



**NEWSLETTER 01-2018**

**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 four 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.

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Hannover, 08.05.2018

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## VORWORT

Dear Partners, Sponsors, Donors or other World Improvers,

Welcome to our first official newsletter, provided to our supporters in order to keep you up to date on the progress of each project and our day-to-day work. Because you are part of the team, and we want it to stay that way.

Since our founding a year ago, we have experienced an incredible evolution together. We have set up our own aid organization, developed first project ideas together, found great local partners, created flyers, social media profiles and websites and even successfully implemented the first projects! The feedback that we receive from the people on the ground and also in Germany confirms every day that we are on the right path and that our work improves the world, little by little.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your tireless efforts, creative ideas and incredible motivation! We are looking forward to the next projects with you.

We are curious how you will like our first newsletter and wish you happy reading.



Your ASCEND board

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## SOCIETY

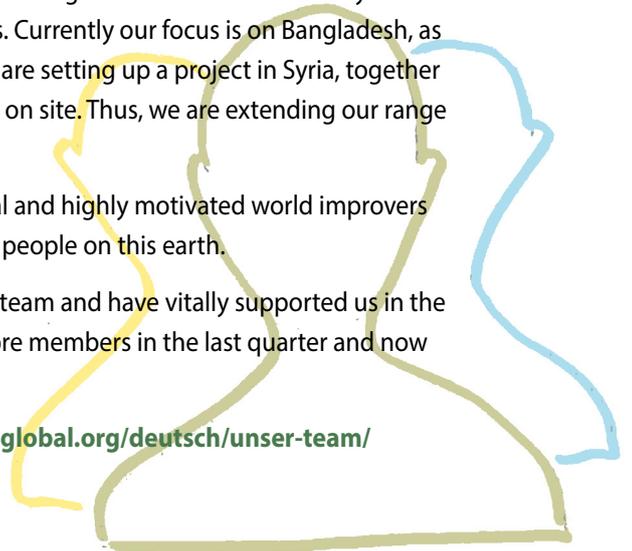
ASCEND – Association for Sustainable Community Enacted Development e.V. – is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping disadvantaged people worldwide by improving their environmental and sanitary conditions.

What sets us apart from other organizations? For starters, we work with countries and in places which our team members are strongly linked to. We connect with local people and develop projects together that, in addition to creating immediate better living conditions, also strengthen the local economic system in the long run by implanting economically sustainable concepts. Currently our focus is on Bangladesh, as four of our team members grew up there. But beyond that we are setting up a project in Syria, together with our Syrian teammates as well as their friends and families on site. Thus, we are extending our range of action further and further.

As we grow, we gain more and more enthusiastic, multicultural and highly motivated world improvers who work together for better environmental conditions for all people on this earth.

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are already part of the team and have vitally supported us in the last year. A big thank you! Further on, we were able to gain more members in the last quarter and now count 22 ASCENDees who volunteer for the organization.

You want to know more? Then take a look here: [www.ascend-global.org/deutsch/unser-team/](http://www.ascend-global.org/deutsch/unser-team/)

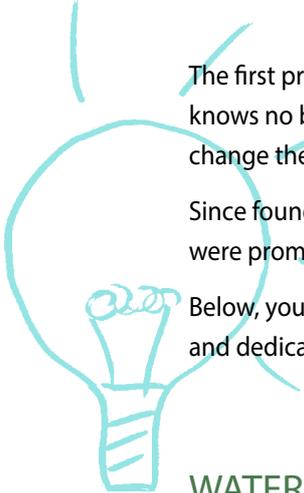


## PROJECTS

The first projects have started and more are on the way. Bangladesh is the beginning, but our impact knows no boundaries! We'll keep going, stay tuned into the most critical problems and do our best to change the lives of our most vulnerable citizens a little more with each step.

Since founding our organization last year, two of our projects have already outgrown their infancy, and were promoted and established. You were part of the team and we thank you!

Below, you'll learn about the current state of affairs and get your own idea of how your money, efforts, and dedication have been utilized.



### WATER4DACOPE

Location	Dacope Upazilla, Bangladesh
Duration	12 months (01-12/2018)
Beneficiaries	about 3.900 people
Partner	RUPANTAR, Bangladesh



The idea that started it all – our first project of the supporting programme “Water4Dacope” was initiated by one of our members who grew up in the affected region and thus has a clear picture of the needs of the local inhabitants and the possibilities of the local partner organizations. With this project we ensure a stable drinking water supply in the rural areas of this remote coastal region, whose citizens currently suffer from multiple environmental crises.

The goal: to repair nine existing sand filters again within the supporting programme comprising four single projects. Reinstall another. Equip a primary school with a rainwater storage facility. Train local people to promote their own ongoing operation and maintenance. In short: employ a new perspective.

We are not reinventing the wheel and do not use complicated technologies. We rely on long-established Pond-Sand filters that have been built and used in this region for decades. Thus, simple manual methods are used to pump the pond water through a filter bed made of different layers of sand, so that the filtered water can be removed via a tap. Every day 250 to 300 people can benefit from such a sand filter and ten liters of fresh drinking water per person are filtered. If these are maintained, a service life of 12 to 15 years can be expected.

At the moment, however, maintenance and responsibilities are largely unclear, and money for repair/renewal can rarely be procured. ASCEND not only helps raise money for renewal, but also creates water

committees, and builds a self-sustaining funding system with local people - that's what we mean by "helping people to help themselves". Building a true, big "S" Sustainable system - self-sustaining in the long term and independent of financing from the West.

We are indescribably proud of the W4D project's huge progress so far. In detail, here are the results until now: Together with our partner organization RUPANTAR and within the first project, we were able to fully refurbish two sand filters. The filters were tiled anew, and the drinking water pumps were repaired. In addition, the team has built a ramp on site to provide universal access to the water filter service.

In addition, our partner organization RUPANTAR installed a rainwater treatment system at Kakra Bunia Primary School in Dacope. With this system, the drinking water needs of 350 students ages 5 - 12 are provided for. Consequently, next to the pupils of the elementary school with additional 300 inhabitants of the village Orabunia and another 300 inhabitants of East Saheberbad, the first of the four projects afforded safe drink water supply for about nearly one thousand people living in Dacope.

Still, in the future we want to support other communities and schools, as many as possible, with a stable water supply. A sustainable and replicable overall concept should be integrated in such a way that our input and heavy involvement becomes obsolete. That's why we stay on site for the time being.



The Water4Dacope project and how it has grown: Coaching of the water comitee as well as construction of the new Pond Sand Filter



**Above:** First usage of the renewed Pond Sand Filter in Saheberabad

**Below:** Construction and finalisation of the rainwater treatment system at the Kakra Bunia Elementary School



## MENSTRUAL HYGIENE INITIATIVE

Location West-Banishanta, Bangladesh  
 Duration 4 months (03-06/2018)  
 Beneficiaries 241 women aged 12 to 45  
 Partner RUPSA, Bangladesh



Our first of the MHI-projects - a small push in the right direction. In the last few months, we have already been able to put our second project into action: the Menstrual Hygiene Initiative has begun and first steps have been taken. With the awareness-raising initiative on the promotion of menstrual hygiene in the village of West Banishanta in Bangladesh, we are building up a care structure with hygienic products on site. Here, taboos must still be broken and what has been hushed up until now must be spoken aloud.

The initiative should not only educate, clarify questions and address problems, but also enable women in the region to access and use sanitary napkins. Here, too, ASCEND e.V. is taking the path of sustainable self-help: In the future, all products will be produced locally by traditionally underserved women and supported by micro-financing. To this end, we support local village businesses to convert good ideas into action so that more jobs are created for women.

What might the future bring? Our first educational workshops have received such great feedback that we also want to offer them in other villages in the region. We assist in the production and installation of women-friendly washrooms and latrines in schools and colleges. Be part of the whole thing - it's worth it!



Awareness-raising trainings for women of the village West Banishanta – even interested women from neighbour villages came over in order to participate

## PROMOTIONS

In addition to all the private donations, company donations and fundraising which has been going on over the last few months, we are also being funded by larger foundations. Here is a small overview:

### BINGO-UMWELTSTIFTUNG – Water4Dacope



With the commitment of the niedersächsische Bingo-Umweltstiftung (NBU) finally everything started rolling and we were able to get started with our very first project Water4Dacope! With a subsidy of € 5,280, the first of four projects within the supporting programme in Bangladesh could be implemented – the repair of two existing water treatment plants just as the construction of a rainwater storage tank of a local elementary school. The project, which was completed in April, was able to provide drinking water for about 950 people on site.

### ALTERNAID STIFTUNG – Water4Dacope



We also have the commitment of the ALTERNAID Foundation for People in Need to support the Water4Dacope project. This will allow us to enter the second round of the project in Bangladesh and to repair two additional filters in Saheberabad as well as further promote the construction of a new one in West Bajua. The project directly benefits 1100 people on site and is scheduled from 01.05.2018 to 31.07.2018. The total budget is 6,084 €. An application was made for funding from the ALTERNAID Foundation, which was bestowed a grant of 5,100 €.

You want to support us further on? Take a look at our homepage!

[www.ascend-global.org/deutsch/spenden](http://www.ascend-global.org/deutsch/spenden)

Or support the project Water4Dacope directly on:

[www.betterplace.com](http://www.betterplace.com)

## PUBLIC RELATION

Even if our projects are in the foreground - behind the scenes much is happening as well!

We have many new ideas and are still looking for motivated World Improvers and new donors. Brand new flyers were designed and printed in the last quarter, complementing our strong internet presence on our website, Facebook, LinkedIn, XING, etc. You can already find these flyers in Hanover, Braunschweig, Mainz, Rüsselsheim, Darmstadt, Bonn, Stuttgart and Ulm as well as in the surrounding areas, where they are just waiting to be picked up, read and put into practice.

Online you can find the good stuff here: <https://www.ascend-global.org/deutsch/download>

A small, but not unimportant detail: In printing, we have remained true to our standards! As a result, ASCEND e.V. prints its flyers in an environmentally friendly manner at the eco-print shop. This uses 100% recycled paper, vegetable oil based colors, green electricity and is carbon-neutral - so the resulting CO2 emissions are offset by recognized climate protection projects.

(for more info look at [umweltdruckerei.de](http://umweltdruckerei.de))

In addition, the size of our team has allowed us to fully cover the printing costs with membership fees. By doing so, we assure you that your money will invariably end up in the promotion of your own projects, while we take over all the details. So we keep our promise: Every penny helps the people directly. Every single one.

# ASCEND

Wir sind ein Team aus Umweltwissenschaftlern, -ingenieuren und -interessierten, aus Engagierten verschiedenster Berufsrichtungen, aus Internationalen und

<p><b>WAS WIR TUN</b></p> <p><b>TRINKWASSER FÜR DACOPE</b></p> <p><b>WAS WIR VERSPRECHEN</b></p> <p><b>WAS DU TUN KANNST</b></p>	<p>Wir haben viele Ideen, wie wir die Welt zu einem besseren Ort machen können. Ein aktuelles Projekt ist zum Beispiel:</p> <p>Wir setzen uns für die Grundrechte der ärmsten Bevölkerungsschichten Bangladeschs ein: sauberes Trinkwasser für alle in der Region Dacope, wo zwei unserer Mitglieder selbst herkommen. Bereits bestehende Sandfilter zur Trinkwasseraufbereitung sollen repariert und das Wissen zur Wartung der Anlagen vermittelt werden, sodass unser lokales Projekt der gesamten Region hilft.</p> <p>100% der Spendengelder gehen in das Projekt, jeder Cent kommt an! Verschiedene Stiftungen unterstützen uns bereits mit einem Großteil der Projektsumme – tu du es jetzt auch: Bereits 5,30€ sichern einer Person langfristig Zugang zu sauberem Trinkwasser.</p> <p>Sei dabei, sag's weiter oder unterstütze unser aktuelles Projekt mit einer Spende.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">Mehr Infos unter: <a href="http://www.ascend-global.org">www.ascend-global.org</a> oder <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ASCENDglobal">www.facebook.com/ASCENDglobal</a> oder bei direkten Fragen an <a href="mailto:info@ascend-global.org">info@ascend-global.org</a></p>			
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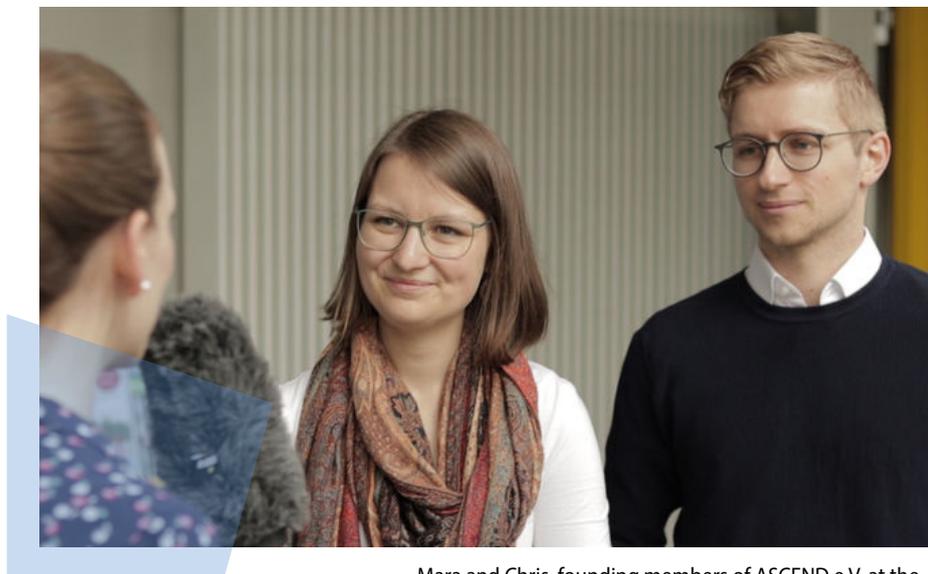
## UMWELTMESSE of the TH Bingen



On April 25th 2018 you were able to meet up with us at Umweltmesse of TH Bingen. In a lecture we talked about our vision and our projects, what we can accomplish together and how you can get involved.

The TH Bingen liked it - just as we did! It was a great experience and we want to thank everyone who was there with us!

Here you can find what TH Bingen wrote about us: **“Ehemalige stellen ihre NGO vor”**



Mara and Chris, founding members of ASCEND e.V. at the environment fair of the TH Bingen



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## OUTLOOK

### AND NOW?

So, if you feel like working with a motivated team, contributing your ideas, being creative, or just being inspired and working out the details with a good idea, come join us!

Or are you interested in dealing with subsidies? Are you good with writing and/or social media? Or do you feel like spreading the word via Facebook, LinkedIn, Xing etc.?

We all work as volunteers and our meetings are mostly online because we are scattered all over the world. All you need is motivation, desire and that little amount of time you can spare. We look forward to meeting you!

Just write us: [info@ascend-global.org](mailto:info@ascend-global.org)

### AND FINALLY?

We thank you, dear supporter, and say goodbye until the next newsletter! We are curious to see how we will grow until then, what steps we can take so far with your help, and which visions could be turned into real action.

We hope you feel the same way and are looking forward to our next projects with you.



# ASCEND

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