

July 5, 2021

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

Lately, life has had its ups and downs in Kenya. After many uneasy and difficult months, you can slowly watch the people regaining a positive mindset. Especially the reopening of schools in January after the months-long lockdown has let people breathe again. It is planned to make up for and rectify the last school year in a tight schedule within six months. Shortly after the reopening, there was a huge surprise for our Maisha Mazuri kids: After a long and difficult year, Viva and Lea were the first interns who could visit the MCC again and support our employees on site. Besides the soccer tournament the MCC kids could start again with their recorder lessons, participating in acrobatic training or attending one of the usual highlights like long sessions of playing cards and reading books. Activities that have been severely missed. After both of them had reported relaxed circumstances on site and even a return to normality at the beginning of their stay, the situation changed quickly. In March, the number of infections rose quickly and within no time the virus reached the MCC. Although there weren't many test stations available nor tests purchasable in Nairobi and surroundings, our director Jimmy Kilonzi organized both rapid and PCR tests for all children and employees within a few days. Viva reported that the positive test results were handled in a controlled environment and that all affected people went into isolation for 14 days. Viva herself was also affected.

Today, everyone is happy and healthy. We are relieved and glad that no one suffered further consequences of the illness and that the children were allowed to go back to school at the beginning of May. In July the new school year, which under normal circumstances should have started in January, should start as planned. Especially in these challenging times, we are incredibly thankful that our team on site could show repeatedly what teamwork and solidarity means.

Further pleasing news:

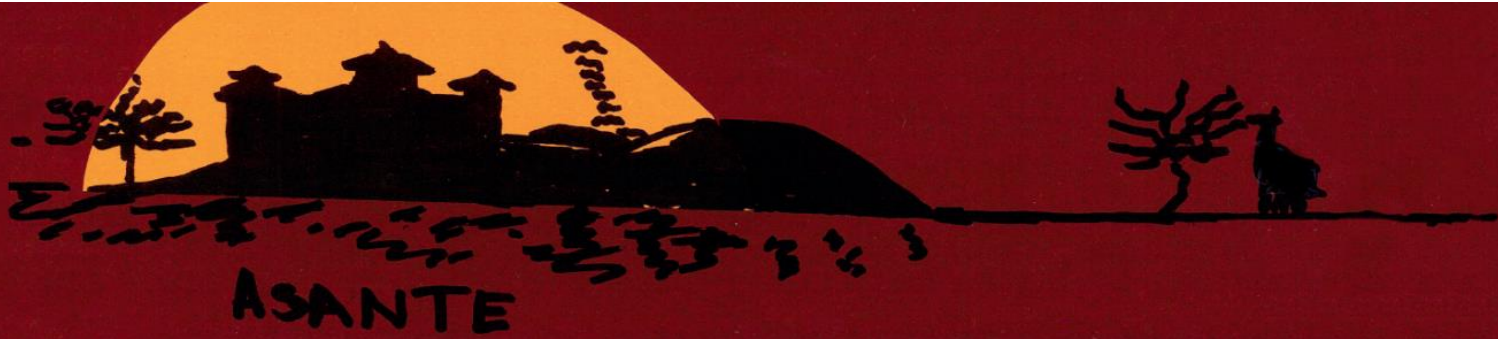
As the situation in Kenya begins to ease, the next visits to Kenya are in sight: besides further interns Christoph and Maxi from the Active Circle are going to return to the MCC and Kenya after many years at the end of June. It is so wonderful to see that both of them have kept their connection to the country and the MCC alive over this long time. We are already looking forward to hearing their stories, activities and reports! Furthermore, Markus Behan, student of Multi Media Art in his 6th semester at the University of Applied Science Salzburg is going to travel to the MCC with one of his fellow students and is going to film a documentary as part of his third and most complex practical project.

Our farmer Kimeu will be able to plant even more in future as the farm has been greatly expanded. The MCC family has got one step closer to its aim of self sufficiency - having balanced nutrition in mind. Not that long ago, they made a huge harvest including spinach, different cabbages, tomatoes and the typical sukumawiki. In times of social crises, the importance of the shamba becomes more obvious: While inflation has been fueled by the pandemic, the yield of the shamba give us a little bit of independence and security in the face of rising food prices.

Current events:

For the new school year, which is going to start in July, we expect 86 children in the secondary school distributed in classes 1 to 4. Thanks to the financial support of Sternstunden e. V. and the Rotary Club München-Hofgarten the first half of the boarding school will be finished in time for the start of school and the adolescents will be able to move out of their temporary accommodation in the classrooms to the 6-bed rooms in the new boarding school wing. Welcome – Karibu!

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Stefan Walk



In the partner program we are currently supporting 105 children, both center-based (42 children in the MCC children's home) and 63 community-based (children from the surroundings). Slowly a shift in age is taking place: The new center-based children have been welcomed and integrated and the older ones are moving on to the secondary school and into the nearby skills center. And actually, the first four teenagers are leaving us having successfully graduated in spring! This is great news and shows the immense importance of funding and support during school and formation years.

Take a look at Kenya:

The situation in the MCC continues to be severely affected by developments in the country and the pandemic. Back at the end of March, SPIEGEL reported a national emergency. (1):

The numbers of infections was rising daily but the treatment options had already been completely exhausted. Anyone who fell ill with corona and was in need of intensive care, had to pay 4.500€ (593.105 Kenyan Schilling!). This is an enormously high amount and for most Kenyans an unpayable sum for a service which, in Germany, is covered by the health insurance.

In the meantime, the critical situation across the country has relaxed a little bit. Our volunteers report that measures within the population are more likely taken as a proposition but not a duty. Therefore, masks are worn rarely in public and also the Matatus (the Kenyan minivans) continue their business in relatively normal way. A statistic from the internet even shows an incidence of only 3.4 per 100.000 citizens (2).

Meanwhile Kenya is declared as a risk area by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Foreign Office) which leads to the assumption that the numbers don't correspond with the daily reality.

For all of us, in Germany as well as in Kenya, the current situation is challenging and therefore we as an association are once again more than fulfilled with gratitude for the incredible solidarity beyond national borders. We are moved by the encouragement and the financial support that we have received from all of you dear sponsors, mentors and members in the last few months. It means a lot to us that we are standing together and next to each other to overcome the current crisis! We want to thank each and every one of you at this point! – Asante Sana!

INFOBOX

Here we go again! – We are starting a second round of “Kilometers for Kenya!” and by participating everyone can support the children in Kenya. All important information is available on our website in the section **Kilometers for Kenya/ [Kilometer für Kenia - Hand in Hand für Kenia e.V. \(4kenya.info\)](https://www.kilometer-fuer-kenia.de/)**

You can follow us on social media to get weekly news about the MCC.

 [handinhand4kenya](https://www.instagram.com/handinhand4kenya)   [Maisha Mazuri Children Centre](https://www.youtube.com/MaishaMazuri)

Until June 22nd 2021 at the latest you can send in reply letters (post cards and so on) via mail (mmp@4kenya.info) or via post (Helen Milkau, Münchner Str. 7, 81379 München).

It is still possible to send me a letter if you'd like, I would directly forward it to Kenya.

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Stefan Walk