

TO MAKE DREAMS COME TRUE

DRC WOMEN'S COMMUNITY PROJECT SWAKOPMUND - NAMIBIA

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OUR STORY...

An Inheritance received in a
different form

In her first life, Anja Rohwer was a graphic designer. From a distance she admired her mother's social commitment. But when she died in 2009, someone had to be found to continue the many projects. Hundreds of people depended on this support. For Anja Rohwer it quickly became clear: "I can't say: This is not my life". She inherited the voluntary social work - and set up her own project in the Swakopmund district of the DRC, which is getting bigger and bigger.

**" One small gesture can
change someone's world.
Let's make it happen."**

To this day, Anja Rohwer has found it difficult to grasp the stark contrast between prosperity and poverty in a rich city like Swakopmund. "Not even ten kilometers outside, thousands live in cardboard huts that are constantly burning down. About 80 percent of the people are unemployed," she reports. According to her estimate, the number of residents in the unofficial DRC (Democratic Resettlement Community) has more than tripled in the past four years from an initial 2,000 to 15,000 people.



A SOUP KITCHEN GIVES A FUTURE FOR MANY CHILDREN

Anja Rohwer has started a new, promising self-help project in the Swakopmund informal area called DRC. The DRC district is hot and quiet in the desert. Not a breath of wind moves the air. Sand and dust lie heavy between the poor huts made of pallets, old sacks and scraps of wood. The air is stuffy in the tiny rooms under the makeshift roofs made of plastic and sheet metal. Old car tires, painted with paint residues, are in a small front yard, a blob of paint in a desolate world.

An old woman hauls a heavy water canister down the dust road. Children sit in the shade of a tin roof and play with sand and stones.

How many people live in this settlement without electricity and without hope for a better future is difficult to estimate. A few years ago, the first people, mainly coming from the north, began to build simple accommodations here in the hope of finding work in nearby Swakopmund. But the small town does not offer much industry, especially not for people without training and specialist knowledge. So the families in the DRC stayed to themselves, lived mostly on leftovers from the city rubbish dumps, their children did not go to school, and in the end not a dollar was left for the return journey north.

In 2009, she herself took action against these alarming conditions. It all started with a soup kitchen. When we got a piece of land to use, we built a wooden hut on it and started cooking. Since then, 80 to 150 children between the ages of four and twelve have been given a warm meal twice a week.



DRC/SWAKOPMUND SOUP-KITCHEN

The life of the children in this neighborhood is shaped by the difficult conditions in the families and experiences of violence are common. Believing that only one big family, one old age pension means, girls from this neighborhood often have their first offspring even when they are children. In addition to the HIV / AIDS disease and poor medical care, protein and vitamin deficiencies cause people to suffer from malnutrition. Due to the lack of hygiene, there are excessive viral infections and other serious illnesses. Of course, the low level of education leaves its mark and is reflected not least in the increasing high unemployment. Children and adolescents are most affected by these problems. Many families cannot prepare regular meals for their children, so hunger is also a common problem.

In this difficult environment, a focal point of hope is created for 150-250 children between the ages of 4 and 12 in the Soup Kitchen. Here the children receive regular meals twice a week.





However, the property seemed too big to her for a soup kitchen alone. Then she came up with the idea of offering the mothers of the hungry children something to do.

The "women's project" was born: 32 women learn various handicrafts, such as carving, braiding, pottery, printing on fabric and making jewelry. The focus is on working with pearls. From this they make bracelets, necklaces, earrings and Christmas tree pendants, among other things. In addition, they have the opportunity to sell their handicrafts in selected shops and thus generate a small income. Help for self-help in the best sense. In the long term, women should be able to improve their living conditions on their own. As an important sales point Anja Rohwer opened the store "Kubatsirana -Helping Hands" in the center of Swakopmund. It is now even listed in travel guides as a recommendation for original souvenirs. "A lot of the project is being advertised in Germany," says the skilful project coordinator, who has created a complex network for helping people to help themselves.



DRC WOMEN'S PROJECT

The women's self-help project does charitable work. Here, people are taught self-help in a concentrated manner through targeted instruction, school education, manual skills, etc.

Development aid no longer aims only at the short-term improvement of the living contexts of the population, but tries to create a fundamental change by imparting essential skills, which enables people to achieve a better standard of living.

A widespread type of development aid is the promotion of handicrafts. As part of such projects, women in particular are trained in the manufacture of a wide variety of objects such as jewelry, carvings, wickerwork, pottery, etc. They then have the opportunity to sell their products in selected shops, some at prices that they have negotiated themselves.



When the women were busy with their handicrafts, she often observed the same scene:

the children embraced their mothers, pulled themselves up by their skirts and inadvertently made sure that pearls kept falling off. Anja Rohwer didn't have to watch for long to know that there was no kindergarten. The foundation stone for the third project was laid: the "Grow Together Kindergarten". It has existed since 2011. The currently 32 children get a warm meal once a day. They can play free, learn to do handicrafts and are made familiar with the basics of personal hygiene.

A certified local nurse visits the facility every week and informs the mother about HIV / AIDS. In addition, the kindergarten teachers try to impart basic preschool knowledge in order to prepare the girls and boys for the first grade. Thanks to the good cooperation with a local government school, it accepts around 20 of the daycare children every school year.



GROW TOGETHER KINDERGARTEN

Many of the people living here are unemployed and addicted to alcohol due to a mixture of indifference and lack of prospects. The children who suffer particularly from these living conditions are those who cannot participate in the school and education system due to poverty.

Without training and without work, they have no hope and no prospects. During the day, the children are looked after and have the opportunity to play together and receive a basic education to prepare them for school and life.

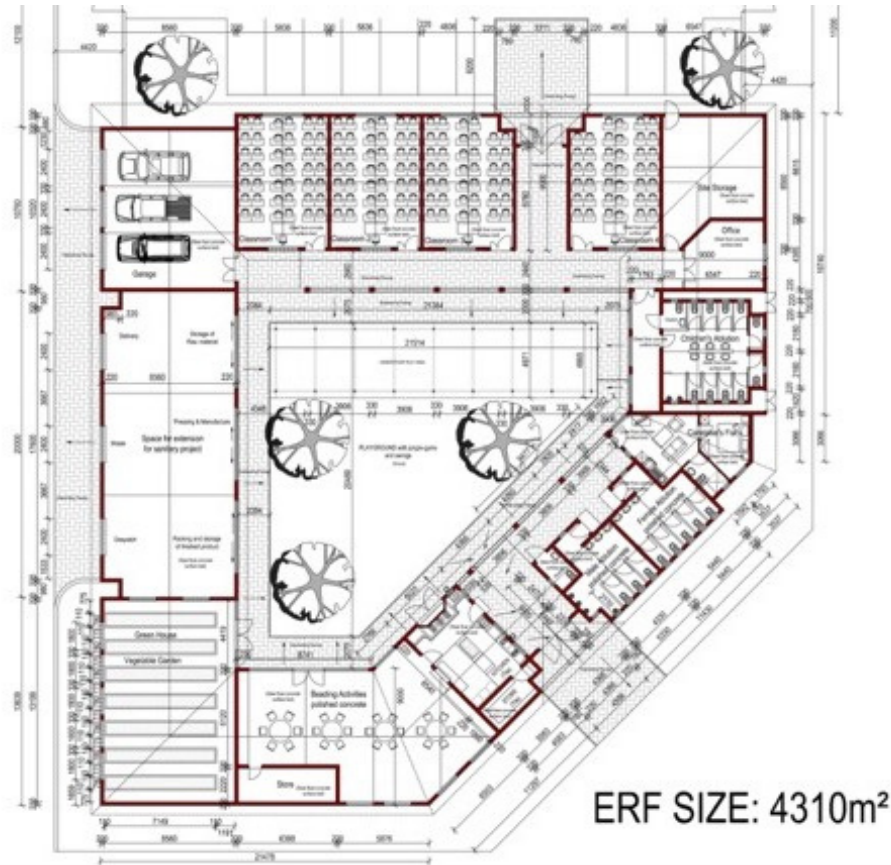
TO BUILD DREAMS

THE GOAL...



WE WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA AND ENSURE THEM A FUTURE TO LIVE IN THAT CAN BE BRIGHTER.

NEW BUILDING -ARCHITECT PLANS



EXISTING PROJECT

STRUCTURED (1 WOODEN HOUSE STRUCTURE AND 4 CONTAINERS)

3 CLASSROOMS
EACH CONTAINER IS A CLASSROOM
(PER CONTAINER 25 CHILDREN FROM
THE AGE OF 4 TO 7 RECEIVING A ECD
EDUCATION



WOODEN STRUCTURE IS A FITTED
OUT KITCHEN/ SOUPKITCHEN. THE
SOUPKITCHEN FEEDS 150-350
CHILDREN 3 X WEEK WITH HEALTHY
MEALS



WOMEN'S PROJECT TEACHES
WOMEN FROM THE
SURROUNDING AREA BEAD
WORK IN ORDER TO
GENERATE A SMALL INCOME
FOR THEIR FAMILIES



NEW PROJECT BUILDING

WHY ARE WE BUILDING?

TO ENABLE MORE WOMEN AND CHILDREN TO HAVE A FUTURE AND AN EDUCATION ON A LARGER PROPERTY FROM THE DRC ENVIRONMENT !!

4 CLASSROOMS / EACH CLASSROOM CAN ACCOMMODATE 25 CHILDREN

100 CHILDREN CAN RECEIVE A ECD EDUCATION

Namibia does not have enough education systems for poor areas. Children's futures rely on a good education

LARGER WOMEN'S PROJECT

*More women have the opportunity to generate a small income for their families and learn a skill.
(Bead Work)*

HOMEWORK AREA AFTER SCHOOL / LIBRARY

Many children do not have the opportunity or supervised help after school to further their education and understanding of their schoolwork.

A SMALL CLINIC

Advice center for single mothers about various diseases as well as / HIV-AIDS / TB / hepatitis.

SOUP KITCHEN TO FEED MORE CHILDREN (COOKING FACILITY)

Many families cannot prepare regular meals for their children, so hunger is also a common problem. Due to a high unemployment rate, families in DRC find it hard to survive and often cannot put a warm meal on the table for their children.

VEGETABLE GARDEN TO BE SELF-SUSTAINABLE

Access to healthy foods (fruit and vegetables) is very difficult and the child's diet is often very unhealthy. The main reasons for this are a lack of financial resources.

SPORTFIELD FOR CHILDREN SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

On the streets, children often come into contact with drugs and alcohol consumption, as well as theft, violence and mistreatment. This offers a safe environment and, in addition to the school aspect, is a community center.



