

January 27, 2022

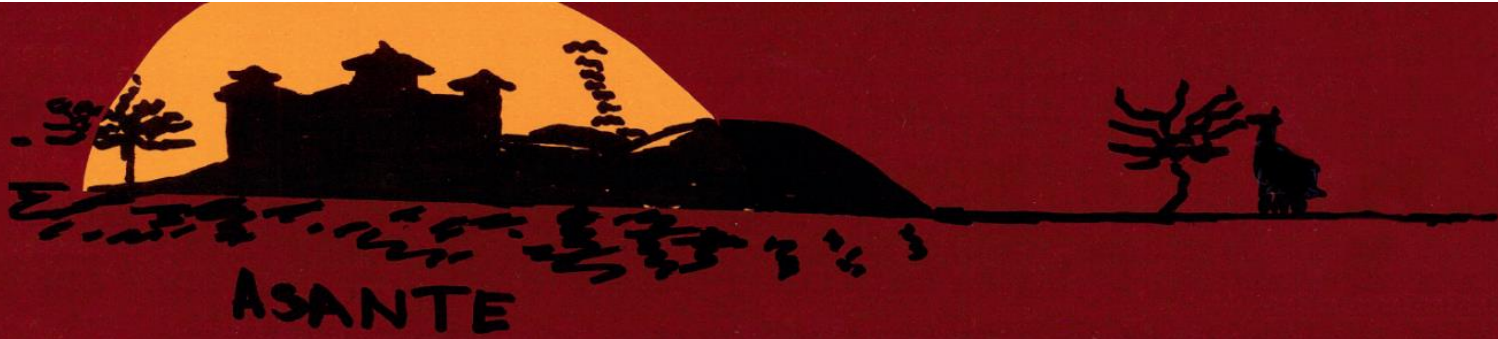
Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of Hand in Hand for Kenya,

Let us look back at the 12 past months at Maisha Mazuri Childrens' Centre: the second Covid year, 2021, has brought some relief – the educational facilities have reopened, the MCC children could spend Christmas with their families, life has returned to normality a little bit – but especially the rise in the cost of living and the huge inflation rate make daily life on site more difficult. Covid remains a challenge: according to an article in *The Tagesschau* only 15 % of the population are vaccinated, new vaccine is hardly being delivered to the country and the government remains insecure in handling the pandemic.

It is all the more amazing that the MCC could be visited again: Thank you to Lea, Viva, Eliane and Tobias who took ~~on~~ the journey on despite unfavourable conditions, because the support of interns on site is especially important for our MCC children! In the last newsletter, we interviewed Christoph Schaller, one of our active members, who was luckily able to spend a whole three months on site. Among other things, he noticed the challenges brought on not only by Covid but also by the changing climate: more drought and shorter rain periods let farmer Kimeu's aim and hopes to provide the childrens' food self-sufficiently diminish. A lot of groceries still have to be bought at the market. In 2021 the rain that normally starts at the beginning of November, didn't come until December. The sudden rainstorm changed the dried-out riverbed into a torrent, but the rain didn't stay for very long. The climate change is much more noticeable in Kenya than it is for us. In November, chairwoman Barbara Krohne and chair member Helen Milkau, newly elected at the plenary meeting in October, visited the MCC. Everything makes a very positive impression and at the same time there is a lot to do for the coming year: The roof of the childrens' center has to be renewed, the outdoor kitchen updated and a new playground is to be built. The fields require an optimized irrigation system for a better water supply during the long drought periods and new fences to protect people and farm animals from wild animals at night. More than ever, the Maisha Mazuri Childrens' Centre depends on support from donations: the monthly fixed costs are getting higher and with the pending maintenance costs, we are awaiting an interesting year. There have been many changes especially in the Secondary School: The pupils were able to move into the second boarding school building before Christmas. 92 pupils are now accommodated there. In April, final exams will take place at the academy for the first time. Also, due to a change in the Kenyan school system, we expect a higher demand for the new classes in the summer. In the school there's still a special need for equipment and a last big building project is lined up, which will offer a sleeping place for all pupils in 2023: buildings 3 and 4 of the boarding school.

In 2021 we have again been supported financially by many institutions and individuals and with lots of energy. In particular we want to thank all people involved in the charity runs at schools like the Theresien-Gymnasium in Munich, Franz-Marc-Gymnasium in Markt Schwaben, Gymnasium Gaimersheim and Primary School Friedrichsstraße in Ingolstadt, as well as all participants in our challenges. Likewise we are grateful for our loyal supporters like Christina Möser from Ingolstadt,

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who donated 600,00€ by selling home-made cards, Battran Pharmacy in Pfaffing, all helpers, who sold mulled wine and jewelry on the second weekend in Advent (756,00€) and Strucks Hairdresser in Neufinsing for their initiative “haircut for a good cause” (610,00€). Especially, we thank our members and partners. Many of them have already increased the voluntary monthly member / MMP contribution, many thanks for that!

We are looking forward to the year 2022 with joy: On site at the MCC, there is a lot to be done; there are still vacant internships!; our social worker Josef and school director Nicolas are going to visit us in Germany. We hope that bazaars and info events will be able to take place again and that many of you are going to participate in our fun donation initiatives. Let’s stay positive despite the tense situation regarding the pandemic – our MCC children are happy, the new ones have been integrated very well and they all enjoy being children and to be honest, that is exactly why all the trouble is worth it – Asante Sana!

*Anne Roll und Carline Mutz*

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