



Oliver Schales, Chairman AP, March 2010

## **Basic Principles of the development association Afrikaprojekt Dr. Schales e.V. (AP)**

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for:

- Members annual meeting 2010
- Archbishop in Bulawayo
- St. Luke's-Hospital
- Partner AP

### **Basics:**

Since 2001 Dr. Schales has been working in Zimbabwe in St. Luke's Hospital as a doctor and initiator and coordinator of AP.

From the beginning he has been supported by his family, his friends and many people in the Saarland and Germany in his medical work and his personal approach to help.

In the year 2002 Anne and Oliver Schales visited the St. Luke's Hospital, the schools and communities around, the district Lupane and other parts of Zimbabwe. At the same time we met the persons responsible in the hospital, the Archbishop, the missionaries of Marianhill, the heads of the St. Luke's community and of the schools. We got convinced that this country, these people, this hospital and the schools around were worth being supported in a phase where they ended up innocently in poverty, misery, famine, scarce medical supply, poor education and eventually being helpless in the face of HIV Aids.

After the first spontaneous relief actions for the most urgently needed things Afrikaprojekt was organized as an association in 2002. Chairman is Oliver Schales, vice chairman is Anne Schales. The Executive Board was assigned with honorary working professionals like doctors, teachers, accountants, solicitors and entrepreneurs. Right from the start Afrikaprojekt was managed in professional public relations with several sponsored websites and a great assistance by the people of the print office "repa druck", who donated a lot of excellent information material for Afrikaprojekt. Business companies from the Saarland have supported Afrikaprojekt from the beginning. The association was immediately present all over the province with a lot of creative actions. Until 31.12.2009 we have raised 3.2 millions Euro donations for the St. Luke's hospital and other projects in the surroundings of the hospital within 8 years only.

Afrikaprojekt is organized honorarily and has an administrative expenditure percentage of 3 %. This means, that from 100 Euro donated 97 Euro end up directly in the projects in Zimbabwe. According to the constitution of the association AP financially and ideally supports the St. Lukes Hospital and further projects (farm project, sponsorship project, schools...) around.

AP as a development association has focused right from the start on the help for the people in Zimbabwe to help themselves and claims no right whatsoever on donated money or projects.

All the projects have been and still are arranged in close coordination with the persons responsible in the hospital as well as with the diocese as the owner of the hospital. Besides that an involvement of the St. Luke's community and the district seems important to us.

### **The project structure was established in 3 phases**

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1. 2001 – 2005: Rescue of the hospital from the impending collapse
2. 2006 – 2010: Stabilisation and development of the hospital
3. 2011-2015: Facilitation of the hospital's autonomy

The most important goal of the AP is to help and act in a sustainable manner with the support of the diocese and governmental organisations. The aim is not to create dependency. Therefore the increasing independence from aid supply and the autonomy of the hospital are important during phase 3. Responsibility and initiatives from the diocese itself and governmental organisations are important.

Here are the basic principles of our actions:

Of course we are aware that the economical and political situation in Zimbabwe is still insecure and continuous perspectives are not opened up automatically. But nevertheless the people in Saarland and also the people in Zimbabwe need to have planning reliability, perspective action and a vision for the next few years.

For AP this is a further motivation, to successfully accompany the project St. Luke's until 2015. This does not mean that no more financial support will be possible after that year. But we are following our convictions that local manpower itself has to take over responsibility.

That's what we are orientated at in phase 3 and we are supporting mainly sustainable projects as the hospital infrastructure with its own water supply system by means of solar energy. The ramshackle power supply is by means of solar energy developed in a reliable and eco-friendly way. These projects help the hospital to be capable of acting for years regarding the utterly necessary basic services. AP is financing these projects entirely in agreement with the diocese.

A second important approach is the support of the hospital staff members and the medical hospital superintendence. Only where qualified employees are working with motivation a hospital can be kept alive. This also applies for the nursing school, the school of midwifery, the school for sewing and also for the schools in the communities around. During the worst times when doctors and teachers left the country for greener pastures, AP supported doctors and hospital staff with a top up.

AP is proud of the fact that e.g. the infusion project that we supported with huge financial means is running successfully, that the important resource "water", which is available in the hospital, can be used for a self sustaining supply with infusions. This enabled the hospital in times of need to supply other hospitals as well, even during the Cholera epidemic the St. Lukes Hospital was self sustaining. The farm project also is running successfully and supplies the hospital with its patients independently. In the schools around our sponsorship project offers the possibility to 1,000 children to visit school again, to be able to pay school fees, to receive school uniforms and school material as well as food. The annual reports from the AP Manager Gordon Hlatywayo are testifying the variety of the projects and the persons responsible are aware of it. Our yearly magazine Salibonani, our yearly calendar as well as our websites prove all the activities for the public additionally.

In summary here again the

### **Five Guiding Principles of AP:**

#### **1. Development association and honorary post**



AP is a development association whose aim and purpose it is to support St. Luke's Hospital and the schools and projects around.

All persons responsible in Afrikaprojekt are working honorarily throughout the whole year for this aim with great commitment, a huge amount of time and great support of the people in Saarland and beyond.

## **2. Self-Restriction in the “square measure of humanity“**

AP has restricted itself and in Germany and in Zimbabwe alike we have chosen the square measure of the Saarland to demonstrate the size of the area we want to support. During an AP event the prime minister of Saarland called this “the square measure of humanity“. In Zimbabwe this is helpful because all the AP projects can be reached from the center St. Luke's Hospital with an off-road vehicle within two hours. This ensures a manageable documentation of all projects as well.

## **3. The name Afrikaprojekt Dr. Schales e.V.**

The name „Afrikaprojekt – Dr. Schales e. V.“ contains three important and irrevocable approaches of our work:

**Afrikaprojekt – Dr. Schales e.V.** means that we will also be open for other projects in **Africa**, if the project in Zimbabwe is considered as winded up or the support is no longer wanted.

**AfrikaProjekt – Dr. Schales e.V.** means for us that all projects are not started for an endless time that they are open and revised every year. Not dependency, but independence is our highest aim.

**Afrikaprojekt – Dr. Schales e.V.** eventually also means that we orientate ourselves towards the person Dr. Hans Schales. It was he who initiated the AP and all donors support the project mainly with the faith in his person, who acted as a doctor here in Saarland with great success for 30 years. Here in Saarland Dr. Schales attended more than 20,000 deliveries and implemented humanitarian aims of the obstetrics. Many people today thank him by supporting the AP. The success of AP originates particularly in the faith in this person Hans Schales. This was also dignified in the year 2003 with the award of the Federal Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for Dr. Hans Schales.

We are organized as a registered development association in Germany and hence accountable to our members, sponsorship-parents and donors.

## **4. Help to help yourself, independence and sustainability**

The owner is responsible for the hospital and also for the schools belonging to it. We support projects in the hospital and the schools, which are also considered reasonable by the owner. The cooperation with the community is important.

Local coordinators (Dr. Rudo Gwini, Father Charles, Gordon Hlatywayo, priests, medical specialists, teachers...) play essential roles in the implementation of the AP projects.

From our point of view we have not yet paid enough attention to the capability for the self-sufficiency of the local people. The first and most important help in need is always taken up by the local persons responsible (e.g. Dr. Gwini and AP-Coordinator Hlatywayo) and accomplished by the persons concerned. AP wants that sustainable help for and by the persons concerned can be accomplished by themselves. Efficient help therefore takes time.

AP supports projects that have thoroughly been checked concerning their sustainability. Many projects within the last few years can be considered as spontaneous help in times of disastrous emergency situations.

We are aware of the fact that we are in a phase in which especially time and patience are most important. Many supporting measures require sustainability, by being supported and carried on by the local persons responsible. Not AP should develop the visions for St. Luke's Hospital and the schools



etc., but the responsible representatives of the institutions, last but not least the people working there. Our primary concern is to support this.

We now see the chance that there is room and time for this, as in the past the hospital was consistently standing at the abyss and in front of the collapse because of political and economical difficulties in the country Zimbabwe. There was a lack of planning reliability, which is no longer a fact.

### **5. Realistic evaluation**

We are acting in accordance with what is possible.

We align ourselves with what is required and wanted.

We are aware of a furthermore insecure economical and political situation in Zimbabwe.

But all in all we cannot wait “until the overall political situation changes and maybe all gets better“. During these times we need to have perspectives and planning reliability for short-term and intermediate-term aims, enable a better life and work for the people there, to enable better care and healing for the patients and offer pupils a chance for education.

This is a general humanitarian aim that always applies. It is a precept of Christian charity, more than ever in a mission hospital.

In the name of the board of the Foerdereverein Afrikaprojekt Dr. Schales e.V.

In the name of the 559 members, the 838 sponsorship-parents and many true donors and friends of the Afrikaprojekt.

In March 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'O. Schales', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Oliver Schales, Chairman