

## News 7, Autumn 2013

Our work continues!

It is sad to say that life is becoming more and more difficult for the poor in Kenya. They can't benefit from economic growth and have hardly any chance of getting regular and fairly paid work. Basic foodstuffs are becoming increasingly expensive and are now even being taxed by the newly established government! The irregular day-wages of the poorest day-labourers have not been increased for many years and amount to 2 to 4 Swiss francs a day.

### Support of Primary School Children

In January 2013 we set up a new aid concept for the support of primary schools: The Makina Primary School has not developed in the way we had hoped for. Therefore, we decided to expand our support to other communities in the Kibera slum, where we help to pay for the school fees of orphans and very destitute children, irrespective of the school they are attending. One of the advantages for us is that we need not feel responsible for one single school only. With our newly chosen system, we support about 8 or 9 slum schools.

Many of the children receive only irregular meals and don't eat sufficiently. Thus, we also help out with food packages. In case of illness or injury, we may pay for doctor's or hospital fees.



*Some of the children we support attend the AMANI Primary School.*

### Scholarships

After 8 years of primary school, many adolescents – who sometimes are as young as 13 or 14 – have hardly any opportunity to complete an apprenticeship. Almost invariably, the prerequisite for an apprenticeship is the completion of a secondary or high school.

Currently we are paying the fees of about 75 adolescents at selected boarding schools and high schools. We also support 6 young people at vocational schools. In 2012, 3 adolescents (2 of them girls) graduated from high school with excellent grades. We have granted them a loan for their studies at university.

We specifically promote girls who have been traumatized or who are at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation or premature forced marriage. Last spring we visited the AHADI High School and its headmistress Jane, who looks after such traumatized girls (see below).

### TANIA, a home for the disabled

We continue to support the home with monthly contributions to its considerable running costs. Jennifer und Joseph, the warden couple, are very dedicated and innovative. Just recently they achieved the approval of the Ministry of Fishery to set up fishponds.



*One of the fishponds with tilapias*

They are now breeding tilapias, a species of African tropical fish. Besides the large vegetable fields and fruit orchards, the home's fish farm is supposed to help provide healthy and protein-rich food to the children.

### Emergency Relief

Our emergency aid is rather limited because it might easily become a bottomless pit. We mainly support children and single mothers who are in an emergency situation. We temporarily pay for food, doctor's fees, or medicine. In exceptional cases, we may take over the rent of a hut. Despite our limited financial means, we were able to help in a few hundred cases and to give hope and courage to the mothers.

### Women's Groups and Microcredits

The CHaCHaCHi Women Group is growing and the businesswomen do their utmost to manage their mini-stores in a more or less profitable way and to fairly manage the credit granting among themselves.

**CHaCHaCHi** does not interfere with their rules, but has not granted any further credits for some time now.

### Organization and control

I myself, Heidi, have been on site three times this year. I visited and checked on all our projects on each occasion. Nicolas, Fabienne, and our new board member Carole each continue to actively support me on site once a year. This also includes Carola, Nicolas' wife.

The requirements we ask the adolescents to fulfil are very strict. The high school students and apprentices show us their school reports and a personal report after each semester. We examine everything thoroughly and discuss the situation with the adolescents before they are given the new school cheque.

If we are not on site, we are constantly in touch via e-mails and texts with our associate Jackline and have regular written exchange with other responsible persons.

### The vision of a courageous woman

Jane is a middle-aged woman who has a vision and the courage to implement it. She used to be the headmistress of a state high school but was increasingly displeased with the fact that the classes at these usually huge institutes are much too large and that the lessons are of predominantly theoretical and intellectual nature. Many students – mostly girls with difficult social backgrounds – tend to fall through the cracks.

Her vision was to set up a smaller school that attends to (orphan) girls with a very poor or difficult background and that promotes such girls in a more informal environment. It was also Jane's vision that the school should not only convey the school syllabus but also prepare the girls for real life after school.

Jane quit her secure, state-funded job and started looking for a suitable place for her school of dreams. In the Masai area (close to the TANIA home) she was able to convince the local "Chief" to let her rent a dilapidated building including the surrounding land. Together with a small, idealistic team, she began restoring the old building and making it habitable. 3 years ago, she started her school with just a few female students. When we were told about this little school and its small number of students, we did not know how to imagine it to be. However, when we visited the school last April for the first time, we were fully convinced not only of the headmistress herself but also this little jewel of a boarding school.

We were able to send 7 female students to the AHADI School. They are now enjoying the

privilege of studying in this protected environment, and **CHaCHaCHi** pays for their school fees and the basic things they need for everyday life.

Besides the lessons in very small classes, they also learn how to keep a house, to cook, garden, sew, etc.



*Teachers and girls turned an overgrown and wild environment into a blooming and flowering garden.*

It is of utmost importance to Jane to prepare the girls for their later life in every respect.

Lucie, originally from the very northeast of Kenya, can't go home during her school holidays because she would be forced into unwanted marriage immediately. She is allowed to stay at the school – a thing unheard of at any other high school.

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### The Managing Committee

Heidi Brenner, Chairwoman and Executive Director  
Nicolas Miescher, Vice-Chairman  
Fabienne Dumoulin, Accounting  
Carole Maertens

### Support

We would like to thank you very much for your donations. We depend on your contributions in order to carry out our projects in a successful and sustainable way. We assure you that the **full amount** of your contribution is **directly donated to the children in Kenya**.

### Donations Account

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CHaCHaCHi, Chance and Change for Children  
3625 Heiligenschwendli  
IBAN: CH31 0079 0042 4214 4695 7

Our **Annual Reports and Annual Financial Statements** can be downloaded from our website. They are also available on paper upon your request.