



Dear members, friends and sponsors of Hand in Hand for Kenya!

While in Germany nature and humans are getting ready for the wintertime, people and nature in Kenya are enjoying the longed-for rainy season. The absence of the so called “little rainy season” in April/May has resulted in a poor harvest and limitations which have led as result to highly increased food prices.

Fields that have to manage without water, dried out streams and river courses and food shortage in some regions which resulted in an unaffordable food supply for many people. Eventually the rain came...

Naturally, we also noticed the highly increased prices, but inspite of all our gardener Kimeo has softened the blow by using a gentle irrigation method, shade providing banana circles and a clever crop rotation. Right now, it is up to us to use the full power of the rain!

Also, the MCC home, in the elementary school, the secondary professional school and our “Academy of Maisha Mazuri” are going full speed ahead, however here because of end-of-term exams. The children still go to the elementary school for eight years and the final exams are determining if and which secondary school they are allowed to go to.

For the 45 pupils at the academy, the final exams are extremely important to be able to proceed. The pupils can look back at an exciting year: As the first intake, they moved into a barely finished school and were able to help shape the building.

As part of the domestic economics class, they have cooked, baked and sewed and the teenagers have even made tiny carpets. Thanks to a generous donation, also the needed tools for the class “ecological agriculture” could be purchased so that the pupils were able to plant industriously between the school buildings after having heard the theory in the classroom. Due to skillful irrigation, they could even harvest despite the drought.

Because of the present extremely good staff-student-ratio, there has been an intensive coaching particularly in the scientific subjects which has led to a basic mood of confidence towards the forthcoming final exams. Additionally, it has made us very happy to see that the faculty has been and still is ambitious to expand the coaching also to extra-curricular aspects. The adolescents in the academy are between 14 and 17 years old and many of them have been confronted with severe problems in their environment, so it is good that school is not just about performance. In this context we are equally glad about the extra-curricular activities like a debating club, a theater and a music group and the seemingly world best girls’ and boys’ football teams as well as the self-organized ecumenical worship services.

In the coming school year, which begins in Kenya in January, about 35 additional pupils are expected to attend; most of them are going to be boarders. This situation has to be handled provisionally for another year. We are working hard to fund and to establish another boarding school building for pupils of the secondary school. “We can do it just like the big ones!”, our elementary students are thinking and they are committing themselves to subjects like sustainability, recycling, waste separation, biological cultivation; education concerning these subjects starts in the MCC as in Germany in young years and results in huge enthusiasm.

Recycling of so-called “waste” has also been one of the many projects of our dedicated interns. Honestly, you have to say that the Kenyans (and not only them) are far ahead of us and it is inspiring to see what the children can create out of bottle caps, old plastic bags or old newspaper, enthusiastic – long before the word “upcycling” became trendy. But a bowling-game out of old bottles and a stone wrapped up in paper that was something new that was learnt quickly. It was much joy for our home children to cook with our volunteers. The result of German recipes wasn’t liked by everyone, but nothing is ever left over and there can never be enough sweets and baking goodies.



For the vacations, the Maisha Mazuri team is planning and organizing workshops and seminars covering diverse subjects from musical groups to baking workshops, a farming club, computer workshops or football training to name just a few. This year, the interns Silvia, Pia and Xaver came perfectly to offer a first-aid seminar with practical exercises for everyone whether it was about the recover position or how to apply plasters and bandages. The soon to be repetitions are announced by bills – useful for young and old alike.

But also, the flute was played studiously, the children sung and made music, books were read and our carpenter Xaver was “supported” with his woodwork. He has spread his carpenter’s journey all the way to Kenya in the MCC and his skills could be applied immediately for the roof construction, some repairs, the new construction of the outside kitchen and a few bits of interior equipment.

At this opportunity, the volunteers have to be thanked dearly for campaigning with so much heart and soul, ideas and enthusiasm as well as the MCC team and all children for their openness, their warmth and last but not least their understanding and tranquility to composure for all these different characters from Germany.

The conclusive, eminently thank goes to you for your incredible support likewise in this year! Without you and your financial sponsorship in the form of your membership, single sponsoring, sponsored runs, sponsoring initiatives at special occasions and going on... there would be no Maisha Mazuri Home, no ecological agriculture, no water well, no kindergarten/elementary school and no secondary academy. To report one of the amazing initiatives, I want to point out the special sponsoring initiative for 28-year-old Caroline Mwendé, one of our former ward from our previous project known by many actives since 2006. As an orphan, she grew up in the children’s home, she studied social affairs after a fine graduation and is now working in the IT sector. She earns 350€ per month, from this wage she pays her rent and living, and she takes care of her sick grandmother. Her foot is deformed following a sport accident in the ninth grade, which was neglected, and she has endured this very bravely. This deformation has influenced her entire posture and would have caused irreversible damage and chronic pain. Pupils and teachers of the FOS/BOS Wasserburg and further generous supporters have funded the operation costs, money for the sports rehab, rent and living (about 6 months absenteeism and thereof emerging wage loss). At the beginning of October Caro was operated successfully. We all wish her a speedy recovery and a hopefully a life with less pain!

On behalf of everyone a big and happy “thank you”!

Barbara Krohne

translated by Verena Wagner