



NEWSLETTER 02-2018

Association for Sustainable Community
Enacted Development e.V.
-ASCEND-



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Please note:

This newsletter describes and records all the society's activity these last five months. ASCEND e.V. commits explicitly to transparency concerning its activities and financial situation. If you have any question or comments to this newsletter, do not hesitate to contact the authors as mentioned above.

Photo Sources:

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FOREWORD

Dear Partners, Supporters, Donors or other World Improvers,

We are very happy to present you our second official newsletter.

After half a year of hard work, incredible support and great feedback, we have lots of good news.

From May to August 2018, we were able to provide another 1,080 people with access to clean drinking water in southern Bangladesh. We further developed and improved the existing systems and established our own ASCEND water filter design. Local people have voiced their appreciation for our help, and many other local villages have also asked for our support. Of course, the incredible response that we receive motivates us for further projects. The feedback from our funding agencies has so far been consistently positive, which also strengthens our resolve.

At this point we would like to thank you all for your extraordinary work! Without you all, whether you are a team member, donor, sponsor or supporter, our successes would not be possible.

We hope you enjoy our second newsletter.



ASCEND

Your ASCEND board

CONTENT

1.) Society.....	1
2.) Projects.....	2
Water4Dacope.....	2
Menstrual Hygiene Initiative.....	5
3.) Promotions.....	6
4.) Public Relations.....	7
DSGVO.....	7
5.) Outlook.....	8



SOCIETY

The Association for Sustainable Community Enacted Development e.V. (ASCEND) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged people worldwide by improving their environmental and sanitary conditions. Here we are concerned not only with the immediate improvement of living conditions, but also with long-term concepts to strengthen communities. The essence of our work is addressing vulnerable areas, which in many cases are areas from which our team members originated. So our main focus is currently on Bangladesh, where four of our team members grew up.

With this basic idea, we inspire more and more environmental enthusiasts, global thinkers and dedicated volunteers, so that we now count 24 ASCENDers among our members, who concentrate in the following areas:

THE PROJECT TEAM:

We develop new projects together with our partner organizations and are responsible for ensuring their success in the long term. In doing so, we stay in constant communication with our partners, discuss challenges of implementation and find long-term solutions together.

THE FUNDING TEAM:

We are responsible for ensuring that the finances are in order and that we have sponsors for every project in order to make our work possible. We are in close contact with local sponsors and organizations: inspire them for our work and explain how they can best support us.

THE PUBLIC TEAM:

We keep our website up to date, create posts for Facebook and other social media channels, write the newsletter, design flyers, find matching photos, and so on – In short: we manage our public profile, just as our name implies.

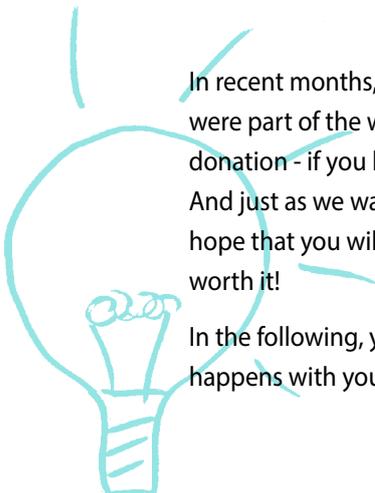
Want to know more about us? Just visit www.ascend-global.org/english/about-us/



PROJECTS

In recent months, our previous projects have entered next phases and received funding and support. You were part of the whole and we want to thank you! Whether as a foundation, organization or as a private donation - if you hold this newsletter in your hand, you have contributed to the success of these projects. And just as we want to stick to the projects, work out new ideas, communicate and implement them, we hope that you will continue to be enthusiastic about our ideas and support us. Be part of the whole - it's worth it!

In the following, you will be able to find out about the current status and get your own idea of what happens with your money how we take advantage of your efforts.



WATER4DACOPE

Location	Dacope Upazilla, Bangladesh
Duration	12 months (01-12/2018)
Beneficiaries	about 3,900 people
Partner	RUPANTAR, Bangladesh



Our pioneering project, which reflects the basic idea of our approach: The brainchild of one of our members, who comes from the affected region and understands both the needs and the opportunities within the region. The partnership between ASCEND and RUPANTAR, which developed a project to secure a clean drinking water supply in Dacope, Bangladesh, against the background of both aspects. The result: Our four projects from Water4Dacope.

We discussed in our last newsletter the “hows” and “whys” and more specific details about the steps we took. We also talked about our first successes with the first project, the final report of which you can now find on our homepage and download to read the project in detail.

Now to the current state of the project and what has happened in the last five months:





Damaged Pond Sand Filter in Sahebabad as well as the repair work and the final result: the finished filter.

PROJECT 2: Repair of two sand filters and reinstallation of a sand filter.

The second project under our Water4Dacope program started on schedule on May 1st of this year. The focus was on the repair of two municipal pond sand filters in the villages of Saheberabad and Podderganj in Dacope, as well as the installation of another filter in the village of West Bajua. Originally, the project was scheduled for July 31st, but due to heavy rains in June construction could not be completed until the end of August.

In order to guarantee the success of the project in the long term, as in the first project, local personnel were trained for each installation, which should eliminate minor failures in the future, so that permanent damage to the system can be prevented. In addition, a Water Management Committee has been set up to take responsibility for the site, organize regular maintenance and manage future oversight.

After commissioning and confirming the drinking water quality by means of water quality tests, the filter in Saheberabad now supplies approximately 350 people with drinking water every day. In addition, the repaired filter in Podderganj ensures a clean drinking water supply for another 330 people, while the newly built filter in West Bajua serves 400 people.

We are therefore very proud to report that with our second project, together with our partner organization RUPANTAR, we helped more than 1,000 people gain access to clean drinking water.

The total budget for the second project was €6,084. We were supported by the ALTERNAID Foundation with a grant of €5,100. The additional funds of €1,000 were generated through external donations.

Are you interested in more details and would like to understand the course of the project? In short, you will be able to find the final report of the second project on our homepage, too.

PROJECT 3 - Repair of three sand filters

Currently we are working on the third project as part of the ASCEND program Water4Dacope. The work started on September 15th, with a slight delay due to heavy rains and the associated limited access to the project area for our team.

In this project, we also want to repair three sand filters in the villages of Chitabunia, East Bajua and Kamarkhola, of course, with simultaneous training of a local maintenance staff and the formation of Water Management Committees to ensure long-term operation and stable funding.

The third project is funded by the Tools for Life Foundation, which supports this project with €3,941. The own contribution of ASCEND, supported by private donations, is €500.



Meeting of the Water Management Committee in Saheberabad, Dacope

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE INITIATIVE

Location Dacope Upazilla, Khulna Distrikt, Bangladesh
Duration 6 months
Beneficiaries 3,800 women and girls
Partner RUPSA, Bangladesh



After the completion of the first MHI project in May, our initiative to de-stigmatize menstrual hygiene and educate women about menstruation in Bangladesh has become somewhat quiet in recent months. However, that does not mean that nothing is happening – behind the scenes, our project team has worked diligently to prepare the next phase of the project, which is finally beginning:

With an expected start at the beginning of 2019, ASCEND, together with our partner organization RUPSA, is planning a further round of educational training in ten other villages in the region and, in particular, the establishment of small village shops, which will be able to produce the sanitary products independently in the long term. Thus, access to these same products as well as other job opportunities are ensured especially for women both in the production in Kakra Bunia and in the sale of the bandages in the individual villages. In addition, three health camps will be established in the villages of Kakra Bunia, Chunkuri and West Banishanta for the treatment of menstruation-related complications.

The project costs will amount to approximately €15,000 and we are currently looking for funding and supporters. Are you enthusiastic about the idea and want to support us financially? Simply write to info@ascend-global.org or use our general donation transfer, where you can specify "MHI" as the subject. We appreciate any support you can give us!

A brief insight in our recent educational trainings for the women of the village West-Banishanta



PROMOTIONS

In addition to all the private donations, company donations and other funds which have reached us in recent months, we are also supported by larger foundations. Listed below is the major grant received in the last five months:

TOOLS FOR LIFE FOUNDATION – Water4Dacope



Following the success of the first two projects, the Tools For Life Foundation is funding the third round of the Water4Dacope project, which has just begun. This includes the repair of three sand filters in the villages of Chitabunia, East Bajua and Kamarkhola, as well as the maintenance and management trainings. This will give 920 people access to clean drinking water. The project phase runs from Sept. 15th until November 14th, 2018. Tools For Life supports us with a grant of €3,941, so we will add the missing €500 from private donations to ASCEND to the grand total.



Still want to support us? Please visit our homepage!

www.ascend-global.org/english/donations

Or support the project Water4Dacope directly on:

www.betterplace.org



PUBLIC RELATIONS

In terms of developing our projects, communication is critical to ASCEND.

That is why it is our turn to keep you informed as much as possible. Take a look at our Facebook page or our website, which is always up to date. Here you will find updates, information on current project status and new sponsors as well as a download area with the latest final reports and membership meeting minutes. Transparency is important to us.

In addition to project news, you will also find our newly updated member page on our website. Here you can see who belongs to the ASCEND family and who works on which team. Of course, not all of our team members are listed there yet – only some of the 24 hardworking members. Want to join in? We look forward to working together!

Would you like to tell others about us? Our flyers are still out: if you have further ideas on how to further distribute them and broaden our impact, please write us at public@ascend-global.org! Or use our posts on Facebook, etc., share, like and comment on them to get even more people excited about our work and to make the world better together.

The DSGVO,...

... the new European Data Protection Regulation, which came into force in May, is of course also briefly mentioned here and what this specifically means for you as ASCEND supporters.

First of all, our cooperation does not change at all. However, if you would like to be informed in the future about ongoing projects and activities by email, for example via this newsletter, we need your clear consent. Of course, your e-mail address will not be passed on to third parties nor used for any purpose other than the above. On request, your e-mail addresses will of course be deleted immediately and permanently. Do you want to be included in the mailing list? Let us know (informally) at info@ascend-global.org.

If you want to learn more about privacy, please visit our website and read more.



OUTLOOK

WHAT NEXT?

In a few months, the next newsletter will reach you, with new results, new projects, new visions. A little taste: a project in Syria is just starting up. Here, local production of silk products is intended to promote sustainable community development, partially restoring both the sense of purpose in ravaged communities and creating new jobs, especially for women and war wounded. It is a promising approach that speaks directly to our goals and capacities.

ANYTHING ELSE?

So, if you feel like working in a motivated team, contributing your ideas, being creative, or just being inspired and working out the details with a good idea, you're most welcome!

We all work as volunteers and our meetings are mostly online because we are scattered all over the country – here and there even further. All you need is motivation, desire and a bit of your time that you can spare.

Just write to us: info@ascend-global.org

FINALLY?

Let us say goodbye to you, dear reader and do-gooder. We hope to bring you more good news in the next newsletter regarding further project successes and more concrete future plans, which we can tackle with your help and support.

Hopefully you are just as excited as we are for the next few months. For our part, we are looking forward to further cooperation with you.



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