



"Kidole kimoja hakivunji chawa" - "A single finger does not kill a louse". Interpreted, this African proverb means: Without cooperation we cannot get rid of evil. There are still many "lice" and we all meant the worst "louse" has been eradicated – at least for us in "civilized" Europe – namely the war. But now, we first must recollect our language again. We feel helpless because currently almost everybody only talks about tanks and rockets. Certainly, we must get our fist out of the pocket, Europe was too slow to agree on this. But why has Europe forgotten the power of language in form of great gesture? When George Bush and Tony Blair invaded Iraq (with lying propaganda), hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets in Europe's capitals. We remember a late day of March in Paris (2003) and the headlines in the press the day after: *"Europe has found its identity."* Why can't we do anything comparable against the enduring brutal attack by Putin? Why not a "Baltic human chain" (more than two million people joining hands on 600 km on August 23, 1989)? We do not know and are ashamed. We tried to pacify our shame at least by donating 10,000 Euros for Ukrainian children (cf. CDF Newsletter 21).

But back to Africa. In the last newsletter we already mentioned the indirect effects of the war: The disruption of the supply chains (wheat, corn, fertilizers, etc.), the devastating droughts in sub-Saharan Africa and the Horn of Africa not only worsened the food security of millions of people, but also their political security. Hunger feeds terror and wars. Reason enough to vigorously continue our activities, especially since we know that our scholarships – apart from education¹ – at least indirectly contribute to safe nutrition.

This is shown, for example, in the success story of John Mwangaza, written by Lucy Mwende, senior social worker at ChildFund Kenya in Mutonga.

The Gift of Education for life: A story of second chances and hope for the youth

Twenty-seven-year-old John Mwangaza is a resident of Kamarandi location, Tharaka Nithi County. He is an alumnus of the Nielimishe Project funded by CDF. John lives with his parents and seven siblings in a peasant half-acre piece of land and grow drought resistant crops and rear livestock. According to the 2022 Economic Survey report by Kenya, National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Tharaka Nithi is one of the bottom 10 poorest counties in the arid and semi-arid areas that depend on pastoralism. The community members experience perennial drought due to erratic rainfall. Before the project, John Mwangaza was frequently

¹ The observation made by Bertram Schmitt, judge at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, in a trial against Dominic Ongwen, head of a terrorist militia in Uganda (SZ interview on January 14/15, 2023, p. 46) is impressive: "I asked some young women who have been abused by the militia as sex slaves and forced to carry the soldiers' children in the courtroom what they wish for in the future. The answer was almost always the same. 'I want my children to get an education'."

sent home from Chogoria Boys High School and this affected his learning outcomes due to lack of school fees as his parents struggled to provide for the family's needs.

As a result, in 2014, John Mwangaza was identified among the children most in need and enrolled in the Nielimishe Scholarship Program. He was supported with the bursary which enabled retention and transition to completion of studies. Furthermore, the support enabled his parents to use the proceeds from the farm to meet other priorities such as farm production, purchase of food among others.



(R) John Mwangaza with other students of his class at Maseno University. (L) Mwangaza during graduation day at Maseno University

The bursary support also improved John's self-esteem, and he was able to achieve good grade for university entry. After completion of secondary school in 2017, he joined Maseno University where he pursued a bachelor's degree in education science (information technology).

"Great things have happened through this scholarship; the impact is immense and am glad for it. For real my family has been blessed, feels like this project came for me, I will forever remember this act of humanity" says John Mwangaza. Today, he is a role model in the Kamarandi community playing a part to contribute towards the social and economic development of the society. In addition, he pays fees for his other school going siblings. *"I will now be able to serve my country as a dedicated teacher, helping other children realize their dreams" says John.* The life of this family has changed drastically due to support from Mwangaza and will never be the same again. He and his family appreciate the support accorded during the entire period of sponsorship.

In the next newsletter we will present (or let tell us) more success stories, also from girls.

Kamarandi Girls Rescue Centre – Our newest Project addition in Kenya

In addition to the great success stories from our Nielimishe scholarship program, we have a new addition to our activities in *Kenya*. We decided to co-finance a shelter for abused girls, the *Kamarandi Girls Rescue Centre (KGRC)*, with 10,000 Euros. The centre was created in connection with a child protection project initiated by ChildFund Korea in 2018. The aim of the project is to provide a temporary sanctuary for girls who have been abused (e.g., incest) or are at risk of being abused, e.g., through child marriage or circumcision. The centre should eventually be able to accommodate around 100 girls and will gradually be taken into the care of the regional government authorities. The building complex has already been erected, as has a greenhouse, the nursery, which should guarantee the centre its own sources of income and offer the girls – in addition to ensure their school education – an opportunity to work. Currently the centre is home to 10 girls and is managed by four people employed by *Childrise Development Programme (CRDP)*²: a social worker, a Matron, a cook, and a groundsman/watchman. The centre will eventually serve Tharaka Nithi, Embu and Meru counties.



Part of KGRC-facility



KGRC-nursery

In principle, the stakeholders have already agreed to assume responsibility and basic funding in one to two years; a committee of 11 people from the various partners already exists. After ChildFund Korea has withdrawn its support, it is important to secure interim financing for further development; CDF and CRDP hold equal shares. We make further co-financing of this center dependent on verifiable progress. We assume that the center will be largely self-financing in three to four years.

Jambiani Girls' in Zanzibar make it to Upper Secondary

In the following, we would like to present also a success story from *Zanzibar* that our secretary *Sharifa Ali Kassim* put together. We are presenting it in an abbreviated form because we have already reported on the corresponding programme in previous newsletters.

² This is the corresponding regional programme of ChildFund Kenya with whom we cooperate.

The education system in Zanzibar/Tanzania has three levels: primary school (1-7), lower secondary school (F1-F4), upper secondary school (F5-F6).³ Only good/satisfactory grades on the national final examination of F4 entitle access to F5 and only successful completion of F6 entitles access to university. At the Jambiani Secondary School (JSS), which we have been supporting for a long time, all girls regularly failed the national final exam F4 until 2020. In a tutoring program, we selected 25 interested F4 students and gave them tutoring in the subjects English, mathematics, biology, and Kiswahili. A seven-member committee made up of teachers and community representatives oversaw the program. Four teachers, some unemployed, gave classes for a year under the direction of Sharifa Ali (additional to her secretarial function, an advanced student in medicine). After an intermediate examination, 11 of them were selected again to prepare for the final examination. Of the 11 candidates, four girls finally passed and are now attending upper secondary school in Stone Town with a CDF scholarship of 350 Euros each: Husna M. Mbuge, Fatma N. Khamis, Miza M. Makame and Mujibat A. Ayoub. Two other students from the tutoring program received CDF vocational school scholarships: Mwaka and Lutfia (their profiles are also on the CDF website). CDF invested about 3,200 Euros in the tutoring programme.



From left to right: Husna, Fatma, Mujibat, Miza

The four F5/F6 students are now members of *Jambiani Open Pass (JOP)*, a programme run by JSS that supports and mentors high school students because the relevant schools are in and around Zanzibar's capital city, i.e., 60-70 km away from the home-village. They survived

³ For more information on the education system of Tanzania compared to Kenya (written in connection with celebrating Nyerere's 100-year birthday) see the following link:
https://www.childdevelopmentfund.com/pdf/Nyerere_translated.pdf

their first year 2022 well; at the end of this year, we are expecting a successful degree so that all four young women can strive for their professional goals.

Husna's father is a fisherman, her mother a seamstress; she has seven siblings, so going to school “in the city” would have been out of the question for economic reasons alone. She has chosen chemistry, biology and geography as her main subjects and would like to become a doctor like her uncle one day.

Fatma is the eldest daughter of a poor family of five. She is self-confident and wants to stop being a burden to her parents as soon as possible. But not, she says, through the usual way of an early marriage, but through the profession of a trained nurse in order to be able to support her family and younger siblings.

Mujibat's father died young and the single mother struggles to make ends meet with her seven children (5 daughters, 2 sons). Mujibat would like to follow in the footsteps of her older brother, who is already studying and wants to become a judge or a lawyer like him.

Miza is the daughter of hard-working farmers and has two sisters and three brothers. She chose Arabic, Kiswahili and English as her main subjects and would like to become a health officer like her aunt.

Despite the – at least partial – success, we discontinued the tutoring program, first because “effort” and “return” of the pilot project did not seem entirely balanced to us, but above all because it is very difficult to find a committed and reliable team of tutors to put together from the distance. Our secretary Sharifa reports that the results of the F4 national exams that have just been published in the JSS are again miserable: not a single girl has made the entitlement to transit into the upper secondary school. We are thinking about starting the program again but did not yet decide.

At the end of this newsletter again the **CDF-Budget** (Euro) for 2022 in rough figures:

Income		Expenditure	
General donations*	6,070	<i>Ukraine:</i>	10,000
Special donations **	11,000	<i>Kenya:</i>	
Extraordinary donations ***	4,475	31 scholarships à Ø ca. 350 €	10,850
		3 scholarships à Ø 700 €	2,100
		1 Computer	200
		Administration (ca.10%)	1,400
		<i>Tanzania/Zansibar</i>	
		Secretary Sharifa	1,400
		Scholarship Sharifa	1,400
		4 scholarships F5, F6 à 350	1,400
		4 scholarships à 700	2,800
		3 Computer à ca. 200	600
		Maintenance eLMS ¹⁾	3,300
Total	21,545	Total	35,450

*) Donations from relatives, friends, acquaintances, colleagues

**) Exceptional donations from friends, acquaintances, colleagues, inclusive own contribution (€3.000; 3x€2.000; 2x€1.000);

***) Selling of Tinga-Tinga pictures from the gallery Barbara Schmid-Heidenhain (www.tingatinga-Berlin.de).

1) professional re-installation of electronic learning management system (eLMS), reparation of computer, installation, and maintenance of internet-connection at Jambiani Secondary School (Habesh IT company).

The total expenses for 2022 exceed the gratifyingly high income, mainly because of the special expenses for Ukrainian children. Because of the extraordinary donation last year (see CDF Newsletter 21), we still have reserves, so that we can easily cope with the initial donation of 10,000 Euro for the "Kamarandi Refuge Center for Girls" this year. However, subsequent support of this center is likely. Furthermore, we do not rule out another special donation to children in Ukraine. The current liabilities of the now increased number of scholarship holders in Kenya and Zanzibar of 20-25,000 Euros also prompt us not to diminish our fundraising activities. Finally, due to inflation and the weak Euro, an increase in scholarships is also to be expected.

We are once again very pleased with the loyalty of our donors. Thank you all very much. We also ask for suggestions in response to this news and for further project support.⁴

Barbara und Günther Schmid⁵

Berlin, 07 Februar 2023

⁴ Contributions should be sent to: Child Development Fund (CDF) (Barbara and Günther Schmid), Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Stuttgart, Swift Code/BIC: BFSWDE33STG; IBAN: DE98 6012 0500 0007 7818 26. Important! **Please give your private address with the donation**, and ChildFund Deutschland (Nürtingen) will send you a receipt for contributions to a recognised charity.

⁵ Emails und Homepages: schmidhdb@aol.com; gues@guenterschmid.de; www.childdevelopmentfund.com; www.editionpamoja.de; www.guenterschmid.eu; www.tingatinga-berlin.de