



Dear Max Mustermann

These are difficult times for everyone – how hard it must be to explain the conflict in Ukraine to a child here! It is easier and more obvious to save water and electricity, which is a good thing and worth incorporating into our daily lives, at last. Surely we should have realised this years ago and taken the message on board. In the past, a Sunday roast was only for Sundays, something for the whole family to look forward to during the week. Nowadays we are used to eating well whenever and wherever we choose and we have nothing to look forward to. My wish is for you to have something to look forward to once more.



There is little joy at the moment here in Burkina Faso. Too many people are dying every day and there is so much fear of violence and terrorism. On top of that we've had yet another military coup. But life still goes on with even less money to spend. The rate of inflation is higher than in Europe, refugees from the villages gather outside my door at 6 o'clock in the morning already and I have to start dealing with their problems.

Our Clinic is coping with twice the number of patients compared to a couple of years ago and yet it is the only place in Burkina Faso providing free medicine. That is why I flew here in summer to ensure that the new building and the restructuring of the old Clinic were completed to standard. The local tradesmen never cease to amaze me. They are always late, which tends to annoy me, but once they start, there is no holding them back! Bricklayers, tilers, painters, electricians, plumbers, upholsterers, specialists in installing dentist chairs, they all did as they were instructed – a miracle! We were able to complete everything, even a sterile operating room for cataract operations. Many of the staff members came back early from their holidays to help. The Clinic is now gleaming, light, clean and hygienic, thanks to all those who helped. Unfortunately I was unable to see many of the children.

This year they are staying longer with their original families. The schools also closed early because the authorities wanted to clear the jihadists from the suburbs. Unfortunately we saw very little of that.

Things only got worse when one of our largest donors had to step back. This donor has borne almost a third of our costs for many years now, but they too are now also affected by the circumstances in Europe. We would like to express our thanks for the many years of aid and friendship, for funds to help us cope with emergencies and for their continuous support. This means substantial cutbacks for AMPO at a time when the need has never been so great. A committee of our directors called an emergency meeting to plan budget cuts, staff reductions, savings in energy costs and administration costs and much more. To achieve this we will double our efforts to find resources within the country. In spite of the problems there is a lesson for AMPO to learn. The entire staff has assured the directors that they will endeavour to work more intensively with the children and give them more love and attention. That is a good thing. And to you and your families I wish that these difficult times bring out the best in us all and that people come closer together as a result. Please stay by our side. We welcome you with open arms!

Yours,
Katrin Rohde



Dear supporters of AMPO,

We are continuing to implement the AMPO projects in spite of the global economic crisis, the national security crisis as a result of terrorist attacks and the socio-political crisis characterised by two coups d'état in less than one year. These latest events justify the need for action on the part of AMPO, but they also create a major barrier to mobilising the necessary resources to support such action. These events combine to produce a rate of inflation here of more than 18%, the highest in West Africa.



The direct consequence is the daily increase in the number of destitute people seeking the minimum to satisfy their basic needs. In practical terms and on a local level, there is an increase in critical areas such as:

- Food, clothing, accommodation and schooling at AMPO social services
- Health care at the AMPO Clinic
- Comprehensive care for children and young mothers at the AMPO facilities, e.g. orphanages and the MIA/ALMA refuge for women.

On a national level, our long-standing generous donors are also affected by these circumstances. On a local level, the emergency situation resulting from the global economic crisis and the national security crisis preoccupies our donors at the expense of development aid. The same applies to our donors on an international level, who are also experiencing hardship in spite of their determination and good will.

Dear friends, against this background AMPO of course continues in its commitment to provide hope for the thousands of people who benefit from our work. We have a saying in Burkina Faso, "If there is enough for one, there is enough for two." In other words, we at AMPO are inspired by a spirit of sharing and solidarity, which enables us to continue our efforts with the means at our disposal. And in this spirit of solidarity the whole cake we had yesterday for one child will be divided today in two or even four for every child to have a piece. We are so grateful to all our donors, sponsors and friends who have been supporting us through the years with so much love and sacrifice. If we are on our feet today it is thanks to you. Hoping that things will soon improve, we pray to God for you, for us and for the world we live in. May we withstand these tests and emerge with more strength and solidarity than ever before. We wish you a happy Christmas and all the best for the coming year.

With love from AMPO,
Dénis Yameogo
Director General



Dear friends of AMPO,

Once again the time has come for us to look back at all the closing year has brought. Internally this year this was a year with the new Board in office, that is the previous Board plus the two new advisory members in whom you placed your trust a year ago.

Our work continues constructively, efficiently and in a spirit of harmony, particularly in cooperation with the staff in our Berlin office. And that is essential, because this year we have been faced with a new set of challenges. In April our office moved to new premises, in the same building, but the extra space we longed for involved completely remodelling the interior and the net result is that it has made our work easier. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped.



We are also pleased to report that both groups of "Regulars" are organising their get-togethers once more in Hamburg and Berlin. Some of them came to see our new premises at the opening party and in again in June they were able to meet Denis Yameogo (AMPC General Director) and Léontine Samandoulougou (Director of the AMPO Clinic) from Burkina Faso during their visit to Berlin. These working meetings in person are very valuable particularly now after the long interruption due to Corona, because the limited possibilities of a meeting online are not always conducive to free exchange which is vital in promoting cooperation.

Intensive exchange is also extremely important now, because this year we have seen in practical terms that the funding of all of our existing facilities and projects for the coming year may not always be guaranteed. Donors of substantial amounts of money are regrettably stepping back and there is a noticeable trend towards a reduction in smaller donations.

This has nothing to do with AMPO in particular, but is due rather to a marked situation in general.

This is why your continuing support, including canvassing other people, businesses and organisations, is now more important than ever. Fortunately Katrin Rohde is continuing her tireless work in this domain. This year her latest international acclaim came in the form of an award from the Jever-Jeverland Rotary Club she was designated as a Paul Harris Fellow. So our success continues, everything is still possible and for that we also rely on your commitment.

Please remember: The good is never lost. We wish all our readers a happy Christmas.

On behalf of the Board of
AMPO International e.V.,

Dr. Dethardt Götze



AMPO International e.V.

Blücherstraße 41
10961 Berlin
Tel.: +49-30-6416 5504
Fax: +49-30-6416 5505
info@ampo-intl.org

Spendenkonto
GLS Gemeinschaftsbank
IBAN: DE 80 4306 0967 1038 3287 00

