



Annual Report for 2016

About fepa

fepa is a Swiss NPO supporting a broad and changing spectrum of community-based partner organisations in Zimbabwe, Tanzania 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.

Zimbabwe

A Chance for Disadvantaged Youth (KSTC)

In 2016 the Kuwadzana Skills Training Centre (KSTC) educated 41 young women and 10 young men in a professional craft (dress-making, interior design or welding). 9 students earned a (small) income with their new profession already in 2016. The centre is orienting its services towards the needs of the disadvantaged youth. Young people without schooling get a chance here, because only few knowledge is needed to enter the courses. Young mothers are equally welcome. The centre is providing for more than only the handicraft education and empowers the pupils in a holistic way.



Graduates at the KSTC 2016

This education centre was the most demanding project in financial terms in 2016. But also in project facilitation, fepa worked hard for the KSTC. The centre is lead by a voluntary board and a small team of instructors.

This engagement was fruitful in 2016. The board of the KSTC has introduced remarkable improvement in the strategy and administration in the second half of the year. The task of the board is not an easy one, because the KSTC is not wealthy despite the donations of fepa. Because the education is benefiting disadvantaged youth, KSTC will continue to depend on financial support. By the end of 2017 we are hoping that the KSTC can cooperate more closely with state institutions overseeing education and will meet standards of bigger donors.

In 2016 a bursary scheme was introduced, which enables motivated students from very poor backgrounds to finish their education at the centre. The new bursary system is much needed, because the finance crisis of the country is hitting youth especially and endangers their education chances additionally.

[Financial contribution from fepa to KSTC 2016: CHF 51`773](#)

A Voice for the Youth (YETT)

The Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT) is an umbrella organisation, which supports youth projects of diverse kinds organisationally and financially. Through the initiatives supported by YETT, youths learn to raise their voices in society, politics and economy.

In mid-2016, YETT and fepa finished a three-years-project, for which we spent 50`000 CHF annually. The external evaluation was positive. In the course of the three years 28 youth organisations were implementing 40 projects. More than 9`500 young women and 8`800 young men were engaged directly in the project activities.

For the first time ever, fepa had interns placed at a partner in the South. The team we introduced to YETT consisted of Naomi Bögli and Gracious Dzapasi. Both did not only work on the activities financed by fepa, but supported YETT in all its tasks. For fepa, this introduction was important. It builds the grounds on which we developed together with YETT a flexible programme for the encouragement of

youth participation. YETT is becoming a strategic partner for fepa for our project work with all partners in Zimbabwe.

[In 2016 fepa supported YETT and the youth organisations with: CHF 31'293 \(incl. costs for the internships\).](#)

New Projects in South-eastern Zimbabwe

In the province of Manicaland, fepa has intensified its engagement considerably. Since some years, we had observed the conflict following a land grab for sugar cane fields for the production of biofuel. In this context, we became active in 2016 in the region of Chisumbanje with a project to avoid violent escalations. In cooperation with the local "Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace" we succeeded to involve exposed members of the communities which had lost their land. Also the company "Green Fuel" and its security personnel could be involved to a certain degree into the process. After a female farmer was shot on the day before the start of the project, no further acts of direct violence appeared ever since. Nevertheless, the conflict is still there. The situation keeps being difficult. Based on this first step fepa will continue contributing towards a better inclusion of the peasants.

[The financial effort of fepa to violence prevention in Chisumbanje in 2016: CHF 3471.](#)

The youth's organisation "Platform for Youth Development" (PYD) will keep being an important partner. The hard working men and women have put a huge effort for the rights of the communities and provided fepa with a project proposal for a project focussing on young women's rights. In the last quarter of 2016, we could begin with a project, which puts girls and women of the region into the centre. PYD opened an uncomplicated, save meeting point for girls and young women. The project, also started with the education of young activists (see interview with Cynthia Gwenzi in our journal of April 2017, pages 1-2).

[Fepa's financial support for the project "Gender" of PYD: CHF 3'376](#)

About two hours to the north by public taxi, in Chaseyama, is the location of the project area of the "Participatory Organic Research Extension and Training Trust" (PORET).

On first glance, the cases of local peasants, who organise themselves around the "Chaseyama Permaculture Club" and PORET seem to have little connection to the problems in Chisumbanje. The peasants in Chaseyama suffer from the degradation of their soils: These become increasingly dry and the humus levels are washed away through erosion. But like in Chisumbanje, here too the basis of live gets lost and the promises of the agro-industry do not bring an escape from poverty. On the contrary, the limits of conventional development models show clearly.



PORET:
Test field
for local
seed varieties

PORET is showing a success promising development for a sustainable path in Chaseyama and therefore has begun with the establishment of a "forest garden" with support of fepa in 2016. This garden will show how it is possible to combine the production of food and the safeguarding of natural resources, thanks to ecological methods and an innovative spirit. In 2016 the increase of the water infrastructure was a key contribution. The infrastructure with the solar pump will be able to support the forest garden from the end of the rain period. For PORET, it is important, not only to engage in ecological farming on the site, but to spread the knowledge to local farmers. From the beginning of the project in August 2016, more than 40 peasants and local agricultural advisers have been educated. The approach is practice oriented and happens on the fields of the peasants always.

[PORET was in 2016 already a main task for fepa and we served direct project support. Moreover, in 2016, we spent CHF 10'554 directly to PORET.](#)

Living positively with HIV/AIDS

In Masvingo, the neighbour province of Manicaland, BHASO (Batanai HIV/AIDS Service Organisation) is improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS. Around 800 self-aid groups build the network established by BHASO.

In 2016, only a small financial support was possible from fepa. fepa concentrated its support onto the periphery (in three districts) and a small project with youth. These were educated by our Swiss civil service volunteer Tendai Matare directly at BHASO (until April 2016). The project which was conceptualised in the first half-year by both fepa and BHASO could not be financed enough.

[Fepa supported BHASO directly with CHF 5'516 in 2016.](#)

Self-Aid through Arts Handicraft

Dangwe Arts, the "first born" is a community consisting of former street children and AIDS orphans in the fast growing town of Chitungwiza. They run a small centre where more than 20 youth live and work together. The Centre is home and shelter for many of them especially the most vulnerable.

[Fepa supported Dangwe Arts in 2016 with CHF 3'932.](#)

South Africa

Human rights and livelihoods of farmworkers and their families in the semi-arid central Karoo depend directly from decisions taken by their employers. In such a context it is of great importance that farmworkers can organise and educate themselves.

In 2016 the situation for farmworkers has hardly ameliorated. The state's Department of Labour has become more passive with regards to enforcing laws and regulations benefiting the farmworkers and their families. The trend towards flexible labour arrangements (not to the benefit of workers) continues.

In this context the Central Karoo Farm Communities Association (CKFCA) engages in self-help and support of the rights of those who live and work on the land. CKFCA lobbies for better labour rights, housing, and the right to family life. Supported, in a particularly participative process, by the Centre for Rural Legal Studies (CRLS), the CKFCA has developed and submitted precise demands for rights of their communities. Courageous farmworkers, who

make up the bulk of the organisation, are strengthening their networks and building their capacities to campaign for their rights, including a special program for women's and children's rights. Delegates of the CKFCA now participate in the local forum on land reform, and they have started a working group on environmental justice which engages with the plans to extend fracking and uranium exploitation in the ecologically fragile central Karoo.

[Fepa supported CRLS and CKFK in South Africa in 2016 with CHF 37'844.](#)



One farm committee of the CKFCA

Khulumani

Khulumani is a self-help organisation of victims of Apartheid. Fepa supports Khulumani in the Western Cape Province. Members organize in local committees and are supporting each other with psychosocial support. Committees also engage in social activism in the neighbourhood. Not least together they have a stronger voice which claims rights and respect for the victims of Apartheid injustices.

In 2016 Khulumani Western Cape had a fieldworker and small office staff, organized a series of meetings of local groups and counselled hundreds of victims and their families. The 20th anniversary since the start of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has marked the public life of Khulumani in 2016.

As a new development Khulumani Western Cape had a youth officer who is pushing inter-generation work inside the organisation and in public. Youth have, for example, contributed a drama play towards a critical discourse on the achievements and failures of the 20 years since the TRC.

[Fepa supported Khulumani Western Cape in 2016 with CHF 11'390.](#)

Tanzania

In 2016 we have concluded the cooperation with our partners in Tanzania. The rotating fund for young rural entrepreneurs has been handed over to another organization with roots in Switzerland (farip).

One of two transport enterprises supported by the project is successful and the restaurant by a young woman is growing. The agricultural projects suffered from bad weather and the results were a bit disappointing. Our coaches for the young entrepreneurs worked hard to guide the ventures well. Faced with the challenges, there was too little time remaining to develop teaching curricula and the tele-coaching system which was the ultimate aim of the project. Nonetheless, the youth involved in this project have learnt to carry responsibilities and to assess economic risks of their ventures.

[Fepa supported the enterprises and the coaching in 2016 with CHF 7'231.](#)

General Developments

At the beginning of the year fepa board and director have elaborated a concept for 2016-2018, based on our constitution and the long-time values of fepa. The focus on rights based work with «Youth» and with «People living on land» has been strengthened. The focus has also been narrowed and, not least, we had to stop our work in Tanzania, where fepa had been active for more than 50 years.

Staff

Fepa's board consists of nine members, <https://fepafrika.ch/vorstand>. They have dedicated roughly 500 hours of work. Fepa pays no allowances of any kind to its board members. Fepa office is directed by Marcel Dreier (60%). Daniela Zimmermann assisted with a small quota. We had a number of paid and unpaid interns (Gabriel Weick, Marianne Grzondziel, Naomi Bögli, Christian Furrer) and volunteers (Menga Keller, Michelle Lanwer, Monika Wunderlin). Together, and in addition to Naomi Bögli's internship, the office structures contributed 850 hours of unpaid work.

Financial Report

[For the numbers see our online publication of the German language annual report. Here are the basics for 2016: income and ex-

penditure roughly USD 300 000 (down from 430 000 in 2015), including transfers to project partners of roughly USD 170 000. Cost of projects in Switzerland USD 40 000, cost of public relations USD 40 000, cost of administration USD 30 000. At the end of 2016 Fepa had a capital of USD 50 000 and it also had approximately USD 90 000 in funds dedicated for use by project partners in 2017.]

In 2016 we have achieved a surplus of income over expenditure: CHF 23 959. Some of this has gone into our funds dedicated to specific projects and will be available for project partner activities in 2017. CHF 9 838 has contributed to stabilize our own capital. The financial situation is better overall and we are on a track, according to our 2016-2018 concept.

Two factors have contributed to this. First of all, fepa had to reduce its financial contributions to project partners considerably. In 2016 we only implemented projects for which we had secured enough funding. After many years of growth, we have, for the first time, transferred much less to our partners. The second factor was the good support by our donors. Our capital had melted away during the year, but at the end of the year we have recovered. Nonetheless we still have too little capital to allow us to grow, and we have to continue on our fundraising work towards the aim of doubling our own capital [without our own capital base fepa will become unable to attract back donor support and monies for our project partners].

Outlook

Fepa will continue to focus on „youth“ and „living on land“ (which only really works as a slogan in German language).

Thanks

We wish to thank all our project partners who have supported fepa in cooperative ways even when our financial contributions were shrinking.

We thank all our donors. In 2016 fepa has received more than CHF 150 000 from private persons and the same amount from foundations, state and church bodies.

*Translated by
Christian Furrer and Marcel Dreier*