as a sign of the partnership between the two schools.

12. Advertising

The activities of the association were published three times this year: in the "Zuger Presse-Zugerbieter" in Baar on 7th of March, in the "Einsiedler Nachrichten" on 17th of April and in the July number of "Salve", the 3-monthly magazine of the Abbey of Einsiedeln.

13. Stiftsschulreise nach Namwala

Many pupils turned up in October 2017 at the information session about the Zambia journey of July 2018. 14 Pupils were selected which is the maximum number of pupils (limited by the number of seats in the two cars) for this journey. This was the biggest group of the five groups which travelled to Zambia up till now. Fortunately, we found two teachers, namely Bernadette Boggia and Reka Jäggi, who were prepared to accompany us. Between the 8th and 31st of July we visited the Victoria Falls in Livingstone, stayed one and a half week at the school in Namwala, where we, amongst other projects, planted trees (see section 14) and travelled through the Kafue National Park. I want to extend my compliments to the entire group for their openness to new experiences. The long distances and the waiting periods never spoiled their good mood.



14. Tree Planting

During the visit of the group from the Stiftsschule Einsiedeln, 45 trees were planted on the premises of the Namwala Secondary School. Deputy teacher Sylvia Muyembe explained in her speech the importance of tree planting in Zambia. Since that time, contractor Thomas Phiri has installed a tap for the watering of the trees near the planting site. During the holidays a few pupils of Namwala stayed behind to water the young trees.



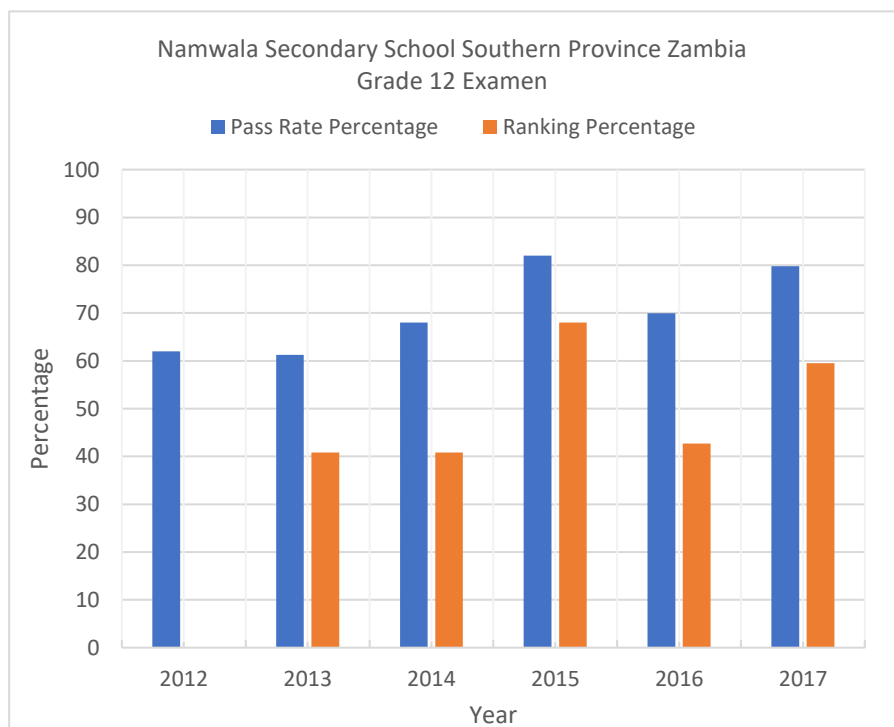
15. School Fees

Each year we support up till 10 pupils by paying their school fees and pocket money. On the right of the picture one sees teacher Joseph Mudenda. He is in charge of the care of these pupils. He calls them every month together to distribute the pocket money as can be seen on the picture below.



16. Results of the Grade 12 exam

The results of the Grade 12 exam, which were written in November 2017, were published on the 19th of January. This year's results of the candidates of the Namwala Secondary School are better than the results of last year and are comparable with the excellent results of 2015. The «Ranking Percentage» indicates the Position amongst the schools in Southern Province in percentages (Example 2017: Position 59 of 100, with 0 as the worst and 100 as the best position). Source: Ministry of Education, Lusaka, Zambia.



17. Patrick Muma

Patrick Muma, District Educational Board Secretary (Debs) from June 2012 till May 2015, has obtained his Ph D at the University of Zambia in Lusaka with his thesis "Tradition and Education for all among the Baila people of Namwala in Southern Province, Zambia". He started this project during the time that he stayed in Namwala. One can find his thesis on our website under: <https://www.namwalafriends.org/en/thesis-patrick-chota-muma-2018/>



18. New Projects

In March, our supervisor Joseph Chipindi reported that there are cracks in the roof and the walls of the physics lab: ants have undermined the walls which has made them unstable. It is important to repair the lab before the rainy season starts in order to prevent consequential costs. Costs \pm \$ 20,000. The sewer ponds have never been maintained since the founding of the school in 1966. Its repair will be a big challenge. At the moment we are collecting quotes. Costs \pm \$ 40,000.

The rising electricity costs have led to a more intensive use of the outdoor kitchen with its wooden stoves. A solar geyser for the kitchen would be a big financial relief. The technical realization is a problem since we have not yet found the necessary expertise for a project of this size.

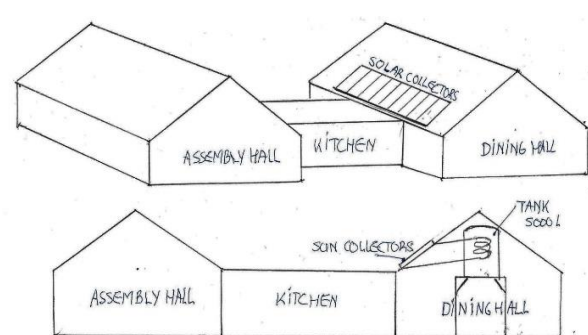
The big water tower, built in 1975, needs an overhaul. After the renovation of the pupils' toilets the teachers' toilets still need to be done. And in dormitories there is a big shortage of mattresses.



The physics lab



The sewer ponds



Solar panels on the roof of the dining hall



The water tower in 1975 and now

19. Ila Museum

The efforts to establish an Ila Museum in Namwala have received new impulses. Chief Mukobela (picture below) has submitted a request to provide the old Boma, the former administration building of the colonial authorities in the Namwala District and one of the few historical buildings in Namwala, for a museum. The two pictures below show that the tooth of time gnaws rather violently on the building. (left 2010, right 2018)



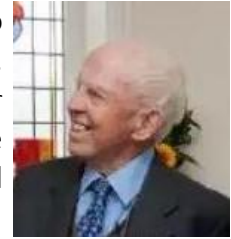
20. Visitors to the School

Besides us, the school entertained three more times visitors from abroad this year. Kate and Steinar Tjomlid from Norway visited the school on the 24th and 25th of March. Both were teachers in Namwala from 1969 till 1971 (left picture). On the 24th and 25th of May, Patricia Ellsworth (middle picture- on the right, teacher in Namwala from 1969 till 1971), and Shelly O'Callaghan (middle picture on the left, teacher from 1970 till 1972) also visited the school together with Lydia Maonde, wife of the first Zambian head teacher of Namwala (middle picture in the middle, teacher in Namwala from 1966 till 1975). Patricia and Shelly are Canadians who founded, together with the Maonde family, the Twitti Primary School in Lilayi, Lusaka. Prof. Tobias Haller, director of the Institute of Social Anthropology of the University of Bern, visited Namwala with a group of 12 students on 8th and 9th of July (right picture, second from the left). From 2002 till 2008 he did research in the Kafue wetlands, the lifeline of the Namwala district. This work is described in his book, "The Contested Floodplain". One of his students is interested in the Ila Museum project.



21. Dennis Fowler

Reverend Dennis Fowler, missionary for the primitive Methodist Church, who worked from 1958 till 1966 with his wife Ena in Kasenga in the Namwala District, died on 26th of June in Eastbourne, England. He has done amongst others a lot for the conservation of the Ila culture and their traditional malaria therapies. He obtained in 2015 the MBE for his work. An obituary was published in The Times and can be found on our website. Dennis became 89 years old.



22. Cray fish in Zambian waters.

Finally, a short story on ecology. During our visit in Namwala we met Max Bussler, a young man from Germany. Max is born in Zambia; his father comes from Germany and his mother from the Namwala district. After his education in Europe Max returned to Zambia to work on a very interesting project. In the Southern part of Africa, the fish population is threatened by the crayfish which was imported from Australia. The cray fish is spreading itself very rapidly in the Kafue river and is a menace to the native fish population which is an important local food source. In Namwala, cray fish is totally unknown as a possible food source. The locals just throw them back in the Kafue.

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-aquaculture-is-threatening-the-native-fish-species-of-africa>

Max (middle picture) works now with a few local fishermen. Cray fish are now caught with special traps and sold to restaurants in Lusaka. Max hopes to export them as well. In this way he hopes to reach two targets. First of all, to show the local people the nutritional and financial value of the cray fish, and secondly to counteract the menace of the fish population. During our visit, Max invited our group for a cray fish braai and we really enjoyed this delicacy.

Contact address: max.bussler@gmail.com



Contact and account details

Friends Association Namwala Secondary School Zambia

Bahnmat 21

6340 Baar

Switzerland

Tel.: 004141 761 24 09

004179 893 71 78

Schwyzer Kantonalbank

6431 Schwyz

Konto 60-1-5

IBAN CH85 0077 7008 3469 8001 8

info@namwalafriends.org

www.namwalafriends.org

www.facebook.com/namwalafriends/