

# Co-Willing Annual Report

1 March 2018 – 31 December 2019

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## 1. Report from the President

1 March 2018 – 31 December 2019 has been a very significant year for Co-Willing, which has seen several key developments that have taken the organization from a fledgling status to one that has become quite substantial.

This has been made possible through the important voluntary services of our Swiss Lawyer Jean-Pierre Méan, Sheena Rieder, Allan Boyles and Hans Herren supported by Rommel Roberts and myself.

Key persons who made significant inputs, like organizing the Co-Willing Economic Development Conference 2019, has been a group of youth from Nairobi: Yakub Jaffar, Wycliffe Guguni, Maxwell Musungu and Alf Otiemo.

Co-Willing is an association with its seat in Geneva, Switzerland; currently in the application process for tax exempt status.

We regret to say farewell to Patrick & Lind Kisia and Johnson, who for personal reasons have resigned 2018. We also want to say a special thank you to them for their very important contributions that made the developments of Co-Willing possible and their very special contributions towards the success of the 2018 conference in Kwale Kenya.

The growth of Co-Willing in the past year of 2018/19 has seen many developments:

- Involvement of the Swiss Embassy, Kenya
- Contributions from volunteer individuals like Bettina Häuselmann and others
- Support from the public sector like the vocational training and agri-research institutions
- Support from the NGO sector like Biovision Africa Trust and the Millennium Institute as well as our partner organization Hilltop Empowerment Centre in SA
- Significant partnership development in Kenya with the formalization of a partnership with Biovision Africa Trust and with others in waiting, e.g. in the educational sector.
- The successful organization of the second international economic conference at Kwale, Kenya, with the support of the Swiss Embassy

The year 2018/19 has been a focus on ...

- following key resolutions of the Co-Willing Economic Development conference at Kwale
- following the process of tax-exempt status of the Co-Willing international.  
This was seen as important, if Co-Willing is to build its financial base of support in order to fund its growing network of activities and projects.
- Key projects like
  - the development of the A10 solar unit, as designed by Solventure, was adopted at the Kwale 2018 conference for implementation and promoted with a pilot in South Africa, facilitated by Co-Willing and managed by our Hilltop partner.
  - Sustain the historical initiative to the San People of South Africa at Platfontein by Hilltop Empowerment Centre. At the same time as Co-Willing we sent our condolences to the family and community in the passing away of Rev Mario Mahongo, leader of the !Xhun tribe and Co-Willing member – a tragic event.
  - We have also seen initiatives stimulated by individual contributions like Bettina Häuselmann of ZAR Switzerland - arising out of a Co-Willing visit to the thermo-recycling plant of the waste management institution of Zurich. Her contribution was to personally support and facilitate the concept of 'Waste to Chicken', taken up by Yakub Jaffar and his team in Kibra in Nairobi, which lead into a bigger scale waste management project 'Kibra Green'.

#### International Agreements

Co-Willing has achieved that the very first formal international agreement between a TVET college in South Africa and Co-Willing has been now signed and sealed - with the involvement of a Swiss vocational skills training institution, who has been a longstanding support organization prepared to partner and develop training institutions in Africa – also the fruits of earlier Co-Willing research efforts.

Despite the lack of funds Co-Willing has made some major steps forward and laid the foundation for further developments in the new year of 2019.

The preparations for the 2019 Co-Willing Economic Development conference in Kenya was a commitment to the people of Kwale and has now become a reality with the launching and organization of it during the whole year of 2018.

This 2019 Co-Willing Economic Development conference has seen a significant development of the various initiatives that form part of the framework for the implementation of several focus areas of SDGs, adopted by Co-Willing, and which forms part of its core objectives

As Co-Willing president I wish to thank all those who have played such an important role in helping the organisation grow to where it is today and who have demonstrated their will to continue along this route to collaborate with Africa.

We still have a long road ahead of us, but with the determination, commitment and willingness to act the Co-Willing members, their partners and a whole new generation of young people the importance of Co-Willing's role in the facilitation, development and support of sustainable networks and organizations will be an ever more increasing demand in significant inroads are to be made.

I see Africa taking a leading position in many roads that need to be walked by all global citizens, especially in the sector of environment protection.

May 2019 be a year of significant growth, actions and development of key partnerships and programmes that will represent a tree planted from a small seed in 2014

Thanking you! Susi Gubler

## 2. General Summary for the Year 1 March 2018 – 28 Feb 2019

2018/19 can be summarized as being the year of the second Kenyan Co-Willing Economic Development Conference January 2019 at Kwale - with major resolutions and action plans for the year with serious commitment from organizations to achieve certain milestones that relate to projects, Co-Willing's organizational development and growth in the facilitation of key partnerships and resource mobilization.

Within this broad framework it can be safely said that in measuring the success of the Kwale conference commitments a great deal of movement on these fronts have been achieved viz.

- Mobilisation of resources
- Partnership development
- Application of Co-Willing as an international NGO with tax exempt status
- Organization of the follow up conference in 2021 in Mali
- Organization of delegations to Switzerland, EU and US
- Steps toward serious fundraising for Co-Willing in order oil the wheels of facilitation and implementation of key action plans
- Growing of Co-Willing formally in both Kenya and South Africa through the partnering with NGOs in these countries
- Gaining commitments from organisations prepared to make their direct contributions within their respective fields of interests that coincide with Co-Willing areas of focus - Hospitality, alternative energy, education and training of youth with emphasis on vocational training endorsed by Swiss Embassies in both countries.

## 3.The 2019 Co-Willing Economic Development conference at Kwale

The promotion and implementation of the planned conference at Kwale was a success story, with many resolutions and key commitments made to give direction to Co-Willing in its African Initiatives. (the full report is available through the Co-Willing Website)

The important resolutions and contributions related to

1. The importance and development of the iSDG T21 Model as systemic tool
2. The alternative energy development initiative and commitment
3. Commitment to follow up waste management initiatives in Kenya and South Africa
4. The agreement to move forward on several fronts relating to a number of key initiatives in the areas of: vocational training, facilitation of partnerships in vocational and other training resources, development of local capacity in countries involved with Co-Willing, fundraising etc.
5. The commitment to undertake a follow-up conference at Mali for 2021
6. The continuation of resource mobilization in support of local initiatives
7. The need to develop the area of agri-development and food security and water retention

## 4. Progress after the 2019 conference with key achievements and activities

Since the 2019 conference there has been several areas of follow up with failures and success stories.

There have been great efforts on the part of Co-Willing and its networks and there have been areas of significant progress.

#### 4.1 Partnership development

Co-Willing has achieved the formalization of a partnership agreement with Biovision Africa Trust, with assistance and thanks to Hans Herren and David Amudavi, and continues to operate through its Hilltop partners in South Africa.

The concern continues that other country partner NGOs need to be formed so as to increase the work and role of Co-Willing and will be an area of focus for the next conference

In South Africa there is now a formal agreement in place with a TVET college and Co-Willing in the area of vocational training with a support commitment of the Swiss Vocational Training institution with Hilltop Empowerment Centre as the local partner involved in the facilitation and support. The next steps here are crucial for specific follow up steps toward implementation of realistic programmes for the flow and transfer of skills and upgrade of the local institution in South Africa's Eastern Cape

#### 4.2 Delegations to Switzerland

This has continued with some success but awaits further developments before this can be declared a meaningful success story.

The **ECDC delegation** follow up after 2017 did not materialize into anything to date, with the waste management aspect still far from achieving a point of development, where our Swiss waste management support institution can make significant progress toward the planning of replica example in Africa. This process continues with facilitation continuing in the Eastern Cape - work in progress – with key facilitator Rommel.

There is hope that the facilitation of a successful South African business man will begin to reap some rewards as his trip to Switzerland saw a growth in the relationship between the mushroom operation of an experienced mushroom production company in Switzerland and that of the South African's operation with an agreement to experiment of setting up key elements for the development and growth of **mushroom industries** in rural parts of the Eastern Cape. The start was to conduct some key research into the development of substrate needed as a base for mushrooms – this is in progress and if successful will have impact for other parts of Africa

Other aspects include development of areas of focus within the field of **vocational training with a focus on automotive electronics** within the ever-changing world of the auto industry which has now rendered many jobs obsolete due to the change toward computerization. This aspect will see progress given the now signed agreement between Co-Willing and the Eastern Cape TVET College where this element, together with that of **hospitality**, and **IT** are also included in the deal for 2019.

##### **Visit at a Swiss Thermo-Recycling Plant**

The visit by Johnson Mwakazi, Yakub Jaffar and the Co-Willing management saw the inspiration of Bettina Häuselmann who made an immediate commitment to initiate and accompany a **waste management project in Kenya** on a personal level, based on her concept of Waste to Chicken and which has since been realised with amazing results and is ongoing on a sustainable basis. This has been managed by Yakub Jaffar, Wycliffe Guguni, Alf Otiemo and video documented by Maxwell Musungu.

#### 4.3 Platfontein – a San People (Bush People) Community

Platfontein is a flagship project after the 2014 'Freedom - Our Responsibility' conference at Bloemfontein and, facilitated by Co-Willing, has continued with significant development within its business plan.

The joint involvement of Swiss friends, the Swiss Embassy and the emergence of the local government in that region has seen the successful support of a ground-breaking contribution of R27 million and the now completion of a conference and lodge facility

for the San Community after their neglect for many years until the Co-Willing intervention and exposure.

Key to these latest developments was Rommel Roberts of the Hilltop Empowerment Centre, who never ceased to follow up with all stakeholders.

#### **4.4 The diplomatic community participation**

2018/19 has seen the important involvement and participation of the Swiss Embassies of Kenya and South Africa with meaningful contributions, including the facilitation of organizations/companies which has continued to grow with the 2019 conference being a direct beneficiary of this.

The hope is to seek the assistance of these embassies to enlist the further support of other embassy networks of which we hope to see some progress.

#### **4.5 The A10 project**

Co-Willing has been in the forefront of the facilitation of this development as a design sample to be used in the promotion of alternative energy sources of supply. The first sample has been developed and now sees the first pilot in place in the Eastern Cape. The aim is to develop this substantially as a commercial enterprise on a sustainable basis and is in progress with some support funding from a small private non-profit Swiss institution who has provided a loan to the partners in the project in the hope of developing this initiative substantially. The project is now in process.

#### **4.6 Hospitality**

This is an ongoing programme with some progress toward a partnership deal between BHMS and a South African business man and a TVET College in the Eastern Cape. Hilltop is working on this.

#### **4.7 IT and E-Learning**

This is an exciting prospect with significant progress in SA and Kenya. WiLearn has emerged as a significant contributor and have started engaging the Kibra group, headed by Yakub Jaffar, and is expected to grow its network through schools in Kibra and elsewhere in Kenya and have made a commitment to participate and demonstrate the programme at the 2019 conference.

They have also made possible the participation of the e-learning project in Kibra at the 2019 conference.

In South Africa considerable progress has been made with the involvement and partnership of Hilltop (Rommel Roberts and Meagan Cloete) and the University of Western Cape/ Co-lab section, enrolling our e-learning and cyber security, which was reported on at the 2019 conference.

This could be an interesting development as it formed part of the commitment of the 2018 conference

#### **4.7 Co-Willing NGO status**

Considerable progress has been made on this front since the conference with the registration and formalisation of the Co-Willing as a Swiss registered association and NGO on its way to tax exempt status, with special thanks to Allan Boyles, Sheena Rieder and our Swiss Lawyer Jean-Pierre Méan, who played such major roles toward achieving this objective.

## 5.Changes to the Board of Co-Willing

The resignation of Patrick Kisia and Johnson Mwakazi on 24/25 June 2018 has seen a change to the Board.

The Board Members till the AGM of 25 January 2019 were:

Hans Herren

Susi Gubler (president)

Allan Boyles (Treasurer)

Rommel Roberts (acting Executive Director, secretary and project director)

The Board Members from the AGM 25 January 2019 are:

Sheena Rieder-McHattie (Secretary)

Hans Herren

Allan Boyles (Treasurer)

Susi Gubler (President)

Acuil Banggol

Rommel Roberts was elected Executive Manager

## 6. The financials of Co-Willing

As Co-Willing to date has been operating on an almost totally voluntary organization, with members making their own contributions on a personal donation basis there has been no significant cash inflow.

The financial settlement of the conference took until July 2019 due to outstanding payments.

## 7.Way Forward

Co-Willing will continue to build on the progressive steps that it has facilitated and undertaken during the 2018/19 financial year.

The key areas that will continue to occupy its attention and focus will be:-

- 7.1 The conference in Kenya for 2019 where it is hoped to stimulate further development and support of its initiatives
- 7.2 The development of its partnership initiatives with specific focus on the partnership with Biovision Africa Trust and its role in project and programme development with facilitation support from Co-Willing together with a handover of existing initiatives and target areas
- 7.3 Building on the relationship with the diplomatic community with a view to an increase in the facilitation of Swiss company involvement and the increase the number of other embassies
- 7.4 Building on the foundation set in the field of alternative energy and its uses together with the facilitation of its application in the automotive industry like the Tuk Tuk, planned for the 2019 conference
- 7.5 The building on the pilot partnership agreement with Buffalo City College in the field of vocational training across a multi-sectoral base that touches a few areas of vocational training, liked to Swiss institutions, that have already expressed their commitment



[info@cowilling.org](mailto:info@cowilling.org)  
[www.cowilling.org](http://www.cowilling.org)

Association Co-Willing  
9 Chemin des Flombards  
1224 Chêne-Bougeries, Geneva  
Switzerland

7.6 The hope to use the 2019 conference to build the expansion into other countries which to date have been neglected, due to limitations of funds but seek ways to overcome this aspect and make some inroads toward increasing impact and influence - a strategy to look into this

7.7 Increase the network of support both financially and resource sharing with planned impact in Africa

It is hoped that the 2019 conference has set the tone and direction for the realization of these key objectives for Co-Willing's ongoing development and increased impact

Co-Willing - March 2019 – report by Susi Gubler