



Galu, 2nd January 2022

Dear Sponsors, Friends, Family and Supporters,

We are reporting today from quarantine. It started two days before Christmas: Loss of appetite, no sense of smell, no taste. Perfect for the holidays, we have both lost about two kilos.

Watoto now has only 19 members. We mourn the loss of our long-time member and friend Anke, who passed away in May unexpectedly for all of us.

The board consists of Tom Jacob (Chairman), Laura Homann and Ilka Christensen. At the general meeting for the 2020 financial year on 30.12.2021, Jann Reske was re-elected as auditor. Doris handed over the bookkeeping to Micki and an external professional at the end of the year. The work became more and more over the years, but so did the years of life. However, Doris is still the contact person for questions about sponsorships and payments. The changeover will probably result in some donation receipts not arriving or arriving too late. Please always feel free to let us know if something is missing, we are a small team, some things escape us and we are always grateful for this kind of support.

In 2021 we were able to transfer approximately EUR 300 Thousand to Kenya. Supported were:

- School fees for sponsored children at Mekaela Academies
- University and college sponsorship for Mekaela Academies graduates
- The Mekaela Online Academy/Shule Pepe Learning Platform
- The 999 Programme
- Basic medical health care (Mekaela Micro Medical Scheme)
- Furniture for Ratinga Primary School
- Sports and playgrounds for Lulu Girls High School
- Furniture for Weber Primary School
- Tablets for the students of Lulu Girls High School
- School transport for the Ratinga pupils
- Renovation of all the schools of Mekaela Academies
- Villa Emma (orphanage for girls)
- IT equipment and communication

Thanks to sponsorships, the 999 and the Hamsini programmes, the societies Kindergarten in Diani in Bremen and Kidzangoni in Augsburg, a total of approx. 750 children are supported within the schools of Mekaela Academies. 30 former pupils receive support from their sponsors during their college and university studies. Also including direct local sponsorships, just under half of the 2,000 pupils within Mekaela Academies are supported.

The students are provided with medical care through the MMMS programme. For students without a sponsorship, they are financed by the Rudolph Logistics Group from Gudensberg and the dental surgery of Dr. Brauner & Dr. Rendchen in Ratingen-Lintorf. The programme has been in existence for 10 years now and is a great success, as do the reports of the Kenyan doctors involved show.

# WATOTO



The next two years will be very demanding for our students. The closure of schools for almost a full year during 2020 and the introduction of the new CBC (Competence Based Curriculum) curriculum have resulted in the school having 4 terms instead of the regular 3 per year and parallel classes. The timetables are tough, as we know from many students who hardly have any free time at home.

The CBC plan divides the schools into two primary and secondary levels of six years each from 2023. Because we are not allowed to simply put signs on two classrooms of the current primary schools declaring them to be classrooms of a junior secondary, we still have two years to organise additional 8 classrooms for our two secondary schools.

Of course, all schools in Kenya have the aforementioned problem, and it would be an illusion to believe that there are sufficient funds to build the tens of thousands of classrooms. The Ministry of Education is also aware of this and is currently examining whether the shortage of rooms and teachers could be tackled through the use of our online platform "Shule Pepe". This is also logical, because with online teaching, one teacher is able to teach 100 or even more students at once.

We have therefore decided to convert our two Lulu High Schools into "Smart Schools". This dramatically reduces costs while increasing the quality of teaching. As a side effect, we have a pilot project to present to the Ministry of Education. If the implementation is successful, we are sure that hundreds of secondary schools will follow suit and convert to Smart Schools. In fact, they have no other choice.

As from 2022 onwards, all sponsored children will wear ROMIKA school shoes from Josef Seibel Africa Ltd. The factory gives us the shoes at cost price and they will be part of the uniform from now on. Thanks to many donors in Ratingen all Ratinga pupils have been wearing ShuShus as of last year.

On our website [www.watoto.de](http://www.watoto.de) we publish balance sheets, annual reports and much more information about our project, e.g. about sponsorships, donations and other ways to support children in Kenya.

Watoto still bears the DZI donation seal of approval.

After last year's uncertainty, we are again looking to the future with confidence. The Kenyan government is jumping over almost every stick that is held out to it by Western governments, but only almost, otherwise the president demonstrates a pleasing degree of common sense in dealing with the problems. That way, or rather that is how it can work.

However, the fact that we are still able to work at all and keep the project alive is thanks to you, Dear Friends, Supporters and Sponsors. The willingness to donate and help in the last two years has been overwhelming, we have received more than 1 million Euros in the last three years, and for that you deserve our warmest and heartfelt thanks.

With best wishes for 2022,

Kind regards,  
Your team of

**Watoto e.V.**

