



Direct support for energy training in Africa

Training in Africa with online support from Germany

02.05.2021

Since travelling to Africa is not possible at the moment, African master trainers have to organize and conduct the trainings on site themselves. The extensive basics that were taught to them in Wildpoldsried before Corona could be refreshed and deepened in online courses. In addition, the supporters of the VET4Africa project also provided assistance via the internet during the training courses in Africa.

The VET4Africa (**V**ocational **E**ducation and **T**raining for **A**frica) project was launched in Wildpoldsried in 2018 under the patronage of Minister Dr Gerd Müller. More than 20 enthusiastic supporters, many of them vocational school teachers, organized trainings in Wildpoldsried and mentoring trips to Africa. Since the entire project was in danger of failing due to the Corona pandemic, a digital teaching and learning concept was developed in 2020, which made further training in Africa possible despite the lack of travel opportunities. In many online sessions, new documents were designed, video tutorials were recorded and a learning platform was developed with the help of "Moodle", which was filled with a wide range of training materials. In addition, a homepage www.vet4africa.com and a Youtube channel were set up. Of course, this had to be done not only in German, but also in English and French, and a translation into Portuguese (spoken in 6 African countries) is currently in the works.

In addition, structures had to be created in advance to be able to continue to guarantee the high quality of the training. For this reason, only the best of the almost 100 participants of the past 5 trainings in Wildpoldsried were selected and trained online in weekend courses specifically for the planned trainings. Qualified lecturers and vocational school teachers from various institutions were invited to the training measures in the participating countries in Africa.



Ghana, Kenya and Uganda made the start.



Action orientation means: Each participant builds his or her own system.

In each course, the participants had to design and assemble a solar training system as part of their practical work, in addition to acquiring extensive theoretical knowledge. For VET4Africa, it is important not only to impart theoretical and practical knowledge, but also to apply modern didactics and methodology, such as learning how to teach in an action-oriented way.

The project manager of bbw gGmbH Marlyse Annoepel from Krugzell (Oberallgäu) travelled to Uganda in April 2021, despite Corona restrictions, to check and document the success on site. She reports: "Every country, every school or university has special requirements that we respond to in the best possible way, but not everything is possible or makes sense. Our African master trainers are highly motivated and very committed. They show outstanding commitment in passing on and imparting knowledge about energy generation using photovoltaics. They are convinced that this makes ecological and economic sense and represents the future of Africa and also the world. VET4Africa's support is much appreciated, much needed and extremely effective."



Country	location	institution	part.
Ghana	Tema	Don Bosco Solar	12
Kenia	Nairobi	Multimedia University	12
Uganda	Kampala	Solarpipo	12
Uganda	Kampala	Nakawa	11
Uganda	Butende	Lwanga Technical Institu-	12

In 2 months, 5 courses have already been held in Africa and another 5 are scheduled to take place until July.

participants' skills on conception and planning to testing and maintenance of stand-alone photovoltaic systems, taking into account local conditions. The aim here is to supply the most important consumers of a building or smaller settlements with electrical energy autonomously with the help of an off-grid system.

In addition to the technology, however, it is also about the economic and social components of renewable energy production. In the few areas in Africa with electricity, electrical energy is still often generated with heavy oil or coal. This is an ecological disaster in countries where the sun shines twice as much as in Central European latitudes throughout the year. Renewable energy production also prevents economic dependence on corporations and state-owned enterprises and supports dynamic economic development in the country. In regions where no reliable energy supply is guaranteed, people see no prospects outside agriculture and are affected by poverty, which is why they leave their homes.

With the solutions taught to the participants in PV2, there is a way out of this vicious circle. Because energy is the basis of economic activity and the sun

shines for all people on this earth. But even beyond these trainings, the members of VET4Africa have been very active in the past months. The next training levels have already been prepared: Both theoretical and practical documents and the technology for PV2 have been newly developed and lecturers have already been trained in this regard. Within the framework of PV2, the construction of a house or village power supply is taught and practised. This course builds on the contents of the basic course PV1 and expands the



Participants taking measurements on their self-built teaching system

shines for all people on this earth.



Happy and proud participants with their lecturer (right) after the certificate presentation.

The project group is looking forward to the end of the Corona pandemic and to further activities in Africa. As soon as everyone has been vaccinated, further outreaches to Africa are planned. Trainings in Wildpoldsried are also on the agenda again from autumn 2021, the training facility is already waiting to be used.

A world with a future needs green citizen energy



Overall organization and coordination of VET4Africa:

Municipality of Wildpoldsried, represented by Günter Mögele, second mayor of the municipality as well as director of studies and staff of the school management of the State Vocational School I in Kempten, in cooperation with bbw gmbH - International Division, represented by Ms. Marlyse An-noepel and Mr Thorsten Schultheiß. The project is supported by BMZ through GIZ.

For further information see: www.VET4Africa.com