



Annual Report 2022

Touched by the numerous warm-hearted encounters with children, young people, teachers, mothers and fathers, I returned from Kenya to chilly Switzerland a few days ago. Every time I travel to Kenya, I enjoy the warmth of the people and their cordiality. And I also discover that I myself am much more spontaneous and open than I usually am in Switzerland when I meet people. It's truly contagious! But this winning and charming friendliness of most of the poor is only one side of the coin. We experience the other side when we visit families in their huts or in schools or when we intensively discuss with the students. The smiles now give way to rather serious, worried expressions and often tears fill the eyes of the people we talk to; tears of despair that are quickly wiped away. Almost all of the people we meet are suffering great hardship.

Emergency Aid

The need for **emergency aid** has unfortunately become even more urgent than last year. Since most of the residents cannot find regular work, they have far too little money: they suffer from hunger as food prices have risen massively. In addition, they constantly have to fear that they might be thrown out of their huts and that their children might be expelled from school.

Our staff member Jackline is very committed to the people in the Kibera slum and travels there almost daily. She visits many families in their huts and various primary schools. She listens to everyone in need, encourages those in despair and comes back a day or two later with some money for food, which always brings a sparkle to the mothers' eyes and allows them to buy food for the next few weeks.

Thanks to a very generous individual donation, we were able to massively increase our emergency food aid to children and families compared to 2021.

Primary Schools and the Children of the Kibera Slum

During my visits to the **8 primary schools**, I was able to see for myself that the daily lunch we sponsor feeds around **1,800 children and 70 teachers**. For more than half of them, this is the only meal they get in a day, and of course it is the basis for learning. Many children take a large portion of the well-filled plastic container home for their siblings. Thanks to the free food, the children come to class regularly and they are not sent home in any of 'our' schools for lack of school fees, as is usually the case in Kenya. Fortunately, there is a new curriculum that puts a focus on more practical experience and understanding instead of pure theoretical knowledge (see photo of pre-school below). However, the poor schools have problems buying the necessary materials.

Since the teachers' salaries exclusively depend on the school fees paid by the families, teachers are usually barely able to make a living. Nevertheless, most of them work with great commitment and love for the children. During the long Christmas holidays, they will not receive any salary. We will give a helpful December / January amount to all of the teachers and also to the cooks.

As it was truly vital this year, we also offered free lunch during the school holidays and organized an employment program during longer breaks.



High School Students and Students at Vocational Colleges or Universities

This year, we have once more paid the school fees of some **high school students** in the senior classes at boarding schools and make sure that they can buy the essentials for their next school quarter. Our principle still applies: Encourage, but also demand.

We have stopped admitting new students to the lower classes of high schools because we have now set our priorities differently and cannot guarantee four-year continuity.

We also pay the school fees of some **students at vocational schools**. Once we receive their monthly reports, we give them, and also to some university students, a certain amount for living expenses. These are loans that they will have to partially pay back at a later point in time.

TANIA Home for the Disabled

Jennifer and Joseph had a **difficult year** as they were hit by inflation and, in addition, the pump and the shaft of the deep waterhole broke down. They could not afford the repair costs of around CHF 7,000. Thanks to CHaCHaCHi and a few American friends, the necessary amount was raised, and now they have water for the children, house and plantations again. They especially appreciate our steady monthly contributions as we are the only ones helping them to meet the running costs.

Challenges

The **extreme drought** in large parts of Kenya is putting an enormous strain on the country. Many districts are hit by severe famine. The government is trying to support the rural dwellers who are acutely at risk of starvation with water and food. The inhabitants of the slums and the public schools, however, receive no governmental aid for their survival.

The economy has not yet recovered from the Corona pandemic, and **jobs are scarce** and mostly poorly paid. Very few of our college graduates have permanent jobs. Most struggle to find casual jobs. There has been a **massive inflation**, but the daily wage rates have hardly increased. Therefore, the purchasing power of most of the poor is even lower than a few years ago.

I again invited all our current and former students and craftsmen to have lunch, and we had intensive discussions. They were happy to be with their "Swiss Mum" and to receive a little Christmas bounty.

After 16 years of voluntary charity activities, the current board members of CHaCHaCHi intend to either hand over the association or to let it come to an end in about one year's time. We are grateful for any suggestions you may have!

More information can be found on www.chachachi.org (Photo right: former student Jack, Heidi, Jackline)

We are still passing on 100% of all your donations to the children and young people in Kenya.