



Annual Report 2014

Owing to our sponsors and members, we were again able to successfully carry out our yearly [Scholarship Programs](#) for very poor primary school children, disabled persons, high school students, occupational apprentices, university and college students. Empowerment and education are crucial elements of truly sustainable help - this is not only our opinion but also the view of many experts.

Facts and figures

For [130 primary school children](#) in 7 primary schools in the Kibera slum of Nairobi - among them many orphans or coming from destitute families -, we paid for the school fees, lunch during school weeks and, if need be, for medical help.

Derrick, for example, a blind 7th grade student, is enrolled at the best school for blind children in Thika, which was founded by the Salvation Army. We paid again for the moderate school fees and, among other things, for his travels costs.

For [92 adolescents](#) enrolled at continuing boarding schools, we provided for the school fees, boarding, food, and other items such as books or travel costs.

80 of these young people go the boarding schools we have chosen, and 20 of them will graduate at the end of 2014 with the K.C.S.E. (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education) and would like to start a vocational education in 2015. 7 of them received loans in order to study at a university or a college; 3 dressmakers and 2 secretaries will conclude their education at the end of this year.

We also provided [emergency relief in the Kibera slum](#) by organizing lunch for hungry children during school holidays (3 times a year for a month). From Monday to Saturday, 200 to 300 children received large containers of Ghideri (corn and beans); they took their lunch home to share it with their siblings.

We limited medical emergency relief in 2014 to children and adolescents as the demand has become overwhelming, our budget threatened to be overrun and Jackline, our local representative, became almost too involved. She personally accompanied many dozens of sick children who needed to contact a doctor or go to the hospital and paid for the treatment and medication costs.

She regularly visits the huts of the most destitute families and sometimes buys food packages for the hungry; in some cases, she also paid for the rents of the huts so that the "landlords" would not evict entire families.

Moreover, several needy mothers joined the women's self-help group [CHaCHaCHi Women Group](#), where they can take out a microcredit and get support for the establishment of their own small business.

Jackline and the two other board members undertook great efforts - with our support - to receive financial contributions for their social commitment in the slum. They submitted applications to many relief organizations, Jackline followed up on them, but to date, unfortunately, not a single positive answer or any other support has been received. However, our local representatives will not give up!

Furthermore, we again provided monthly contributions to the running costs of the „[Tania Integrated Rehabilitation Center](#)“, a home for the disabled. Jennifer and Joseph, the relentless couple who manages the home, still do not receive any official help, although the state authorities for child welfare often send street children or other difficult cases to the center. At the beginning of this year, a girl was found in the vicinity of Nakuru, where she had grown up with animals; she walked on all fours, was not able to talk and did not behave like a human being. The authorities took the girl to the TANIA home, where she is slowly getting used to human society and civilization.

Positive experiences and insights

- The longstanding cooperation in our board and with our Kenyan employee Jackline is a truly rare stroke of luck!
- It fills us with great joy to see how eager the children and adolescents are to learn and how much effort they put in their work.
- We are glad that we never decided to establish or take over our own school; problems and trouble would have been certain. Corruption is omnipresent and is spreading; many people try to get their share of the existing money. It is even more difficult for white benefactors. Moreover, our ideas and expectations often collide with those of the Kenyan people, which often results in unsuccessful repercussions.
- We do not have to pay for maintenance work or material costs, but we can focus on the school fees and the actual educational costs of the young people.
- We are a very small organization, which greatly simplifies the control and overview of our projects. Also, we can react quickly and flexibly to any changing situation.

Difficult experiences

- It is not easy to find Kenyan persons whom we can fully trust and who, on top of this, are committed, efficient and reliable.
- It is often frustrating for me to see that almost all the rich Kenyans and, in particular, the governing elite do not care enough for the major survival problems of their destitute people.
- Inflation is continuously increasing and therefore, misery and poverty are growing as well.
- Time and again unforeseen problems emerge out of nowhere and present major challenges to us: Negative changes at a high school where some of our students are enrolled, broken promises, increasing school fees in the middle of the school term, seriously ill students...

Recommendation

If you are interested in Africa's problems, I would like to recommend the excellent book of an experienced Africa insider, [Volker Seitz: ‚Afrika wird armregiert oder Wie man Afrika wirklich helfen kann‘](#) (dtv)

I travelled three times to Kenya in 2014, once I was accompanied by Carole, one of our board members.

We would like to thank all our sponsors and members for the confidence they are placing in us and for their generous, loyal support!

Photo: Irene from a destitute peasant family in the dry East of Kenya. An excellent high school graduate (2012), she receives a loan from CHaCHaCHI for her studies to become a high school teacher.

Comment: For reasons of readability, we only use the male form when persons are mentioned.

Please check out our website www.chachachi.org for more information.

Heiligenschwendi, November 2014

Heidi Brenner, Chairwoman