



Dear Members, Friends and Sponsors of Hand in Hand for Kenya!

Hakuna Matata – two words nearly everybody knows. They come from Swahili and mean “no sorrows”. They stand for the way of making life calmer, more positive and optimistic. And that’s exactly our mission and our task. We want to create a place for and especially with the people in Kenya that enables the children and their families to have a worry-free lifestyle. Because that is what Maisha Mazuri means: “a beautiful, better life”. In 2019, many people have committed themselves again to achieve just that.

Where are we standing right now? Meanwhile all the children have returned to the children`s home after the winter holiday. The **Maisha Mazuri Children Center** is currently a home for 23 boys and girls. To make sure that the contact with their original environment doesn`t break off, most of the children went back to their families or guardians who are responsible for them. At the moment, there are 84 children in the Maisha Mazuri Partner Program and meanwhile 78 of them have a sponsor. Partners can send their letters to the children (by mail or e-mail – more information on the website) via Helen Milkau until February 20th!

The secondary school which opened in January 2019, our Academy of Maisha Mazuri, could be equipped during the year with outside facilities, sanitary facilities and a little porter`s lodge. Our thanks go in particular to the “Bayerische Staatskanzlei” and many further sponsors. Thanks to the funds from the EZ-Kleinprojektfonds, the academy now has a photovoltaic installation providing the school with power. Because it gets dark early and the path to the toilets has not yet been sufficiently illuminated, lamps should be established in the coming weeks to provide more security. Further donations have made it possible to equip the school with additional furniture (beds, tables, chairs, lockers) during the holidays. Furthermore, there are also textbooks now and the sponsored computers could be attached to the net. A lot of equipment could be purchased for the school subjects Home Science and Agriculture thanks to the wonderful support of Peter Rutz from Audite Nova Musikmanagement. Amongst the items, was also gas stove for the cooking lessons, that was delivered just in time.

At the end of 2019, 45 pupils from the ninth and tenth grades have received their final report cards and from now on (January 2020), three grades will be taught (ninth to eleventh grade).

Further steps to the future are being considered: the Academy will be expanded to a boarding school. Currently, the future classrooms are being used as dormitories, but our dream is to start with the construction work for the urgently needed boarding school building this year.



And Maisha Mazuri achieves even more: For two years now, we have supported the people in the surrounding area with help and advice. With the program **Village Voluntary Savings and Loans** (budget-friendly microcredits as jump start for the rural population) we support, for example, especially women in the surroundings and as part of the **Live Stock Programme for Households** the MCC donated our young animal offspring to families who raise them and receive a source of income through their sale.

We also keep an eye on ecology. Agriculture plays an important role in Kenya and it is one of our ambitions to familiarize the children with **ecological agriculture** from the beginning. In 2016 our gardeners Kimeu and Peter Riegg of the association introduced ecological agriculture. Since then, Kimeu teaches the MCC children at the Shamba and all of them are helping energetically with the cultivation, upkeeping and harvesting of the fields. The heavy rainfalls right now promise a rich harvest, although at the same time, they have been a challenge to the local team who have had to save the solar batteries in the MCC Center from the volume of water.

Early in March, the **third health camp** is planned. Dagmar Nuber is organizing it again – together with the local authorities – it will be a great event for the whole village. After the last two camps, several hundreds of people are expected this time.

All of this is just snapshot. It is nearly impossible to summarize the eventful year 2019 in one letter. To keep you up to date, all information is to be found on our homepage, which will be getting a new layout this year. Please follow the link www.4kenya.info to find detailed information about the association, impressive reports on the projects, the MCC, the Academy and much more. Particularly special thanks go to the internet agency team **neusta GmbH** for their pro bono work as well as to Barbara Krohne and Helen Milkau from the association. Additionally, you can follow the current interns Nina, Raphaela and Ruppert in Kenya, who write regular reports for the homepage. They always give a current view on the events in the MCC, for example how the Fridays-for-Future movement has also inspired the MCC children to commit themselves to the protection of the environment. Several interns have also supported the children in music lessons or have woken their passion for reading with a tiny library in the MCC.

With deep gratitude we look back on the developments over the past years, because of people like you who have opened their hearts and who contribute a smaller or bigger share to improve the living conditions of the people in Kenya. Our thanks are dedicated to all individual sponsors, the schools, the companies, the members and supporters. Without you all of this would not be possible.

ASSANTE SANA -THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Anne Roll and Carline Mutz (the new editorial team of the newsletter)