



Annual Report for 2018

Purpose of the Fund

Since 1963, fepa has co-financed and supported local self-help initiatives and grassroots organisations in Zimbabwe and South Africa, and has supported them by implementing innovative and sustainable improvements in living conditions.

Working in partnership in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, fepa has supported:

- The increasing participation of thousands of young people in democratic development processes,
- The involvement of hundreds of women in activities to overcome patriarchal structures,
- over 200 smallholder families to implement agro-ecological practices,
- 46 young people to complete a vocational apprenticeship,
- 15 disadvantaged children with an entire year of early childhood support,
- and allows about a dozen girls and young women to be accompanied and advised after violent experiences.

The larger context in Zimbabwe was highly variable in 2018. The deposition of the aged Robert Mugabe in November 2017 triggered storms of enthusiasm and great hopes for the future. The first half of 2018, marked by this spirit of optimism and an opening for civil society concerns, culminated in a very high turnout in the elections at the end of July. In the immediate aftermath, there were protests that were suppressed with bloodshed by the army. Since

then, unfortunately, there can be spoken less and less of a political opening. The authoritarian government also failed in its task to stabilise the crashing economy, create new jobs and maintaining elementary tasks, such as health care. Zimbabwe remains a fragile context in which inequality continues to increase with most of the population being affected by acute supply shortages. With 2018 being an eventful year, reliable solidarity in both material and non-material terms, proved to be vital.



Throughout Zimbabwe: “A voice for the Youth”

In 2018, the thematic areas, “Peacebuilding” and “Participation of Young Women”, were at the centre of the joint work between fepa and the Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT). YETT is a national network that connects and accompanies youth projects of various kinds throughout Zimbabwe. YETT and fepa support, train and connect young people who engage in activities in their local environment. In 2018, six youth organisations made the concerns of young women heard. The young people engaged in dialogue events with political parties and local authorities to promote non-violent election campaigns and the participation of young people in the democratic process. There was great interest in the events, with about one thousand young people participating, two thirds of which were young women.

[In 2018, fepa supported YETT and the work of six youth organisations with CHF 14 617.](#)



Harare`s Suburbs: Training opportunities for young, disadvantaged people in the Kuwadzana Township

In 2018, 38 young women and 8 young men obtained their certificate in artisan courses supported by fepa, at the Kuwadzana Skills Training Centre (KSTC), near the capital Harare. After the delayed graduation of 2017, more successful training courses have once again been certified.

The fepa scholarship fund prevented 20 young, particularly disadvantaged people from dropping out of school due to financial reasons, by contributing to school fees and material costs. Thanks to an investment contribution, the KSTC could renew a part of its machinery. Lastly, Christian Furrer, together with the KSTC coordinator, created an independent fundraiser locally during his assignment as a fepa delegate. The teachers at the KSTC also deserve special recognition, because in 2018 they waived about one third of their wages in favour of maintaining the training centre.

A follow up of the 25 successful KSTC graduates of 2017 showed that almost two thirds of them found (part-time) jobs in the informal business sector. Eight are attempting to be self-employed entrepreneurs. For this reason, fepa

has decided to finance another special, one week course in “Business Management” for all KSTC students in 2018.

[The direct fepa contribution to the KSTC in 2018, amounted to just under half of the previous year's contributions, CHF 26 432. The Scholarship Fund`s contributions to scholars amounted to CHF 3 537.](#)

Satellite metropolis Chitungwiza: “Every child has a right to early support”

In 2018, the Dangwe Arts “Art and Culture Village” team built a kindergarten and fully committed themselves to looking after 15 pre-school children. The kindergarten follows pedagogical methods by Rudolf Steiner, but is also oriented to the Zimbabwean State`s early intervention standards. The on-site evaluation by fepa showed that those who benefited most were children of single mothers and poorer families. The three supervisors assigned to this project in 2018 were largely unremunerated. Dangwe also contributed to the children`s well-being with food from their own garden. Local dignitaries showed respect and recognition of the newly formed preschool by personally contributing to the year-end ceremony, at which the children celebrated the past school year extensively. The necessary infrastructure including a playground and sanitary facilities, was built around the large Dangwe Arts residential building.

[Fepa supported the Dangwe Preschool in its starting year, 2018, with CHF 6 380. It will continue to be financed until its consolidation phase in 2021.](#)

Manicaland: “Rights and Protection for Girls and Young Women”

The youth organisation, Platform for Youth Development (PYD), works against violence as well as for the rights of girls and women. PYD operated a 3 day per week drop-in schedule. There, they focus on support for victims of child- and forced marriages as well as those sexually assaulted by family members, police officers and teachers. Support includes advice and in some cases, physical protection. 25 “gender activists” were trained in counselling victims of violence. Since then, they have accompanied those affected to court hearings or traditional conflict settlements. At almost 50 public events, women’s hearings and group discussions, PYD sensitised and educated people on issues such as protection against sexually transmitted diseases, dealing with the taboo topic of menstruation and the unfair

distribution of roles and tasks to men and women. According to a self-evaluation in 2018, PYD has networked with numerous professional organisations and established itself as a self-help structure in the field of gender justice valued by communities.

[In 2018, fepa supported PYD activities with CHF 24 626. PYD received further contributions of CHF 1 759 for educational tasks relating to elections as well as support in developing a five-year strategy involving members and activists.](#)



Manicaland: “Future through sustainable agriculture”

In the dry lowland around Chasesyama, the community wants to continue with subsistence farming despite climate change challenges. It is therefore striving for a trend reversal in favour of sustainable use of natural resources. Here, fepa cooperates with the partner organisations PORET and Chasesyama Permaculture Club (CPC). The membership of the CPC has more than tripled in the last two years to over 250. Intense awareness raising campaigns and counselling work by field consultants in 22 villages, as well as the training and information events held by PORET, have led to the growing interest of farmers. In 17 villages, the lessons learnt were applied and farmers created a total of 5km of sub-soil ditches on their own land. They planted almost 350 trees from the PORET nursery.

In 2018, PORET took the first steps towards expanding the agroecology training centre on its 20-hectare site. Its heart is the so-called forest garden, which was extended in 2018. An additional water hole was drilled, 5 heavy rain water collection dams were dug by hand and a new seedling and tree nursery with 4000 plants was established. In 2018, PORET planted 204 of these plants, including 60 fruit trees, in the forest garden. The infrastructure needed was built, among others, over several days during training courses given on site. In addition to an in-depth course on permaculture, courses on “Water harvest”, “Food processing”, “Tree nurseries”, “Biodegradable production”, “Dialogue methods in dealing with conflicts” and “Group leadership” were also offered. In 2018, more than 300 farmers took part in these courses. Seven community trainers graduated from a year-long training programme. More than 250 people took part in the Seed and Knowledge fairs.

PORET built a solar water point for a community of 12 families. This pilot plant provides clean drinking water in an area of dry springs and enables all families to cultivate high-yield organic products.

[In 2018, fepa made direct contributions of over CHF 77 438 to PORET's projects.](#)



Partnership work in South Africa

In 2018, fepa focused on partnering with ten local, farmworker family committees on large farms in the barren and remote Karoo, South Africa.

Central Karoo, Western Cape: “Improving the position of farmworkers` communities”

In the Karoo, farmworkers and their families have joined together in committees and these in turn have evolved into an umbrella organisation that work for their rights. The official registration of the Central Karoo Farmworkers Community Association (CKFCA) was completed in 2018. This helped the CKFCA, together with its second fepa partner, the Centre for Rural Legal Studies (CRLS), to implement several activities on behalf of the State Department of Labour for the year 2018.

Fepa supported concrete activities in the first half of the year, including the work of the individual committees to prevent unlawful evictions of families from their homes on the farms. In at least two cases, such could be completely prevented. The support provided by fepa improved the structural cooperation with the authorities inspecting occupational safety on the farms. CKFCA and CRLS have contributed to the development of a reporting system that is also preventative in nature. A two-day training course trained 23 representatives of farm community committees and voluntary legal advice centres in the methodology of Study Circles. This enables local groups to identify problems and present better solutions, thereby improving their advocacy work. It is pleasing that fepa did not have to finance the commitment of CKFCA in the respect to the campaign against uranium mining in the Central Karoo, since investors withdrew from the exploration company in May 2018.

In 2018, Marianne Grzondziel completed a three-month assignment in the Central Karoo while interning at fepa. This significantly deepened fepa's contextual knowledge especially concerning the social challenges in this region.

[Fepa's contribution to the partner organisations, CRLS and CKFCA, for 2018, amounted to CHF 10 995. Fepa also supported the joint research initiative on living conditions in the Central Karoo, with CHF 3 866.](#)



Commitment in Switzerland

Fepa closely observed and accompanied the turbulent time in Zimbabwe as described in the beginning. Through information provided by our media and a visit by a representative of civil society in Spring, we helped keep the Swiss public informed about the developments in the country. In 2018, fepa generally continued to actively participate in Swiss networks of solidarity and cooperation with Zimbabwe.

Furthermore, the KEESA, a campaign for debt relief and compensation in Southern Africa, with whom we not only share office costs, is fepa's most important partner in Switzerland.

In early Summer, fepa addressed the effects of climate change in the South and how it is countered through the sustainable use of natural resources. The farmers and permaculture teachers, Kumbirai Dube and Julious Piti of CPC/PORET travelled to Switzerland for a two-

week exchange visit. With their exciting lectures and contributions in discussions, they have contributed to a better understanding of the necessity and the possibilities of an agro-ecological trend reversal.

Personnel

At the end of 2018, the Management Board consisted of 9 people: Susanne Feddern (since 2009), Marlies Gerber (since 2002), 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), Helena Zweifel (since 2014) and Roger Morgenhaler (since Summer 2018). The Executive Board convened at four meetings and one retreat. There were also a dozen meetings in ministries and project working groups. The co-Chair with Barbara Müller and Ueli Haller met monthly, resulting in stronger strategic management. The members of the fepa Board of Directors do not receive any compensation and, within the scope of their activities on the Board of Directors, make an annual, honorary commitment of more than 500 hours. The Audit Committee changed, so that Herbert Schmid (taking the place of Patrice Riedo) will join Blanca Steinmann.

Marcel Dreier has headed the office since January 2015 (60% workload). The interns, Johanna Schwarzer, Marianne Grzondziel and AnnaSophie Hobi did important work at the head office parallel to their studies focusing on Africa. Christian Furrer was a fepa delegate abroad and was in charge of Dangwe's early intervention project.

Menga Keller, Michelle Lanwer, Monika Wunderlin and Daniela Lilja supported the office as volunteers.

In 2018, fepa received great support from professionals who make their work available at greatly reduced rates or even free of charge.

Many thanks to all of you who made an invaluable contribution to fepa!

Annual Accounts

Accounting is carried out in accordance with the ZEW0 requirements. In 2018, fepa received more earmarked donations than in the previous years. The targets set for long-term earnings at the beginning of 2016 were thus achieved. The partnership financing was considered more secure than the previous four years. In 2018, project contributions direct to our partners were slightly higher than in the previous year.

fepa continues to work with minimal financial expenses for a professionally managed office. Only the percentage of internships was significantly increased.

Overall, 2018 saw a small loss in free organisation capital of almost CHF 2 500. The latter thus remains at a low level.

Since 1.1.2018, the ZEW0 guidance for calculating the cost structure has been in use. Fepa has recorded expenses and workloads in detail and allocated them in accordance with this guidance. Costs that cannot be clearly allocated were always designated to general administrative expenses. The two fepa member sheets, including the editorial work, make up the considerable part of the fundraising costs. Fepa also waived paid generic advertising in 2018, with one small exception.

In total, 74% of the funds were allocated to project work in partnership, 9% to fundraising and 17% to general administrative expenses.

Conclusion and outlook

In 2018, the board and office members implemented the fepa concept 2016-2018, and started a revision for the next year. Fepa is considered financially stable. The support from

fepa members and donors in 2018 were regular and consistently generous.

The fepa concept with its focus has proven valuable in terms of its content. At the end of 2018, fepa financed a smaller number of projects and provided reliable support to the best of its ability for the partnership as a whole. Our partners greatly appreciate this and have continued to encourage our collaboration over the last few years, which to a large extent are voluntary or based on heavily underpaid commitment. Ultimately, the effect of fepa's support lies not only in the sum of the Swiss francs, but also in the dynamics at grassroots level.

Appendix

Accounting Principles

The financial statements comply with the guidelines of KernFER and Swiss GAAP FER21 and give a true and fair reflection of the net assets, financial position and results of operations.

Calculation of the administrative applications

The calculation uses the ZEW0 method. The operating expenses were accrued on 1.1.2018, the effective date of the ZEW0 guidelines on distinguishing project, fundraising and administration expenses. All wage and infrastructure costs are allocated according to a pro rata basis and detailed hourly recording. Overall, 74% of the funds were direct project expenditure, 9% to raise funds and 17% to fepa's general administrative expenses.

Compensation of executive bodies

Board members work on an honorary basis and without reimbursement of expenses.