



The Altenburg Foundation Newsletter

DECEMBER
2024



First day at the new secondary school classroom block, P4T Uganda

Working for education, integration and maximum community impact.



Meeting Mayankho members in Malawi - more on page 7!

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Presentation for parents at TAS summer school in Lebanon — more on page 6

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2024, we reflect on the remarkable resilience shown by people around the world in overcoming this year's global challenges. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to support inspiring grassroots NGOs over the past 12 months, bringing hope and positive change to the most vulnerable communities. Given the situation in Lebanon in recent months, we have been in constant contact with our friends and partners there to strengthen our commitment.

I have recently returned from Malawi, where Brian and I visited the Mayankho vocational training centre. This new project empowers 120 emerging entrepreneurs, primarily women, to achieve financial independence through 'learning and lending'. The Mulanje area is still recovering from last year's devastating cyclone, but witnessing the community's determination and potential was truly inspiring. We are excited to see the progress of this partnership in the coming years.

Your support has been instrumental in transforming lives through various initiatives, including schools, practical skills training, business development, sustainable energy access, mentoring, micro-lending projects, and scholarships for exceptional young people in Lebanon, Uganda, and now Malawi. In the UK, we assist individual refugees in transitioning into professional roles in fields such as law, mechanical engineering, and medicine. Our partnerships with trusted local organizations enable us to support those who have been displaced and deprived of opportunities for education, training, and meaningful employment.

Spending extended time with our partners allows us to better understand their needs and ensure that all funds are used to achieve the greatest impact. These collaborations are making a significant difference in the lives of many, particularly children and youth, who now have hope for a dignified future.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to increase our support for CODA, an amazing community-led organization providing education in the Kyangwali refugee settlement in Uganda. With your help, we aim to build proper classrooms and facilities for the children in their primary school, replicating the success of our partnership with P4T.

We hope this newsletter not only updates you on our key areas of work this year but also reminds you of the incredible achievements made possible through your support. It is our privilege to work alongside people of hope who are making lasting, positive changes in their communities.

We remain committed to make an impact every day and greatly appreciate your support which we do not take for granted

Christiane and Karl



P4T weekend computer club



Re-grassing at P4T Primary School



New water system at the P4T primary school

The first block of the secondary school was finished and opened in February (2024) in Uganda for the start of the new school year. Further blocks developed by partner funders are currently under construction. As part of developing this block for the secondary school we funded production of desks and furniture, which — in a full circle moment — were made by carpenters trained last year through the vocational skills project funded by The Altenburg Foundation and The Arnold de la Camara Foundation!

Meanwhile, at the Primary School, we have many exciting things happening. We funded water tanks and a water system, pumping directly into the school, saving kids and staff from a difficult daily walk to get water. We have also facilitated a shipment of 3,000 books from Book Aid to start off the library.

We are funding ongoing landscaping work, including replanting the sports field. Funding provided through AF for the milling project — grinding the maize that families send in to the school for the daily feeding programme (breakfast and lunch) — is now generating a small profit which is helping pay staff salaries. The school hall is now also being used by the school and also rented out to other NGOs for meetings, weddings and more in order to generate income for the school.

Skills, Training and Partnerships

Work is ongoing on the Vocational Skills Centre due to be completed and fully operation by November 2024. Funded by BRCLF and facilitated by ourselves, this site will provide a wide array of training and skills development; including carpentry, soapmaking, tailoring, hairdressing and media production.

On the same campus, we have funded the redevelopment and refurbishment of a guest house which we hope to use to host visiting volunteers and for other paid purposes — to generate income to aid teachers salaries into the future. We have explored other partnerships with schools and organisations in the settlement in Uganda. These include Emergency funding to Rokunda School as a one-off support.

We are excited to be developing a new initiative in 2025 to support CODA to re-develop their school with classrooms and massively improved facilities. The first new classroom block will cost £40,000 – we would really appreciate your help in achieving this first stage in early 2025; if you are willing to support us with this, please see our website (address below) for more information about how to get involved.



Coda Classroom at present



UGANDA GALLERY



The new secondary school block



The library at P4T Primary School



Studying under solar light after powercut



A wedding at the P4T multifunctional school hall



Vocational Skills Centre under construction



Hussein's first day

Meet our first ever Altenburg Exceptional Scholar — Hussein!

We are delighted this year to have the first ever Altenburg Foundation Exceptional Scholar Hussein, who is a former pupil of Tuyoor-al-Amal school, our partner in Lebanon. He is currently studying for a BA in Computer Science at BAU (Beirut Arab University) in their Tripoli campus.

After doing exceptionally well in his final year in High School in summer 2024, Hussein has gone on to study at BAU. He is also helping to support the younger children back at Tuyoor's schools, along with a number of other former pupils who are giving back to their community by sharing their learning.

We asked Hussein what he thought about becoming the first scholar and he shared his thoughts with us!

"I am a student at one of the best universities in Lebanon, Beirut Arab University, where I study Computer Science and Programming. This has always been my dream, and learning about technology feels like achieving a shining goal. I always wanted to finish high school and pursue this course specifically at Beirut Arab University. This dream seemed far away until the Altenburg Foundation believed in me and gave me a real chance. I am incredibly grateful for their support, which has turned my dream into reality.

Through this course, I am exploring various aspects of computer science, including programming languages, software development, and data analysis. Each subject interests me greatly, and I feel excited about the future. In addition to my studies, I am also really enjoying volunteering my time back in the Tuyoor schools, supporting the young Syrians who will hopefully come after me and finish high school and maybe even beyond.

I am so proud to be the first student to be an Altenburg Foundation Exceptional Scholar. The Foundation's belief in my potential inspires me to work hard and excel in my studies. I am committed to proving that I truly deserve this amazing opportunity, and I look forward to making a positive impact in the field of technology and in my community."



News from Lebanon



The Summer School Returns Again!

For the third year running, we have funded a summer school programme at Tuyoor Al-Amal in Tripoli. This programme delivers learning, catchup, development of new skills and a host of fun activities too for around 450 children — helping greatly to bridge the long summer break in learning in the Lebanese system.



New School Garden in Lebanon

New School Garden

This year, we — alongside the children of St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School in North Yorkshire, England, have funded the development of a school garden at Tuyoor-al-Amal.

Using lots of available space to plant flowers and shrubs, chosen directly by the students, this is an exciting creative and relaxing space for students to use!

Alsama Project

- We have continued to support the Alsama Project's pilot cohort of Professional Excellence students for another year.
- This year Alsama has continued to run their hiking club, with support provided from the Altenburg Foundation. This funding has provided the children from Shatila refugee camp in inner-city Beirut with kit and transport, allowing them to head to various parts of the beautiful Lebanese countryside and experience stunning scenery, fresh air, exercise, teamwork and fellowship.



Alsama hiking club

LEBANON GALLERY



Preparing the plants for the new garden



An artistic addition to the garden



Studying at the 2024 summer school



Summer school graduation with parents



All smiles from the new garden space



Largest solar system Aid Pioneers have installed in Lebanon so far (110 kWp)

Aid Pioneers: Supported by incubation funding from The Altenburg Foundation

We are delighted to update you on the work of **Aid Pioneers**, the amazing young NGO we have been supporting in Germany with 'incubation funding' over recent years. We are so proud of what they have been able to achieve - just see below for their remarkable accomplishments just in in 2024.

Lebanon

We installed our largest solar system 3 weeks ago (110 kWp, pictured above) and are currently shipping another 150 kWp to our partner schools and hospitals. Simultaneously, we are working on an emergency response project for the victims of the war.



Ukraine

Over the next 12-18 months, we will deliver around 25 40ft -containers of medical supplies with a total value of around €10 million to a network of 100+ hospitals in Ukraine.



South Sudan

In September, our first 40-ft container of medical supplies worth \$349,000 was distributed to various hospitals in South Sudan, which are primarily treating refugees from Sudan.



Global

This year, 43 people from all over the world have run Marathons with us in Berlin, Athens, Copenhagen or California, collectively raising over 80,000€.



Syria

We have secured funding to install another large solar system (100 kWp) for a clinic in Northwest Syria this spring. The solar system will arrive alongside another 40-ft container with medical equipment.



Ethiopia

We are planning 3 more solar systems (250 kWp in total) and will send 3 medical containers to clinics in Ethiopia - a country we only started working in this summer.





The Lukhubula area where Mayankho is located

Malawi: an exciting new partnership

Finally, we close out the year with an exciting new development, and a new location.

We have entered into a partnership with **Mayankho**, a community organisation in rural Malawi supporting and training people setting up their own businesses through a range of professional skills and micro-loans. Our collaboration will allow many people to secure sustained incomes for their families and help to grow the local economy in this hugely neglected area, still attempting to recover from the devastation of the cyclone last year.

We will support **Mayankho** in the coming years as they develop their programmes and transition into longer term partnerships with government agencies and other funders. Our next steps are to raise £10,000 to help them complete their training centre, including through providing solar power and access to water. This will allow them to continue operations into the evenings, and expand their services to include targeted literacy and numeracy support for their trainees, and a study base for children in the immediate area. If you are willing to help us reach this target, please see our website for more details.



In Malawi visiting Mayankho member businesses

Please see our website for more information about how to get involved
www.thealtenburgfoundation.com