



Baunatal, December 2017

Dear Sponsors, Friends and Supporters,

Despite all fears, both the election in August and its repetition in October were on the whole peaceful. The Kenyans have come to terms with their new old government, the country has returned to "business as usual". Unlike in Germany, this is a good thing.

The government also decided to change the 8-4-4 school system to the new 2-6-3-3-3 school system. We will spare you and ourselves the details explaining the differences between the systems, as basically it is renaming old brooms and a real reform of the school system would have to go much further, starting with better qualifications (and pay) of teachers with improved and additional learning resources to enhance learning conditions. But that would cost a lot of money, and in Kenya's average per capita income there is not much room for that. The same applies to the national health sector, which is to be adapted to Western standards, without clarification on how this should be financed.

At any rate, the Mekaela Academies are well prepared for the changes to the 2-6-3-3-3 system and are setting up Pre-School areas at the Manuel Alexander School (MAS) and the Ratinga Primary School (RPS), which will replace the baby class and kindergarten. At RPS existing classrooms will be modified and for MAS the Reiner Meutsch Foundation Fly & Help will be donating for the construction of a new Pre-School building.

The RPS has become the shooting star of the Mekaela Academies. The school is growing steadily, this year having reached almost 290 students and for 2018 we are reckoning with 330 to 350 students. In 2018, the Ratinga will hold its first KCPE final examinations. The building of a dining hall has begun and some classrooms are being increased in size.

The reason for the ongoing demand for the Ratinga is undoubtedly the comparatively low school fees, which are, however, subsidised by the 999 Programme. We are currently working on a concept to significantly reduce school fees at the other primary schools, thus increasing the number of students. Until we are able to master this feat, we will continue to apply our 999 Programme, which will also manage to reach its target of 30,000 Euros in 2017.

Overall, the number of students at the Mekaela Academies has recovered to approx. 1,300, not least thanks to the success of RPS and, we have to mention this, the active work of Irmel and Doris, who are not only diligent in acquiring donations, but also numerous sponsorships. Sponsorships, which we will never tire to mention, are the most important building block for the existence and success of our project.

The Lulu Girls School (LGS) has become a raving success. Indeed the girls are doing well and are happier in this environment. Unfortunately, we will not receive the results of the KCSE final examinations which could vouch for this until after this letter has been sent out.

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Thanks to the donations made by the HelpAlliance and the One World Foundation, the new physics and chemistry laboratories of LGS have been built, but some facilities and equipment are still required. The HelpAlliance has promised the remaining funds for 2018, so that the LGS will be fully equipped on from 2018.

We can not yet say for sure how the lack of girls at Lulu High School (LHS, which should now be called "Lulu Boys School") has had an impact on the learning success or on the examination results. However we have noticed that it has become much quieter at LHS and the number of disciplinary issues have decreased significantly. Let's hope that the guys have put their surplus energy into studying too.

Currently almost 30 sponsors are anonymously supporting students of the Mekaela Academies via the "Hamsini" programme. "Anonymous" means that the children are known to the sponsors, but there is no personal contact. For this programme there will be a new website to be found via www.hamsini.de on from January. There, sponsors can log in with their password and view the progress of all the sponsored children within the programme. The cost of a Hamsini sponsorship is a minimum of 50 Euros per year.

The Hamsini programme and direct sponsorships currently cater for almost 400 children being sponsored in the schools via Watoto. This figure has been relatively constant for years, but it is not a stagnation by any means, as you have to bear in mind that almost 30 children leave the funding every year due to their completion of education, and not least thanks to the referrals and recommendations made by sponsors, we succeed in balancing the figures of those school leavers year after year.

The basic medical scheme MMMS recorded more than 6,000 treatments since its introduction in 2012. The scheme is part of the sponsorships, thanks to the support of the Rudolph Logistics Group in Baunatal and and the couple Dr. Brauner, all children who do not have a sponsorship are also able to be in the medical scheme.

On our website www.watoto.de we publish our annual accounts, project reports and other documents relating to our project. There you will also find information about sponsorships, donations and volunteering, and how the children in Kenya can be supported.

If you feel connected to our project and especially if you have previously subscribed to our newsletter, we would like to invite you to join our closed network on ning (<https://watoto.ning.com>). The network will be the communication platform for news from Kenya and the exchange of information and exchange of ideas. We regularly publish news about the project and about the country that you may not receive in the media.

Due to the move of our heart and soul of our society to Hamburg, our address has changed:
Watoto e.V. c/o Doris Wentzel, Liepmannweg 15, 22399 Hamburg, Tel: 040 556 40112

Dear Friends, Sponsors and Supporters, thank you for the immense support of our project and our children now entering its thrid decade since its creation (this makes it sound much more than the 21st year). It is very encouaging and motivates us very much knowing that so many people support us with their generosity and with great enthusiasm.

We wish you a beautiful and relaxing Christmas, a merry New Year's Eve party and a Happy 2018.

Kind regards
Your team of

Watoto e.v.