

Annual Report 2018

ARBING MEETS AFRICA

01.03.2018 – 28.02.2019



Association ARBING MEETS AFRICA
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INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

The non – profit Association Arbing meets Africa was founded in 2015 by Heinz Wegerer, Michael Kragl and Verena Prinz in Arbing (Upper Austria). In 2017 the board was extended by Leonie Ernst. The Associations objective is, to further Development cooperation to fight poverty and hardship in the ODA recipient states in Africa regarding education, health and environmental protection. Through participative development and implementation of new opportunities for self-help, the conditions of living for people in socially and economically disadvantaged regions in Africa should be permanently enhanced, whilst also incorporating and respecting their cultural values.

We believe, that there is no sure formula for successful development cooperation, but rather, that three Aspects are of utmost importance: adapt, incorporate and insist. It is necessary to adjust to local conditions, to incorporate the people on site and to also insist on their assistance. We don't offer unconditional help, but rather the support to create opportunities for themselves.

The association ARHING MEETS AFRICA is synonymous with transparency and the direct use of donations in realizing projects. We use donations responsibly. The voluntary co-worker contribution in Austria meant that during the project year, around 98% of donations were able to be transferred to Africa. The total travel costs were covered by the co-workers themselves. Every Euro donation is valuable and is used directly where it is needed – a commitment we are all bound to!



Heinz Wegerer and the team
from **ARHING MEETS AFRICA**

Fundraising: Verena Prinz
Use of funds: Heinz Wegerer
Data protection: Heinz Wegerer

Note: Equality is very important to us. However, in order to make the text more readable, either the masculine or feminine form has been selected. This should in no way be taken as discriminatory against the other gender. They refer equally to men and women.

ASSOCIATION ARBING MEETS AFRICA

The Association ARBING MEETS AFRICA comprises four Full Members (Board of Directors) and 100 Sponsoring Members. Our projects continue to develop and consequently, over the year, our co-worker teams in Austria and Kenya have grown.

Co-workers in Austria

In addition to the four-member Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee of Antonia Fedder (creative director), Marilena Neuböck (cooperations) and Beate Gruber (Finance) has now been joined by three further experts from different disciplines; so that ARBING MEETS AFRICA in Austria now comprises 10 co-workers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	TEAM FINANCE & ORGANISATION	TEAM SOCIAL & COMMUNICATION		
	ADVISORY COMMITTEE	TEAM SOCIAL & COMMUNICATION		
	 Heinz Wegerer Founder Executive Director	 Michael Kragl Founder Board Member	 Verena Prinz Founder Board Member	 Leonie Ernst Board Member
	 Beate Gruber Finance	 Michael Machreich Use of funds	 Phelister Teufel Intercultural communication	 Antonia Fedder Creative Director
	 Stefan Brabenetz IT-Infrastructure	 Marilena Neuböck Cooperations		


Organisational chart
ARBING MEETS AFRICA

Co-workers in Kenya


Our team in Kenya work for the newly formed Kenyan NGO ARBING MEETS AFRICA, carrying the same name as the association in Austria. The Leading Team in Kenya remains unchanged but strengthened through additional co-workers and organisational restructuring. Our Project Coordinator Edward Kitur leads a team of 26 co-workers. Our activities are divided into two areas, each with their own Leadership:

- (1) **Arbing School Kamobo:** The non-profit school is led by Head –Teacher Nelson Choge, together with his deputy Caroline Rop.
- (2) **Social Unit:** All other activities are put together in the Social Unit, under the leadership of Naomy Jeptum. This includes, above all, the Community Seminars and all activities in the Social Care Programmes as well as cooperation with other social projects.


Team Kenya




Edward Kitur
Project Coordinator



Naomy Jeptum
Social Unit



Nelson Choge
Arbing School Kamobo





Team Kenya together with Austrian board members and technical experts

Financial Report

The association had available funds for the year of € 108,770.19 of which € 95,270.19 was funding income and € 13,500.00 was allocated funding rolled over from the previous year. € 82,841.63 was transferred to Kenya and a further € 21,003.79 has been allocated to plans for 2019. Administration and fund-raising costs amounted to € 2,333.15. Of the administration costs, the greatest costs were external auditing, € 960.00 and international bank incl. transfer fees, € 495.19. For the year 2018-19, this represents an administration quota of about 2% (€ 2,333.15 of € 95,270.19), i.e. direct project allocation of about 98%.

Receipts	
I. Donations	
a) non-dedicated	€ 8,414.38
b) dedicated	€ 48,206.57
II. Membership contributions incl. funders	€ 16,354.67
III. Trading income	
IV. Subsidies and grants from public bodies	€ 22,277.00
V. Other income	
a) Investments	€ 15.56
b) Other income not included under points I to IV	€ 2.01
VI. Completion of commitments to unused dedicated donations / subsidies	€ 13,500.00
VII. Use of reserves	
VIII. Annual loss	
Total Receipts	€ 108,770.19

Payments	
I. Payments for defined objectives defined by statute	€ 82,841.63
II. Fundraising	€ 278.77
III. Administrative expenses	€ 2,054.38
IV. Other expenditure - not included in I to III	
V. Rollover of commitments to unused dedicated donations / subsidies	€ 21,003.79
VI. Allocation to reserves	€ 2,591.62
VII. Annual net profit	
Total Payments	€ 108,770.19

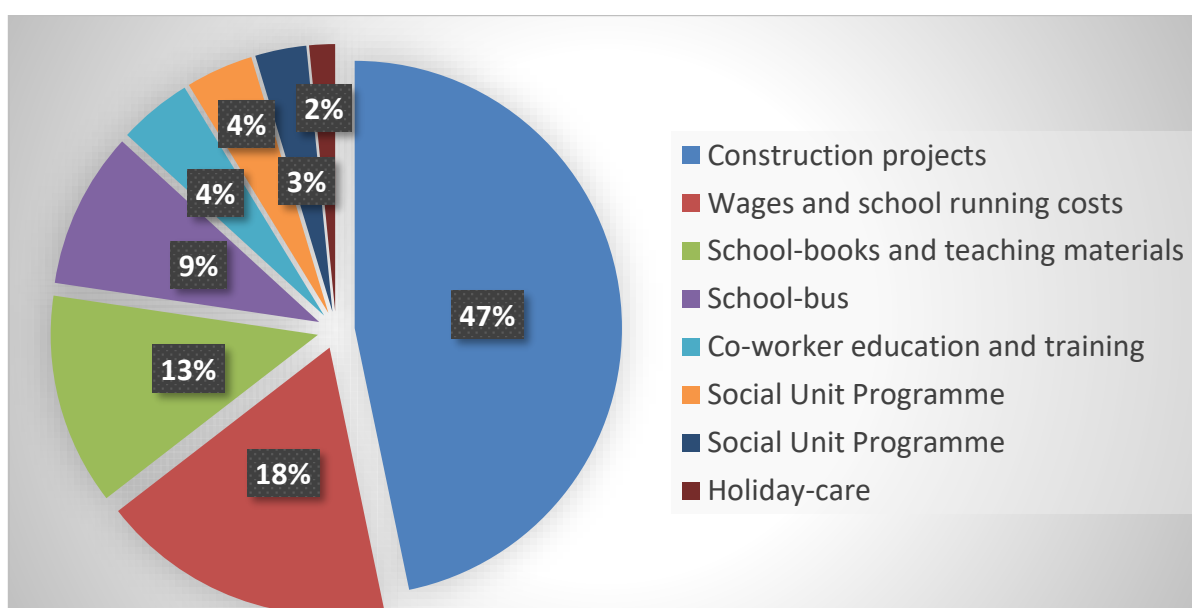
Receipts/Payments – association's year 2018

Use of funds

As seen in the financial report for 2018-19, c. 98% of available funds were allocated directly to project-specific funding and transferred to the project country, Kenya. This section provides more detail of the allocation of the € 82,841.63 in Kenya. From the charts below, it can be seen that the greatest allocation was to the school-building project (47%):

Construction projects	€ 38,712.11
Wages and school running costs	€ 14,748.12
School-books and teaching materials	€ 10,612.70
School-bus	€ 7,840.56
Co-worker education and training	€ 3,684.65
Social Unit Programme	€ 3,382.74
Seminars incl. educational work	€ 2,569.05
Holiday-care	€ 1,291.69
Total	€ 82,841.63

Overview of use of funds in Kenya



Pie-chart: use of funds in Kenya

Details of the use of the money in these eight categories can be found in the following chapters.

ARBING SCHOOL KAMOBO PROJECT

The Arbing School Kamobo is a non-profit school which has grown out of a community project from a private initiative by parents. Since 2015, the project has been supported by ARBING MEETS AFRICA and has grown steadily ever since. The 2014 community-defined vision states: “to assist needy children who pay a small fee and get quality education”. The idea of the founders was to



The school in 2015

pool the small amount of available money, to offer the children an alternative to the heavily overloaded State School System. The families, most of whom live under the poverty line, dreamed of their children being offered a worthwhile education and thereby a perspective into the future.



The pre-school and primary school together today have 314 places. The original community vision has become reality, which is why the parents continue to pay a financial contribution in the form of relatively low school-fees. The project is well on the way to being, as far as possible, independent of external financing. The

school continues to be led by the project founders. ARBING MEETS AFRICA supports the people in Kamobo in helping them to help themselves.



Arbing School Kamobo in 2019

Infrastructure projects

8 new classrooms

Following the construction of four classrooms in the years 2016-17, eight new classrooms have been built in the past year. All rooms have sheet-metal roofs, electricity and furniture. The new rooms, having 500m², provide places for over 200 children and meet local standards. Exclusively, in all areas of construction, local materials were used and workers from Kamobo involved. The school furniture, for example, was made in the school grounds using wood from the village.



| 4 of the new classrooms next to the sports field

School-bus

Many pupils at the Arbing School have to cover a distance of five or more kilometres, daily. Previously, the parents had no option but to send the children on a motorbike-taxi. As that involves four to seven children on one motorbike, it is a risky venture; above all, in the rainy season, when it is very risky. Because the motorbike-taxis are also relatively expensive, the parents frequently asked about a cheaper and safer mode of transport.



| the situation in 2018



| the new school bus

During a workshop, the parents worked together with our social worker on a concept for a sustainable transport system. With financial support from ARHING MEETS AFRICA, the parents, in cooperation with the school leadership, were able to buy and restore a used vehicle. The school undertakes the administration of the transport service. Thanks to a relatively low (compared to a motorbike-taxi) fee, the parents are able to cover the major costs of the transport service themselves.

Outlook

As part of the Nutrition Programme in the Arbing School Kamobo, 300 warm meals are provided daily and more than 300 portions of oat-porridge served. These are currently prepared and served in a provisional, corrugated iron kitchen and dining area, which, in the light of the bulging growth in numbers, should be completely replaced in the coming year by a new building. For the planning of this and future building projects, we have arranged cooperation with the Vienna-based group “Architects without borders”.



| the current kitchen



| the dining hall is packed

group of architects, drainage specialists, landscape planners and other technical specialists have proven experience in completing building projects in developing countries. The focus of the cooperation is not to plan the project in Austria but, significantly, to support Kenyan architects and builders and thereby enable an exchange of knowledge.

In addition to the mainstay ingredients of beans, cornmeal and rice, the preparation of meals also includes other vegetables such as onions and cabbage and tomatoes. Most of the ingredients are bought at Kamobo market; the rest are provided by parents from their own smallholdings.

In addition, last year we started a kitchen garden, the first step towards self-sufficiency. We also have several animals including cows, sheep and chickens. For the coming year, the establishment of the school farm is at last on the programme. Over the next few months, the meadows and fields will be expanded, stables built and more animals acquired. Our school-farm manager, Robert, who has passionately looked after our animals for a number of years, is looking forward to the improved working environment. The school-farm should



| Schoolfarm-Manager Robert



| Animals at Arbing School

on the one hand supply the school and on the other hand provide a pedagogic opportunity. Given that several of our pupils will later have their own farming business, we can offer practical teaching at the school-farm, as ideal preparation for their future.

Measures to enhance the quality of teaching

The Vision of the Arbing School Kamobo is to enable children living in conditions of poverty to receive high quality education. Our focus is in providing solid fundamental education, as a means of supporting their way out of the downward poverty spiral. The children have the opportunity to discover their talents, whether academic, in handwork, sport or other area. It is fair to assume that many of our children will work in farming when they finish school. A solid education and training, incorporating practical components at the school-farm, provide the best preparation for the children of the Arbing School.

Four levers for enhancing the quality of education have been identified:

- Number of pupils per class
- Purchase of school-books
- Further education and training for co-workers
- Care of the children

Number of pupils per class

In recent years, the government has not invested enough in State schools, notably in rural areas. There is not the funding to build more classrooms or employ more teachers. The result of this lack of State funding is that 1 teacher can be found with 50-100 children in a class.

This problem exists in the area around Kamobo; which is what led the local community to start the school. The director of a neighbouring school

reported that the budgets have not increased significantly over the last 10 years, despite the number of pupils increasing from 400 to 800. He ensured us that he is really pleased that the Arbing School Kamobo will help to reduce the pressure on his State school.



low number of students per class as key success factor

We have agreed with our colleagues at the Arbing School that the maximum class-size will be 26 children. It is always a pleasure to see with our own eyes the positive effects of this measure. The teachers are able to engage with each pupil personally, knowing precisely their strengths and weaknesses as well as the social challenges facing each of them.

Purchase of school-books

The previously mentioned lack of investment in the State school system has also led to a lack of school-books. In many Kenyan schools, it is common that four to five children share one book. In most schools, teaching materials are in short supply.



sufficient number of school books for successful learning

Through sustained investment at the Arbing School Kamobo, we have achieved a ratio of 1:2; which means that a book is available on each school-desk. In some classes a book:pupil ratio of 1:1 has been achieved. The teachers report considerable improvement. It is easier for the children to follow the lesson and they are more able to concentrate.

The purchase of supplementary school-books means that high-quality teaching can be achieved. We shall continue with this strategy and invest each year in new school-books.

Further education and training for co-workers

The quality of teaching will be influenced predominately by the quality of the teachers but also influenced by the level of education and training of other colleagues. That is why, for many years, ARBING MEETS AFRICA has invested in the education and training of co-workers. In the past year, six colleagues were able to undertake part-time vocational studies; four teachers, an administration worker and a social worker were able to attend University in the holiday months of April, August and December.



During the employee meetings Caroline told us about the educational program she is attending



Our QUASSO John

Moreover, since the beginning of 2019, Mr John has joined the team. He takes care of the quality of education and training generally and specifically of the evaluation of co-workers. John is a retired teacher and former head teacher who brings his experience of many years to the school. As QUASSO (Quality Assurance Officer), he evaluates the co-workers, in order to identify improvement potential. Naturally, he also provides support in an advisory capacity and gives useful tips.

Care of the children

Teaching in the Kenyan School System is normally in whole-day schools; a distinction being between day-schools and boarding-schools. ARBING MEETS AFRICA has decided to run the Arbing School Kamobo as a day-school; there being many reasons for this decision. Essentially, the main reason is that our children all come directly from the village and surroundings and we wanted to let the children stay with their families. Another important reason is the normal very high boarding-school fees, which double or triple the basic school fees. It is important to us that the parents are given the chance to finance the school over the long-term. High boarding-school fees would be contra-productive.



Porridge in the morning



traditional Kenyan food for lunch

As the children spend the whole day in the Arbing School Kamobo, it is essential that that they are well looked after. Unfortunately, in many Kenyan Schools it is not the general rule to offer a snack. At the Arbing School Kamobo, the children receive porridge in the mornings and a warm meal at mid-day. But looking after the children goes beyond the diet (nutrition programme). Naturally, it happens from time to time, that a child is ill or injured. In that case, there is primary care at the school, then the child will

be taken home or to the nearest hospital in the school-bus. It also happens that children sometimes stay away from school. In that situation, the social worker looks into the matter and offers help if there are family problems.

SOCIAL UNIT PROJECT

Up to now, the activities of the Social Worker were part of the Arbing School Kamobo. We have noticed, especially in the last year, that our projects in the areas of Adult Education and Training and in the area of Social Care are becoming considerably more important. The Arbing School Kamobo has made possible our entry into the community, so to speak. The area of social work has grown beyond the bounds of the Arbing School and exists as a very important, independent area of work for ARBING MEETS AFRICA. The first step was to re-structure the Social Unit and the second step has been to recruit more social workers.

Social Care

As in the Arbing School, our social care programme aims to work with that part of the community living below subsistence level; a situation affecting a greater part of the population around Kamobo. Many people live below the poverty-line and have to get by with less than 50 Euros per month. Most of them work on the regional tea plantations as day labourers, without any Social Security.



7 people are living in this mud house

As these basic conditions and various other challenges affect the pupils attending the Arbing School Kamobo, the co-workers of the Social Unit work, as before, in the school and its catchment area. It is important for the association ARBING MEETS AFRICA and Kenyan colleagues, that the parents, despite their low incomes, can afford the non-profit school. However, for hardship cases, we have established the Social Care Programme. The families that cannot afford the low school fees can still send their children to school, where the Social



Leonie and Verena together with our Social Workers during family visits

Worker will look after them. By regular visits, the Social Worker determines, together with their team, which families should receive this dispensation. Nonetheless, these families try to contribute to the Social Project. Some of the parents have even been lucky enough to get a job at the Arbing School Kamobo.

Another great challenge is the compulsory school uniform at Kenyan Schools. The uniform costs more than most parents earn in a month. We, therefore, make these uniforms available to needy families. The children's joy and the pride of their parents is enormous, in seeing, mostly for the first time, their children in a school uniform.



Social Worker Naomi handing over uniforms

Community Seminars

Adult education and training has developed into a central building block of the developmental co-working in Kenya. Many people in Kamobo and surroundings were only able to attend school for a few years. Especially women were very often denied access to education and training. In addition, in the past, the Kenyan teaching plans did not include practical elements such as farming or health issues such as HIV prevention.



many of the parents did not receive any formal education in the past



The Community Seminars are always very crowded

Our social worker, Naomi, and her team, has analysed the gaps in essential knowledge and problem areas of the families in Kamobo. Several times a year, she puts on Community Seminars covering different issues, such as family-planning, health, HIV prevention, farming, women's roles and alcoholism. In the coming year, a special focus will be on alcohol and drug misuse, something which affects many families.

Cooperation with other organizations

The example of the experience with the Arbing School Kamobo shows that support from local initiatives is a good way of ensuring sustainable development co-working. That is why ARBING MEETS AFRICA also cooperates with other locally chosen initiatives and social projects. Ensuring the strengthening of the women is a vital cornerstone for successful development co-working, since, not only the children, but above all the women in



Heinz at a meeting with the FILAGAT WOMEN

our project region, suffer under often severe living conditions, We, therefore, support a women’s self-help group “FILAGAT WOMEN GROUP”. Over the past 10 years, this group has grown to over 100 women out of the lowest income group. The original idea was based on micro-credit and elements of a savings group. The women make small, regular contributions and can then, in an emergency, or in tight financial conditions, receive credit, which they can then repay to the group over a long period. In addition, the women are organised in five groups and together generate incomes. They breed and rear chickens and sheep, run a small stall at the market and produce bricks.



Our Social Worker during a visit at Nancy’s home

One of these women is Nancy (name changed). She has four small children, has walking disabilities and lives under very difficult conditions. Nevertheless, Nancy has a great talent; she is exceptionally good at weaving pullovers. The FILAGAT WOMEN GROUP set out to support Nancy in buying a weaving machine, so that she can make a living. As the women’s group had saved over a long period and it lacked only 30% of the financing, ARBING MEETS AFRICA was active in supporting the group by the purchase.

Since then, Nancy has regularly produced the pullovers for the school uniforms of the Arbing School Kamobo. Our Social Unit buys these pullovers and makes them available to needy children. As 50 children join the school each year, Nancy has gained a reliable customer in the Arbing School Kamobo.



Nancy producing pullovers for Arbing School

PROJECT VISITS

August 2018



The children like the nature walk a lot

In Kenya's three semester system, there is no school in the months of April, August, November and December. In each school-free month, we offer the Arbing School Kamobo a two-week programme. At the same time, this setting enables us to provide warm, daily meals for the children. This holiday care also provides a good opportunity to impart practical knowledge in a playful way, beyond formal teaching. We also provide the opportunity for children from the community who are not at the Arbing School Kamobo, to join in the programme.

As several of our teachers take time in these months themselves to sit at a school-desk, or are free because of the holiday, the Holiday Programme offers volunteers a wonderful opportunity to bring their knowledge and skills into the Arbing School. ARBING MEETS AFRICA attaches great importance in developing concrete assignment packages with the volunteers, so that they have the best opportunity to support our colleagues, onsite. It is important to us that a volunteer does not replace local workers but together they enable a reciprocal exchange of ideas and knowledge. For the Holiday Programme in August 2018, the two teachers Tanja and Gernot declared their interest in assisting the Kenyan Team onsite. Both of them were able to bring their vast experience of teaching in Austria, whilst learning a great deal from the Kenyan colleagues.



Painting as part of the holiday-care program



Games and a lot of fun as a refreshing change

September 2018

Our board member, Leonie was onsite in September to fulfil important tasks in the area of monitoring and evaluation. She supported the local co-workers, notably in the administrative completion of the building project. Having a transparent, practical monitoring and evaluation system is especially important for a subsidised, or rather, third-party financed, development co-worker project. Leonie was also able to use her stay to help our social worker, Naomi, through the first steps in the restructuring of the Social Unit, as well as the planning for 2019.



Leonie together with Headteacher Nelson

February 2019

As in the past two years, the board of directors made their way to Kamobo at the beginning of the school year, or rather, the end of the charity's year. In addition to the annual exchange of letters, the programme included, primarily, intensive workshops focussed on the structure and organisation of the NGO, as well as many discussions with co-workers. In addition, the board of directors was able to support the Kenyan management team with the annual finance and general planning.

This year's stay had a special meaning for the management committee. For the first time, the programme included an official meeting with the Village Elders. These women and men, who are well-respected by the local population, were invited to the Arbing School Kamobo, where the projects and programme of ARHING MEETS AFRICA were presented. The community leaders were impressed by the work which had been accomplished and expressed their wholehearted support.



The letter exchange is very exciting both for the Austrian and Kenyan penfriends



The meeting with the Village Elders was very successful

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CLOSING REMARKS

Dear supporters of ARBING MEETS AFRICA,

we can look back on an eventful year. As well as our local NGO, the Project Arbing School Kamobo has also been officially recognized by the Kenyan State. Our project Arbing School Kamobo is well-established and is developing wonderfully. We are confident that we can continue to develop the project into 2021, so that in the long-term, its independent existence can be assured by the community. As a result, we have the resources to look further into the future and to start additional projects.

It is important and a joy to look into the future and to have visions; but it is also especially important to acknowledge and be thankful for what has already been achieved. We, the board of directors of ARBING MEETS AFRICA, are especially thankful for your support. Thank you for your trust and willingness to help. We feel it as a great gift to us, the opportunity to help people in a less privileged part of the World. It is highly motivating to know that so many people are behind the project and are so enthusiastic about this common cause.

As you know, from the very beginning, we placed great value on acting cautiously, not rushing anything, combined with reflecting critically on our actions and aligning them with our guiding principles. We promise that we shall continue to use your donations diligently. We shall continue to work with full motivation and passion and at the same time be cautious, keeping an eye on our guiding principles.

In closing, we'd like to share with you a quote from Gerald Faschingeder, which, from the beginning has guided our work:

"I can only say Development co-work is good when it contributes to the improvement of the life of people, based on their society and their individual and collective identity, so that the basis of the culture is improved; when the definition of what constitutes "improvement" comes from the aforementioned culture"

Many thanks for your multi-faceted support.



Heinz Wegerer, Chairmen

on behalf of the Board of Directors of

ARBING MEETS AFRICA



The Austrian Board together with the Board Members of the Kenyan NGO