

January 29, 2021

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of Hand in Hand for Kenya,

2020 has been an extraordinary and challenging year for people all around the world. The pandemic seems to continue to control the world and many people fear for their future, especially the ones who have to fight for their survival anyways. The single father of Swarf (6) and Abigail (4) has lost his last hope and strength through the corona crisis, he cannot solely provide for his two children and his orphaned nephew Sharif (5) anymore. How great it is that Maisha Mazuri children's center exists, because there the three children do not have to fight for their food anymore - there's enough for everyone. More so: They have the chance for a better live with education and perspective.

News from Kenya

Now in January 2021 kindergartens and schools are opening again – they have been closed due to the pandemic since March 2020 (!). Luckily the MCC has been allowed to stay open. The mood is amazing, although the guardians need a lot of strength and energy right now. They are challenged with homework and leisure activities permanently because of the drive and spirit of discovery of the children who are at home fulltime. Everyone has been excited for the visitors in the beginning of November: Barbara Krohne (Chairwoman), Helen Milkau (person responsible for MMP) and Thomas Mildenerger (Architect) have been on site. The joy was huge, because since February 2020 no new interns could be welcomed and they are the ones responsible for the connection to Germany. To see the friends from Germany means that the Kenyan-German relationship still exists during the pandemic. A short, pictorial travelogue is to be found on the homepage.

On Christmas, the team on site has decided against the family visits because of the pandemic this year. Likewise, the whole MCC family was able to spend Christmas together and thanks to a generous donation, the children have experienced a beautiful Christmas with delicious food including cake, lemonade and even a special Christmas tree that has put a smile on everyone's faces.

An overview of our project

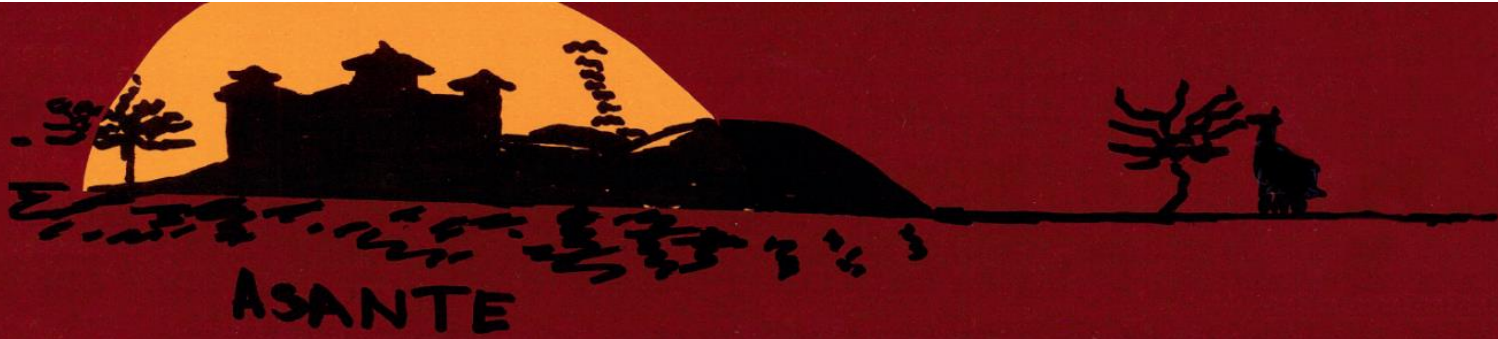
Since the opening in 2015, Maisha Mazuri has been growing and more and more children and young people benefit from the offers around MCC. The following is a short overview of all that could be started thanks to numerous donations, many volunteers involved and funding.

Sketch: Thomas Mildenerger (voluntary "MCC architect")

Currently, 41 children are living in Maisha Mazuri Children Center, the MCC children's home (in the sketch on the right side, on the left picture; construction funded through Ein Herz für Kinder e.V.). The main building consists of a communal space in the center and each one girls and boys tract including washing rooms on both sides. The outdoor toilet is a composting toilet.

The newly equipped outdoor kitchen is the crucial point of the community: There is always happy laughter, often filled with Kenyan songs or music from the CD-player. The children do not only help in the kitchen but also with the keeping of the animals (cows, goats, rabbits, chicken), the mucking out of the stables as well as on the fields ("Shamba") that is located around 15 minutes in walking time from MCC. In the summer of 2020, they were able to harvest as much fruits and vegetables that purchases from the market weren't necessary very often – a huge success!

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Stefan Walk



The field in the centre is used as soccer and volleyball field and therefore is one of the important children's leisure activities.

Education is – like everywhere else in the world – significant for the future of a country. In the MCC kindergarten (near by the children's home) education starts at the age of 2.5 year. The a little bit older children go to the MCC Primary school that is a 10 minute drive away. The children are transported back and forth in MCC's own matatu (a minibus typical of Kenya). The teenagers visit the Secondary School, our Academy of MCC, a continued school (sketch on the left side; classroom, bureau for employees, kitchen). The Academy combines Kenyan and German teaching methods, connects design ideas and offers educational support. The concept is permanently developed in collaboration with the teachers of MCC and the Active group of our association. Same concept applies for the MCC kindergarten.

Boarding schools are common in Kenya. Often the young people living with their families don't have a chance for education as they mostly have to help with the housework and on the field or have to take care of their younger siblings. Their thirst for knowledge and interest in education is firstly satisfied in boarding schools because there, they can concentrate completely on their education. We are proud and grateful that the construction of the MCC boarding school, Boarding of Maisha Mazuri (sketch: above) is running and going forward even more children and teenagers can hope for a better education thanks to the financial funding of Sternstunden e.V.. Separated dormitories with 6 beds and sanitariums for girls and boys are to be built.

For pupils without degree the Skills Centre and Mobility Centre offer perspectives, two programs that the German association Promoting Africa e.V. and Jimmy Kilonzi, the project manager of MCC, have started. Offered are courses in carpentry, automotive mechanics, in tailoring, hairdressing, electrics and solar engineering, welding, cooking and baking, IT as well as accounting. Further courses are planned. Both centres are not located on the MCC site, but there are many overlaps: Pupils of the MMP program are passed on to the offers of the centres, the beds of the MCC children's center have been produces in the Skills Centre and events on both sides are visited with joy.

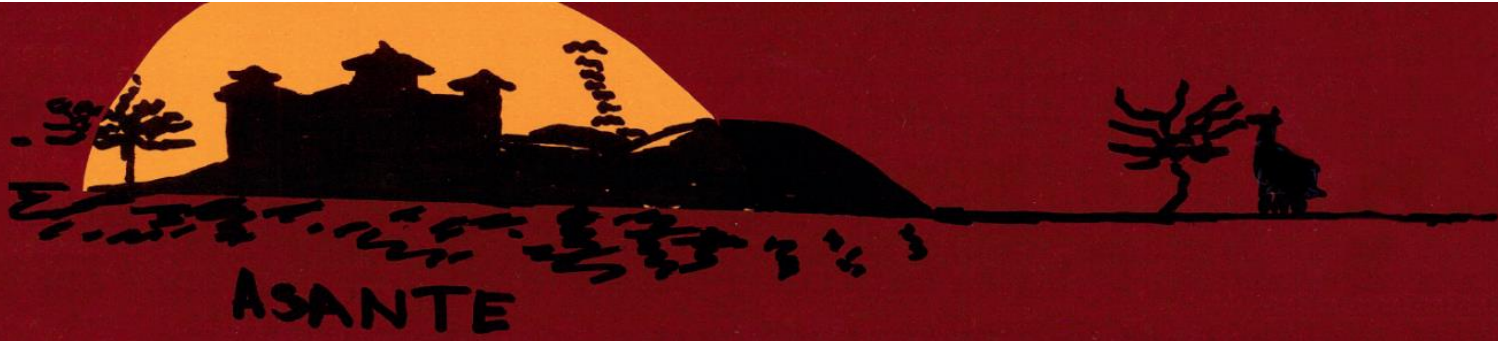
We are very proud that also in 2020 we have gained new Maisha Mazuri partners for the MMP program. Already 94 of the total 102 children from the children's home and the community are happily matched with a partner.

Two associations, one common goal

The aim is "Maisha Mazuri" – a "better life" for children and teenagers in Kenya. Financially, Maisha Mazuri (in the middle) is carried by donations that we as the association Hand in Hand for Kenya e.V. have generated. There is a lot of organization and volunteering behind that. Jimmy Kilonzi, chairman of the Kenyan association Youth Support Kenya (YSK) directs Maisha Mazuri in Kenya and numerous employees and voluntary helpers take care on site.

News from our association

Since the beginning of the corona crisis many of our long planned fundraising campaigns like charity runs at schools, community festivals, benefit concerts, charity cinema night, bazars and information events had to have been cancelled. Normally, these donations help to cover the deficit between the secure monthly membership fees of around 4.100 euros and the running costs for the MCC that is ca. 8.800 euros per month right now. Many initiatives and newly started donation



activities like the juggling challenge or private charity runs have helped financially a lot, but we still hope for a better year 2021.

On our website you are not only able to find our new picture gallery but also the art pieces of the children, you will be surprised!

We are also represented in social media: **instagram @handinhand4kenya** (new!!) and **facebook @MaishaMazuriChildrenCentre**

ASANTE SANA – Thank you!

Despite the pandemic and difficult times quite a few people have stood up for Kenya and supported our association. Special thanks to all foundations, organizations and every single person that has realized a dream hand in hand with the association and all MCC employees in Kenya. They have enabled children and teenagers as well as their families, relatives and the whole region around Tala a better life – from the bottom of our hearts: thank you! Shall the new year 2021 bring more health, peace and light to all of us!

Anne Roll und Carline Mutz
Translated by Verena Wagner