

July
2024

UFF-Humana NEWSLETTER



UFF-Humana had a visit from Teresia Wairimu Njenga, head of the Mitumba Consortium Association of Kenya (MCAK) and Marvlin Owusu of the Ghana Used Clothing Dealers Association (GUCDA). They came to tell us about the import and sale of second hand clothing in Kenya and Ghana.

Trade with Second Hand Clothes - An African perspective

MCAK and GUCDA are trade associations that together represent 4.5 million Kenyans and Ghanaians who trade in used clothing as part of their livelihood. The organizations were formed to safeguard the interests of clothing dealers and to promote and develop the trade in used clothing. The sector has developed into a major socio-economic capacity, contributing many millions of dollars in tax revenue to the national economies of both Ghana and Kenya.

Lifting people out of poverty

From Teresia we heard that more than 20 million Kenyans are financially dependent on the trade in used clothes and shoes. For individuals working in the sector, it means that they are able to afford a dignified living, pay for the education of their children and much more. The trade also contributes about 100 million USD in tax revenue to Kenya annually. Teresia, who has worked with the sale of second-hand clothing for several decades, emphasizes that the profession has become highly professionalised, and that as a seller you specialize in certain types of clothing. According to Marvlin, the same applies for importers in Ghana like himself, who often have regular business partners, in the form of sorting centers in e.g. Europe, the UK or Asia, with whom they have an ongoing dialogue. Trade in used clothes ensures

that poor people across large parts of Africa have access to good quality clothes at an affordable price. If trade in secondhand clothes did not exist, more than 24 million Kenyans, most of whom live below the poverty line, would have to buy cheap fast fashion of poor quality.

When Teresia and Marvlin travel all this way, not just to Denmark, but also to other European countries, it is because they are worried. The export of clothing from the EU to Africa receives political attention in the EU, and plans are being made to tighten the rules in this area. However this could be putting the livelihood of Teresia, Marvlin and their colleagues at risk. Therefore the visitors call for greater involvement of the countries that receive the clothes, in order for policy-makers to fully understand what is at stake. "If you ban the export of used clothes from Europe, you are simply failing Africa once again," said Teresia.



Marvlin spoke in front of approx. 40 interested guests.

Visiting Zimbabwe

At the beginning of May, UFF-Humana's leader, Else Hanne Henriksen, visited Zimbabwe. Here she had the opportunity to visit some of the projects that are supported by donations from UFF-Humana's activities in Denmark.

Happy children at the Ponesai Vanhu Orphanage

The Ponesai Vanhu orphanage is home to 55 children between the ages of 3 and 18. The children help grow their own vegetables, and have both chickens and rabbits, which they proudly showed off. When the children are not at school, they help look after their home, but there is also time to draw and play. Therefore, Else Hanne had also brought crayons for the children, resulting in many good art works.

Grant from CISU's Civil Society Pool for Climate Adaptation Project in Makoni, Zimbabwe

Through the project, a number of measures are being launched to help small farmers reorganize their vegetable gardens to be more resistant to current and future climate changes. One of the measures is the installation of water tanks and solar panels, which ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of running water in the unstable climate, which is severely affected by drought. The project's 200 participants are divided into clubs with 50 people in each. They get a piece of land to share, where they grow different vegetables.

They receive training in different cultivation methods, beekeeping and financial understanding so that they are better equipped to increase their income and create sustainable economies for themselves. For many, the groups have developed into more than a working community. The majority of the project's participants are women, and they are good at supporting each other.

"It was fantastic to meet the members of two of the four vegetable garden clubs and to experience their great commitment. The production of food means they can feed their families three meals a day instead of one daily meal previously. By selling the extra production, it has also been possible for the families to send their children to school. I spoke to the participants about how important it is that they learn to produce more than just for themselves, as agreements have been made with two supermarkets that will buy the vegetables," says Else Hanne.



Else Hanne met Sekai Chenzi from Chirunga Garden, who graces the cover of our previous newsletter.



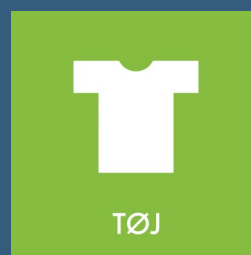
Children from the Ponesai Vanhu Orphanage show off their drawings

LOOP-Forum 2024

For the second year in a row, UFF-Humana was an exhibitor at the large circular fair LOOP-Forum in Copenhagen. The fair is intended for professionals within the reuse and recycling industry. We experienced a great deal of interest in our stand and the material we brought. Leader Else Hanne Henriksen gave a 5-minute pitch on one of the fair's stages about UFF-Humana's history and the difference between clothes for reuse and textile waste.

What is the difference between clothing for reuse and textile waste?

The collection of the newest waste fraction, textile waste, which supplements the existing clothing collection, is well under way. At UFF-Humana, we handle both the original and the new stream. But what is the difference between the two fractions?



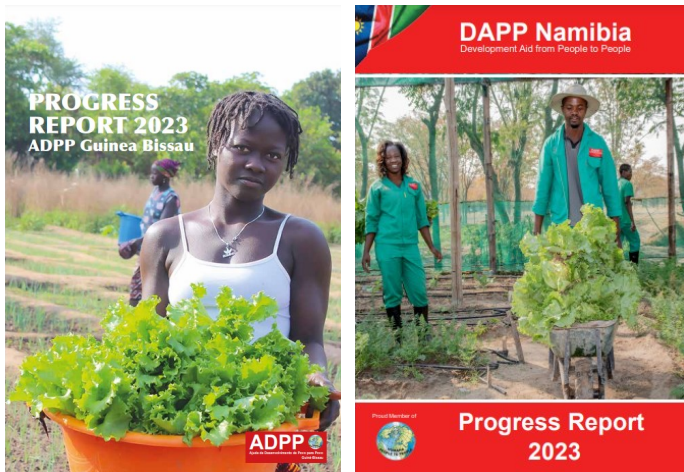
Clothing for reuse is clothing that can be used again for its original purpose. Reuse is when, for example, a shirt is used again for the purpose for which it was produced, namely as a shirt. Clothing for reuse is collected by charities such as UFF-Humana, as well as private actors.



Textile waste is collected by the municipalities themselves, with the aim of recycling. Recyclable textiles are used for wipers or as raw material in the recycling industry, e.g. for the manufacturing of new clothing or other textile products. Textile waste can have holes, spots and be worn out, but should always be dry and clean. Textile waste that is not fit for recycling is disposed of, often via incineration.



Else Hanne, Humma and Hanin at our booth at LOOP-Forum.



The front pages of the two Progress reports.

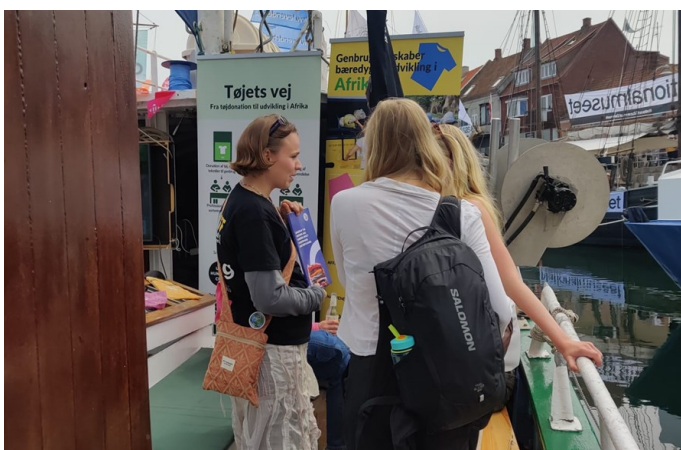
Progress in Namibia and Guinea-Bissau

Our partners DAPP Namibia and ADPP Guinea-Bissau have each published their Progress Report for 2023, where they take stock of the progress that their projects in the two countries have contributed to. It is encouraging reading; The report from Namibia reports, among other things, on significant progress in the fight against diseases such as HIV, AIDS and Malaria.

In ADPP Guinea-Bissau's report, it is described, among other things, that with their "Farmers' Club" concept, they have reached 17.290 people. Through this, these people get the opportunity to feed themselves and their families, while surplus crops can be sold. The reports can be found on the websites of the two organizations (dapp-namibia.org and www.adpp-gb.org).

People's meeting on Bornholm

Representatives from UFF-Humana went to Bornholm again this year, where the "People's Meeting" was held according to tradition. Through the organization CISU, Civil Society in Development, we had the opportunity to run a one-hour program on the cozy fishing boat M/S Anton. This year we also had a representative from our stores with us. We talked to the visitors about the difference between reuse and recycling, and about the clothing's path from collection container to development work. In addition, we also brought our Environmental Report, etc.



Information officer, Katrine, talks about our work.

Carl wants to create clothes for the future

Over the past few months, we have had a visit from Carl Berg, who is undertaking an engineering degree in sustainable design. His bachelor's project has the new waste fraction, textile waste, as its focal point. Carl is interested in the types of textile that are not yet of interest in the recycling industry. The waste fraction was created with recycling in mind, but not everything that comes in via this stream ends up being recycled.



Carl lends a hand presorting the textile waste.

Using only the materials that would have been burned, Carl works to create sustainable and personal clothing pieces. "It is the relationship with our clothes that we consume, not the materials themselves," says Carl. He encourages everyone to think about why it is that the need for buying new clothes arises, when the clothes you have in your closet is far from worn out? The sweater that Carl is wearing in the pictures is made from different socks. It has been a pleasure to cooperate with Carl and to hear his thoughts about a more circular and sustainable textile industry. You can see more of Carl's creations on his Instagram: @HVIDTSKRALD.



The excess textiles are inspected.

UFF-Humana on LinkedIn

UFF-Humana can now be found on LinkedIn. Through this, we hope to be able to expand the organization's network, as well as share our expertise and experiences with clothing collection, as well as environmental and development work. Our intention is to use the platform to describe our environmental work, but also to highlight our participation in relevant events, as well as to advertise the events we hold ourselves. Feel free to follow us.

UFF-Humana Second Hand

In the two UFF Humana Second Hand stores in Vesterbro and Nørrebro, the summer sale is in full swing, and the stores are replenished daily with new items. In the store at Vesterbrogade 50, we celebrated our 2nd birthday in May. This was marked with good offers in the store.



Anne Marie at the checkout in the store at Vesterbrogade 50.



Colorful tote bags from the sewing workshop at the Vesterbro store.

Gifts

We gratefully accept money, good second-hand clothes, shoes, bicycles, sewing machines, etc.

Monetary gifts are deposited into our collection account reg. no. 8401, account no. 0001295221 in Merkur Cooperative Fund, or mobilepay no. 234357.

If you have things or clothes that you would like to donate, send an email to elsehanne@uff.dk or call 23 34 42 98.

Remember that your donations are tax-free, and remember to write your name on the payment.

Support our fundraising

It's busy in our sewing workshop, where bags, tote bags, toiletry bags and belt bags are produced on a daily basis. All products are made from materials found in our collection. It is possible to acquire the bags in our two UFF Humana Second Hand at Vesterbrogade 50 and Nørrebrogade 34 in Copenhagen, in exchange for a donation. But, if you can't come by there, you can also send an email to info@uff.dk and order a bag by donating via mobilepay and you can have the bag sent to you. All the products from the sewing room are part of a fundraising campaign, where the money from the sale goes directly to the Ponesai Vanhu Orphanage in Zimbabwe. Last year, the donations via the sewing room amounted to DKK 12,000, which was used to buy new duvets and pillows for the children.



The children are very happy with their new bedding.

Ulandshjælp fra Folk til Folk – Humana People to People

Sandvadsvej 1, DK-4600 Køge

Phone: 23344298/23656730

E-mail: info@uff.dk

Read more about our work at: www.uff.dk

