

REGIONAL NEWS

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Editorial

Dear readers,
2020 brings new opportunities and challenges for Southern Africa. The climate change-induced drought will be an ongoing issue for the region. Please read below how the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation supports Southern Africa in this regard and sheds light on food security and health concerns.

■ *I wish you a good 2020,*
Gisela Piercey



GISELA PIERCEY,
EDITOR «SWISS REVIEW
SOUTHERN AFRICA»

SDC DEPUTY DIRECTOR & HEAD OF EASTERN & SOUTHERN AFRICA DIVISION VISIT SWISS FUNDED PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Mr. Thomas Gass and Mr. Peter Bieler, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Deputy Director and Head of the Eastern and Southern Africa Division respectively, visited South Africa and Zimbabwe and saw the positive impact Switzerland is having in the food security and health domains in Southern Africa.

In South Africa, Mr. Gass and Mr. Bieler met with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and SRHR Africa Trust (SAT) who are partnering the SDC in implementing various HIV/AIDS programmes.

The programmes are reducing new HIV infections and increasing adherence for those already on treatment for continuous viral suppression especially among young people (10–24 years).

So far, through support from Switzerland, more than 1 million young people are able to access youth-friendly services (HIV testing and counselling), antiretroviral therapy, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and contraceptives. In addition, 10 million children are currently benefitting from care and support services being implemented by SDC partners.

With Southern Africa experiencing repeated climate-change induced hazards adversely affecting more than 40 million people in the 2018/2019 season, Mr. Gass and Mr. Bieler also discussed with team members from the SADC Secretariat – the regional body representing 16 Member States on the SDC funded vulnerability assessments used to inform planning and response to ensure food, water and nutrition security.

Flagship model school in Harare

Visiting a school in Harare, Zimbabwe, where the Swiss Cooperation Office for Southern Africa is located, the delegation met with children at Blackfordby Primary who are part of a syndicate of 14 schools in the country implementing the SADC Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Programme.



The Deputy Director, Thomas Gass, and the Head of the Eastern and Southern Africa Division, Peter Bieler, are shown a garden supported by the SDC at Blackfordby Primary School in Harare South. © Embassy of Switzerland in Zimbabwe/2019

The programme, supported by the SDC in partnership with MiET Africa, responds to barriers in schools, such as health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS and menstrual hygiene that threaten the rights of children and youth in accessing quality education.

Blackfordby Primary has become a flagship model for the regional programme with a sprawling garden, greenhouse and a very active School Development Committee that is working on improving the environment for children at the school.

Food security one of the priorities

Mr. Gass and Mr. Bieler also met with Zimbabwe Government officials in Masvingo Province South of Zimbabwe and farmers that are benefiting from the Rural Resilience Programme

(R4) delivered in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP).

The R4 initiative promotes four risk management strategies, namely risk reduction (asset creation), risk transfer (weather-indexed micro-insurance), risk taking (credit) and risk reserves (savings). The programme is further implementing a climate services component due the recurrence of drought in the region. The programme helps poor households improve their food security status and deal with climate shocks such as drought.

Given that health is a Swiss priority in Southern Africa, with SDC support in 2019 reaching up to CHF 11 million, Mr. Gass and Mr. Bieler visited the Newlands Clinic – an HIV/AIDS clinic targeting the poor and vulnerable households

in Zimbabwe. The clinic is run by the Swiss based Ruedi Lüthy.

Foundation with part funding from the SDC. The Newlands Clinic provides comprehensive services and HIV medication for around 6,500 HIV patients.

At the end of the visit Mr. Gass said, "I am delighted to be in Southern Africa and have a feel of how the regional component operates. Southern Africa continues to be one of the top priorities for Switzerland in Sub-Saharan Africa. It was heart-warming to meet with beneficiaries from across the food security and health domains and to see the positive impact SDC projects continue to have on people's lives."

CONSULAR DAYS 2020 SAVE THE DATE

The Regional Consular Center in Pretoria will visit the following countries with the mobile passport station:

Durban, South Africa: 5. / 6.05.2020

Luanda, Angola: 12. / 13.05.2020

During the visit you have the opportunity to renew your Swiss passport & ID.

For a smooth process, please make sure that your civil status is up to date!

If you would like to book an appointment, please contact the Regional Consular Center till the 29 February 2020 by e-mail: southernafrica@eda.admin.ch

SWISS CLUB INFO

SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia,
31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand.
Chairman: *Mario Valli*, 082 451 8040;
office: *Max Waspe* 083 412 0161,
011 805 3039, office@swissclubjhb.co.za,
www.swissclubjhb.co.za,
Swiss Country Club Rest. The Courier:
Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 011 805 3040,

C 082 561 0063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30
Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h,
T/F 011 805 3040, C 082 561 0063,
www.dining-out.co.za «The Courier».
Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club.

■ Our Clubs of Society

Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club.

Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch.

Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg:
We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082 569 9146.

SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA

Swiss Society Alpina,
President: *Hans-Georg Bosch*,
T 012 347 8310, C 082 551 0222,
swissclub.pta@hbosch.com,
Secretary: *Biffy van Rooyen*,
bvrooyen@gmail.com
Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina

SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN

Swiss Social&Sports Club,
Green Point Common,
Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point.
P.O. Box 2279, Cape Town 8000,

T 021 434 8405 www.swissclub.co.za
President: *Christian Schiess*,
president@swissclub.co.za
C 079 088 8233

Vice President/Treasurer: *Andreas Reichmuth*,
treasurer@swissclub.co.za
C 083 297 3803

Secretary: *Chayenne Rusi*,
secretary@swissclub.co.za
C 082 569 8446

To receive the “newsflash” contact the club at catering@swissclub.co.za or on 021 434 8405.

The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening. Every 1st Thursday of the month is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thursday of the month. There is much more happening at our club, meeting friends, host a party, club events etc. For more information, please send an email to: info@swissclub.co.za

The independent Swiss Rifle Club can be found on the Swiss Club Cape Town club's website www.swissclub.co.za under rifle club and on Facebook. President: *Dierk Lüthi*, hdluthi@gmail.com & dierk@telkomsa.net; C 083 441 4626. Shooting takes place mostly at the SA Navy 'Klawer Valley' range off Red Hill road above Simon's Town. Shooting dates and times are listed on the website and on the 2 Facebook pages.

IMPRESSUM

DELEGATES OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE SWISS ABROAD FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

Marcie Bischof, Cape Town
mwbischof@telkomsa.net /
mwbischof@bluewin.ch,

Hans-Georg Bosch, Cape Town
info@hbosch.com /
swissoffice.hbosch@bluewin.ch

Editor of Swiss Review Southern Africa
Gisela Piercey, P.O. Box 848,
Sun Valley 7875, Phone 021 7820878,
gisela@africantwisttravel.com

NEXT REGIONAL ISSUE DEADLINES

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
02/20	28/02/2020	03/03/2020
03/20	23/04/2020	03/05/2020
04/20	20/08/2020	23/09/2020

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY AND DON'T EMAIL THE EDITOR OF SWISS REVIEW SOUTHERN AFRICA. THANK YOU.

SWISS CLUB NATAL

President: *Philippe Lanz*
 C 082 493 2673, T 031 765 1625,
 p.lanz@absamail.co.za

■ **JASS EVENTS**

This is held on the second Friday of each month and will commence at 2 p.m. and is held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay (directions on our website).

■ **SPORT TARGET SHOOTING**

Held on the 4th Saturday of each month (weather permitting) commencing at 0830 a.m. - Nottingham Road (calendar available on our website).

■ **SHARKS BOARD**

Possible braai - 12th April.

■ **BEACH CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST**

Amanzimtoti, 17th May.

■ **CHEESE FONDUE** Augusta Estate.

Details to be finalised, either 27th June in the evening or 28th June, lunch.

■ **SWISS NATIONAL DAY**

2nd August, Sunshine Farm, Drummond.

■ **CUMBERLAND GAME FARM**

Pietermaritzburg: 27th September - braai/lunch.

■ **BAYNSFIELD GAME FARM**

Richmond: 25th October - Braai.

■ **YEAR END BRAAI,**

Karkloof: 6th December.

■ **PRIZE JASSEN,**

13th December - held at Rolf Klein Jass Stube, 3 Bona Terra Road, Assagay.

■ **2021 - CULINARY EVENING,**

Augusta Estate: 7th February.

■ **67th AGM,**

Augusta Estate - 7th March.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

*For more up-to-date information regarding times/venues/directions, please visit our most informative website www.swissclubnatal.org.za

SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH

President: *Anne Diener*, C 079 089 4428,
 Comm.member: *Urs Leuenberger*,
 C 074 355 2182,
 Secretary: *Heidi Schultes*, C 076 376 1441

SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:

C/O *Christine and Paul Stiffler*,
 T 043 748 3542, C 083 700 8846,
 C 083 287 4324,
christinestiffler@telkomsa.net

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

Michael Holford
 Cell: +27 83 229 3787
 Postal Address: Private bag X2465,
 Louis Trichardt 0920,
 Secretary: *Suzanne Holford-Salchli*
Suzanne.holford@gmail.com

SWISS CLUB IN NAMIBIA

President, *Rudolf Imhof*,
 T+26461240598, C+264814427217,
 e-mail: er.imhof@iway.na,
 Vice President, *Yvonne Vorster*,
 T +264818527957,
yvonne.mantle@hotmail.com

HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF SWITZERLAND

Urs Gamma
 Restaurant NICE, Namibian Institute of Culinary Education,
 2 Mozart Street.
 Windhoek, Namibia
 T +264 61 300 710
 e-mail: Windhoek@honrep.ch

SWISS CLUB IN SWAZILAND

Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Rest,
 T (h) +2684161095, T (w) +2684161187,
 C +2686028545, calabash@swazi.net

SWISS CLUB IN MAURITIUS

Club Suisse de Maurice,
 President: *Pierre-Yves Roten*,
 +23058441915, pyroten@mac.com,
www.swiss-club-mu.com

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 CH-8952 Schlieren Zurich
 Switzerland

phone +41 44 466 9000
 fax +41 44 461 9010
www.swiss-moving-service.ch
info@swiss-moving-service.ch