

INFOGLOBE

Dialogue Forum for GAA and Partners

November 2004

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Greetings from our new premises! We had a hard time moving, and till late at night you could see colleagues installing computers and telephones so that we could function after the move. It took a while till really everything was ready, but finally we could happily celebrate the inauguration of GAA's new building. The German Minister for Economic Development and Cooperation, Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul, attended the inauguration and complimented us on the good projects which she has seen or heard about during her visits. We are very glad now that we have considerably more space than before – let me tell you, by the time we reach the

printer or the cafeteria, we have nearly done a marathon!

We are presently in our busiest phase of the year. Traditionally starting with the "GAA Week" at the end of September, there are many fundraising activities, public events, and press conferences, and these keep us busy till Christmas. You will read about some of these activities in this issue of InfoGlobe.

Annette Benad

Internal Communications

Contact: annette.benad@dwvh.de

NEWS TICKER

+++ **Violence in Sudan prevailing**+ GAA's Chairlady, Ms. Schäuble, visited our projects in North Darfour, and in the Nuba Mountains. After her trip Mrs. Schäuble reported her impressions, which moved her greatly, and gave a run-down of the results, quite positive for our work, not only in a press conference but also during a GAA Staff Assembly, and at the September Board Meeting. At present, new acts of violence are reported from South Darfour. GAA emergency aid activities in Sudan are still continued.

+++**Roses for Afghanistan**+ 40,000 seedlings of roses arrived in Afghanistan. They will be planted in a GAA-pilot project in order to examine whether the

production of rose oil could be an alternative to planting poppy seeds. +

+++**Haiti**+ On 18th September the hurricane "Jeanne" has flooded the town Gonaive and the surrounding rural areas vastly. More than 1,000 people were killed and another 1,000 were reported missing. Estimates are that around 300,000 people have lost all their belongings, including shelter. Immediate relief was provided by delivering cooking utensils for 500 families in the community of Ennery. Rehabilitation activities were started in the fields of water supply, agriculture and road construction. +

+++Alliance2015- Regional meetings in Bolivia and Ethiopia+ The partners of the European network “Alliance2015” will meet in Bolivia and Ethiopia in November to examine possible regional project co-operation. This is the second meeting of this type for both regions. +

+++Rome: Governments recognize “Right to Adequate Food”+ Good news from Rome: Nations of the world decided to recognize the world-wide right to adequate food. That is what they wrote in the (voluntary) guidelines of the World Food Organization FAO. After two years of negotiations, on the evening of 23rd September 2004 the FAO Committee for the insurance of the world nutrition has passed voluntary guidelines. According to them the governments of all nations are responsible to see to it that their population is not suffering from hunger. Part of the 19 rules stipulated therein, among other things, are the following requirements to the governments: the population must be involved in programmes to fight poverty, the government must interfere if the economy is failing, access to natural resources, the request for land reforms and food aid regulations must be given. +

+++Riots in Liberia+ Liberia was shaken by the heaviest riots since the armistice of 18th August. On 28th October marauding youngsters set houses, churches, mosques and petrol stations in the capitol Monrovia on fire. On the morning of 29th October soldiers of the UN peace troop could prevent that the GAA office in Monrovia was plundered. GAA is working in Liberia since 2003. GAA activities are the resettlement of refugees, agricultural consulting, organization of the distribution of food in schools, and commitment in peace education of children and youngsters. +

+++ Cotton Seed Report: child labour on cottonseed farms in India continues

According to a new study by Davaluri Venkateswarlu “Child Labour in Hybrid Cottonseed Production in Andhra Pradesh: Recent Developments“ an estimated 12,375 children are still working on cottonseed farms in Andhra Pradesh/ India producing for multinational companies (MNC’s) like Bayer CropScience. In addition, more than 70,000 children are working for Indian seed companies under similar circumstances. Children are working long hours, do not go to school, and are often bonded to the employers by loans. A number of children have died or became seriously ill due to exposure to pesticide.

Promises which were made by companies last year to eradicate child labour in the sector have not translated into solid actions. GAA has decided to follow-up on the role of German Bayer CropScience, requesting the immediate implementation of a plan of action to eliminate all child labour. +

+++’Out of work into school’ - Conference in Hyderabad, India+ From November 2 - 5, MV-Foundation invited to an international conference on the subject: “Out of Work into School - Children’s Right to Education as a Non-Negotiable”. Around 4000 participants attended the conference, among them the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and – last but not least- GAA-partners from Brazil and from Zimbabwe. The results will appear soon on our English website (www.welthungerhilfe.de/ English or <http://www.germanagroaction.org/>).

+++ And last but not least: the weather report + Autumn has come. After an unusual warm October, now in November the leaves are falling, it is gradually becoming colder and rain is falling. Daylight-saving time ended at the end of October, meaning that it is already dark when we leave the office. You can feel winter is waiting to come! It is difficult not to catch the common German Autumn Depression. Labour cost of German workers is too high, so the radio news tells us every day. Volkswagen will move some factories to Eastern Europe, General

Motors to Asia, Mercedes Benz' new sales figures are down as well. We must work more, our politicians tell us. Everyday they come up with another idea how to make us work more hours. The latest idea was to celebrate our National Day (German reunification on October 3rd) on a Sunday – but today the idea was rejected. Surely, tomorrow another idea will pop up. However, this is all irrelevant for GAA: GAA staff is already working day and night! (This is for information of our Secretary General, just in case he is also brooding about ideas how to prolong our working time...). +

NEWS FROM DWHH/GAA

“GAA Week“ in Hamburg, 24.09.-03.10.04

This year's "GAA Week" was officially inaugurated in the City Hall of Hamburg on 24th of September. The main concern of the partnership with the city of Hamburg was to support water projects in Mali, India and Cuba. Therefore, during this "GAA week" there were numerous activities in Hamburg with the topic "partners for water". Activities of the "GAA Week" culminated in a speech given by our new President of the Federal Republic, Horst Köhler, on 26th October

which was broadcasted by the two major German TV Channels.

TV- Gala show for fundraising, 17. October

This year's TV – show for fundraising brought 2,7 Million Euro of donations, slightly less than last year's result. Three projects were presented: work with street children in Ghana, implemented by "Kinder Paradise", emergency aid for refugees in Darfur region, Sudan, and a project of the NGO Mith Samlanh- Friends supporting street children in Cambodia.

Public Relations Campaign 2004 - 2006

The new public relations campaign of GAA has been inaugurated in Berlin on 7th October 2004. Beginning with 8th October there will be 30,000 billboards put up in different regions all over Germany. This event was preceded by six months of intensive work. One professional marketing photographer and three journalists visited projects in Africa, India and Latin America to find actual "success stories" in the projects. Several motives

have been selected with a beneficiary holding up a snapshot of him/herself, showing them in former, still bad days. Two catchwords are telling their story, for example "2000: destitute – 2004: farmer". The phrase at the top of the poster: "Your money will develop well" serves to reassure donors that they have good reason to put high expectations in GAA and the people sponsored by us.

The first three motives have been presented in an official ceremony. A special highlight of the event was one of the “models”, Hilda Yolanda Fernández from the Dominican Republic, who came over to tell her story “life” in front of her own poster (you will read about Hilda Yolanda in the next InfoGlobe). The first

three motives of a succeeding number to run over several years in this campaign are displayed on our German Homepage www.welthungerhilfe.de (click on the arrow below Hilda Yolanda’s photo). Our thanks go to all those partner organizations who have supported our public relations campaign beyond their regular work.

I see myself as mediator – Interview with Ibrahim Sidibé, GAA Mali

Ibrahim Sidibé is regional administrator in the regional office of GAA Mali. The regional office in Mali is also responsible for our projects in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Benin.

Infoglobe: Ibrahim Sidibé, welcome in Bonn. The other day you have given a very humorous speech on the occasion of the inauguration of the new GAA office building. You have explained that the difference in customs on such an occasion actually is not so big, if you take a closer look behind the scene. It seems that you feel quite at home in both cultures, is that right?

Ibrahim: When I was a young boy I have lived in Germany for several years with my parents who were diplomats. My roots, however, are in Mali. Therefore, I have a pretty good understanding of both cultures, and I feel that I can mediate the way of thinking between the two cultures. Especially in my work with partner organizations I see myself not so much as consultant but as mediator.

Infoglobe: What are you doing in Germany presently?

Ibrahim: Among other things I am attending a course on “Cost Control“ which GAA is holding. There is a new software for the budget control of GAA self-implemented projects. I will act as multiplier afterwards by passing on my newly acquired knowledge to GAA staff working in Mali, in Burkina Faso, in

Liberia und in the new GAA-office in Sierra Leone.

Infoglobe: I would like to talk with you about consultation of partner organizations. Some partners complain that GAA rules and regulations with regard to financial administration are too demanding, and on the other hand our financial administrators at headquarters complain about the financial administration of some of the partners. Do we expect too much?

Ibrahim: I have not met a partner organization yet who would not be able to understand the accounting system and apply it correctly, if explained to them properly. I think the problem is a different one. Sometimes the standards and rules are not clearly defined from the very start, or sometimes there are not enough qualified people for the administration available. All this should be clarified before the start of the project. Each funding organization requires its own accounting system. So this is mainly a problem of communication: the requirements and expectations on both sides must be made very clear at an early stage of the project.

Infoglobe: Do you visit the partner organizations directly or do you

communicate with them from your office in Mali?

Ibrahim: Both. Often I travel to the partners directly because many things become much simpler when dealing with the person face to face. The staff of the partner organization does not know the organizational and administrative rules at GAA. If they ask us questions about that this is already a sign of confidence. Our office also pre-checks the financial reports. Thus, many questions can be cleared before sending the reports to Headquarters in Bonn.

Infoglobe: What makes you particularly proud in your work?

Ibrahim: As a rule GAA is using the „Winpaccs“-Accounting Software. In West Africa this is different. The principles and standards of accounting are identical all over West Africa; the system SYSCOA is used mainly. We have adapted this system to the GAA requirements and developed our own system named SYSCOM. The financial administrators and book-keepers can use this system for the accounting of other funding agencies as well, and even when they change jobs to work somewhere else they can apply their knowledge. For me this is a real contribution by GAA to the development of partners.

Infoglobe: Is there anything that makes your job difficult?

Ibrahim: Yes, the working conditions in West Africa. There are many technical problems. Here in Germany it is self-understood that you can use the telephone at any time, but in West Africa there are many problems with the telephone lines. Or think of our climate: in the hot season we have 35 deg. at 10 o'clock in the morning. You are affected by these temperatures physically after a while. This is something one must take into account.

Infoglobe: And what gives you the most pleasure in your work?

Ibrahim: The fact that we have partners who implement worth-while projects. I am happy when I see the good results of the projects. I am thinking then that this is the outcome of our mutual work. GAA has funded the project and given some advice, but the partners have implemented and controlled the project themselves.

Infoglobe: You have worked with different organizations already. What would you describe as specific for the work with GAA?

Ibrahim: What impressed me is that GAA takes up the ideas of their partners, and even more: the project idea comes from the partners themselves. In governmental development aid – where I have worked before – most of the time the project ideas came from Germany and we only had to implement the activities. Even if the idea was good, it was not our own project. That makes a big difference. Besides, we local people often have very good ideas. Take water wells, for example: we have had them in Mali since 1000 year. GAA has only improved the technical aspect of how to dig deeper. It is understood, GAA is not building the wells, but the people from Mali. Or take techniques for erosion control which the farmers in West Africa have known since long. Here, the only thing people need is assistance in applying these techniques.

Infoglobe: Ibrahim, thank you very much for this interview. I hope that besides your work there is a little time left for yourself while in Germany?

Ibrahim: Yes, I will have the opportunity to visit some of my friends, and I am looking forward to that.

NEWS FROM PARTNERS

ALDEHUS: A Strategic Proposal for Peru

In our last InfoGlobe we informed about our Strategic Workshop of Counterparts of German Agro Action in Peru. of February, 2004, which was a first step towards the formulation of a "Strategic Proposal for Peru". This document was published and presented to the public on 13th September, 2004. If you are interested in receiving it, please contact the regional office in Lima: dwhhaaa@terra.com.pe. In the following, Marta Olarte, Coordinator of the Forum of the Counterparts, describes the origin of the Strategic Proposal for Peru and of ALDEHUS (Alliance for the Sustainable Human Development).

The Non-Governmental Development Organizations (NGDOs) in Peru had a flowering period in the decade of the eighties. They created Networks and Alliances in order to reach faster results. In the nineties they also started to work in Round Tables with other development actors of the public and private sector. Also the International Cooperation played an important part, as it helped to make the proposals and programmes of the NGDOs become reality. One of these Cooperating Agencies is German Agro Action, which has been working for more than 40 years in the different coastal, mountainous and jungle regions of Peru. GAA has supported projects of more than 22 NGDOs in 23 Departments of Peru (of 24 in total). This led in 1999 to the constitution of the "Forum of the Counterparts of German Agro Action/Deutsche Welthungerhilfe" which was created by the 22 NGDOs. But yet we were conscious that our contributions were isolated and that a network was missing to influence the political, economic and social decision-makers on the national level.

This is why in February 2004 a workshop was carried out for the Forum of the Counterparts of German Agro Action, in which we reviewed our Mission and Vision. Regarding the Mission we constituted ourselves as a forum for dialogue and for concerted efforts so that we could influence the political, economic and social decision-making instances on

the national level, with the object of contributing to the sustainable human development for the construction of a democratic, equitable, intercultural and solidary society. On the other side, our Vision allows us to emphasize the potentials of Peru and to not only focalize on the local, regional and national problems.

We also exchanged experiences and achievements from our projects and saw the need to obtain the response to these experiences and to make our task known as a joint contribution of the 22 NGDOs. Therefore, we decided to elaborate a Strategic Proposal for Peru.

To realize this document was a real process and a democratic exercise. It involved us in the daily task of dialogue and critical exchange of ideas and proposals; there were many rough copies and meetings, and we were always discussing by internet. The experience of each of the 22 NGDOs was taken into consideration, and it allowed us to overcome discrepancies and antagonistic points of view and we succeeded to act concertedly. We created an editorial commission with six NGDOs representing four geographical regions of Peru.

In the middle of this process we realized that the moment had arrived to form an alliance. That is how the *Alianza para el Desarrollo Humano Sostenible* - ALDEHUS (Alliance for the Sustainable

Human Development) was born. ALDEHUS could respond to our goals and would permit us to materialize our ideals for our country, Peru. The Alliance will help us facing the problems of this country: more than 54% of Peru's total population of 27 millions are marked by poverty, more than 24% by extreme poverty, and wide sectors of the population are affected

by political and social exclusion, in particular women, children and native groups. However, our great potentials make us optimistic in addressing the problems of the country. A clear example for that are the achievements and successful experiences of local and regional development reached by the members of ALDEHUS.

Marta de Olarte B. Muñoz
Coordinating Committee
ALDEHUS-Peru

The Strategic Proposal for Peru is available at: dwhhaaa@terra.com.pe

They built a House for GAA - And the winner is....

Sadly enough, only few partner organisations responded to our competition. These were Several NGOs from Peru, who made painting the GAA-house an exercise during a workshop. It was further the NGO BGS, Bangladesh, who sent also several paintings from field staff and from beneficiaries. The good news: We liked all the paintings and had lot of fun discussing which pictures should be awarded the prizes. Staff members gave their votes in which house of the paintings they would like best to work.

And here are the results of our jury:

1. prize:
Mr. A.K.M. Sharifullah, BGS, Bangladesh, who gave as a quiet and peaceful view of paddy fields, guava gardens, fish ponds and many other vegetable plots and amidst them a small house, Bangladesh style. As GAA focuses on agriculture, the GAA staff found it very suitable to work as gardeners in the middle of coconut and papaya trees and to share the place with a cow and chicken. This is where we would like to work!

2. prize:
Mr. Gabriel Mejia Duclos, IDMA, Peru. GAA staff liked especially the unusual, leaf-type shape of the house with an inner courtyard and the variety of leisure facilities like a children's playground, a swimming pool and a room for sports. (Evidently, swimming pools and sports grounds were very important for most "artists" from Peru).
3. prize: **Ms. Lutfunessa Rina**, BGS, Bangladesh, who painted idyllic fields with various crops and a small house.

We should also mention the painting of a staff member of Institute „Cuencas“ from Peru : he painted the house just as it really looks and we wonder: has he already visited our rectangular and – well, a little bit plump - 4 stories high building?

Congratulations to all winners and many thanks to all artists!
