

CHaCHaCHi

Chance and Change for Children

News 4
August 2010

Our help for the children and teenagers in the Nairobi slum is still urgently needed.

Thanks to your donations, we are able to support:

- The Makina School in the Kibera slum of Nairobi
- The Makina graduates and other destitute – mostly orphaned – young people to complete a professional or further education
- TANIA – a home for the disabled
- Mothers' and women's groups with microcredits

The Makina Primary School

Around 350 students are currently attending the school. However, the government still does not support the school. The children are from an extremely poor background. Many of them are orphans or live with only one parent. Almost nobody of the parents or relatives of the children has a permanent job. Most of them are exploited as day labourers. There is barely enough money for food, which means that most of the families simply cannot afford to pay any school fees. But without such fees, there are no books, no booklets, nor any teachers' salaries!

As in the previous years, we paid for the teaching and learning materials as well as for a daily meal consisting of corn and beans during the holidays.

The 14 teachers and 2 cooks are paid a monthly salary by CHaCHaCHi, which allows them to cover the costs for their huts and the basic necessities of life.

Sponsoring of young people

We are currently supporting 35 graduates and adolescents by paying for their further education, i.e. for high school or an apprenticeship. After each semester (4 months), they provide us with their school and personal reports. We are holding an in-depth conversation with each one of them during our visits. These discussions show that most of the young people cannot pay for the educational fees and that they are lacking the daily necessities of life such as textbooks or even toothpaste. In very urgent cases, we are also covering doctor's or hospital costs (see incidents below). All the adolescents we sponsor are hard working and very motivated.



Owing to our microcredits and Michael's support, this mother can now sell dried fish.

Tania – A home for the disabled

We are currently supporting Jennifer and Joseph, the two committed home directors, with a monthly contribution to cover the running expenses of the home and the school. The couple is caring for and training more than 160 children. Around half of them are handicapped and live in the Tania home. As a return service, Joseph represents CHaCHaCHi in the Makina School Board. With his vast knowledge, he time and again proves to be indispensable.

Microcredits for women's groups

We want to enable mothers to establish their own small business. Michael Nyangi (see picture) supports us on site. He is a very likeable and committed financial expert, specialised in small loans to the poorest of the poor. He evaluates projects, advises the women, visits their small businesses on a regular basis and keeps detailed records on their payback amounts and savings. It is very gratifying to see how hard the women are working and how successful they manage their tiny businesses (see picture). Thanks to the business success, many of the women have become much more self-confident.

Daily life of the poor

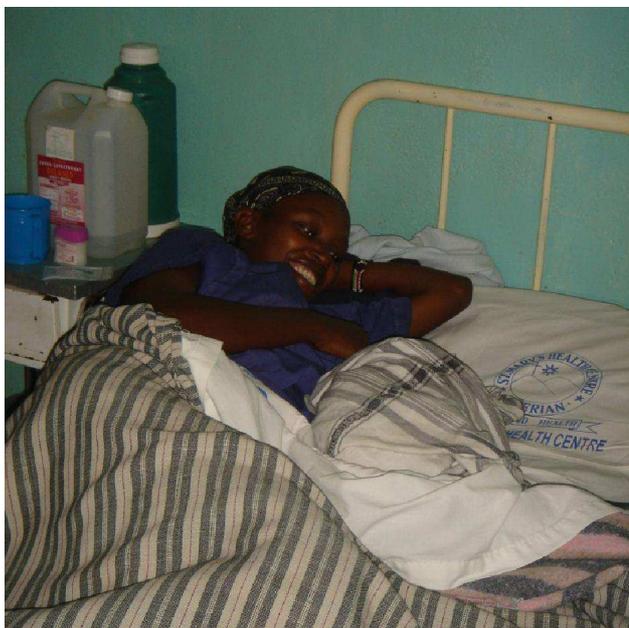
Incident 1:

On my way back from the Makina School, I am stopping by the "fundi's" (carpenter) hut. Throwing a glance into the hut, I can see Charity, one of our high-school students, lying on the floor. She has feverish eyes. "What's wrong, Charity?" I ask her. "I feel miserable", she whispers, "it might be Malaria." "Have you been to the doctor's?" "No." "Do you have any medicine?" "No, we're out of medicine."

Charity's mother appears in the doorway. "Charity needs to see a doctor," I tell her. "We have no money left," she whispers ashamedly. "How much does the doctor cost?" I want to know. "About 1000 shilling (about CHF 15.-)," she answers. I give her the money and add another 500 shilling for the prescribed drugs. Two days later, Charity is much better and, equipped with our school cheque, she can report to high school.

The same old story, I am thinking sadly. Out of sheer misery, the poor do not go to the doctor's or to a hospital. They know that they have to pay before they get any treatment, and they simply cannot afford it. It is often too late when the relatives take a seriously ill person to a hospital. Many people die from an infection or any other illness that was treated too late. The relatives are then burdened not only with hospital costs, but, additionally, with the costs for the funeral; to say nothing of the grief and sorrow to cope with when young parents or children die.

Incident 2:



Picture 2: The young widow with her newborn (wrapped in a bundle before her)

On our way to the Tania home, we are stopping by the sister's health centre. In the women's compartment, we meet a very young, lovely mother who has delivered her baby the day before. When I ask the director whether we could do anything for the young mother, she tells us that we would do her a great favour if we could pay for the hospital costs (about CHF 40.-). She explains that the young mother is not able to pay the amount because her husband died three weeks before from cholera. We are happy to pay the costs and give the mother a small additional contribution for her child. She is surprised and thanks us gladly with a radiant smile. (Let's hope that the brothers of her deceased husband will not evict her from her hut, which would leave her with absolutely nothing!)

The Managing Committee

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If you need further information or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or telephone. Further information on www.chachachi.org

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**.

We decided to send out a pay-in slip only once a year, that is in December together with a letter. We don't want to beg from you excessively and we try to keep our expenses as low as possible.

If you would like to donate twice a year, your contribution is of course very welcome!

Donations Account

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Our **Annual Report 2009** can be downloaded on our website. Please call us if you would like to have a copy sent to you by mail.

(Pictures by Fabienne Dumoulin, April/May 2010)