

TARGET's mobile hospital is ready to go!



Dear friends,

it's November again. Time to tell you what we have been doing all year long.

After months of dedicated work from Harald Benz - one of TARGET's founders - we can proudly pronounce: TARGET's mobile hospital is ready to go!

In spring DaimlerChrysler donated a truck-chassis. Now it is a full-grown mobile hospital. And we bought another vehicle to escort the truck. It will allow the doctors more flexibility. The truck is marked in the language of the Afar: "Hospital for the Afar." Because this is where the vehicle will be used: in the Danakil-desert in Ethiopia.

The hospital is reward and encouragement in one because the Afar were the first tribe that abolished female genital mutilation and wrote the new law down into their tribal laws, the "Shari'a". And because they have abided by it. We have confidants who regularly check up on this. These are Fatuma Ibrahim, dedicated fighter for the Afar-women and a big help during our desert-conference in 2002, Abdul Khader, Ali Mekla and their friends. They have not heard of any new case of mutilation. But we will keep an eye on things. Our doctors will help us with it.

Two female doctors will help the mutilated girls and women by opening their vaginas again. With anesthetics and medical knowledge. They will save what can be saved. Already three women have told Ali Mekla that they want their daughters to be opened by our team. A big first step. Other mothers will follow.

Of course the doctors will also treat other illnesses because there are no medical facilities in the desert. They will also teach the women about health. And there will be a teacher to teach reading and writing. Education as a weapon against diseases, poverty and untenable customs.

It took longer than we thought and was much more complicated and complex to go through all the official channels to bring a mobile hospital to Ethiopia. But we are almost there and as soon

as the last approvals get here, the mobile hospital will be on its way to the desert.

This is Jana-Brit Zeddies (31). A nurse, who has become a practitioner. She has a lot of experience abroad and is highly creative. She will manage the mobile hospital.

A special ambassador for TARGET

We owe our thanks to our friend Ali Mekla Dabala from Osnabrück for the fact that TARGET has access to so many African tribes. He is a born Afar, but in the meantime has obtained the German citizenship. Thanks to his cleverness and productive work African people accept us as friends and listen to our ideas. To show Ali Mekla how much we appreciate and respect him, we have appointed him TARGET's special ambassador.

FGM-Congress in Cairo

In June 2003 we were invited as the only German organization to Cairo for the Congress "Legal Tools for the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation". Its patroness was Mrs. Mubarak and we found a lot of opportunities to strengthen our ties to the Islamic world.

The second desert-conference

We have been preparing the next desert-conference for many months now. It will take place in January 2004 in Djibouti.

The people of the Afar and the Issa have accepted TARGET's invitation and will discuss about the end of female genital mutilation for their people. The Ministers of Health from all the "Horn-of-Africa-countries" will participate and Djibouti's First Lady will be our patroness.

His Eminence, Dr. Muhammad Sayed Tantawi, the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar (Cairo) will send a representative. He will explain the current legal interpretation of the Koran: Female Genital Mutilation is incompatible with the Koran and the ethics of the Islam!

Female Genital Mutilation in Germany

Even in Germany foreign girls are not safe from mutilation. In some cases we were able to help. As in the case of a five-year-old from Gambia. She was supposed to be sent home to her grandmother.

There she would most probably have been mutilated. This case was reported to us during the Christmas-holidays last year. The flight to Gambia was imminent. The authorities could not be informed because of the holidays. Because of the urgency of the situation we successfully alarmed Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, German Minister for Development and Economic

cooperation.

The trip to Gambia was stopped with a temporary injunction. Then the courts in Dresden forbid the mother to send her daughter to Gambia. The court ruled that "in Gambia almost all ethnic groups practise Female Genital Mutilation and this is a serious violation of human rights" (AZ.:OLG Dresden 20UF401/03).

In a different case (not one of ours) the courts in Aachen accepted impending mutilation as a reason for political asylum.

These judgements are important successes in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation outside the countries of origin. This is why we will also look after some cases here in Germany.

Expansion of our health-project in Brazil

We also have news from Brazil. We expanded our medical station for the Waiapí-Indians in the north of the Brazilian rainforest. Builder Hosti Jose has done exemplary work again. We inaugurated the expansion with several rooms, kitchen and sanitary facilities in July.

We had said that we would only build this expansion, if the medical station was accepted by the Indians and was reliably looked after by the Brazilian Health-Department Apina. That was the case.

The Waiapí are very proud of their station. Chief Jurara: "Besides its original purpose the house has become the most important meeting place of my people."

We were very happy about this. The Indians thanked us with a big celebration.

Alone through the jungle

In the summer of 2003 Rüdiger realized his longtime dream - a march through the jungle: Without equipment through great nature. Adventure and plea at the same time. A plea for the Brazilian rainforest and its Indians. Rüdiger financed this adventure solely with private means, but TARGET was getting lots of publicity due to the extensive media-coverage.

Thank you!

With this we end our review and thank you, our patrons, very much for your trust which you show us with your donations.

Your membership strengthens our political presence!

Without you and all those who help us with their personal dedication, special qualifications and unending will to work we two (Annette and Rüdiger) would not be able to do it all.

Sincerely yours until next November

(BU)

Amina, our godchild: secondbest out of 50 students!