



Annual Report 2011

The past year was marked by the continuing drought in many parts of Kenya and by noticeably rising prices. The poor of the slum were particularly hit by the price increase of foodstuffs, but also by the rent increases of their huts. In turn, however, the insufficient revenues of the day labourers did not improve, and many mothers with small businesses had difficulties in making ends meet.

For these reasons, we decided in August, when we were on site, to establish an **emergency fund**. This fund aims at bridging emergency situations such as famine, sickness and other misfortunes.

Jackline terminated her employment at Makina School as a teacher in summer because she felt affronted and was not able to implement her initiatives. This development increasingly discouraged her. We greatly regretted her decision for she was a very good teacher. Since we did not want to lose her as our most important support on site, we employed her as of September 2011 as our assistant and representative of CHaCHaCHi. Jackline showed great commitment to all of her new tasks; she designed application forms for the emergency fund and more extensive forms for sponsorships for those students leaving the school. She assessed the incoming applications by visiting the applicants in their homes or by accompanying them even to hospital. Together with the teaching staff of the Makina School, she looked through the applications for school fee support and provided help wherever it was dearly needed. She became the contact person for all high-school students and apprentices whenever the young people encountered any kind of problem. She collected school certificates and reports, and she examined what the young people most urgently needed. For instance, she bought the required schoolbooks or personal things such as toothpaste, shoe polish and soap, and then distributed the articles among the adolescents in December, when the new school term was about to start.

Again, we supported the **Makina Primary School** by providing the missing school fees so that the teachers' salaries could be paid and all necessities could be procured. Since the floors in the classrooms were made of earth, they became very dusty in the dry season. This resulted in the fact that many children encountered health problems such as eye or breathing complaints. For this reason, we decided to pay for the cementation of the elementary school floors. We also supported the school outing of the senior classes to the Nairobi animal park. Furthermore, we paid for the lunch meals during holidays. Due to good performance, the school received schoolbooks from the Ministry of Education and from a large British charity organisation. This relieved our budget in this important area.

As in previous years, we supported a teacher in her further education to become an elementary school teacher. Many teachers only have a high school degree. We encourage them to get a

primary school teacher's education by providing them an interest-free loan to cover the education fees. They are obliged to repay about two thirds of the loan.

In 2011, we **sponsored 56 young people for their education**.

The sponsorships started in 2008/2009 and the first young people have now completed their education: Angellah graduated from College with very good results and is now looking for an employment. Furthermore, three dressmakers and two cooks completed their two-year educations. Two self-employed dressmakers each received a loan from us in order to purchase a sewing machine; they will have to partly repay the loan. Brighton, a former Makina student, has become a trained and skilled carpenter and received a loan from us to buy his own tools. Two students completed their high-school education and are now awaiting their K.C.S.E. (Kenian Certificate of Secondary Examination) results.

We furthermore supported the **„Tania Integrated Rehabilitation Center“, the home for the disabled**, with monthly contributions to their running costs and paid for the construction of a watertank platform. In addition, five of their school graduates benefited from our sponsorship programme for further education.

Jackline has organised the **microcredit mothers' group** very well. The group has been renamed to "CHaCHaCHi Women Foundation" and has been duly registered. The group's constitution is well-defined and the code of conduct is strict.

Depending on the nature of their business, some women are more or less strongly affected by the inflation-driven destitution of the slum inhabitants.

I travelled to Kenya three times last year. Fabienne Dumoulin, Nicolas Miescher together with his wife Carola as well as Esther Bähler each accompanied me on one trip. Time and again we were truly impressed by the courage and perseverance with which many Kenyans are facing life. Their poverty and their gratefulness will further strengthen our commitment to them.

On this note, we would like to thank all our sponsors and our members for their generous support.

Heiligenschwendi, February 2012

Heidi Brenner, Chairwoman