



Annual Report 2015

The Kibera slum has experienced many changes. The government built broad streets across the slum and destroyed huts and small roadside businesses if their owners did not vacate them in due time. More than half of the women of the [CHaCHaCHi Women Group](#) were affected; many of them are still looking for new space where they may set up their little stalls. Nobody was able to give me a satisfactory and credible answer as to what the purpose of such broad streets is supposed to be.

This year, we were again able to offer destitute adolescents a chance for a better future in their home country Kenya. The support of our donors and members enabled us to continue our [educational program](#) for very poor children and adolescents.

We again supported the [Tania Integrated Rehabilitation Center](#), a home for the disabled, with monthly contributions to cover their running costs. Jennifer und Joseph, the committed managing couple of the center, still receive no aid or financial support whatsoever from the government although the state youth supervisory authority often sends them children with very complex disorders who are supposed to be cared for by the state welfare.

Education

We paid for school fees, lunch and medical emergency aid for [150 primary school children](#) from the poorest backgrounds. We covered 8 primary schools in the Kibera slum in Nairobi.

Additionally, we were able to pay for school fees, housing, food and other important items such as books or travel costs for [77 adolescents](#) who attend continuing boarding schools. In November 2015, 18 of these adolescents graduated from their 4-year high school education with the national certificate K.C.S.E. (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education), which can be compared to our Matura or A-Levels.

1 adolescent concluded his 2-year course in hotel management and is now working as a trainee. In addition, 2 dressmakers and 2 secretaries successfully completed their professional education.

In January 2015, we only accepted 10 new students in our program since the high school fees have become much more expensive and the educational situation annoyed us repeatedly due to many teachers' strikes at public state schools.

We consider focusing on vocational education or apprenticeships. 7 additional vocational students and apprentices joined the existing group to whom we grant a loan to pay for school fees, housing and the monthly living costs. A few other candidates are being evaluated.

Primary school children's stories



Fenny is 8 years of age and attending second grade. Both of her parents died when they travelled to their hometown in the countryside when their matatu - a minibus - had an accident. Fenny's relatives couldn't or didn't want to take her in. She found shelter at a cousin's of her mother, who herself has 4 children, is a single mother and has only irregular income from low paid work. The money is not even sufficient to buy food on a daily basis.

We have been paying her school fees since 2013.



Bonface is an Aids orphan. Both of his parents died when he was 4 years old. Since then, he has been living with an aunt. She is facing enormous problems to make enough money to feed everyone as she herself has 5 children. She only has irregular income from very low paid work such as cleaning or doing laundry.

Bonface is in second grade. We have been paying his school fees since 2014.

Emergency aid

As in previous years, we organized [lunch for hungry children](#) during school holidays (3 times 1 month). From Monday to Saturday, 200 to 300 children collected their "ghideri" (corn and beans) in large bowls. Many of them took their food rations home in order to share it with their siblings. In 2015, we were again able to organize and pay for [medical emergency aid](#) for many dozens of sick or injured children. Our Kenyan employee Jackline accompanied almost all of these children personally to the hospital and paid for their treatment costs and medicine. Subsequently, she makes follow-up visits at the children's homes in order to verify whether they have recovered.

Medical emergencies where CHaCHaCHi was able to help

Macreen is 11 years old. Her mother is alone with her 5 children. About three times a week, she has work as a laundress, which provides her with about 2 Swiss francs per day. This is not sufficient to pay for regular food or her rental costs, let alone any school fees or medical treatments.

When they travelled to their hometown to attend the funeral of their grandmother, Macreen was bitten by a dog. For financial reasons, she did not get any medical treatment. When they returned to Kibera, the wound was seriously infected. Jackline took Macreen to the hospital, where the girl was treated. Jackline paid for the costs of about 35 Swiss francs.

Macreen is well again, and her mother is extremely grateful for the support they received from CHaCHaCHi.

Prisca is 11 years old. Her mother died of Aids after a long period of suffering and illness. Her father has mysteriously disappeared. Prisca and her 2 younger siblings lived with a relative in Kibera, who herself has to other children of her own. This relative apparently mistreated her foster children almost on a daily basis and the children felt hated by her. Prisca could no longer bear to see how her siblings suffered and decided to poison herself. Jackline was alerted by a neighbor and took Prisca to the hospital, where the girl's life was saved. Jackline was able to find relatives in the hometown of the children, and the 3 girls have now found shelter there.

Reading suggestion

If you are interested in the lives of courageous African women, I would like to recommend the realistic but still humorous novel by

[Emmanuel B. Dongala: 'Gruppenfoto am Ufer des Flusses'](#) (German and French)

Photo: High School students at the Magena Secondary School in Kisii who are sponsored by CHaCHaCHi. I visited them in January.

Please check our website for further information: www.chachachi.org

November 2015

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