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Dear Friends and supporters of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation,

this newsletter is going to be a cry for help. In the districts where THOMAS ENGEL-foundation is active people are partly struggling to survive. As a result of Corona, the food supply has worsened considerably. Immediate help is required and that is what THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and its partners, above all Möwenweg foundation are doing. But considering the financial situation we cannot stand this situation for much longer time. For this reason we are insistently asking you for your support.

Further below you are going to find more information about the influence of the corona pandemic on the work of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation.

But there is also pleasant news to tell: The new website is finally online. *Andreas Mielke* from *mielke communication* in Aschaffenburg designed it. We, that is to say the staff of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation, is in charge of the contents. Please, visit our website and view www.thomasengel-stiftung.org.

We are highly interested in your feedback.

And THOMAS ENGEL-foundation has just recently become a member of *Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen*.

Ernst Engel

Executive Director

Bettina Haubner and Jaime Garcia

Deputy Executive Directors

Members of the executive board of both boosterclus

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V. und Nastätten e. V.



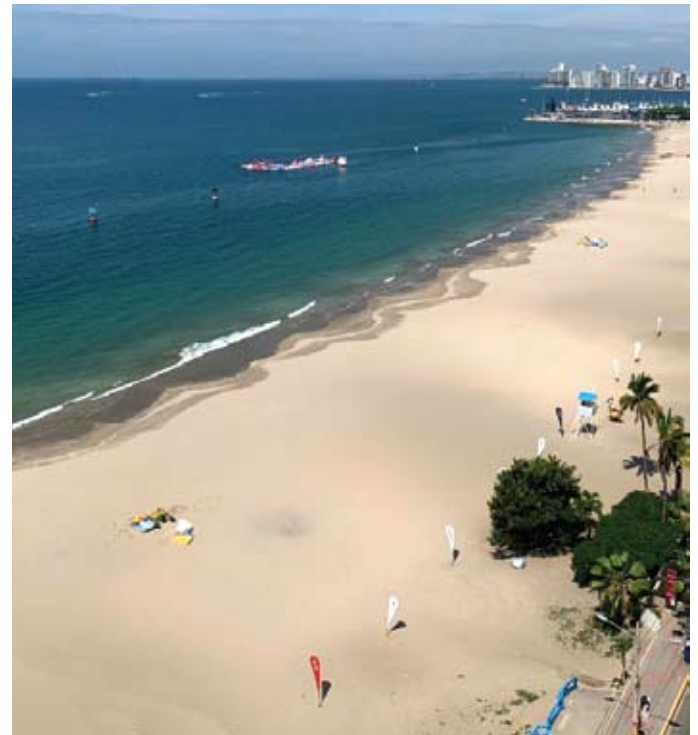
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Impact of the Corona Panedemic on the Work of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation

Ecuador



Normally the beaches are covered by tourists



The lock down made tourism come to a complete stand still

In Ecuador Edith and James Garcia are working hard to support people who lost their job from one day to the next. Initially they prepared a charity event scheduled for 28th March 2020. The profits were determined for Melvin Jones Facility for disabled people, which have already been supporting for several years. There was a lot of advertising about the event, even a 20-minute-report on a local TV-channel. Therefore Jaime Garcia is known by more and more people in the region now – an effect THOMAS ENGEL-foundation benefits from. The TV-channel also reported about Corona. But no one could imagine the restrictions imposed by the government:

- on March 16th, 2020 travelling from and to Peru and Columbia was forbidden and frontiers closed
- shut down of all airports
- partition of provinces – only transportation of food and drugs was still allowed
- closure of ports, beaches, hotels, restaurants, clubs, bars and shopping centers
- public transports came to a standstill
- lock down from 14:00 pm - 05:00 am

These dramatic restrictions immediately impaired a large part of the population. There is little industry on the peninsula Santa Elena, where Edith and Jaime Garcia live. Tourism and fishing are the main sources of income. They either rent sunshades or deck chairs or sell food and beverages or handmade jewellery, souve-

nirs, textiles etc. at the beach. Suddenly they were out of work and without income. They don't have any savings, some of them even didn't get the promised support of 60 USD per family and month. The country is about to run bankruptcy. Maladministration, corruption and low oil costs, which are disastrous for an oil exporting country, are the main reasons.



Joint effort to compile and distribute about 3,000 food packages for people in need

Within a few days Edith and Jaime Garcia managed to organise support probably being a drop in the bucket but at least better than nothing. Together with people on long-term holiday and permanent residents from Canada, the US and Europe as well as local supporters they bought foods such as rice, oats, beans, oil,

sugar, tuna and sardines as well as fruits and vegetables in a warehouse in *La Libertad*. **Ecuador** is known to be a big exporter of bananas which you can buy for little money there. Everything was packed into bags and distributed to about 1,500 families being extremely poor. One of these families is Mauricio together with his wife and two children.



Mauricio with wife Diana and the children Christel and Jesus

Mauricio delivers food from the restaurants to the tourists at the beach. Normally, he earns 10 to 14 USD a day during high-season. Now he is standing there empty-handed. He would love to use his hands doing another job but he doesn't have the possibility to do so.

It were above all friends from the US, Canada and Germany as well as people on holiday and from abroad permanently living in Ecuador who collected about 14,000 USD or to be precise generated this amount of money selling fabric bags which had been sewed by local people.

Fabric bags manufactured in Ecuador.
The profit is determined to buy food as well



THOMAS ENGEL-foundation, too, contributed an amount of 2,000 USD. The remaining money was earned in the name of the foundation by *Edith* and *Jaime* – a fantastic performance.



Pick-up with special permit



Care packages ready for distribution

When going shopping and distributing the bags, *Jaime Garcia* and his supporters were supported by a friend who had a special permit for his pick-up and thus could use the latter every day. "Common" citizens are only allowed to travel by car once a week. *Jaime* is only allowed to do so on Mondays.

eSwatini

Considering the official figures there should be nothing wrong in **eSwatini**. There were only 31 people who had a positive Corona test result and one person has died so far. However, if you don't test any people or only conduct very few tests, you won't find any infected people either. As a result, nobody actually knows what the situation looks like in reality. If you have a look at *South Africa* the figures should be way higher.

And yet, the common lock down was also imposed on *eSwatini*. The transits at the frontiers to *South Africa* and *Mozambique* were closed; airports and schools were closed as well. However, all this had an immediate impact on the work of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation. Together with *Möwenweg-foundation* and *Kindernothilfe e.V.* we run the aid project *Litsemba-hope* and take care of more than 2,800 children at pre-school age who have a poor background. In 89 day-care centers (NCPs) the children receive a warm meal once a day which is similar to what they get at school. However, as the schools are closed, more and more hungry pupils are coming to the NCPs now. The care givers, working on a voluntary basis there, don't know how to deal with this situation.

Moreover, the food which had come from the WFP (= *World Food Programme*) of the United Nations before is missing more and more. Unfortunately enough, they stopped the deliveries as a result of shortage of money.

We recommended our partner *Young Heroes*, being in charge of the aid project, to close the NCPs for some time. As a result the *Mobile Clinic*, which is in charge of the basic medical supply for children using an ambulance and a team made of two nurses and an assistant, doesn't offer its services any longer either. As many adults from the immediate vicinity benefit from this service as well, we want to avoid assemblies of many people in restricted facilities. On the other hand, however, we continue to depend on the NCPs in order to maintain the food supply for "our children". The situation is tricky. We are working on a solution.

Fortunately enough, as did THOMAS ENGEL-foundation, *Möwenweg-foundation* has announced to provide money not only for food but also for warm clothes in winter as well as for blankets as



Children eating food – something you cannot take for granted



Warm clothes to protect against the cold in winter

it can get very cold in *eSwatini* in winter above all at night. Children going hungry and wearing only insufficient clothes while lying on the cold ground in a cottage made of clay, that's certainly a picture nobody likes. For this reason apart from food, this kind of support is of vital importance as well.

Tanzania

Corona has also reached **Tanzania** as well. The schools as well as other public facilities have been closed since March 17th 2020. This applies to *Flower's Children Center* as well. At the moment we are thinking about how to provide the children with food anyway. Maybe we want to include the families into our efforts. Moreover, we haven't figured out yet how to deal with the teachers' payment as they have family as well. There is nothing similar to short-term work in a country like this. The hostel for volunteers who want to engage in a social project for some time has been closed as there had been no demand any longer. As a consequence the hostel doesn't generate any money.

When the newsletter went to press, there were 480 cases of Corona which had been confirmed above all in *Dar Es Salaam*, the biggest city of Tanzania. People must wear masks; international air connections had been cancelled as well as big events. Medical supply is going to be improved as quickly as possible in dependence of the financial resources.

A lock down hasn't been imposed yet. *John Magufuli*, the president of the country, counts on clear regulations concerning hygiene and on faith. For this reason churches haven't been closed. Nevertheless, the methods to combat the pandemic are approved by most people. They make every effort to spare the economy which is especially important in a developing country. Tourism, however, has nearly come to a standstill. That's an additional reason why thousands of people have lost their jobs and their money as there is no social protection in Tanzania.

Uganda

In **Uganda** the situation is similar to that described in the previous countries. Shops, educational facilities, discos and pubs have been closed and public transports don't run any longer. There is no unlimited travelling and food transport has been restricted as well. However, shops where you can buy food are still open. People are not allowed to leave their homes from 19 pm to 6:30 am.

The immediate as well as long-term impacts of COVID-19 are estimated to be considerable. As a result of the fatal management of the government, which has been a problem for decades, the country hasn't been prepared for the pandemic at all. The president is in charge of the distribution of the poor stock of food and there are certainly no objective criteria applied. The partners of *howareyou* say that there has been no food supply yet. They don't believe this is ever going to happen.

As the schools are closed, children don't get any food there either. This makes the alimantal situation even worse. *howareyou* tries to support poor families distributing food packages in *Mukono District* where they focus above all on the *Community of Kasala*.

Events and Voyages

As did the majority of people in the first weeks of 2020 we expected China to be far away and the virus to have no considerable impact on us except for some individual cases. We did our daily work and the preparation of the two charity concerts *ovationen 2020* adhered to our schedule as did the preparation of our big journey to the aid projects in *Uganda, Tanzania* and *eSwatini* which we had planned for April/May.

This journey of almost three weeks would have taken Jaime Garcia and me (Ernst Engel) to seven different countries: Dubai, Uganda Ruanda Kenia, Tanzania, South Africa, eSwatini. In Johannesburg we would have met *Dr. Barbara Jörg* and would have travelled with her to eSwatini by rental car.

As you know the biggest aid project of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation is in eSwatini. At some time in the second half of march we cancelled all bookings. The money for the flights as well as for the rental car will hopefully be reimbursed. The expenses for the different visa won't be reimbursed. We haven't fixed a new date for our journey yet.

ovationen 2020

Beliebte Melodien von Klassik bis Pop

The days before the charity concerts (13.03.20 in Nastätten, 14.03.20 in Fulda) were very emotional. The weekend before the official dates we had been convinced that the concerts would take place. As we had expected 250-350 visitors to come to each concert we would have been far away from the upper limit of 1,000 people which was considered to be critical. Even on Wednesday 11th, 2020 the head of both booster clubs and we agreed on both concerts taking place. The local newspaper of Fulda asked us to justify our decision in a few sentences and that's what we did. Two hours later we were forced to revoke our decision. The situation had got worse. The first infections in Fulda and vicinity had become known: 5 people had been infected by the virus and about 250 were under quarantine. In the following days our decision turned out to be right. We have now fixed the dates for the concerts: 04.09.20 in Nastätten and 05.09.20 in Fulda.

New Membership



Bundesverband
Deutscher
Stiftungen

THOMAS ENGEL-foundation is happy to be a member of Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen (*federal association of German foundations*) since February 1st, 2020. This membership goes along with the following advantages:

- increased reputation
- representation of interests towards third parties
- increased networking with other aid organisations
- platform for exchange of experience
- improved access to current topics relating to foundations
- special conditions with GEMA, for instance
- membership in a mutually supportive group

NEUES AUS DEN FÖRDERVEREINEN

Termine Förderverein Fulda

- 05.09.2020 „ovationen 2020“ im Fürstensaal des Stadtschlusses Fulda
- 24.10.2020 Höfe- und Garagenflohmarkt, Sonnenstraße 2-4, Fulda

Termine Förderverein Nastätten

- 04.09.2020 „ovationen 2020“ im Bürgerhaus Nastätten
- 10.10.2020 Beteiligung beim 100-km-Lauf um Frankfurt
- 28.-29.11.2020 Weihnachtsstraße Nastätten



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