



KUNE ZUVA NEWSLETTER

2021 / 2022 #23

The Foundation

Kune Zuva means 'the sun shines'. The goal of the foundation is to let the sun shine by giving people in Africa opportunities in life. Kune Zuva has been doing this for more than 20 years by setting up, guiding and financing small-scale projects. The Foundation also supports people on an individual basis.

Projects are currently underway in Tanzania, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The resources

The result of the Christmas newsletter 2020 was €7,472. In addition to private individuals, there are schools, other foundations and organisations that support us. This allowed us to spend more than €50,000 on meaningful projects. A great result, thank you very much!

Looking back

In Malawi, a rural kindergarten has been refurbished and the children are now taught by a qualified teacher. The next step is to tidy up the vegetable garden, which will also provide nutritious meals.

Introducing...

Esther, project manager ECC, Tanzania

In the newsletter of 2005 we already introduced you to Esther. At the time, she was a high school student who ran away from home to avoid an arranged marriage. With the help of her grandmother, she managed to hide, then successfully completed her studies with the support of Kune Zuva and a part-time job. Ever since we got to know her in 2004, her mission has been to help the girls and young women of her own Maasai culture. She is currently committed to preventing forced marriage and female genital mutilation. To this end, she set up the Every Child Counts (ECC) foundation last year together with two others. They provide training, take in vulnerable girls and advise village elders, parents, girls and boys about women's rights and opportunities.

As a foundation, we are closely involved in Esther's work and support her where possible, financially of course, but also by acting as a sounding board.

Two orphan boys and four orphan girls have graduated in Kenya. Two now teach special needs education. Additionally, we support various students in different countries who cannot finish secondary school without our help.

In Ethiopia we were able to renovate a rural hospital for the poorest of the poor. This was achieved with the help of another medically oriented foundation. Sanitation has been restored, vaccines can now be kept refrigerated and an oxygen device is available.

In addition, seven young women have graduated in Ethiopia and some are already working, but the imminent war situation is currently making it difficult to find work and study their progress.

It is striking that this year again, 3 of our former students completed a master's degree under their own steam, in combination with their job.

Extensive background information about our projects can be found at our website www.kunezuva.nl and with recent updates on Facebook and LinkedIn (Dutch).

Stop female circumcision and child marriage, Maasai, Tanzania

The transition from girl to woman took place in nomadic groups in East Africa according to an ancient four-day ritual. The girls were beautifully dressed and blessed with milk and water by the tribal elders. Afterwards, the girls walked through an arch of honour, with which the community welcomed them as women. However, there was one part that is significantly less beautiful and very dangerous: female circumcision.

Dangers of female circumcision

Circumcision causes a lot of pain. In addition, there are serious medical consequences. For example, the risk of infections and bleeding is high and the girls have difficulties with urination. In the long term, there are risks such as infertility, urinary tract infections, cysts and extremely difficult and painful deliveries, sometimes fatal. Of course, circumcision also limits women's sexual pleasure and thus their right to safe and healthy sex.

Forbidden

All over the world FGM (female genital mutilation) is considered an intolerable violation of women's rights and is therefore illegal in many countries. Nevertheless, more than 92 million women in Africa have been circumcised because men from nomadic communities would not want to marry an uncircumcised partner. That is why informing girls and influencing the perception of young men are serious points of attention.

How things stand today

Genital mutilation is now illegal in most African countries. Also, according to the law, marriage is not allowed until the age of 18. But many girls are not aware of either of these things. As a result, circumcision is still performed in secret and often at a very young age. In addition, parents force their daughters to sleep with the man they were promised shortly after primary school.

The goal: a pregnancy. Parents thus deprive their daughters of the opportunity to continue their education and build a future independently.

Every Child Counts (ECC) foundation is working hard to inform not only girls, but also boys, parents and village elders about the rights of girls within the nomadic community and the changing future perspective. Because the ECC team itself comes from this region, speaks the language and knows the customs, it is easier to start a conversation with the village elders and convince them of the dangers of female circumcision and the rights of girls to control their own bodies and lives.

Pupils participate through school in a three-day workshop on self-awareness, sex and human rights. Attention is also paid to the importance of education. As part of these workshops, students are asked to submit a note with topics they would like to hear more about on the last day. They may also submit a "secret" question, something that concerns them, or that they are afraid of. These questions often concern forced marriage or forced pregnancy. The team will discuss this one on one and, together with those involved, will look for a solution, ranging from talking to parents to offering housing or (vocational) training.

Foundation Kune Zuva

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Christmas wish from Kune Zuva

As you can see, Kune Zuva keeps supporting marginalized people in Africa. Kune Zuva works hard to continue the support of the various projects. The focus is on all phases of education, from kindergarten to university, for the less fortunate people in society. Most of these projects will extend into future years. In this respect, your financial support is essential to us and will be gratefully received.

Also this year we are sending our newsletter with our Merry Christmas greetings. We sincerely hope you are willing to support our Foundation with a donation via IBAN NL89 INGB 000 5837915 – Swift/ BIC Code INGBNL2A of Foundation Kune Zuva, Tolsedijk 10, 4681 SV Nieuw Vossemeer, The Netherlands. By supporting our Foundation, you are not just wishing us a happy 2022, but you will let the sun shine for people in Africa, and provide them with the key to a successful future. Thank you in advance, and thank you also from our friends in Africa!

Loving Christmas and a Sunny and Healthy 2022!