



NEWSLETTER Q1 2020

January

In January we kicked off with the traditional New Year’s meeting. Reflecting back on 2019, which stood for growth and new European (Fairtrade) clients, and looking forward to all the new potentials for 2020.



We had a request from 2 new women, Fatma and Reky to start at Chako as trainees and they began their new journey being trained and skilled in tailoring and woodcrafts.



February

In February we attended Ambiente in Frankfurt, the leading international consumer goods trade fair. We fair was successful, the stand showcased our products in a professional, attractive way.



Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of Covid19 potential clients had to postpone their orders and already placed orders where reduced. The situation changed drastically and we had to find ways to cope with negative developments and increased poverty among Zanzibarians.

Chako created a mask for our staff using the kitenge material we normally use for the upcycled shoulder bags, purses and tablemats. Kitenge is a fabric which originated in Tanzania and is a high quality, breathable, sustainable and reusable fabric, so the mask can be washed and used again.

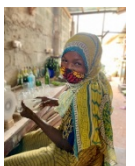


We partnered Kimbia Bila Shaka (a NGO focussing on women empowerment by training a positive and healthy mind-set through exercise) to introduce a Corona walk to work challenge for the Chako team. All women have been donated a pair of running shoes, which they can use for walking, avoiding the need to travel with public transportation.



March

The low season for tourism starts normally in April and lasts till mid-May. This year was different as the first case of the Corona virus in Zanzibar was reported on the 21st of March. By the 28th of March, 90% of all hospitality has closed their doors for guests and visitors. This resulted in a drastic decrease of bottle collection, and a successful challenge in finding new collection points. Up to August we will be able to collect enough bottles for collection, there is still more than enough glass waste in Zanzibar.



And there was a very positive development this month! The land for the new to set up zero waste and green workshop has finally been measured and the planning for the cleaning of the land and preparation for constructing has been made. The local community supports Chako in their mission and are excited the new workplace will bring employment and possibilities for women and youth of the area.

