



Annual Report 2012

We can proudly look back on a successful year, even though it was marked by various unpredictable events that truly challenged us.

In January, we were pleased to take up more than 30 new high-school students and apprentices into our [Scholarship Programme](#). In February, shortly after the beginning of the first semester, many schools announced their new, adjusted school fees; some institutions increased their fees by up to 60%, which considerably strained our budget.

In November, 6 high-school students graduated with their K.C.S.E. (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education), which is comparable to the Swiss university entry qualification. They are now, together with us, eagerly awaiting their results.

2 seamstresses, 2 cooks, and 2 hairdressers successfully concluded their professional education. In the course of the year, we were unfortunately forced to exclude some of our high-school students from the programme since they did not achieve the results we require. By the end of the year, 68 adolescents were still part of our education programme.

The new [emergency station in the Kibera slum](#) was very busy. Our representative Jackline visited countless sick and starving people in their huts, and was able to provide some relief in more than 200 cases. Often she accompanied children, single mothers or fathers to the hospital and partially or even entirely took over the costs. Sometimes she bought food packages for starving people or paid a part of the hut rent. Jackline also encouraged several destitute mothers to participate in the women's group („CHaCHaCHi Women Group“), where they are supported in opening their own, small business.

I had great expectations in January, when I participated in the major task of selecting a new head teacher for [Makina Primary School](#). We unanimously decided to give the job to Penina. She started her employment as head teacher in March. With noticeable optimism, great commitment, and a very high emotional intelligence, she attempted to drive forward the school and to work off many neglected tasks (e.g. missing budget, intransparent book-keeping with regard to the use of school fees paid by parents, etc.). However, she increasingly encountered resistance from various other teachers, especially from the side of the school founders who still feel as if they owned the school. Although we, together with Jackline, tried to support Penina and to encourage her, she understandably lost her enthusiasm and left the school at the beginning of November. She has very good qualifications and found an employment with a state school.

This loss very much affected us. At the same time, the World Food Programme began to build a completely new school building, and the Ministry of Education donated new furniture to the school. All the above-mentioned caused us, after 5 years of aid and support, to newly assess the situation. We decided to limit our support for the school in the future (holiday meals, school fees for the most destitute, medical aid for children, school trips, educational loans to teachers).

We supported the „**Tania Integrated Rehabilitation Centre**“, a home for the disabled, with monthly contributions to their running costs. It is extremely difficult for Jennifer and Joseph, the managing couple of the centre, to make ends meet with their humble financial resources, even though they are able to sell vegetables and fruit grown on their farm. Unfortunately, CHaCHaCHI is the only relief organization that supports the centre on a regular basis. In 2012, we sponsored the further school education of 7 of their graduates.

Jackline, our employee and representative on site, is doing excellent work and greatly reduces our workload. She constantly informs us about current issues, and knows exactly what she may decide on her own and in which cases she needs to contact us before taking a decision. I am communicating with her several times a week, be it via text messages or via email. Whenever I arrive at Nairobi – which happens three times a year – she has prepared everything in great detail. In particular, she neatly and reliably arranges the many documents of the high school students and apprentices, enabling me to start right away with the review of the documents and letters.

On January 24, 2012, Jackline gave birth to a little girl, whom she named Heidi. In October, little Heidi fell severely ill (malaria and meningitis) and fell into a coma at the slum hospital. After a few days, the doctors transferred her to a private children's hospital, where baby Heidi was finally saved thanks to the intensive care station. The hospital bill was extremely high. We would like to thank all our donors who helped settling the bill and saving the little girl! Today, little Heidi is doing well and thriving.

The microcredit mother's group has been registered under the name of „**CHaCHaCHI Women Group**“, and is well organized. The group is still growing and comprised about 25 members by the end of 2012. We are receiving information about their group on a regular basis. Many are doing well with their small business and are able to generate a modest income. Whenever we are in Nairobi, we visit some of the mamas and their businesses, but we do not intervene in their group work.

I myself visited Nairobi three times in 2012, Nicolas Miescher and Anna Tschannen both accompanied me once each. The visits in the huts of the destitute people are always very enriching to us. Their sincere belief and their capacity for suffering are overwhelming. Thanks to their enormous commitment and their hope for a better future, the children and adolescents also motivate us time and again to continue with our support work.

We would like to thank all our donors and members for the confidence you are placing in us and for your generous and loyal support!

Photo: Teresa Beryl, 16, one of our excellent high school students, who, without our support, would not be able to enjoy further school education.

Heiligenschwendi, February 2013

Heidi Brenner, Chairwoman