

Dezember 19, 2022

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

News from Kenia

The votes have been counted and since Mid-August there has been a new president in Kenya. With 50.49 % William Ruto (55) won the election against Raila Odinga (77) who had been predicted to be Kenyatta's successor. The result in the last three presidential elections (2007, 2013, 2017) were also as close as this year, the president always won with a tiny majority. As a result, there were riots and the result was challenged by the opposition. In the 2007 election, more than 1000 people died due to riots – therefore people awaited this year's election with tension and we, as an association, cautiously cancelled all planned visits and interns for this period. Luckily, the election went by peacefully, even though the Kenyans waited five days for the results and Kenya's Supreme Court had to confirm the result in September as it was challenged by the opposition. Our director Jimmy Kilonzi is happy with the election's outcome and hopes – as does our association – for many positive changes.

Communication between Kenya and the association

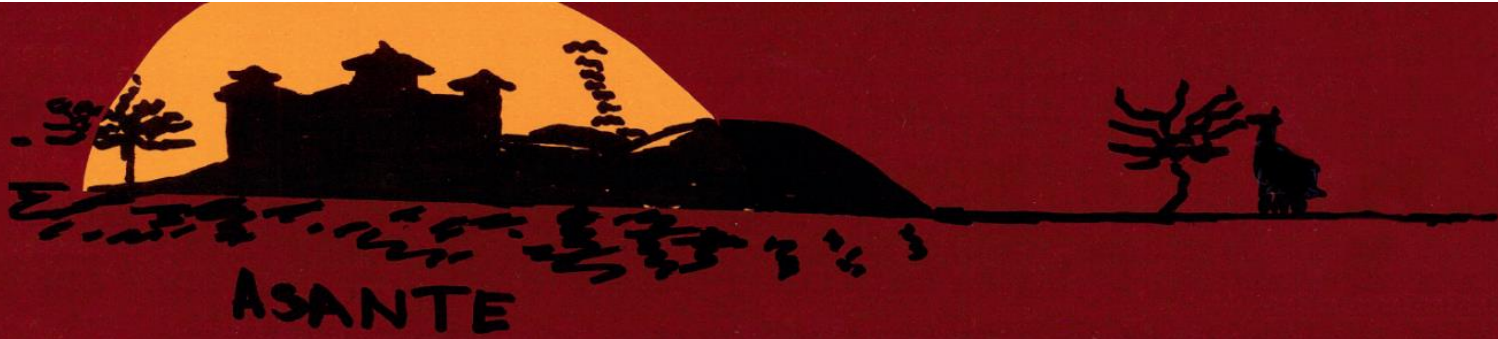
Maybe you have asked yourself before how we, as the association, regularly communicate and work together with the team in Kenya? After all, we are separated not only by several thousand kilometers, but also by serious cultural differences and a language barrier.

In fact, the intercultural exchange is often a challenge for all of us and demands a lot of patience and openness for compromises. It is hardly possible to sum up the cultural differences on one page. It starts with the childhood faced by children in the rural areas or in the slums of Nairobi, which alone leads to different needs, norms, wishes and aims. A child in Kenya speaks its regional tribal language first and learns the national and media languages Kiswahili and English in school later.

With the support of our partners, we are able to offer brand-new opportunities to the children. The families are often big, the number of children especially in the rural areas is high. The older ones help the small children and many families live on a tight budget, school is often low priority. On the one hand, we experience amazing team spirit amongst the children: for example if the MCC children get new clothing, there won't be a child saying jealously: "I prefer the yellow not the green shirt", - as it would in Germany. On the other hand, the circumstances in Kenya mean that the children grow up quickly; they help their parents after school, obedience is of utmost importance.

With these fundamental differences in childhood and life experience we work together to help children from difficult backgrounds and to support them on their way to a successful education. We use different strategies to make the exchange between the association and Kenya work. All year round interns selected by the association visit the MCC for about 2 to 3 months. As a result, constant and direct exchange is guaranteed. Active members of the association also fly to Kenya every year to get an insight into the progress on site. At the same time, we were happy to welcome visitors to Germany this year from the Kenyan team. Joseph and Vicky – two experienced employees from the MCC visited schools in Germany this year and got some insights into our daily life. Visits for the coming year are already being planned, in order to be well prepared for the visa applications. Otherwise, we use digital communication as there is always something to be consulted on, discussed and planned. Recently, we had the opportunity to discuss questions and wishes via video call directly with director Jimmy Kilonzi during a meeting in October. To be quite honest, cultural differences and language barriers are always challenging. But it is this constant exchange on both sides which makes mutual understanding possible. And after all, we are all in this

Vorstand: Barbara Krohne Anita Wimmer Helen Milkau



together – along with our dear sponsors – to support the children on their way to a good future. That's what counts!

News from the MCC

There is an ongoing drought: We are worried about the MCC farm as it has not seen a drop of water. The river between the MCC and farm is completely dry. Everyone is longing for rain. The fear for the farm's future is getting worse, and we are anxious about our dream to supply the entire MCC with home cultivation and to make profits from the farm's earnings.

As a result of the pandemic and the worldwide tight financial situation it is getting more and more difficult to cover the rising costs. We presume that the farm will not survive in the long run without a well – targeted funding to construct the necessary system is essential, as funds become scarcer with rising prices. We all agree: the children's primary care has to stay secured, ongoing costs have to be covered. More than ever we welcome all your donations, your support and creativity to help spread our cause - in a partnership, for example! (If there are any questions, please contact mmp@4kenya.info)

Interns are welcome!

We look forward to every application for an internship in Kenya! As an intern, you are responsible for fun, help with homework and creative free time and you are a helping hand to the staff on site. We also look forward to applications from people with skilled crafts or experience and knowledge in ecological agriculture. Age does not matter!

Asante sana for your loyal support!
Anne Roll and Carline Mutz

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