

## 5 Years of Supporting Work News 6, Autumn 2012

Since 2007, we have been trying to mitigate the misery of destitute children and adolescents, among them many orphans, in the Kibera slum of Nairobi. We offer them school education and provide them, where necessary, with nutritional and medical aid.

Our possibilities are limited, but since we use our financial means carefully and in a targeted way, we can look back on some gratifying success stories.

On this note, we would like to thank all our members and sponsors who have been supporting us very loyally. Without you, we wouldn't be able to continue our work.

At the **Makina Primary School**, around 400 to 450 children are being educated. They come from the poorest families and are often orphans.



**CHaCHaCHi** has been supporting the school for 5 years now. We assume the major part of the missing school fees in order to cover for textbooks and other schooling material. Furthermore, we contribute to a regular, even though modest, salary for the 13 teachers and 2 cooks. During holidays, we provide the lunchtime meals at the slum school (because the World Food Programme supplies the meals only during school-time). We also enable the children to go on school excursions and often settle medical and hospital bills on behalf of the sick children (also see "emergency relief").

### Sponsoring

In 2008, we launched our sponsoring programme with 3 orphaned school graduates. We paid for their further education and boarding school fees as well as for other necessities such as schooling material, soap, toothpaste, etc. Today, the programme includes 80 highly motivated adolescents. 85% of them are attending high

school at a boarding school, 15% are vocational apprentices.



For **Derrick**, a very intelligent, blind boy, we pay the education fees at a very good blind school. **Hubert**, an orphan, was granted a loan that enables him to study veterinary medicine. Some of the adolescents have already graduated with a state diploma: 8 seamstresses (2 of them received a loan to buy their own sewing machine and are getting by rather well), 4 cooks, 2 hairdressers, 1 carpenter, 1 electrical engineer, 1 car mechanic. **Angellah** received her college diploma in Business Administration is now looking for an employment. 2 further students have graduated from high school.

### TANIA, the home for the disabled

**Jennifer** and **Joseph**, a very committed and well-educated Kenyan couple, take care of around 165 mostly disabled orphans (many of them are deaf-mute). The children are integrated in the home-internal school in small classes.

**CHaCHaCHi** has been supporting the home for 5 years with monthly contributions to their running costs. Moreover, we are sponsoring the further education of 7 of their graduates. In return, the two spouses often are on hand with great help and advice.

### Women's Groups and Microcredits

Many mothers are extremely exploited as day labourers. That's why we decided to grant small loans to 3 women's groups (about 75 mothers) which enabled them to start up their own small business. The „CHaCHaCHi Women Group“ is the largest group of the three; it has established its own rules and has even been registered. The women pay back their loans including a 10% interest and can then grant new loans to their members with the money.

## Emergency Relief

Due to the increasing distress because of the constantly rising food prices, we established an emergency fund in the slum in August 2011. Jackline, our full-time representative on site, visits the petitioners in their huts, accompanies them to the doctor's or to the hospital, and very unbureaucratically pays for their invoices in part or in full. Often, she helps to pay for food or rents or the school fees of their (foster) children. In this way, we were able to help about 150 needy children, mothers and foster parents to get over the worst with a total of about CHF 3,000.

## Organization and Control

I myself, Heidi, am on site three times a year. During these trips, I visit everyone and can check on the projects. The requirements we ask the students to fulfil are very strict. The high school students and apprentices show us their school reports and a personal report after each semester, and we discuss them with the adolescents. Nicolas and Fabienne support me each once a year on site; sometimes I am accompanied by another member. Between my visits, I am constantly in touch via e-mails and texts with Jackline and have regular written exchange with other responsible persons.

## An everyday story

At the end of August 2012, we (Heidi, Nicolas and Jackline) had a meeting with our sponsored adolescents. Several hours had already elapsed, and we certainly had about two more to go.



Then it is the turn of Grace, a new high school student, whose father died of Aids a few years ago. When we ask her whether her mother might contribute anything to the school material, she says softly: „My mother has been bedridden for a year and has not been able to get up for several months.“

Spontaneously, I propose: „Wait until we're finished, we then come to see your mother.“ Finally, we're done. Grace is leading us deeper and deeper into the slum, the sun is glaring, the little alleys become smaller and smaller. After more than

half an hour, she enters a hut through a narrow sheet metal door. We follow her beckoning; two younger sisters squeeze past us in order to gaze at the two "muzungu" (white people). A curtain separates the bed of the mother from the tiny room. A rather young woman lifts the curtain and smiles weakly. She tells us that she hasn't been able to work for almost a year because she is too weak to get up. We can't take our eyes off the emaciated wrists and ankles. They seem to belong to a baby rather than an adult. "Who is taking care of you and your 3 children?" „My eldest daughter sometimes works as a cleaning lady... but it's not enough for all of us, because she herself has 2 little children of her own... then there's the rent... the school fees... we just don't have enough money." Often, they can't even pay for food. The Aids medicine is free, but the mother should also have a balanced and regular nutrition in order to tolerate the drugs. We promise her to assume the school fees for the younger siblings as well and slip her a bit of money to spend on food.

Although we admire the woman's ability to suffer, we're also very sad and angry about the social injustice when leave the dark hut.

— — ~™

## The Managing Committee

Heidi Brenner, Chairwoman and Executive Director  
Nicolas Miescher, Vice-Chairman  
Fabienne Dumoulin, Accounting

## Information and Contact

[www.chachachi.org](http://www.chachachi.org)

[info@chachachi.org](mailto:info@chachachi.org)

Heidi Brenner, tel. +41 (0)33 243 27 22

## Support

We would like to thank you very much for your donations. We depend on your contributions in order to carry out our projects in a successful and sustainable way. We assure you that the **full amount** of your contribution is **directly donated to the children in Kenya**.

## Donations Account

Berner Kantonalbank BEKB, 3001 Bern, PC 30-106-9

CHaCHaCHi, Chance and Change for Children  
3625 Heiligenschwendi

IBAN: CH31 0079 0042 4214 4695 7

**Our Annual Reports and Annual Financial Statements** can be downloaded from our website. They are also available on paper upon your request.