



Baunatal in December, 2012

Dear Sponsors of children in Kenya, Dear Friends of the project and Kenya,

With the end of the year approaching, the most dominant theme in Kenya are the coming elections in Spring 2013. In the media there are reports of coalitions of parties and politicians and speculations about the candidates' chances and the prospects for the country after the election.

Kenya is on the road to normality and with it economic and political stability will come, regardless of which parties or candidates win the election. The country is moving ahead and letting bad events such as the campaign in Somalia, drought and famine in the North, the aftermath of the riots of the last elections and much more behind.

The economy is growing, foreign investors (including China) are flocking to the country and also the tourism sector has recovered significantly. The icing on the cake was the re-election of the 'other' Kenyan President (Obama). In short: the people of Kenya feel confident again about the future.

However it does not have only positive implications for Mekaela Academies, but we will refer to that later. What else did the year 2012 bring for our employees, schools, children and their families?

The FANYA Hunger Relief campaign was completed with a final supply delivered to the Turkana region in April. Approximately 140 tonnes of relief supplies were brought by teachers, parents and other volunteers to the region devastated by drought and hunger. On the way back our helpers brought two orphan girls who now go to the LPS in the boarding section and will be able to receive an education up to the university. The girls will be financed through the Hamsini sponsorship programme.

The Heshima Primary School (HPS) is now a fully fledged boarding school with dormitories for boys and girls and in the near future a teacher house enabling HPS to obtain its licence so that it will be approved for the final exams in 2013. The One World Foundation in Oldenburg has gone to great lengths in increasing the development of HPS this year.

Since the middle of this year, all students have basic medical care through the "Mekaela Micro Medical Scheme", in short MMMS. This was made possible by the long-term funding commitment thanks to the company Rudolph Logistics Group in Baunatal, which secures care for more than 700 children. The MMMS scheme is successful, we will be considering to extend the scheme to the children's families on from 2014.

In addition to school education, the career progress of our protégés receives more and more significance. As of today most sponsors support their sponsored children after completing school by helping finance studies at college and university. Since this year, the Lulu students also have the opportunity to start obtaining a pilot licence during their education, ensuring them only three years later after their A-levels a career with an airline too. On from 2013 we would like to set up a teaching

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college together with the hotels of the Kampa family (Diani Sea Lodge, Diani Sea Resort) specifically for training in the hotel industry. This college would especially offer those graduates a chance, who did not qualify to study at university.

In the meantime here are a few pieces of information concerning the internal goings-on within our society:

Frank Müther who together with Micki and Stefan founded Mekaela Academies in 1993, who since his stroke in 2009 lives in a nursing home in Germany, will be moving to Kenya in December. He will be able to participate actively in the supervision of the schools and realign his life anew. Mekaela Academies are Frank's life's work and after 20 years of dedication to the project he has earned this more than anything. All 165 employees of the schools welcome Frank and look forward to seeing him again after more than three years.

Watoto e.V. was able to (or rather had to) grow this year. In order to meet the requirements of the DZI, the Watoto Board increased to three members, who should not be related in any way. This was not easy as we came to realise that most members were related either biologically or through marriage or were otherwise similarly connected. The number of members was therefore increased to 14 and we have been able to take in new blood and talent into our group of members. For further information about Watoto and Mekaela Academies you may refer as always to our internet homepage [www.watoto.de](http://www.watoto.de) via 'Impressum' as well as 'Downloads'. Should you not have internet, we are more than happy to forward such information via post on request.

Now for the last issue we have saved something which is a bit on the down-side:

Although Kenya's economic stabilisation is positive - it has a price. New personal needs arise and it can not be avoided that people ask for higher wages, those especially who have been neglected so far. So it came to be that the government increased teachers' salaries on an average of 40%, but also the police and army have been duly considered by pay-increase.

That pushes inflation higher of course and Mekaela Academies has felt it too. Teachers' salaries had to be increased by up to 20% to close the gap to public schools at least a bit. That is obviously not without impact on the school fees, which consequently must be increased by almost 10%.

At least we are able to keep the sponsorship fees for present sponsors unchanged, as they had after all supported the increase for MMMS last year. For new sponsors however the sponsorship fees will increase, as will the costs for sponsors whose pupils will be changing from primary to Lulu High School.

We can not complain however, as this is a reflection of the fact that Kenya is slowly but surely making progress in improving the standard of living for its people. And this is actually also a goal we wish to achieve with Mekaela Academies.

On behalf of our children and their families we would like to thank for your helpfulness and loyalty, and your active participation in increasing their standard of living.

We wish you a Merry and Joyous Christmas and a good start to a Healthy New Year.

Best wishes from the team of  
**Watoto e.V.**