

Basel, February 18, 2015

Dear CDC Members

Thank you for your message which has been send by Joana today. Due to your pressing demand for clarification I am writing from my business computer in exemption. This message will be forwarded through WhatsApp and later on as hardcopy.

First I have to state that I have NEVER confirmed any acceptance of a tertiary educational grant via Facebook or other channels: neither to Blessing Phiri nor to Laurent Ngwira! Telling such things to the community makes me annoyed and is completely irritating because it's not reflecting the truth!

True is, both applicants asked me about the process which I obviously explained. I further indicated that **applications must go through CDC first**. We did the fault with overruling CDC once but we will do it never again. Therefore, only after getting a clear and helpful announcement from the CDC plus getting the complete application documents in good time GRACE in Germany sits together and thinks about an individual application.

Your question about our maximum budget and limitations: Currently we pay around MKW 1'800'000 to sponsor college/university education of 5 students. As the commitment to a student runs over 3-4 years we have to calculate on the long term. At our last management meeting we decided to roll-out the tertiary education project at our annual meeting (February 28). Then we are going to ask whether a GRACE member wants to take over an individual sponsorship. If this is will be the case the picture gets different.

At the moment we are unable to give an answer to a maximum sum per year. GRACE is completely dependent on donations and to state it clear: there is quite a huge annual variety. So I would say the threshold of MKW 2'750'000 per year should not be exceeded. **But this is not casted in stone!**

Once more, neither the community nor the two applicants are in the position to put pressure on CDC because misleading communication. CDC is and remains in the "driver's seat" and must consider our concerns on supporting super expensive applications or split the amount to 2-3 other less expensive applications.

I hope this communication was of help.

Best wishes,

Jens Diedrich