

# CHACHA

Change and Chance for Children



## Annual Report 2023

I wish I could tell you that our help for the children and families in the Kibra slum will soon no longer be necessary after many years of providing help. Unfortunately, the opposite is true. The situation is worse than ever: Most Kenyans are poor and many suffer from hunger. We are still providing targeted help on site, and we are trying to do our utmost.

### The Goals We Are Trying to Achieve

Our focus is still on **school and vocational education of children and adolescents**. By supporting young people to receive school education and vocational training, we offer them a professional future and thus the chance to escape poverty. As girls are also focused on their education and training, they will become pregnant at a later stage and will have fewer children. This will gradually help to reduce the problem of the strong population increase.

Most Kenyan headmasters, teachers, home directors, university and vocational school graduates have a wealth of ideas and demonstrate great will and perseverance. But without personal funds and/or financial support, it is almost impossible to start a project or keep one running. We support Kenyans and their initiatives and projects only after careful evaluation and selection, we provide advice and monitor exactly how financial resources are used. We also provide emergency aid to many families, and we help the TANIA home for the disabled to cover its running costs.

On a small scale, we are trying to sow the seeds of a culture of solidarity and mutual help.

### Primary Schools in the Kibra Slum

The needy children and young people are very eager to learn and study, but almost all of them come to school in the morning on an empty stomach, as their (foster) parents often have no money for food. They are also unable to afford the low school fees and the lunch fee. How are the children supposed to be able to concentrate on their studies if they are hungry? **This year, we supported 8 primary schools including about 1,800 pupils and 70 teachers.** Our experienced, long-standing employee Jackline organizes the raw materials needed for the daily meals at each school. The meals are balanced, healthy, tasty and sufficient in quantity. Even now, during the long vacations, we continue to provide daily meals to the children and teachers, and we organize a fun program including music, singing, dancing and painting. As the teachers' salaries exclusively depend on the school fees paid, the salaries are generally not sufficient. We top up their wages each month to a

minimum income. In November and December, the teachers have no income at all. We therefore help out with a contribution to cover this gap. Our support is greatly appreciated. Below is an excerpt from the October report by Headmaster James:

*.....The food was good and enough for the children and teachers too. Through the feeding program, the children are energetic to learn and teachers are strong enough to teach effectively. Again the salary support has been making teachers very happy and motivated in their work. Generally the school is very grateful for the continued support. On the other side, Jackline is very excellent in organizing for that food in the school on time. We salute her effort for this.....*



### **Emergency Aid**

The need for **survival aid** is unfortunately still very urgent. The vast majority of slum dwellers suffer from hunger because they cannot find regular work. Daily wages are usually very low, but food prices have risen sharply again.

Our employee Jackline is very close to the people in Kibra and is out and about almost every day. In addition to the primary schools, she also visits many huts: She listens to the people, encourages them and brings cash for food, which is always a ray of hope for the mothers and allows them to buy food for the next few weeks.

### **Students at Vocational Schools and Universities**

High school graduates are very eager to start vocational training or university studies. We pay the school fees of many **students at vocational schools**. Upon receipt of the monthly report, we offer them as well as several **university students** the financial support they need for their living expenses. These contributions are considered to be loans, part of which the students will have to pay back later.

### **TANIA – a Home for the Disabled**

We continue to support the headmaster couple Jennifer and Joseph with **monthly contributions to cover the running costs** for more than 100 children, some of whom are severely disabled.

### **The Future of Our Association Seems Secure!**

We would like to thank all our supporters; the existing board members are fully committed to continue their work. A long-standing benefactor may join us after his early retirement in 2026. To start with, he will accompany me on a visit to Kenya in January 2025. Other interested parties are very welcome!

For further information, please check out our website [www.chachachi.org](http://www.chachachi.org) (photo above: Meals and fun program during the holidays)

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

In November 2023

Heidi Brenner, President