



Dear Max Mustermann,

Greetings from all of the children – they're thriving and like any other good kids, they're going to school regularly. I spent nearly three months in Ouagadougou and had a wonderful time with the children! Sadly my stay coincided with a military coup, the third one I've witnessed over the many years I have spent in this country. This time however it was right on my doorstep because the former President lives only two streets away. Starting at 9 o'clock in the evening helicopters flew overhead for nearly seven hours and we could hear automatic rifle shots and Kalashnikovs. You could say I was in the eye of the storm! Yet everything has settled down again. We are now waiting patiently for solutions, especially to the most urgent problem, terrorist attacks which still pose a major threat to villages in Burkina Faso. The majority of the population stands behind the military, because the previous government had completely failed to protect its own people. Meanwhile there have been more than 2,000 deaths and we have more than one and a half million displaced persons in camps. We are becoming poorer and poorer every day. On top of all this there are thousands of wounded and injured people, including women and children. That is why I'm writing this letter with the focus on our Clinic which plays an increasingly important role. Over the past two years, owing to the situation I have just described, the number of patients has increased from 40,000 to 70,000. We are still the only Clinic that treats patients for only 30 cents and provides free medicine. We even pay for operations and we finance treatment for women with breast cancer in particular. We are only able to do this because of you, our wonderful donors in Europe. Thanks to a generous donation from Denmark we can remodel the dental and ophthalmic departments. For the first time the building will have two floors. That is why we need the services of a technical supervisor whose job it is to prescribe the required cement mix and check the strength of iron components. It all used to be so easy in the past! The second floor will house our large stockrooms and storage facility and two additional treatment rooms. We are still around an estimated 30,000 Euros short of budget.

Could some of our AMPO friends pool together to help the Clinic? The situation in Burkina Faso is becoming more and more precarious. Every day I saw more beggars on the streets and women fleeing with their children. That is why I'm appealing to you now, all the more so since I think you might agree I have always been fairly reticent over the past 27 years. Pray with us for peace in our country. With very best wishes to all of you from Ouagadougou,

Katrin Rohde



The VIIMDE Project

AMPO's contribution to fighting HIV/AIDS - by Léontine Samandoulgou

HIV/AIDS is a sensitive issue in Burkina Faso. The VIIMDE Project (Viimde means "life" in the Mooré regional language) is committed to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. With our partners, the Charles de Gaulle Children's Hospital and the ALAVI and AAS associations, the project has been up and running since 2013 and is currently in the fourth phase of implementation.



Women with HIV/AIDS infection and their children aged from 0 to 5 years are offered multi-dimensional support through the VIIMDE Project: medical and psychological counselling, financial support and free food banks. This hands-on support for those in need is the first step in the ladder of success of the VIIMDE Project which has helped nearly 400 women and children since the project was launched. The second important step in the project is to include men. Last year in 2021 we noted a distinct improvement in the living conditions of the women if the men participated in the activities and became part

For us the project achieved very positive results. Every year on the 20th of January we also organise an open day, providing an opportunity for the women and their families to get to know the partners who have been supporting the project for many years. We exchange views on how both staff and participants experienced the project. We worked on strategies to combat HIV/AIDS (prevention, counselling, rehabilitation) on the 20th of January 2022, opening new prospects for the future of the VIIMDE Project. For instance, increasing the number of male participants and improving the

of the process. One effect was that couples came to the therapy sessions more often, strengthening communication between them and as a result the risk of marginalisation and exclusion was significantly reduced. The official farewell of the participants in the VIIMDE 2021 Project took place on the 14th of January 2022.



financial situation to enable women with HIV/AIDS to set up income-generating activities. In summary, the open day is a wonderful opportunity for people directly and indirectly involved in the project to get to know each other and exchange views. We see this as a significant means to promote solidarity and mutual support.

A new phase of the project is due to start in January with 50 women each with a child, and 32 men. Our aim is to continue to reach out to people with HIV/AIDS with the message that life is worth living despite the disease and that there are always people there for them. Thanks to FDEE and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxemburg for providing the financial means needed to implement this project.

Dear friends,

So many things in our lives are changing at the moment, a process that has only been accelerated by Covid. Even AMPO and AMPO International have not been spared, although we see these changes rather in terms of opportunities for the future. Looking back, we said a sad farewell to our office in Plön at the end of 2021. We spent a happy time (three years to be precise) in the “new” premises and Christina Matz was the life and soul of the place until the end. The closure however was necessary for reasons of cost optimisation, since Christina finally managed the shop part-time. Although we are no longer permanently represented in Plön we would still like to organise special events there in future given the opportunity, as a means of maintaining contact with our friends in Schleswig-Holstein.

At the beginning of April we were offered the possibility of moving into premises in Blücherstrasse in Berlin, substantially larger than the limited office space we already occupied. We now have more room for our staff and sales space for the AMPO goods, but it will also serve as a meeting point in a busy street in Kreuzberg, creating awareness for AMPO. The address remains the same.



Our sponsorship programme is another important pillar of the work at AMPO. The children are very grateful for the gifts they receive. In the past few years – especially due to Covid – our costs have risen enormously, for instance the cost of transporting containers. Since we are unable to check every parcel before dispatch we sometimes have the problem of getting rid of unsuitable presents at their destination. We have given a great deal of thought as to changing the system, ensuring at the same time that communication between sponsors and their children continues smoothly. In future we would like to buy presents in Burkina Faso (e.g. for Christmas and birthdays) and distribute them fairly. This means that in future sponsors will have the opportunity to make a donation so that we can purchase individual presents locally. Not only will it save money, but it will support the local economy, in fact a win-win situation. All sponsors have already been given detailed information and we thank all of you for joining us in this new approach.

And finally we would like to make the AMPO International meetings more attractive in future. We have noted that the formalities, a necessary part of the Annual General Meeting, could in principle also be conducted in writing. We will try to slim down this part in future, spending less time on formalities so that we will have more opportunity to exchange ideas and hear presentations. This would open up the meetings to others who are interested in participating. Covid permitting, we hope to invite one or more directors of AMPO Burkina Faso to come to Germany in 2022.

I wish you all the best for spring, hoping that it will bring about a change to raise our spirits.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,



Andrew Sharp
Chairman of the Board

Hello everyone,

I would have been so happy to start this newsletter on a more cheerful note. Sadly world events dictate otherwise. I am writing these lines at the beginning of March. This year started with terrifying images from the Polish – Belarussian border. People have become the playthings of despots. The new virus variant known as Omicron brings us new restrictions. Terrorist attacks are ongoing in Burkina Faso. People are fleeing, starving, dying. The military has opted for a coup and yet we still have hope for this country which is otherwise so peaceful. This event I believe was barely reported one day in the German media. And now we have this inconceivable war of aggression against Ukraine with its profound effect on us. In terms of geography it all seems to be happening suddenly on our doorstep. It affects a culture that is similar to ours. We are

suffering with the people, the refugees, and express our compassion in every possible way. And rightly so! These images are inconceivable and we ask ourselves how can we stop it. But ...



No matter where in the world, everyone has the right to peace, the right to eat and the right to live in dignity in their own culture. Let us not forget others when we express our compassion for the people in Ukraine. Let us also think of all the other people who are having to flee. We have been contacting AMPO by video call since the beginning of the year and we realise how wonderful it is to have direct communication with our projects. It makes our work so valuable and unique. Fortunately AMPO was not directly at risk after the coup. The orphanages coped well with temporary school closures and the kids continued to learn and play. The Clinic at the very heart of AMPO is currently being remodelled and extended to help the huge number of displaced persons as much as possible. Thanks to our Danish partner association and the Katrin Rohde Foundation, most of the project has been funded but we are still short on budget.

We have submitted many applications to various foundations and I am always saddened when foundations categorically exclude financing local salaries. Where would AMPO be without our faithful and reliable staff on site? Certainly not what it has become today! It is the same struggle every year.

Nevertheless, let me end on a more positive note. All of you support an amazing facility and for that you have our heartfelt thanks. Please stay on board! With my best wishes to you all for health, happiness and of course peace,

Yours,

Ute Krüger



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für Kinder in Burkina Faso

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