

Annual report 2022

Living in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has a surface area of 390,757 km² and a population of 14.5 million, of which 60.5% are young people aged between 0 and 24 (Switzerland: 26.5%). In 2019, the Human Development Index was 0.571 according to the UNDP (150th place out of 185 countries). Two thirds of the population live in rural areas and one third of the country's inhabitants live in extreme poverty on less than USD 1.90 per day. A total of 95% of the country's working population works in the informal sector, which is characterised by low wages, poor working conditions and little or no social security. Zimbabwe has achieved remarkable results in the fight against the HIV pandemic. However, 1.4 million people are still living with the virus. Every year, 40,000 new infections are recorded and 20,000 people die from the disease. Young people between the ages of 15 and 24, especially young women, are the main victims. Teenage pregnancies are high in the countryside (source: Terre des hommes Switzerland). Elections will be held in 2023 and their impact is already being felt in the country.

Sethule Orphans' Trust

The slogan for the year 2022 was "**Give a child a chance!**". All programmes could once again be carried out without any Covid-19 restrictions.

The main tasks of Sethule Orphans' Trust, founded in 2005, are to provide **education and training** for children and young people, which include the following programmes: the management of two kindergartens; the support and guidance of 53 male and female students throughout the year; the operation of the Sethule Skills Centre that focuses on the teaching of life skills; the organisation of workshops on child protection.

The **birth certificate** project has also been a great success: 625 children received their birth certificates. Sethule provides the population with information and, if needed, assists them in obtaining the documents. The partnership with the government's mobile registration office, which travels to the countryside, has been a success.

The **mental health** programme is new: Sethule raises awareness about mental illness in rural communities and schools, empowers children and adolescents and personally counsels sick children or refers them to specialised institutions.

The annual report in English by our director, Thabbeth Cotton, gives an impressive overview of all these activities.

Events and information in Switzerland

Our **members' meeting** was held virtually on the 7th of April. The video "A day in the life of a village girl" provided an impressive insight into the daily life of a pupil supported by Sethule and can now be viewed on our website. In the subsequent interview with the director, Thabbeth Cotton, and the live team from Bulawayo, we heard the latest news from Sethule and were able to address our questions to them. All the formal decisions of the association were then made in a short amount of time.

On 28 May Possenia Cycling organised a **charity bike race** in the canton of Vaud. Committed riders cycled all day for the benefit of Sethule Orphans' Trust, among other charities. On this occasion, our committee member Lis Seeley supplied information about Swiss Friends of Sethule.

Alex Flynn-Padick and LeighAnn Shafiq of our committee are continuing to liaise with the **Leysin American School** (LAS). The profits from the April charity event were partly donated to Sethule. Thabbeth Cotton also attended the Alumni meeting before the summer holidays and met with former participants of the Sethule trips. After the long break due to Covid-19, a trip to Zimbabwe for LAS students is once again planned for April 2023.

Before the summer holidays, we sent out a **newsletter** on 'How children deal with grief'.

The autumn newsletter focused on school sponsorships. Sethule has gathered experience in this field and knows how important it is for "godmothers" to have some information about their "godchildren" including a name and a picture. However, any correspondence or visits should be arranged through the charity. Although some contact is encouraged, an "adoption" should be avoided. At the beginning of 2023, a total of 35 school sponsorships are underway. Thabbeth Cotton visited Zimbabwe again this summer and her report was sent out with the autumn newsletter.

The **Christmas letter** to our donors was once again very popular, with over CHF 20,000 in revenues. Meanwhile, we received many donations for the birthday of our board member Manuela Schläfli.

The newsletters are sent out in German, French and English. All this information can also be found on our trilingual **website** (www.sethule.ch).

Finances

In 2022, we received CHF 67,954 in donations from 100 private individuals and CHF 105,574 from ten foundations, four churches, two companies and a women's association. In addition, Sethule's Council in England donated approximately CHF 30,000 which was sent to Zimbabwe. My warmest thanks to everyone for this wonderful and generous support!

In total, **CHF 177,080** was donated to Zimbabwe in 2022. Since the banking system in the country is still problematic, these transfers are being made via a special system that Western Union offers for charities. Sethule Orphans' Trust has thus funded all of its activities in 2022. All donations in Swiss Francs are an excellent investment in Zimbabwe, since they are very cost-effective due to the low-cost of living.

At the end of 2022, our assets amount to CHF 130,307, most of which are dedicated to specific projects. Administration and fundraising costs amounted to less than 1% for the year 2022.

Committee

Our Board held two digital meetings and one face-to-face meeting. Melanie Whitlow resigned and all other members of the committee were re-elected for two years at the members' meeting. All board members work on a voluntary basis. I would like to thank everyone for the many hours of dedication, the good ideas, the active and practical help as well as the donations!



Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, President



15 years of EMARIKA kindergarden

Committee (as of end 2022)

Madeleine Bichsel, 3113 Rubigen
 Esther Blake, 1854 Leysin
 Christopher Blake, 1854 Leysin
 Michael Cotton, 1854 Leysin
 Alex Flynn-Padick, 1854 Leysin
 Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, 3073 Gümligen
 Manuela Schläfli, 3006 Bern
 Lis Seeley, 1814 La Tour de Peilz
 Carol Seymour, 1854 Leysin
 LeighAnn Shafiq, 1854 Leysin

Treasurer, address list

President
 Website, Instagram
 Secretary, Fundraising

Director of Sethule Orphans' Trust

Thabbeth Cotton, 1854 Leysin

Auditor

Bernhard Kobel, 3065 Bolligen



Websites

www.sethule.ch (Swiss friends of Sethule Orphans' Trust)
www.sethuletrust.org (Sethule Orphans' Trust)

Bank account information

CH19 8080 8006 4294 9373 3
 Banque Raiffeisen, 1860 Aigle, Payable to: Schweizer Freunde von Sethule Orphans' Trust,
 Weiherstr. 10, 3073 Gümligen