

Three more projects successfully completed

Prison Fellowship in Ndola (Zambia) has completed setting-up tailor training at the youth centre in Mushili and computer training at the youth center in Kawama. Prison Fellowship provides vocational training in Ndola prison to prepare prisoners for their reintegration into society. Now they also provide vocational training in two townships of Ndola with the aim of empowering vulnerable unemployed youth and reducing the risk of them becoming involved in criminal activities and ending up in prison. Project has been completed successfully.



Rural Initiative Network in Jasikan (Ghana) completed an internship program for 22 unemployed rural youth and supported them in setting up small-scale businesses. Rural Initiative Network is an NGO that focuses on community development, empowerment of women and rural youth. They identified mentors and developed internship programs with them and provided the interns with the tools needed to participate in the program. The program was very successful.



Rural and Urban Development Initiative Agency in Kasulu (Tanzania) has empowered twenty adolescent girls to protect themselves against gender-based violence and supported them in developing self-employment. Rural and Urban Development Initiative Agency identified vocational training centres and enrolled the girls in their preferred courses. After the training, the girls received the resources (starter toolkits) they need to start their own business. This program has also been successfully completed.

Learning lessons from visiting projects....



Paul Suttmuller, our treasurer, visited ongoing and completed projects in Kenya and Uganda in July 2023. His last visit to East Africa was in February 2020, just at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. For three years such journeys were virtually impossible. The July 2023 trip with all the flights and bus trips made it again a true safari; he visited two projects in Nairobi and four projects in western Kenya (around Lake Victoria), two projects in the northern region of Uganda (near

the border with Congo) and one project in the western region, near Fort Portal.

The visit to six projects in Kenya and three projects in Uganda shows that government training centres and training centres from non-governmental organisations can equally be successful. Levozy's training centre in Nairobi is an example of a non-governmental organisation that is successful in providing vocational training to street children. Lambwe's vocational training school in Homa Bay and Pacer's vocational training school in Pakwach are examples of government-sponsored schools that are successful in vocational training for rural youth. Unfortunately, one project was not successful. The Ayaga Dani Widows Group from Homa Bay (Kenya) would gradually empower single teenage mothers. Sewing machines were provided for the first 10 teenage mothers. During the visit it turned out that no training centre had been set up. Financing was therefore stopped.

In addition, it was found that during the Covid-19 pandemic some projects were approved, but the organisations did not always have the capacity they claimed to have. The foundation therefore now also supports organisations in preparing a business plan for schools / training centres. This is also a tool to measure the seriousness of the organisation and their actual vocational training ambitions. In light of these findings, the foundation would also like to consider supporting training in school management, upskilling instructors and improving training modules (to include among others the necessary safety measures for practical lessons).



Scholarships

In 2023, the Van Doorn Foundation received 141 initial applications for a scholarship. Most applications came from Kenya (98) and Uganda (38) and in addition there were 4 from Tanzania and 1 from Zambia. Sixty percent of applications had to be rejected because they did not meet the criteria. Sixty-five applicants were invited to submit a final application and fifty complete final applications were received in June.

Of the final applications, 22 were from girls and 28 from boys. At the beginning of July, 20 new scholarships were awarded, 13 for studies starting in August and 7 for studies starting in January 2024. This brings the total number of scholarships in 2023 to 41, of which 19 for craft / vocational training, 6 for technical professional education and 16 for higher professional and university studies.



Graduated or still busy with their education!



Davis Ndege

Davis from Kenya is attending MOI University for a 4-year study in environmental health, the branch of public health concerned with monitoring or mitigating those factors in the environment that influence human health and disease. He just completed his second year and wrote us:

"I have been able to finish my second academic year successful without much struggle thanks to the fact that I received financial support from the Van Doorn Foundation. I was able to finish my first field attachment that gave me exposure of what my career will be as a public health officer."

Davis, we wish you success with the continuation of your study.

Mary Joan Kisakya

Mary Joan from Uganda just started her 2-year of training for a plumber's certificate. She does this at Iganga Vocational Training Institute. She successfully completed her first year. *"I can now do a lot of workshop practice without much supervision. In my previous industrial training, I was able to install a full house with plumbing materials like toilets, cisterns etc. with the supervision of one of my instructors."*

I thought it was going to be hard but I made it with just a few challenges here and there. I can say that I am satisfied because I am doing the course of my dreams and seeing most of things I expected coming out clearly."

Mary-Joan, good luck with the second year of your training



Vincent Joseph Omondi Otieno

Vincent from Kenya follows a 5-year study in electrical engineering at Machakos University. He just completed his 3rd year and started his 4th year.

When asked to tell us something about the progress of his studies, he wrote:

"I have gained a good foundation in electrical and electronics engineering. I went deeper into advanced topics improving my comprehension of complicated concepts and theories. I have also gotten hands-on experience with real-world projects and experiments, honing my skills in designing and implementing electrical systems."

The following are some of the challenges that I have faced this semester. Some courses can be demanding, with more advanced and specialized topics. Managing the workload and staying organized enabled me to succeed. I also fell sick during the examination period and this made me unable to sit some of the tests. However am planning to do special examinations to help me compensate what I lost."

Vincent, good luck with your studies!!



Work in progress...!

Vocational training for teenage street children in Kampala - Uganda

Rescue Mission for Street Life rescues annually 200-250 children from the streets of Kampala, identifies their parents/guardians and, where appropriate, facilitates their family reunification or fulfils the role of guardian and provides them with the support needed to grow, work and live independently. Rescue Mission for Street Life has a "skills station" where teenage street children who have been rejected by their families or have no family to support them can learn a trade to earn a living and live independently. To equip the "skills station" with tools for the training of these teenage street children, an amount of € 3,900 is needed. The Van Doorn Foundation is looking for sponsors to support this project!



Vocational training for street children in Nairobi - Kenya

Life on the streets of Dagoretti is mainly about survival. The street children lack any purpose due to their alienation from mainstream society. The Levozy Self Help Group in Nairobi offers street children informal vocational education. In a small centre, approximately 50 street children receive training as car mechanics, electricians and tailors. Since the street children found their way to the training centre, the centre has been expanded step by step with new vocational training courses, such as shoemaker, bicycle maker, and hairdresser, for another 30 students (street children).

€4,000 is required to set up a hairdressing, shoemaking and bicycle repair training course. The Van Doorn Foundation is looking for sponsors to support this project!

Rehabilitation and vocational training for street children in Chibombo - Zambia

Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) in Zambia has been operating Children's Town since 1990 dedicated to the rehabilitation of former street children with life skills training, and primary and secondary education. A Youth Academy (vocational training) was added, offering training in agriculture, food production and tailoring. All this with the ultimate goal of getting and keeping them out of street life and successfully reintegrating them into their community.

The Van Doorn Foundation wants to provide the necessary machines and tools for vocational training and provide them with starter toolkits. This requires an amount of € 4,800, for which the Van Doorn Foundation is looking for sponsors!



Support the projects of the Van Doorn Foundation! IBAN: NL 71 RABO 0157 8489 14



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Welcome to our new board member

Our board will be strengthened by Julia van Grinsven as of January 1, 2024 and we would like to introduce her to you.

After a career in special education in the Netherlands for many years, Julia lived and worked in Gambia, West Africa for more than 3 years. There she saw how important education was, and especially practice-oriented education. After all, this allows young people to work in their own country and build a good life for themselves and their families.

In the years that followed, she coordinated international projects to transfer knowledge about education for children with hearing and communication disabilities. Always in countries where that knowledge and skills were not available to parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

She would like to use her knowledge and experience as a board member in the coming years.



Still looking for volunteers

The foundation is a volunteer organization, and the board members and advisors do not receive any compensation. All income from the foundation is used for its primary purpose (scholarships and grants).

In the countries where the foundation is active, we have country advisors who provide the foundation with impartial and objective advice on the eligibility and urgency of a scholarship (requested by students) and on the eligibility and urgency of a grant (requested by vocational training centres).

We have country advisors in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and are now looking for a contact person (country advisor) in Zambia.

Results fundraising

The Foundation strives for 25% external funding of its annual expenditures. In 2023 we have been fortunate with a donation of € 4,970 from [Wilde Ganzen Foundation](#) in Amersfoort, € 3,845 from [Transfair Foundation](#) in Leerdam and € 2,500 from [Stichting Overal](#) in Nijmegen for various projects. In addition, we received more than €3,000 in individual private donations. With this, the Foundation has realized its intended fundraising for 2023. We are very grateful to our donors and sponsors!!

Learning Opportunity for Everybody

The mission of the Van Doorn Foundation is to contribute to the fight against poverty by funding education for vulnerable and financially less fortunate youths in developing nations, in order to increase their chances to find jobs, to provide for themselves and to support their families in the future.

Our target group are young people between 14 to 28 years of age, whose parents cannot or with great difficulty pay the school fees, and institutions (such as formal and informal vocational training centres, technical schools and special training centres for youth with disabilities) who need financial support to make education accessible and affordable for disadvantaged young people.



We thank our sponsors and donors for their contribution to a "learning opportunity for everybody" in 2023.

We wish everyone a happy, peaceful and healthy 2024