

May 29, 2020

In times of the corona pandemic

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

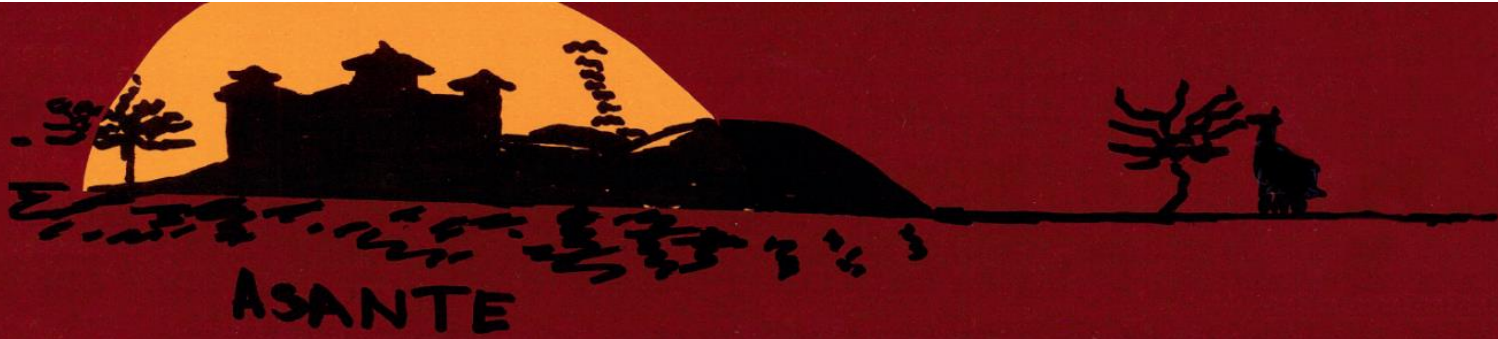
Measured by the HDI (Human Development Index), Kenya occupies position 147 of 189 in the ranking – like most African countries pretty down below. In comparison: Germany is positioned on place 4 right after Norway, Switzerland and Ireland and therefore belongs to the best developed countries in the world. Now COVID-19 has also arrived in Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) assumes that Africa will be affected gravely by the Corona pandemic and all its consequences. Experts expect up to 10 million cases in the next three to six months. None of the countries is prepared for that. We are looking towards Kenya alarmed, tense and shocked:

Nearly 54 million people live in Kenya. Currently, less than 1000 people are officially infected, but it is assumed that the estimated number of unknown cases is way bigger, there are only limited test facilities. We refer to a country, in which the average age is 21 years and there are many pre-existing conditions like HIV, aids, yellow fever, hepatitis, Ebola or malaria who are already fighting for their lives every day. It is apparent, that the feebly elaborated and highly critical health system is hardly prepared for Covid-19 patients: masks, protective suits and respirators are scarce goods. In many places even sanitizers and clean potable water are inaccessible. In Nairobi, most of the water pipes are clogged because of flooding. In many places water cans are delivered with donkey cart from vague sources. The water supply in rural areas is catastrophic. Social distancing is not possible in many places. In Kibera, a slum in the south west of Nairobi, around 1 million of people live together in the tightest of places, often three generations under a single roof, most of them sleeping together in one room.

Kenya has great potential, economically speaking, to write a success story, reports the World Bank in September 2019. Today, this is hardly imaginable: Several ten thousand people in Nairobi have lost their jobs in the beginning of the pandemic. Subsidy is inconceivable, short time allowance for the Kenyans? A utopia. A majority of the population are dayworkers, who live from hand to mouth. They are affected the most, because they can't allow themselves to not leave the house/room but have to search for alternatives that are often not harmless. The schools are closed and so the children have to stay at home alone, while both parents are looking for work. Since March 24th, there is a national curfew from 7pm to 5am and the population of Nairobi is not allowed to leave the city borders. The people not following these rules, have to face severe penalty or with the partly brutal intervening of the police. Frustration, violence and drug addiction are increasing in the whole country. The Kenyan society is put to an acid test. How should a peaceful togetherness be possible if to top it all the terror organization Al-Shahaab from Somalia, the neighbor from the northeast threatens with assaults?

The people are depending on themselves. Especially the young generation searches desperately for work, but they are left with nothing. Even Caro (grown up in the Wajibu Wetu children center) is frantic. She writes: "The situation in Nairobi is difficult. There is no work. Shops and companies are closed. The invoices accumulate. We are not sure if our Kenyan government is prepared for the worst.

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Stefan Walk



There is a light at the end of the tunnel!

Your head is probably pounding and you are thinking: Why for all the world is there no light at the end of the tunnel? We know that feeling. We have transformed it into drive and action: we know that we as association are not able to change Kenya or even whole Africa, but we know that we can improve the lives of several children and the lives of their families and we can strengthen them.

There is hope because Kenya is changing. There are many successful, smart, enthusiastic (young) people who are well educated and who form a big start up scene full of ideas and young people. A student group for example that works on a respirator prototype at the Kenyatta University in Nairobi together with students for Uganda and Ghana brings a glimmer of hope. They want to erase the lack in their own and surrounding countries. Great!

How does the Corona pandemic affect the MCC?

Normally, the happy laughter of 68 children enlighten the terrain of our Academy of Maisha Mazuri. Currently, the classrooms are empty. The teachers still get a percentage of their wage (similar to short-time allowance). Also, the employees of the children center are further paid since they are still on site, who provide the 30 children with meals, give comfort, bolster them, give them credit and help with the schoolwork. Seven children are stuck with their relatives in Nairobi because the regulations hinder them to return to the children center. The everyday life continues and the employees in the children center are naturally fully paid. We are not going to turn on them, they only make it possible that the MCC children look into a more positive future and their families are able to overcome their hard Kenyan everyday life with one sorrow less and especially with more courage.

There is a proverb in Africa: "You need a whole village to raise one child." And we have transformed exactly that for us: "With support a village can raise many children." With the income of German donations, this is possible in the MCC.

We look trembling on our donation account.

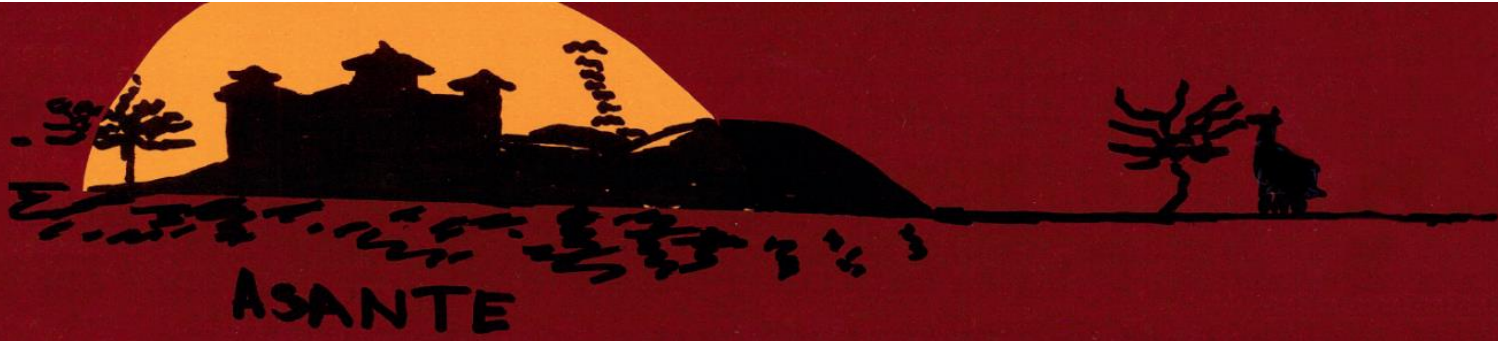
Per month scarcely 6000 euros are needed to ensure that the MCC to manage the normal everyday life. Because the usual donation runs are not allowed to take place, we are lacking an income of 23.000 euros. Further actions like the Africa festival in Ingolstadt or in 2020 planned fundraisers can't take place and a huge amount of money that is urgently needed for the overhead costs is missing. Especially now, we have to become active: The young generation of the association has originated two fantastic actions that are fun and should simultaneously take donations for the MCC.

Kilometers for Kenya – a private donation run from 25 May to 7 June (grandparents, relatives, friends or companies sponsor the healthy (!) exercise in the fresh air as perfect compensation to home office, homeschooling,...)

Juggle Challenge – in a good cause juggling items and gather contacts (social media game for the young and the young at heart) Explanations on how to participate are on our homepage www.4kenya.info. Like always we all work voluntarily to pass every cent without deduction.

A Friday, the 13th in November should also bring us luck: Gusti Veirgutz the former landlady of the Schächtinger Mühle in Edling has pulled strings and she has engaged the cult band "Mardi Gras" for a charity concert on the 13th of November in the Krippnerhaus in Edling! So we hope that we are allowed to celebrate, sing and dance together by then – for Kenya!

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“We are going to defeat Corona worldwide or not at all. Otherwise, it comes back to Germany and Europe in waves.” said the development minister Gerd Müller in the SZ interview End of April. We can see by the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 virus how connected we are overall in the world. That means positively translated that we are linked to the whole world: the things we do today change the life of one human somewhere else in the world! We are convinced: Giving is the new taking. Thanks for your support – or how the children would say: **Asante Sana!**

Anne Roll and Carline Mutz

You want to support us furthermore? Great!

Here are some ideas of what you can bring about:

- **Talk to others, why you like our project so much and why you gladly support us (e.g. in a conversation, a message, an e-mail, link to our homepage (www.4kenya.info))**
- **Participate in one of our donation actions (see homepage)**
- **Donate and help concretely that the project can survive**
- **Sponsor on child out of our MMP program with a committed donation (from 25,00 € per month): 84 of 102 children are already sponsored, we are constantly expanding our partner program to help even more people**

If you're interested, please send us an e-mail to mmp@4kenya.info

Here is a link to the MMP page on our homepage

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