

# Co-Willing Annual Report 2017

Dear Members, Associates, Donors, Contributors and Supporters of Co-Willing,

It is with great pleasure that we are today able to look back at 2017 with joy at what has been achieved with so little resources in terms of cash, but with massive donated human resources in terms of effort, research and organisation - accompanied by special contributions, to which extent will become clear in this annual report.

A very special word of thanks to all of you - Co-Willers, donors, partners, experts - who have made the little beginnings of Co-Willing to what it has become today.

Margaret Mead once said "never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has". I believe that this is applicable here.

This is so true of the spirit of Co-Willing and the people within and behind it in support that has made many positive actions possible and which is ongoing and growing.

We continue to be guided by our UN SDGs Sustainable Development Goals of which our chosen targets are the following:

- youth training and education, incl. vocational skills training
- environment: renewable energy, reforestation and natural water retention
- sustainable agri-development and food security
- accountability, good governance & ethical leadership
- community development, incl. health
- waste management

## Review of Co-Willing's actions and outcomes for 2017

**2017 has been a growing story of many events, actions and previous commitments**

that have given effect and impact toward the continuing the process of growth toward our key SDGs.

It has been a year of very limited cash resources but maximum human endeavor and sacrifice!

A summary of events and activities for the year can be outlined as follows:

### 1. International 'Co-Willing Economic Development Conference'

**20 – 24 January 2017 in South Africa with international and national delegates**

Co-Willing held its 1<sup>st</sup> AGM and at the same time invited experts and interested delegates in order to create a platform for the exchange of knowledge, expertise and collaborations.

Outcomes: - inspiration, knowledge & collaboration for existing and new projects (*see below*)  
- many follow-up meetings with governments and embassies, businesses and delegations to Switzerland in search of solutions, some of which has slowly seen green shoots in the areas of waste to energy, vocational training in hospitality and technical skills, agri-processing, community development projects and other areas.

## 2. Projects

### 2.1 2030 Sustainable Development Goals SDG and the iSDG Model [www.isdgs.org](http://www.isdgs.org)

Co-Willing is determined to plan and implement its projects along the SDG guidelines.

With the systemic **iSDG model** Hans Rudolf Herren of the Millennium Institute

**supports governments in planning strategic changes in their policies towards**

**implementation of the UN 2030**, which help **slow down climate change** considerably.

### 2.2 Accountability, Good Governance & Ethical Leadership

Paul Hoffman of the **Accountability Now Institute** in South Africa stands strong for accountability, transparency and good governance - nationally and internationally - and promotes the knowledge of the constitution of South Africa among its citizens with an easy to understand booklet online: [www.accountabilitynow.org.za](http://www.accountabilitynow.org.za)

## 2.3 Vocational Training

**Collaboration with Swiss and local Institutions, colleges and Government** in South Africa for the following areas: hospitality, automotive Industry (diagnostics), technical and maintenance skills for a planned agri-development and renewable energy hub. Co-Willing is in negotiations for establishing such collaborations in Kenya, South Sudan and other African countries. Tentative MOUs have already been started toward concretising some of these actions through a partnership facilitation process

## 2.4 Power Production & Storage - A-10 Mini-Solar-Power-Plant

Reliable power production and supply for rural areas – for schools, clinics, offices, computer centres, small businesses with applications like sewing machines, water pumps, refrigerators, charging stations for laptops, cell phones etc, ... plus lighting, e-learning & e-library, of knowledge (e.g. farmers' networks for plant protection)

## 2.5 Digitalisation Pilot projects: South Africa (Rommel Roberts) & Kenya (Johnson Mwakazi)

- computer centres: computer literacy, repair, services
- digital classrooms & digital villages

Digitalisation with **e-learning and e-libraries and computer literacy** are crucial for the economic empowerment of communities – especially for youth. It is also very crucial to help the underdeveloped countries **develop protection against exploitation** through unethical businesses and cyber-crime. Digital uses as a tool to assist in opening up the digital economy in terms of business development and job creation are also key elements.

## 2.6 Agri-Development & Food Security

- **South Africa: sustainable agri-development, incl. sustainable plant protection**  
Agri-Production and -Processing: vegetables, mushrooms, fish, shrimp
- **South Sudan: promotion & empowerment of rural areas prevents migration to slums**  
with the **DOMDA** rural empowerment project of Acuil: agriculture, reforestation, water management, electricity and IT technology, small business

The **Famine** situation in South Sudan and other parts of East Africa needs to be looked at on a holistic scale and has to be dealt with on a global policy level – with the **urgency of implementing the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals**.

## 2.7 Community Development

### 1. Platfontein Community - marginalised San People (Bush People), South Africa

One of the very first successful project action plans of Co-Willing that is ongoing.

A fully developed **business plan for this whole community**, including

- a guesthouse complex – with intense hospitality training for young ones
- small businesses within their cultural setting that will include their special skills
- hospitality training and food production and rural development strategies
- the continuation of the current Computer centre needs to be upgraded

### 2. Community integrated development planning – Integrated Key Township Model

All township and village communities suffer from high levels of crime and insecurity due to rising unemployment and other factors. This applies to SA and other African countries.

**A key township model project** - based on successful models in the past – integrates: social security, economic security, safer schools, community safety strategies, ultimately the development of a holistically integrated development plan that is well seeded and facilitated throughout a target community and including an innovative digital community communication strategy. Related to this is the development of vocational skills training.

## 2.8 Water Management – Natural Water Retention Systems

The water situation in many African countries should be addressed in a holistic way, considering the big scale situation of an area and then breaking it down to the smaller scales of a community or individual farm.

Co-Willing aims to implement a natural water retention model in a semi-arid area in Africa, where experience can be gained with a natural water retention system and its opportunities of creating arable farm land for crops, cattle, vegetables, fruit and possibly fish harvests.

## 2.9 Waste Management – Waste to Energy Concept

Waste dumps are an unsustainable - even hazardous - way of dealing with waste and there is an urgent need to find new solutions, e.g. the Waste to Energy concept with the latest technology of thermo-recycling and harvesting energy, steam, heat, cooling, precious heavy metals (gold, silver, aluminum, copper, etc.), iron.

## 2.10 Health – New Medicine of the Future - Partnership with German/Swiss med. doctor

Dr med. Kurt Mosetter - globally renowned specialist for Myoreflex Therapy - takes a completely **new and successful approach to medicine and high-performance sports**:  
see <http://www.myoreflex.net/en/>  
(hypertension, diabetes, pains, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, paralysis, dementia, ...)

**All above collaborations wouldn't be possible without all the work the Co-Willers have done in Switzerland and other European countries, when connecting with all the above-mentioned partners.**

**This is a great achievement! Thanks so much for all your sacrifices and engagement!**

## 3. Organisation and Networking

A great deal of Co-Willing work has been focused on the facilitation of delegations, opening up the world of possible collaborative development partners in both government and business and the NGO world. This took the form of organizing a tour for a SA delegation and also interested and concerned Co-Willers.

This all translated into special meetings, special tours and attending as guests of some key conferences, resulting in the increase of support for the work of Co-Willing and marketing our concerns, objectives and action plans.

Some of the specific events, involving some Co-Willing members are detailed hereunder:

**3.1 Construction Machines** for skills and business start-up promotion in Kenya

**3.2 UK & Isle of Jersey meetings - Sustainable Corporate Responsibility in Africa**

**3.3 Initiatives of Change Forum 'Just Governance for Human Security'**

where Co-Willing was represented featuring:

- confronting the corrupt – Paul Hoffman
- the Ukraine/Crimea dialogue for reconciliation – Letlapa

**3.4 Co-Willing Festival Switzerland - many guests and concerned persons**

Presentations by Rommel, Paul, Letlapa and Rebecca about Co-Willing's work at the two Swiss-South Africa festive gathering & information sessions, organised by Susi Gubler at her village.

The Swiss friends were fascinated to connect personally with some of the persons engaged with Co-Willing work and to hear firsthand information on specific projects.

**3.5 Economic Development Delegation from the Eastern Cape on Swiss Tour**  
**New partners – new interests**

As a follow-up of the 'Co-Willing Economic Development Conference' in January at the Woody Cape in South Africa, Rommel and Susi lead a team of the Eastern Cape Development Corporation ECDC for a 6-day Swiss Economic Tour for vocational training, power production, waste to energy, agri-processing.

### 3.6 Swiss Green Economy Symposium - Swiss Business cooperations

Co-Willing represented by Paul Hoffman, South Africa, and Hans Herren, Swiss/US

### 3.7 Co-Willing Kenya networking and collaboration in the organization of the 2018 conference

Tremendous efforts of the Kenyan team of Patrick, Lind and Johnson have seen the involvement of Embassies and brought on board government, business and NGOs to form a direct part in the forthcoming Kenyan Co-Willing conference

## 4. Key Achievements

- Co-Willing **expanded its network globally** and found **new collaborations** with organisations, institutions, business, Government and concerned individuals - some who have made personal financial contributions that include sponsorships for some persons to enable them to attend the Co-Willing Economic Development Conference in Kenya 2018
- **interest and full participation in 2018**
- continuation of existing **projects and successful outcomes**, e.g. Platfontein guesthouse
- start and development of new projects (see also above)
- **structural development**: consolidation of Co-Willing's NGO status.  
This process has now been successfully completed through the voluntary assistance of the renowned Swiss Lawyer Jean-Pierre Méan.  
We now await official legal confirmation which is due very shortly.  
This will of course follow into the setting up similar legal entities in member countries as Co-Willing continues its growth path through its various endeavours.  
In view of the massive networking and of many projects and potential donors starting to emerge the status of a tax-exempt NGO is a key point.
- organisation of two **Economic Development conferences** with practical outcomes
- successfully ensuring increased **practical demonstration and co-operation** in the Kenyan Economic Conference with growing **positive contributions and commitments** which we look forward to sharing in the new year (19-23 January 2018)

## 5. Challenges – Limits of Action

- **Size & Capacity of Co-Willing**: for bigger scale problems like famine it needs bigger players
- **Need for collaboration with bigger networks** in combination with long-term policy efforts
- **Finances**: Co-Willing needs ...
  - **Seed Funding**: As Co-Willing's work consists mainly of preparing the ground that projects can bloom later on, we have a need for seed funding.  
It is important that the facilitators of the preparatory work get funding for their operations.
  - **Project Funding**: We aim that eventually the projects get self-funded or have a re-payment of investment scheme, but to start them it needs 'kick-start funding'.

## 6. Plans, Hopes, Dreams & Visions

The great support and contributions of our own members, the international organisations, the many partners and friends encourages us to continue with our commitments:

- economic empowerment along the guidelines of the UN Sustainable Development Goals  
Key: the **2<sup>nd</sup> Co-Willing Economic Development Conference in Kenya 19-23 Jan 2018**
- accountability, transparency, good governance and ethical leadership
- collaboration with committed partners
- find funding for our work and projects

## A Word of Thanks

The achievements for the past year would not have been possible if it were not for the wonderful support received in various forms from Co-Willing members and supporters who have all come forward in several practical actions and contributions which have all contributed toward a successful 2017.

This has now made it possible for Co Willing to become an organisation with credibility and expertise backed by an incredible network globally.

A special word of thanks to the following members of Co-Willing and partners:

- the Kenyan and SA teams relating to the organisation the conference of 2017 and the one of the forthcoming conference in Kenya for January 2018.
- our legal support persons Paul Hoffman and Jean-Pierre Mean
- our solar support - headed by Walter Mikesch
- our iSDG model promoter in Africa - Hans Herren and his Millennium Institute team
- our head organisers & communicators Rommel Roberts (Africa) & Susi Gubler (Switzerland, EU)
- our media & website specialists: Johnson Mwakazi, Allan Boyles

We are also encouraged by the participation and growing involved of youth, as demonstrated at the SA conference and now showing signs for the Kenyan conference.

## Our vision for 2018

**Our vision is to see Africa rising and leading the Way**

**and that 2018 will be the year ...**

where the various **SDGs within our framework of key objectives take shape**

in the very practical manner **through practical projects,**

which should include vocational training, waste to energy, e-learning, solar power

with **added value** to agri-industries and other practical economic needs of the rural poor

that will **create jobs and increase the standard of living.**

Through the increased levels of support, we are now receiving we believe that this will become a reality. Key to this will be successful garnering of financial and other forms of support.

Warm greetings and thanks - 1 March 2018

Susi Gubler  
President Co-Willing

Allan Boyles  
Board member

PS Any further enquiries and/or information can be obtained through either contacting us via our email address [info@cowilling.org](mailto:info@cowilling.org) or by consulting our website [www.cowilling.org](http://www.cowilling.org)

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