



## Annual Report 2021

### Economic crisis and hunger

I have just returned from my stay in Kenya. At first sight, everyday life in Nairobi seems almost normal again: Many people are on the road – mostly wearing face masks –, the usual traffic with annoying traffic jams pollutes the air, the big coloured Toi Market is alive again, stores, restaurants and hotels have reopened. However, the tourists are still missing.

When I visit 'our' elementary school in the Kibera slum together with our Kenyan co-worker Jackline and enter many huts, I experience sad moments! The Corona lockdown of last year has caused a huge economic crisis, from which the country is recovering only slowly. As it is the case almost everywhere, the pandemic has mostly affected the poorest people. They hardly find any daily work. Everyone is struggling for a daily meal. Many of the mothers we visit have just returned from their daily search for work without success. They did not get a chance to wash clothes or clean houses for other people in the morning. Usually, the weekly job search is successful 2 or 3 times a week only. On these days, the measly wage (3 to 4 Swiss francs) is barely enough to pay for a meal for the family. Without a daily wage, there is no food. If they were not able to find any work in the morning, many mothers sit depressed in their small, dark huts, knowing that they have nothing to offer to their children who have just been sent home from school for lunch. The seriousness and hopelessness of the desperate situation saddens me enormously. I often signal Jackline to pull out some money. The eyes of these mothers instantly light up and I realize how young they actually are.

### Primary schools and the children of the Kibera slum

The schools are open again, but many of their classrooms were destroyed in 2019/2020 because they had to give way to roads or were too close to the railroad line. Fortunately, most of school huts were only rented and the principals have found new premises to rent, although often these new huts are very cramped and without any surrounding space.

Unfortunately, most of the schools cannot offer lunch to the school children. Unlike in the early years of our activities in Nairobi, the UN World Food Program (WFP) no longer provides food to the slum schools.

This year, we are paying lunch for all the children and teachers of 8 elementary schools of different sizes. In total, about 1,700 students and 65 teachers can benefit from our support.

All of them are very grateful for our regular support. The principals tell me that for 50-60% of the children, lunch at school is the only meal they get in a day. And let's not forget, food is a prerequisite for children to be able to concentrate and learn in the first place. In return, we impose the following condition on the schools: No child must be sent home for lack of payment of school fees. This condition is respected.



### **Emergency relief is still desperately needed!**

During my visits to Kibera, I have seen how dramatic the situation is for most people: No work means no income and therefore no money for food and rent. Our co-worker Jackline is present in Kibera on a daily basis and knows the suffering of the population. Unfortunately, the poorest of poor do not receive any support from the government or the richer classes. This year, we are again supporting many families in the slum with emergency money for food.

### **High school students and students at vocational colleges or universities**

This year, we again paid the tuition fees of a few dozen high school students at boarding schools and made sure that they can buy the necessities for the next semester. The condition is that their school reports, personal reports, etc. are sent to us in good time and that the students have performed well at school.

We also pay the school fees of some students at vocational schools. Upon receipt of their monthly reports, we provide them with a certain amount of money for their living expenses. The same support is granted to university students. This monetary support is considered to be a loan which the students will have to pay back in part later.

### **Tania Integrated Rehabilitation Center**

Jennifer and Joseph, the two school managers, greatly appreciate our monthly contributions to their running costs. The situation was even more difficult for them because of the inflation.

### **Highlights**

In all 8 elementary school, I met enormously committed principals and teachers who do their best to keep the schools running despite the parents' insufficient school fees. They love the children and teach with great commitment, even if they often hardly receive any salary.

The enthusiasm of the children and young people when it comes to studying and learning is absolutely overwhelming!

I invited all our former students and craftsmen to a lunch, and we had intense conversations. They were so happy to meet up with their "Swiss Mum". Some of them even came from far away.

Most of our former students have found a job, even if it is not easy – especially in the beginning. Mostly, they work without a contract and are poorly paid. However, some of them even started their own business. (Photo: Emanuel Kasembeli studied agronomy and economics. He now has his own flourishing business called 'Carpet Grass': He lays artificial grass floors and carpets, and puts up wallpaper...).

I feel great gratitude for our reliable, uncomplicated and helpful support.

Many students told me to sincerely thank all our members and patrons for their important help. They wish the CHaCHaCHi family good health – God bless you all!

Check out our website for more information: [www.chachachi.org](http://www.chachachi.org)

We are still passing on 100% of all your donations to the children and young people in Kenya.

In November 2021

Heidi Brenner, Managing Director