

# Newsletter July 2022

Dear reader,

On this sunny summer day, I would like to fill you in on the developments of our project Kufambatose – Progressing together. Together: the local Trust Kufamba Tose, children with a disability, their parents, local professionals, volunteers, financial supporters. The sun is shining within the project, too. The fact is, that things are going well. Our aim to work toward more independence of Trust Kufamba Tose in Zimbabwe develops itself, step by step. In this newsletter we will tell you about the latest visit of Willemijn Simons Rüttiman to Zimbabwe, in October last year. Furthermore, there is a report about an Africa weekend, a nice action to raise awareness on the situation in Zimbabwe and on our project.

A quick note about the business evenings of Lions club 'Son en Breugel'. And lastly, we would like to introduce to you two strong women in our project.

Happy reading!

## Introduction

First a short note on the economic and political situation in Zimbabwe.

The economic situation there is still in decline. There is enormous



Hooray I stand!

In the Chekenere supportgroup during Projectvisit 2022.



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inflation.



*Example:* Cooking oil is an important ingredient in the daily meal. In five weeks' time, the price for a two-liter bottle of cooking oil went up from about US\$2.50 to US\$7.00. For an average family, it will suffice for two weeks. The price for a loaf of bread doubled.

Elections are planned for 2023. In preparation, ZANUPF, which has been in power for many years, tries to consolidate and increase its power by implementing various new measures. Another period of more uncertainty and less safety. A period in which the ordinary citizens have no choice but to acquiesce and position themselves in order to “survive”. Yet, the opposition is getting stronger, and more people seem inclined to choose for another Zimbabwe. This is partly due to the pressure from Zimbabweans abroad.

### Project visit 2022

In February Willemijn travelled to Zimbabwe again, to work on the project for two weeks. This has always been like coming home to her. Her primary goal this time was to train, together with Samson, our new local co-worker Deborah, and watch the various support groups at work.

Deborah has worked for the local Kufamba Tose Trust since January 2022. Among other things, she is the mother of a child with cerebral palsy (see her story below in this newsletter). She works as an administrative assistant and as a coach for mothers. She is experienced in writing reports, cooperating with (international) donors, and executing projects in regarding people with a disability.

During the weeks of working together, Willemijn and Deborah lived



Deborah, front-left in the photo, during a supportgroup which was organized in the house of a parent, ‘in the bush’.



together too, so that work often stopped when they went to bed. Meanwhile, Deborah learned a lot more about the project and its aims. New structures for the Trust were built, in cooperation with Samson. Willemijn, on the other hand, gained deeper insight into the culture, the position of women, and the difficulties for a mother with a disabled child. A valuable time, indeed. Next to working hard (which they can do in Zimbabwe too), and many serious conversations, there was, as usual, a lot to laugh about, as well.

#### Visiting support groups

Now that several support groups have existed for almost a year, it was good to see how the different groups work individually. Each group has its own character and dynamics, so that the support groups really are a part of the community that the mothers form together. There are groups that always meet up at the home of the same child, other groups vary. There are groups that invite Village Health Workers and/or village heads by default, but also those that regularly meet up without therapists, and groups that developed a kind of financial savings system together.

Most groups are well-embedded in the local village systems now. So, it was perfectly clear that we want to keep the system of support groups going, also after Corona time, and expand it.

Considering the fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a good place of meeting in one of the hospitals, it was decided to look for a piece of land. A center for the group could be built there, meant for meetings and rehabilitation in the broad sense of the word.



Pride takes care of her chickens,  
allowing her to pay her school fee.

#### Cooperation Cure Hospital

Willemijn and her team also had the opportunity to visit the new Cure International (Pediatric Orthopedic) Hospital in Bulawayo. The collaboration arising from this will allow treatment there, if needed, of





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our children in Zaka. Several children have already profited from this arrangement. In the same way, Cynthia (see below in this newsletter) got her prosthesis.



Fungai receives two goats.

### Income-generating projects

This year the income-generating projects could be further developed, in cooperation with Leonhard Cheshire Disability Zimbabwe. Several families received 50 baby chickens each, to be able to start their own chicken project. Also, 23 families could be given 2 goats each. These have already produced offspring here and there. It is intended that parents will be able to support the project financially themselves, e.g.

by contributing to medical costs for their child with a disability, transport to the meetings and their own food in the support groups.

Now these costs are still paid by the Trust.

Sometimes sad things happen, too. Once in a while a child dies. Thus, some weeks ago Carlton, a severely handicapped girl of six or seven years old with epilepsy, died. The Trust supports the family in those circumstances with a financial contribution for the funeral.



Percy Kuta's art is inspired by nature.



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## Africa Weekend

In the weekend of 14 –15 May last, the international working group of the ecumenical basic group 'Jonge kerk' in Roermond organized a weekend with attention to Africa, and Zimbabwe in particular. The occasion was the visit of Percy Kuta, sculptor from the sculptors' village Tengenenge in Zimbabwe. He was a guest of Anne-Miek Simons, chairman of our Stichting Kufambatose for some weeks. It was a lively



Djembé group during the Africa Weekend

weekend, and the weather was beautiful. There was an exhibition of sculptures by Percy, and of paintings by Daniel Kambere from Congo and Yosief Indrias from Eritrea. On the forecourt there was a

performance of a Djembé group. And Percy was teaching a sculpture workshop for two days. The atmosphere was great and there was a lot of interest.

And of course, information on our project was clearly present. The revenues from the sales of sculptures and paintings went to our project.

## Business evening Lions club 'Son en Breugel'

Recently we were invited to the annual business evening of Lions club 'Son en Breugel'. Several charity organizations had been invited. We were pleasantly surprised with a nice donation to our project. Nice to experience that also the members of the Lions club, their donors and entrepreneurs have a warm heart for the kids in our project. Many thanks for that!

## Two strong women in the project

We would like to introduce you to two special women in our project. Their stories reflect several aspects of our project.



### Deborah Ncube

Deborah herself is the mother of a son called James, with physical limitations due to spasticity.

James has a healthy twin brother and an elder brother.

From 2014 up to and including 2016 Deborah regularly came to Willemijn with James, and she belongs to the first mothers who attended the monthly workshops. She is a positive-minded, independent woman. Before James was born, she worked as a teacher. Initially the father had a positive

attitude towards the mother and James. But after nine years,

under pressure from the father's family, mother was literally thrown out of her house by her husband and in-laws.

She picked up life with her sons again in Harare, started working for Zimbabwe Parents of Handicapped Children Association, an organization that brings together the mothers of children with a

disability. She came into contact with this organization through the

cooperation with our project in those days.

Through her work she is also capable of keeping her family afloat. Next to that, she works on James's exercises on a regular basis, so that he has been able to reach a major level of his potential. She does not have any support from the father of the children. James is well integrated in her little family.

She gained experience as project leader, drawing up reports,

connecting with other organizations in Zimbabwe and abroad. She never

forgot the parents and children with a disability in Zaka, and therefore she decided to start working for Trust Kufamba Tose from 1 January 2022.

Meanwhile she has become a real experience expert and an advocate for the rights of children with a disability. This makes her an example



Deborah during a Village Health Workers training.





for the other mothers, and she can of support them very well. Very useful to our project.

### Cynthia Gutuza

A success story.

Cynthia is an 8-year-old girl, the second in a family of three children. She was born without legs and growth is lagging.

In the picture she is wearing a lower leg prosthesis, designed in cooperation with an orthopedic technician and paid for by our foundation. This way she can walk fairly normally.

At first the mother was ridiculed and accused of having an adulterous affair or that she could be bewitched. The father stayed loyal to his family and was more than ready and willing to taking part in working towards a better future for his daughter. From the very beginning, mother attended the workshops with Cynthia. This way

Cynthia was stimulated from a young age to do as many things as possible with her feet. Now she can get dressed, wash, eat and write independently.

Cynthia now attends a school for children with a disability. The school hosts a boarding school, so that she does not have to travel far to go to school. She quickly got used to the new environment and she is a great help to other children.

Cynthia's mother is supported with a chicken project, so that she can provide for her daughter's needs and pay for part of the school fees. The Gutuza family and the villagers have changed their attitude towards Cynthia and embrace her like any other child. Cynthia's father has been very supportive, and he is determined to give his daughter a better life. The members of the village community have changed their attitude towards people with a disability in general.

This way we try to stimulate the project itself, and those who are involved, to stand on their own feet, step by step, and develop self-sufficiency.

Cynthia walks with her new lower leg prosthesis.



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## To conclude

The children, their parents, the local professionals and we, the volunteers in Europe, thank everybody who supports or has supported us with this work. Together we can make a step forward again and again.

Should you want to know more about us or our project in Zimbabwe, check our website: [www.kufambatose.eu](http://www.kufambatose.eu). Perhaps, after reading this newsletter, you would also like to contribute to the work of the foundation? We are pleased with all support, financially or otherwise.

The Kufambatose Foundation is marked as ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling) by the Dutch tax authorities. Gifts are therefore tax deductible. For more information, check our website of the site of the tax administration.

Your entire financial support shall be for the benefit of the project only.

With kind regards,

Board Kufambatose Foundation – Progressing together



Playing must also be taught,  
during the Tashinga support group.