

June 29, 2022

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

Dear Friends and Sponsors of Hand in Hand for Kenya!

In the past newsletter we were excited to tell you that after so many difficult months during the pandemic, life at Maisha Mazuri Children Centre went back to normal. Now, in June 2022 we are looking at an exceptional situation once again. The war of Russia against the Ukraine does not only have a devastating impact on the nearby countries.

In Africa a new hunger crisis as a direct result of the war is feared. The African continent depends on food supplies from abroad, more than 40 % of grains are imported from Russia and the Ukraine. Already during the pandemic, the prices for basic food products increased drastically. Right now, there is the concern that the food supply shipping across the black sea to Africa could be completely stopped. The East African countries have already been struggling with shortages in food supplies. In June the “Tagesschau“ reported that as of the lengthened periods of drought whole herds of cattles are dying. According to Macky Sall, president of Senegal and the African Union (AU) “Africa is at the mercy” of the lengthy and more frequent droughts because of the missing rainy season as well as the war in Europe. Right before every election of parliament, an increase of prices is visible and this year the impact of the presidential election in the beginning of August is already noticeable. Warm climate and elections have caused such an extreme rise in prices and in parts, a scarcity of food. Another topic worth considering is the question of the dynamics and safety surrounding the elections, especially for the reason that both top candidates have announced that their own personal victory will be the only acceptable outcome. In the preceding two elections, the population has luckily ignored the call for action against the result of the elections.

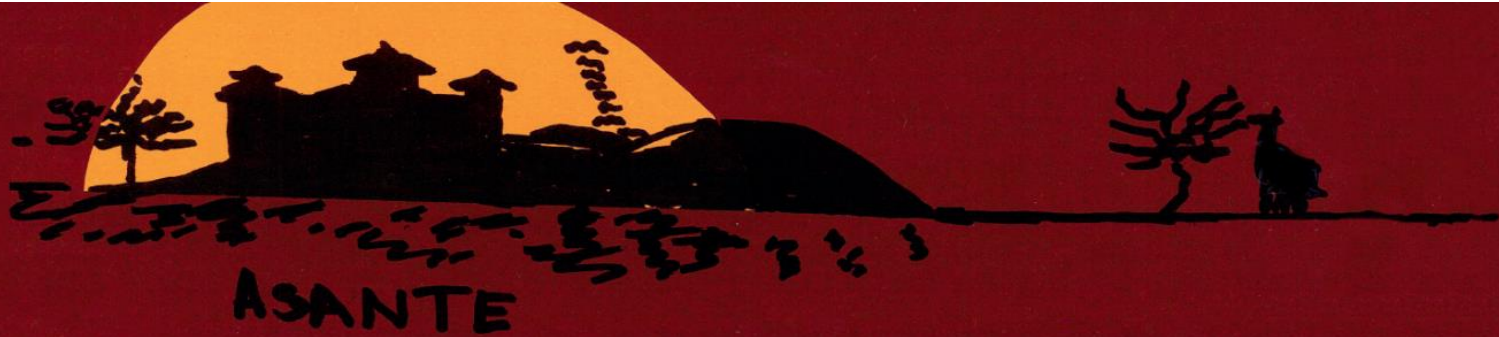
In the MCC and school the permanently increasing prices lead to much more expensive weekly living costs. We are affected by inflation and supply blockages, but to wait for better times is not a plausible solution in terms of leaking roofs or in cases of urgently needed accommodation for our pupils.

In February 2022 we had to say goodbye to Kimeu, our beloved and appreciated MCC farmer.

If you don't already know, Kimeu died suddenly from a stroke. I was able to get to know him during my internship in Kenya from February until April 2019 as a joyful human, always with open arms for the children and a huge passion for ecological agriculture (that is pretty rare in Kenya). Kimeu was not only the gardien of the shamba but more importantly a father figure and role model for employees, children, family members as well as for us volunteers. As an association, we are remembering Kimeu with gratitude and are shocked at the same time about his passing at the young age of 48. Unanimously, we have decided to support his wife and their 6 children. It makes us really happy that his son Samuel works in the skills centre and his son Nathan found a home at the MCC from where he can attend his plumbing/sanitary training at a technical school in Tala during the day. At the farm Boniface, a young and ambitious graduate of the agricultural school in Nairobi takes over. However, any help is welcome, especially in the area of ecological agriculture.(see down below).

Offspring in Maisha Mazuri: All the goats are pregnant at the moment or have just had their offspring. In the last two weeks about 16 baby bunnies have been born after there has been no offspring at all since January. Also, the number of chickens has increased a lot.

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Helen Milkau



Since the last newsletter in the beginning of January, a lot has happened. A lot of the older children have left the MCC at the start of a new school year to continue their education at secondary schools. We are so happy for them: A new chapter of their lives begins. For the MCC that means that children like Jackson, Wayne or Elizabeth (11 years) are now the oldest and start helping the new kids to settle into their new surroundings. This change is going to be a challenge for children and employees. The happier we are that we can count on Vroni as a committed and experienced intern on site. She notices a lot of these challenges and talks about them as well as tries to find solutions with the staff on site. But most importantly she spends a lot of time with the children and helps them with their homework, redecorates the old kitchen to a library and is in charge of the free time activities. There has been a lot of construction work taking place as well. The leaking roof of the MCC has been repaired and swapped out. The ceilings and painting of the walls are still on the to do list. It is great that in April we were able to welcome Joseph, our longtime MCC social worker and medical responsible and Victoria, the new responsible for internships at the academy as guests in Germany. Please find further information about the trip on our website

Also there is some good news regarding the Maisha Mazuri Academy: Finally, the construction of the second and last part of the boarding school has started. Many thanks go to the association Sternstunden e.V. that financed most of the expenses. Additionally, the Academy will get their long-awaited school bus, paid for by a friend of the association – thank you so much for the support! We are finishing off the second newsletter of 2022 as always with many thanks to you! Asante Sana for your support in these difficult and unsure times – for the MCC children and their relatives your contribution is, as of now , more important than ever ! Thank you for that – Asante sana!
Anne Roll and Carline Mutz

Announcements:

MMP letters Deadline: 28th June 2022: Helen Milkau c/o Hand in Hand für Kenia e.V. Münchner Str. 7 81379 München or via mail to: mmp@4kenya.info
Africa Festival in Ingolstadt: We are present with a stand in Ingolstadt the whole day on 25 June 2022, visitors are warmly welcomed. Official information at: www.afrikafest-ingolstadt.de
Support on the MCC farm in Kenya: ...ideally with knowledge regarding ecological agriculture. Who is interested to support on site in Kenya (even for shorter time periods) please contact us via mail: vorstand@4kenya.info . Thank you!
Here is the link to our homepage: www.4kenya.info Instagram: @handinhand4kenya

Sources:

<https://www.tagesschau.de/wirtschaft/weltwirtschaft/weizen-preis-afrika-ukraine-krieg-101.html>
Tagesschau, 05.03.2022.
<https://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/russland-afrika-ukraine-hungersnot-1.5597426> SZ, 03.06.202

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