



Hamburg, December 2018

Dear Sponsors, Friends and Supporters,

This year we are officially sending the Christmas newsletter from Hamburg for the first time. In January, Doris moved to Hamburg and our society with her. Olaf Jepsen, Marita Precht and Heiner Hinssen have joined us as new members, so we are now 20 members. Tom Jacob, Laura Homann and Carolin Barth serve as the members of the chair. So much about us.

This year there is nothing dramatic to report about Kenya. After President Uhuru's re-election was challenged with much fanfare by the opposition in late 2017, threatening with general strikes, insurrection and otherwise, the Supreme Court determined the legality of the election in early 2018, and the uproar quickly subsided. The country has stabilised economically and politically, the Kenya Shilling is very stable (unfortunately) and interest rates have declined. We on the South Coast, especially in the Kwale district, are experiencing strong growth. Construction of a bypass from Mombasa to Ukunda has attracted many investors to the region, and tourism has recovered significantly on the South Coast, recording an increase in bookings.

2018 was a very good year for the Mekaela Academies.

Ratinga Primary School has grown to 360 students, not least due to the sponsorship programme for 104 pupils which the Hinssen and Jacobs families started with the Blumberg Foundation. The Ratinga sat for its final examinations KCPE (Primary) for the first time this year and achieved very good results. Next year, the Ratinga will be at its full capacity.

This is also due to the fact that the Kidzangoni e.V. from Augsburg has been looking for a new school for its 87 children the society takes care of in Ukunda for 2019 and has opted for the Mekaela Academies, which we are pleased about and also a bit proud of.

The Manuel Alexander School and Likunda Primary School also achieved excellent results in the KCPE exams. The best marks in Coast Province were achieved by a student of the Manuel Alexander School, and as he is a son of the governor, the largest newspaper in Kenya, the Kenya Daily Nation, brought this as its cover story on the first page. Since then, we have been inundated by new registrations.

For 2018, the government came up with some canny new ideas for schools in Kenya. On the one hand, nurseries/kindergartens are now called ECD section (Early Childhood Development) and are spatially separated from other school operations. On the other hand, all school buses have to be yellow. So the four Mekaela Academies school buses are now yellow (awful), and at Manuel Alexander School (our other schools already had separate nurseries, pardon, ECD sections) we built a new ECD school tract for the little ones. This was financed by the Reiner Meutsch Foundation FLY & HELP, which had already supported us in the expansion of the Ratinga.

And because it was a really very good year, another donation from the Reiner Meutsch Foundation FLY & HELP made it possible to build our sixth school. In Kombani, a rapidly growing area on the A14 to Mombasa, we have been building the "Weber School" since November (christened by the name of the donor family). The new school will be run by the same concept as the Ratinga, i.e. affordable school fees for quality education for families who would otherwise not be able to afford this. We're going to open in January with only six classes at first, we just can't build any faster. The school is expected to be completed by summer. We already have more than 100 registrations. Which, of course, is also due to the fact that the Mekaela Academies are being mentioned everywhere.

WATOTO



Watoto e.V. · Liepmannweg 15 · 22399 Hamburg
Vorstand: Tom Jacob (Vors.) · Laura Homann · Carolin Barth
Telefon 040-55640112 · Fax 040-55640113 · E-Mail info@watoto.de · Internet www.watoto.de
Spendenkonto 2193892 · Kasseler Sparkasse · IBAN DE59520503530002193892 · BIC HELADEF1KAS
Steuernummer 17/452/13282 · Finanzamt Hamburg-Nord · Vereinsregister Nr. 23703

Like we said, it has been a really exceptionally good year.

The Mekaela Academies had a total of around 1,300 students at the end of the year, with the number expected to rise to more than 1,500 by mid-2019 when the new Weber School is fully expanded.

Likunda Primary School's solar plant was revived in September and supplies power again, but not yet to its full capacity. After more than eight years, many parts have become unusable. We hope that a solar company from Nairobi will take over the maintenance of the plant and that we will then be able to build a second solar system with the help of a Rotary Club, which would of course also be professionally maintained.

The chemistry and physics labs were completed at Lulu Girls School. They were donated by the HelpAlliance, which has been loyal to us for more than 10 years. The One World Foundation from Oldenburg financed the construction of an office tract and a computer laboratory, which the girls immediately renamed "Information Technology Centre." Lulu Girls School is now fully equipped, only a small sports field is still missing, but it will come next year. Unfortunately, the results of the KCSE exams come too late for our annual letter. The previous year, the results had been a little weaker, but despite that all the girls had passed. We expect significantly better results again for this year.

There is little to report on the students at Lulu Boys High School this year, and that's basically always good news among the guys. We will report on our website how the Lulu Boys competed with the Lulu Girls in their final exams KCSE once the results are out.

Watoto sponsorships currently support about 400 children in need at the Mekaela Academies, with a further 180 pupils funded by the 999 programme. Approximately 200 children are supported by performance scholarships and other third parties and organisations. In total, more than half of Mekaela Academies' students have a sponsorship or comparable support. Around 30 former pupils receive support from their sponsors through Watoto during their studies.

The MMMS programme provided 750 medical treatments this year. Basic medical care is part of the Watoto sponsorship scheme, but thanks to the support of the Rudolph Logistics Group in Baunatal, the surgeries of Dr. Brauner & Dr. Rendchen as well as the Diakonie and Caritas e.V. as the funding group from Ratingen, all non-sponsored children also receive medical care.

On our website www.watoto.de we publish balance sheets, annual reports and other information about our project, e.g. about sponsorships, donations and other ways to support children in Kenya. Sponsors and anyone who feels particularly connected to our project can log in to our closed communication platform via the "Members" button on the website. There we publish news about the project and about the country that you may not receive in the usual media. Or rather quite often not.

Dear Friends, Sponsors and kind Supporters, we are very pleased that we finally again have a lot of good things to report from Kenya and would like to thank the numerous dedicated supporters of the project, especially those whom we did not mention in this letter. We owe it to you and the fact that, even after 22 years, we can still participate in this project with great joy and enthusiasm.

We wish you a Happy Festive Season, a Happy New Year's Eve party and a good start to 2019.

That, in our opinion, has less chances of getting better than this really amazingly good 2018.

Best Wishes
Your team of

Watoto e.V.