

März 5, 2023

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

We hope that you have started the year 2023 peacefully and full of optimism! As an association we are looking forward to the new year full of hope and motivation. Even though the last year was not an easy one, so much has been developed and the progress in our whole project gave us and the Kenyan team shared enthusiasm.

In a year, where nothing seemed to be natural, it was a true blessing to see that so many people have shown solidarity and helpfulness and have supported each other in spite or maybe exactly because of all the hardship – in Kenya as well as here in Germany. We supported 108 children with financial aids in school and were pleased with the good results of the primary school's final year. We were able to install a fluoride filter system for our well, buy a new school bus for the academy, plant many trees, continue the construction of the boarding school's second part, welcome three of our employees in Germany and finally send interns to the MCC again. Amazing!

Recently, we have been approached more frequently on how we deal with material donations such as used but well-functioning laptops or clothing in good quality. That is why we want to address this subject openly: Unfortunately, material donations are a huge challenge for us: (1) there are expensive shipping costs for the packages and (2) based on our experience the packages arrive either many weeks too late, opened, stolen or not at all in our post box. People (interns and volunteers) who are able to take material donations to Kenya are confronted with unfortunately strict luggage limitations of airlines. In both cases, the objects have a high import duty and the recipients (MCC) have to pay an unthinkable cost – the donor just gets the tip of the iceberg. But there are further reasons why we prefer not to send material donations to Kenya: Our focus is to support the local companies and shops, where the MCC staff can buy necessities and make use of their services, that does not only support the retailers, but the Kenyan economy in total. Our conclusion after many years of experience is therefore: financial donations are the better, easier and least costly version of support. We transfer the money to Kenya where our confided MCC staff put all the expenses in their reports. Trust goes both ways.

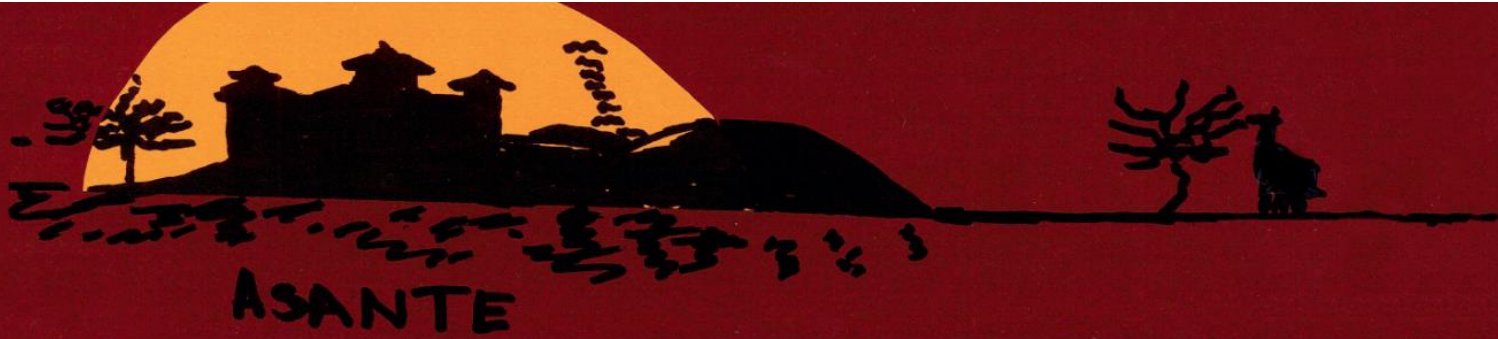
Thank you for all the financial extra donations around Christmas from extern persons as well as members and MMP partners for their sponsored children and/or the MCC children's center. To show you the impact of your donations, here are two examples:

The food prices have been extremely high for months, therefore the money was used to buy flour and oil for the MMP children and their families (these are the main ingredients for the traditional chapati, that should not be missing on holidays) – something apparently small that brings the families a lot of joy and relief.

Some children received corresponding donations for Christmas or if especially needed. In these cases, our employees get the objects together with the children and adolescents for them to learn how to deal with money, to bargain and compare. It is the same procedure for new clothing: the children/adolescents receive a specific amount of money and they discuss what is needed. At the market, they can learn and try to economize the money smartly. This is an important competence for life, that they can learn in the MCC.

In 2023, we hope to be able to equip our dual secondary school, the academy of Maisha Mazuri better. The teaching staff agreed on concrete purchases that is especially important for their lessons and practical

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teaching. They have a number of wonderful ideas for how to potentially use the practical teaching as income for the school. Even if the sales do not bring wealth, they help to teach the pupils economy and they show that our teachers grow on the idea of dual education. That makes us very happy, we want to invest further to successfully implement our system of practical and dual education. The financial means are unfortunately still missing for the most parts...

All the more, we want to ask you to talk to others about our organization – Again and again one hears that companies and wealthy individuals are looking for small projects to support them with a one-time larger donation. Please ask around, we can talk about ideas and projects, vouch for the implementation and are happy to keep you updated.

Thank you so much for your trust and that you support our association and therefore the MCC children with donations. Thank you to initiators of several projects in the pre-Christmas time, some especially generous donors and of course all of our MMP partners who wrote many letters to their sponsored children! The letters were brought to Kenya by our new intern Lisa in January and expectantly opened on site. For more insights, read our intern report on our website in the end of January ...

Asante sana!

Anne Roll and Carline Mutz

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