



Annual Report for 2017

About fepa

Fepa is a Swiss NPO supporting a broad and changing spectrum of community-based partner organisations in Zimbabwe and South Africa since 1963. All these organisations are developing and implementing local innovative and sustainable programs. In particular, fepa has strengthened sustainable local civil society structures with a focus on youth through financial and conceptual support.

Partnership work in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: A voice for the youth

In 2017, projects focusing on young women were at the center of fepa's joint work with the Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT). YETT is a nationwide network that connects and reinforces youth projects of all kinds throughout Zimbabwe. The focus of the work supported by fepa was activities carried out by youth organizations in their local environment. This helped young women to voice their concerns. At the same time, youth organizations grew in the task of designing and implementing important events and engagement in society.



The four main activities in 2017 not only addressed the position of young women in society, but also called for non-violence. Among other things, a Youth Peace Charter was adopted, a dialogue forum with older women was held, as well as a sports day. The focus was on the rights of girls and young women, and to encourage them to stand on their own. Other activities involved more than a thousand young people, two-thirds of them women. There was great interest in the events and more young people participated, than were expected.

[Fepa supported YETT and the work of affiliated youth organizations in 2017 with CHF 25,500.](#)

[In the suburbs of Harare: Training opportunity for disadvantaged young people in the township of Kuwadzana.](#)

In 2017, through the Kuwadzana Skills Training Centre (KSTC) in the outskirts of the capital, Harare, a total of 52 young women and men participated in hand-craft training. The center exists since 2011 and focuses its teaching on the needs of disadvantaged young people. Young people without higher education are given a chance here, as the courses require only little prior knowledge. In 2017, the new scholarship fund had the hoped-for effect: No apprentices had to cancel the training for financial reasons. However, the total number of successful students remained below expectations: 25 students had a diploma at the end of the year while 17 students postponed the graduation into the year 2018, because they started their training too late. The fact that some of the training places had remained empty in the first half of 2017 was partly due to the economic situation of the urban population. In addition, a necessary organizational change in the KSTC contributed to the situation. 2017 was a year of transition. At the beginning of

2018, the trainees are very motivated to begin and all free study places were taken within a few days.

The 2017 fepa contribution to the KSTC was around CHF 45,000. Contributions from the scholarship fund to students were: CHF 5,000.

In the suburbs of Harare: Self-help through art and crafts.

At Dangwe Arts, the water pump broke down during a lightning strike earlier this year. As a result, there was no water for the 20 or so people who, in addition to handicraft production, also live off the produce of their garden. Therefore, in a rapidly urbanizing environment where there is acute water shortage, we had to act swiftly.

Since April 2017, a solar pump has been pumping water for Dangwe Arts and the neighborhood in a collective effort to benefit the local community.



The contribution to Dangwe Arts for the solar project was over CHF 4,600. An additional CHF 2,000 went into the school fees fund.

Manicaland: Land grabbing and conflict transformation

In the context of the long-standing conflict over a land grab in favor of a giant sugar cane plan-

tation, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), with the support of fepa, carried out conflict mediation. At a series of events, the parties to the conflict have come up with elaborate and conflict-resolution action plans. In fact, since the beginning of the process in 2016, no violence has taken place. The delegation chosen by the farmers concerned has not yet been admitted to negotiations with the investors, petitioners or the authorities involved – the state torpedoed the process. The farmers made their position and demands clearer in 2017, more broadly and democratically, and found new organizational forms that will enable them to defend their interests in the future.

In 2017, fepa contributed CHF 6,000 to the costs of the CCJP conflict mediation process in Chisumbanje.



Manicaland: Use against gender-based violence and for the rights of young girls and women.

The Youth Organization, the Platform for Youth Development, (PYD) intensified its legislative work to promote the rights of girls and young women in 2017 and fueled the debate over gender-based violence in Chipinge. As expected, the drop-in structure was confronted with a series of difficult cases of child and forced marriage and sexual assault by police, teachers and relatives. The gender activists did not only campaign for the victims, but in the context of the project, they took part in advisory activities and set up a network for the trans-

fer of victims to specialized organizations. The long-standing fepa partner BHASO supported us in the training. The learning curve is steep, because PYD is first and foremost a local organization of a few hundred young people and develops its skills as a self-help structure in the field of gender justice in quick steps.



In 2017, fepa contributed around CHF 21'500 towards PYD's project work on gender equality

Manicaland: Agroecology and Sustainability

In the dry lowlands near Hot Springs lies Chaseyama, where fepa supports the Participatory Organic Research and Training Extension Trust (PORET). Our mission here is the small-scale farmer community, which is aiming for a turnaround towards the sustainable use of natural resources. Great progress was made in 2017. On an area of 20 hectares, a training center for agroecology was designed together with the rural community. Its heart is a so-called forest garden, which was expanded in 2017.



The most important partner of PORET is the Chaseyama Permaculture Club (CPC), in which the active farmers of the region organize themselves. This club has more than doubled since the beginning of the year to more than 100 members. The intensive awareness-raising and advisory work by the field consultants from PORET has contributed to this. In about a dozen exemplary fields, members of the CPC have begun to apply experimental and established techniques.

Even the local primary school has been using resource-efficient cultivation methods. In 2017, fepa partnered with a Swiss volunteer who was able to strengthen the cooperation with the parents of the children in the PORET affiliated preschool.

In 2017, fepa made direct contributions to PORET amounting to over CHF 24'500.

Partnership work in South Africa

Improving Livelihoods of Farm Workers' Communities in the Central Karoo

In the barren Karoo, farm workers have joined in committees and created an umbrella organization, in order to work together for their rights. In 2017, fepa supported the work of these committees by covering the costs of regional meetings and supporting education and training.

In 2017, all committees jointly launched a public campaign for better sanitation on the farms, notably with a prominent presence in the town of Beaufort West, but also on a small scale on individual farms. They have also been involved in environmental issues, for example, against the planned uranium mining. The networking of the committees is important because in 2017 there were again a number of violations of human rights. The individual committees represented numerous workers in conflicts about non-compliance with minimum labor standards. In a context where there are few instu-

tionalised contacts for local development efforts, the nearly ten committees have become important partners in the State Department of Labor's programs.

Fepa contribution 2017: CHF 38'500



Solidarity with victims of apartheid in the Western Cape

In 2016, fepa had agreed with Khulumani, the self-help organization of the apartheid victims, to end the project support for spring 2017. In February, apartheid victims discovered that one of Khulumani's long-time activist had fraudulently misappropriated project funds in recent years. We clarified the background for the harmful act and dealt with the perpetrator.

The fepa contribution was CHF 4'200.



Fepa also contributed to Khulumani, by paying the salaries of part-time employees and holding

a proper general assembly to work through the processes and improve the control systems. By the end of the year 2017, fepa had acted as a mediator in the issue and ended the partnership.

Conclusion of project work

The focus of fepa's project work was the effective support of dynamic, locally well-grounded grassroots initiatives, even if these are not entirely streamlined. In 2017, fepa pursued its approach of comprehensive and long-term engagement and accompanying the partners in an intensive dialogue. This approach enabled productive developments of almost all project partners. The services of fepa were not only monetary - the collaboration was appreciated by our partners, because fepa supports their initiatives critically and are committed to support their further development in a flexible manner.

In Zimbabwe, fepa continued to focus on "youth", "human rights" as well as "rural life". Fepa closely worked with the projects and our livelihood partner organizations in 2017 and strengthened the basis for cooperation in the coming years.

In South Africa, fepa placed its strategic focus on the people of the central Karoo, the poorest region of the Western Cape, with a focus on rural life. Since mid-2017, fepa has been working with existing and potential partners to lay the foundations for the period after completion of the current three-year phase in spring 2018.

General

On the occasion of the general meeting on 10 June 2017, the fepa members approved a slight adjustment of statutes. On the one hand, the new statutes affirm the value of active membership in fepa. On the other hand, the new statutes underscore fepa's active role in advocating on policy issues in Switzerland, especially if they affect the people of Southern Africa.

During the ten-day visit of Lucy Mazingi, the director of YETT, in June 2017 in Switzerland, we strengthened the demand for more democracy in Zimbabwe, vividly and audaciously.

In the middle of the year, fepa changed the office space and was able to move into cheaper premises on the same property. We could not find enough room for the rich historical archives of fepa, but we could find a good solution thanks to the Basel Africa Bibliographies.

Personnel

The board of trustees in 2017 consisted of eight people: Susanne Feddern (since 2009), Marlies Gerber (since 2002), and Ueli Haller (since 1990, co-president since 2017), Rita Kesselring (since 2012), Barbara Müller (since 2015, co-president since 2017), Silvia Schönenberger since 2012), Susanne Zurbuchen (since 1990) and Helena Zweifel (since 2014).

Due to time constraints Stephan Gebhardi (since 2014) had to withdraw from the board of trustees' work.

The board has newly appointed co-chairs from its own ranks: Barbara Müller and Ueli Haller. The co-chairs meet regularly between meetings of the board of trustees, thereby reinforcing its strategic leadership. The members of the fepa board of trustees do not receive any compensation and, within the framework of their term of office, volunteer for more than 500 hours a year. The office has been managed by Marcel Dreier since January 2015 (60 percent). Christian Furrer started the internship in August (40 percent). Until then, we did not fill the vacancy. That was only possible thanks to volunteers at the office: Christian Furrer, Menga Keller, Michelle Lanwer, Anja Orschulko and Monika Wunderlin have worked at the office without any compensation. In addition, they took on fundraising tasks, which has enabled fepa to make massive savings in this area. Daniela Zimmermann and Marianne Grzondziel, two former interns have also assumed unpaid operational tasks for projects in Zimbabwe and

South Africa. In total, nearly 1,200 unpaid overtime hours were spent at the fepa office in 2017. Added to this was additional work, in particular for PORET, through a technical support group in Switzerland and a 7weeks volunteering placement of foreign assignment by Brigitt Baumgartner, directly at the partner organization.

In turn, fepa received support from professionals in 2017, who provided their work at greatly reduced rates, or even at no cost. This was particularly important in shaping our communication, thanks to the agency Mnemosyne. To all those who lent a priceless contribution to fepa: Sincerely Thanks!



Financial Statements

The accounting is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the ZEW0 (Swiss GAAP FER 21). The invoice will be printed below and is available on the fepa website along with the audit report. In 2017, fepa increased its contributions to project partners by 17,000 francs over the previous year, an increase of 10%. Since this project work was covered by fund capital, fepa was able to achieve the financial improvement for the partners, without resulting in a loss of organizational capital. This was also possible because in 2017, the office in the area of fundraising, information and advertising saved around CHF 8'700. Overall, the

financial situation of fepa has continued to stabilize. However, we are not on the growth path foreseen in the 2016-18 concept. Stabilization could be achieved through a cautious spending policy.

Outlook

The focus is on “youth” and “rural livelihoods” and will continue with fepa in 2018. Compared to the second half of 2016, fepa was able to increase the contributions to the partner organizations in 2017, and the focus on fewer partners has made an even more intensive cooperation possible. Fepa started the new year with very active and dedicated partners, with whom fepa has set common goals and strives to have effective projects with. We look forward to their implementation and results.