

# Annual Report 2020



As everywhere else in the world, our work in 2020 was greatly affected by the COVID crisis. Our focus shifted to emergency relief and helping people to cope with the crisis, and in particular to improving food security.

In response to the global climate crisis, tree planting was also prioritised.

*Through the generous support of many donors, we were able to provide financial support for the following projects of our partner groups in Africa, in addition to giving moral support and technical help:*

## Emergency support during the lockdown and following floods

The temporary lockdowns that took place across Africa at the beginning of the Covid epidemic caused terrible poverty and hunger. Sometimes people died because they could not access the hospital. Discover provided emergency aid in the form of food and seeds to ten communities in Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe. In the Kasese district in Uganda, the desperate situation was exacerbated by catastrophic flooding. Many people died and many more lost their homes, crops and livelihoods. Thanks to our generous supporters, Discover was able to provide financial assistance here as well.

## Promotion of herb-based medicines and their registration

*"Discover Zimbabwe"* developed the "Makono Tonic", a tincture based on *Artemisia annua* and other local herbs. This tonic has proved to be very effective in treating the symptoms of COVID and is now going through the final stages of registration as an approved medicine by the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe. Then it will be officially recommended for use throughout the country. This will also give many poorer people access to an effective medicine.

## Production of facemasks and soap

*The Mikwano project in Kaliro, Uganda, and a group in Pumit in northwestern Uganda led by Christopher Nyakuni, set up workshops for local production of face masks. The Mikwano group produced 5700 face masks and 4000 litres of liquid soap. Many groups taught the importance of good hygiene in workshops and set up "tippy-taps" to facilitate hand washing.*

## Training seminars on the natural treatment of diseases

*The Bumbura Maliba Discover Group in Kasese District, Uganda, conducted a training on typhoid and hepatitis B in January and another on COVID prevention and treatment in November. Participants were community members and local officials with responsibility for public health in Kasese District.*

## Youthwork and the repair of the water supply in the village

After a spike in teenage pregnancies during the lockdown, *the JAFORD project in north-western Uganda*, led by Christopher Nyakuni, began working with young people to give them the opportunity to talk about the challenges they face. Football and netball teams were established to reach out to the youth and release their energies constructively. JAFORD members also improved the village water supply and were called in on many occasions to mediate in domestic conflicts and disputes.

## Training seminars in food security and natural healthcare

Our partners organised fewer formal training seminars than usual because of the Covid restrictions. A one-week seminar in organic gardening, natural health care and income generating activities was conducted by the *"Vumbula Masaka" national training team in Luweeru, Uganda*, just before the lockdown, and immediately afterwards the team conducted training in food security in Kacheera and Katakwi.

## Fishponds as a contribution to food security

*With the support of the "Stiftung Entwicklungszusammenarbeit in Baden-Württemberg" (SEZ), Kenja Thomas worked with three communities in Kasese District* to build a total of 104 concrete fishponds to improve food security. The lack of public transport forced him to walk for one and a half days to reach the construction sites. This initiative even won the approval of the local fisheries officer, who had not seen the possibility of raising fish in the absence of running water.

## Work with schools

*The Mikwano project under the leadership of Eric Kihuluka in the Kaliro district, with support from the Erbacher Foundation*, first continued its excellent work in the schools with nutrition, music, dance and drama, and the establishment of school gardens. After the lockdown, the team focused on the further development of the Farmer Field School, which they have developed as an excellent training centre for "Climate Smart Agriculture", which serves as a model for sustainable cultivation even in periods of drought.

## Tree planting programme

*With support from the Rems-Murr district*, which Discover received as part of the local Agenda 2030 funding programme, the Kasese network continued its extensive tree planting programme: 150 farmers each planted 100 trees and were thus able to establish agroforestry on their land. With the help of the "Trillion Tree Campaign", trees are also being planted in and around Mutare in Zimbabwe, on school grounds and badly eroded sites.

Many other Discover partners have also become active by planting trees. The trees planted are mainly indigenous trees, often threatened with extinction, and fruit trees. As a financial incentive for the farmers, some trees were planted that can be harvested as timber within 10 years.

Despite the lockdown, many groups were able to hold an official tree planting campaign on International Forest Day, 21 March 2020, thereby raising public awareness of the need for reforestation.

## Our priorities in 2021

Some of the Discover groups in Africa are now able to work largely independently and partly finance their projects themselves. This means that we have already come a good deal closer to our long-term goal of "helping people to help themselves". In 2021 our priority is to support as many Discover groups in Africa as possible to become more self-reliant. We therefore ask all our members and friends to continue their generous support so that we can achieve this goal.

The work of managing Discover is increasing, but I must admit that my energy is steadily decreasing. We need to downsize! In our management committee we have therefore decided that, from March 2022, we will concentrate on the tree planting activities of our partners in Africa. Such projects not only have many benefits for the local communities, but also help to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

Keith Lindsey, on behalf of the Discover Management Committee

15. March 2021

## Annual Report 2020 - Gallery



Christopher Nyakuni in Nyirivu village involving even young children in planting trees



Obaikol Gideon in Soroti is a carpenter and makes solar driers which help to make food available in the dry season. He taught carpentry skills to some youths living on the street



Pupils at the Sacred Heart Primary School care for croton trees that they planted six months earlier in their school grounds.



Members of Kighengi village being trained in the construction and maintenance of fishtanks



Women in Kaliro District sew facemasks





Rehema Namyalo teaches a group in Kacheera about organic gardening and rheumatism ointment



Following the week-long training seminar in Luweeru, the local Luweeru Discover group was formed. These are the elected committee members.



Daniel Twesige, Scope Foundation Jinja, works with families of prisoners. When the breadwinner is in prison, the family suffers. Daniel brought food, soap and seeds of grain amaranth



Discover Zimbabwe Trust is saving many lives with its Mokono tonic



One of many women in Kasese District whose home was destroyed by the floods