



„Pili pili usiyoilala yakuwashini?“<sup>1</sup> Sometimes we wonder if we are still on the right track. For example, when friends from Africa draw our attention to the fact that "development aid" is a thing of the past. There are even African TV series that make fun of Europeans who 'care' about Africa and turn the world view satirically. For example, "Usoni", a TV series in Kenya, which is based on the following science fiction scenario: in the year 2063, Europe is devastated by volcanic eruptions, droughts, or floods.<sup>2</sup> So, the Europeans set out to flee in masses to the south. Many boats capsize, many fleeing people die. Those who make it face harassing African immigration authorities and the underlying racism of wealthy Africans.

Is it time, then, to end our engagement and, as the saying goes at the beginning, to mind our own business? We think no, even if our pensive "after-thinking" does not come to rest. Perhaps our readers of this report have some wise advice? In the following we start with two success stories from Kenya, complement them with another one from Tanzania-Zanzibar and end with information about the recent development of our small foundation.

### **Two success stories from Kenya<sup>3</sup>**

Doreen Kageni is now 25 years old and lives in a family of six (mother, three sisters, one brother; father died in an accident a few years ago) in Mutonga Municipality in Tharaka Nithi County, near Mount Kenya. The parents run a subsistence farm on their small piece of land and grow drought-resistant crops such as cereal and legumes. To improve the agricultural yield, the mother produces charcoal and offers it for sale. Low rainfall and frequent droughts in this area severely reduce agricultural yields. Due to the high level of poverty in the family, Doreen and her siblings enrolled in school late. They could not afford school uniforms, books, bags, and other items needed at school. Food is a basic need, but it was never enough for this family. With the support of the CDF, Doreen obtained a secondary school diploma (in 2017), and after four years at Embu college successfully completed a diploma course in accounting (in 2021). ChildFund Kenya, the partner organization for the implementation of the CDF projects in Kenya, also trained her to mobilize and advocate against child marriage and against drug abuse by the youth.

Doreen is currently working as an accounting assistant at Venus Hotel in Embu city. The CDF scholarship project accompanied her entire training path. In addition to relieving family income, the scholarship enabled her to attend school and college regularly and study smoothly; the school uniform boosted her self-esteem; reading materials improved her grades and thus led to her professional success.

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<sup>1</sup> Literally: "Why is the pepper you don't eat too hot for you?"

<sup>2</sup> Usoni means „future“; access to the series: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3362112/>

<sup>3</sup> We draw from the reports provided from our partner organization "ChildFund Kenya": authors Lucy Mwendu and Jane Atieno Ogotu; photographers David Mugambi and Edna.

Doreen and her whole family have seen a positive change since enrolling in the CDF-Nielimishe project. Doreen can now even use her income to pay the school fees for her younger siblings who still go to school. She is also active as a choir mistress at her local church. Doreen sends us this message: “I feel very grateful and blessed to the Nielimishe scholarship project for being there for me. I have truly realized my dream of becoming an accountant.”



Doreen (third from left) with family members at the graduation day

Doreen leading a song at the church

*Jane Atieno Ogotu* is now 24 years old and lives in Kagwa Village, North Rachuonyo District, Homa-Bay County (Lake Victoria). She is the fourth child in a family of eight: two brothers and three sisters, both parents are still alive. We let Jane speak for herself:

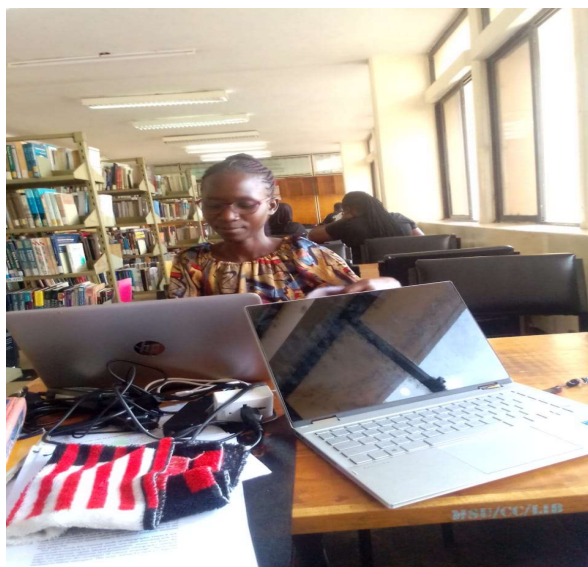
“I did my KCPE and scored 358 in Soko Kagwa Primary School in our village.<sup>4</sup> After that, I attended Nyangajo Girls High School in Rachuonyo North District and progressed to Maseno University, where I did a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and Anthropology with IT [...]. I am a mentor, role model and volunteer in SOS Villages Kisumu, and in the Kendu-Bay Child and Family Program. I have been involved in mentoring young girls and educating them on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) issues and challenges that affect them. This has been achieved through training that has positively changed their lives compared to before. I am currently volunteering at SOS Villages Kisumu. and I am waiting for the final graduation in December.

After I finished primary school [...] my parents and siblings were very happy because I was the first in our family to complete KCPE. I am the fourth child in our family and the first three never got past the seventh grade because my family had lived in poverty for a long time [...] Despite my good grades, my parents could not support my studies because they had a

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<sup>4</sup> The Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) is awarded to students after completing 8 years of primary school. A maximum of 500 points can be earned. For a comparison of the Tanzanian and Kenyan education systems see [https://www.guenterschmid.eu/pdf/discussion/Mwalimu\\_Nyerere.pdf](https://www.guenterschmid.eu/pdf/discussion/Mwalimu_Nyerere.pdf).

very low income and my other siblings also needed attention and support. This situation made it difficult and therefore there was no one to fund my high school education as my uncle who used to fund my elementary school education had also retired. Looking back, I saw that my rescue had nowhere to come from as my parents could only afford basic needs and education was only a secondary need for me. I lost hope as there was nothing to do.



Jane doing personal studies at the University library



Jane sensitising young school girls on sexual reproductive health.

My mother could not rest. She had sleepless nights [...] and looked for scholarships, but all in vain. But ChildFund was the only rescue for my academic life. My mother became a member of TOD (Tego Od Dayo), a House of Nanny Empowerment programme implemented by the Lake Region Development Programme and ChildFund in Kendu Bay. The members of the established VSL groups, including my mother, were able to take part in various training courses on income-generating activities. After picking up the skills, my mom started vegetable gardening where she planted kale in three gurney bags and cassava. This helped us to get something to eat and to have at least two meals a day. With the help of the VSL program, my mother was also able to come up with some savings and loans, which also gave her money to meet my other siblings' educational needs such as exam fees and other school needs.<sup>5</sup>

Through this project I also joined the CDF funded TOD-Nielimishe programme which has since offered me a full scholarship. And so, my tuition fees were paid in full from the ninth grade in secondary school through the fourth year of college. The overpayment was transferred to my younger brother who is also at the university, so it was a double benefit for both of us. I stayed at the school with absolutely no problems as I received full school fees, sanitary towels, full school uniform, all revision books, a laptop, and an accommodation fee.

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<sup>5</sup> VSL = Voluntary Savings and Loans; for more information see G. Schmid and B. Schmid-Heidenhain (2013), Mikrofinanzierung als Entwicklungshilfe. Sparen & Leihen als Alternative zu Mikrokrediten? Erfahrungen aus Ostafrika [Microfinancing as development aid: Saving & Loans as alternative to micro-credits? Experiences from East Africa], edition pamoja; electronic version in German: <http://www.amazon.de/Mikrofinanzierung-als-Entwicklungshilfe-Alternative-Mikrokrediten/dp/3000403752>. A video on Savings & Loans exemplified with two VS&L-Groups in Kenya can be downloaded at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7B-TP6TIqPY>.



This happened through my beloved friends Barbara and Günther Schmid. I felt very nice and the only reward was hard work, and I made it.

The Nielimishe-TOD project has brought about significant changes in my life. For example, through the intervention of the programme, I managed to go to high school on a full scholarship, which was a dream come true depending on the situation at the time. The scholarship allowed me to continue my studies regularly, which eventually gave me the opportunity to study at the university and pay the tuition fees in full. [...] After graduating later this year, I envision a brighter future and will continue to mentor young girls. I will end with a quote from Lupita Nyong'o: 'No matter where you come from, your dreams are valued.'"

### A success story from Tanzania-Zanzibar

*Fatma Ameir Hassan* was born in 1988 as the daughter of Safia and Ameir Hassan. She has two brothers and three sisters, and she grew up in Jambiani village at the east coast of Unguja Island in Zanzibar. With the support of CDF, she was studying *Medical Laboratory Science* at the College of Health Science Mbweni Zanzibar from September 2011 to September 2014. The yearly support of € 1,000 included the full coverage of inscription, tuition and examination fees, the costs of field studies, regular book allowances and the major part of accommodation costs.

Fatma had to work hard to get through the many modules of her study: Diagnostic Pathology, Laboratory Diagnostic Cytology, Preparation of Laboratory Stains and Solution, Laboratory Reagents and Culture Media Preparation, Preparation of Laboratory Biological Product, and Laboratory Quality System Management. *Diagnostic Pathology* contained seven Modules which are the basic of laboratory work: Hematology, Parasitology, Microbiology, Entomology, Histology, Chemistry, Blood transfusion. *Laboratory Diagnostic Cytology* is a single module but contains some topics of Histology. Each module had a Continuous Assessment (60%) and Semester Exams (20%) which then were added with Field Studies (20%) to get the single mark for the respective module. Fatma's last semester examinations started on July 2014 and took three weeks to complete. Now, she is extremely happy to have passed the Diploma with good results.



Fatma at her diploma celebration day



Fatma in the laboratory at Jambiani Health Centre

After her successful study, getting a job was almost more difficult. The first two years, Fatma worked without pay as a volunteer, and only after some intervention, including a visit by us at the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar, she got there a fulltime job as Laboratory Technician Officer at the Jambiani Hospital. She now performs laboratory investigations in Parasitology, Hematology, Bacteriology, Serology, Blood Transfusion, Clinical Chemistry and Histopathology, collection of blood from patients and proper preservation of specimens, laboratory investigations and procedures. She is also responsible to ensure the laboratory is well kept and that the equipment and reagents are in good working order. When we visited Fatma in 2018, she proudly and expertly explained the instruments in the laboratory of the Hospital of Jambiani, and she let us participate in a practical laboratory test (HIV): In taking the test, Fatma dealt with the young couple in a sovereign way like an experienced doctor.

### **News from Kenya**

On April 24, we received a 35-page interim report for the six months from September 2022 to March 2023, along with four individual success stories and letters of thanks from all scholarship recipients. The profiles of the supported boys and girls, along with photos, were deepened in the Mutonga region, which we asked for. The issue of books for the repetition of the teaching material was – also as we desired – expanded, with individual special requests being addressed. At least once a year there is a meeting of all with instructions in sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) as well as an exchange of experiences among each other and with alumni. We agreed with ChildFund Kenya to provide computers for all six college or university students; in addition, all scholarship holders receive a one-time transfer of 5,000 KSH (about 33 euros) for personal use. The total CDF commitments for the Nielimishe project in budget year May 2023 to April 2024 are approximately €18,200. In the next newsletter we will also report on the progress at the “Kamarandi Refuge Center for Girls.”<sup>6</sup>

### **News from Tanzania-Zanzibar**

Sharifa Kassid Ali, our capable secretary in Zanzibar, reported in detail on the budget for 2022-2023 on May 5th. We are currently supporting 11 scholarship holders, four of them in secondary school F5/F6. All four have cleared the next hurdle to advance to class F6. Like the scholarship holders in vocational training, they report regularly on the progress of their studies, sometimes with detailed information on the use of the scholarship. We have not yet decided on the applications of three other candidates, including a boy.

In addition, we continued to invest – with a total amount of € 2,400 – in the IT infrastructure of the Jambiani Secondary School (JSS), supported by a professional IT company and the Tanzanian Institute for Education in Dar es Salaam: installation and monitoring of a high-quality host computer for the eLMS (€1,200); annual costs for maintaining the Internet (€ 1,200); creation of an electronic library. The computer equipment at JSS will be supplemented by a Belgian NGO with which we cooperate. The total financial commitments for the current year are approximately €9,400.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to all our donors. For further project support, the following **important information** from our umbrella organization ChildFund Deutschland should be observed: The BICs and IBANs of all accounts of the “Bank für Sozialwirtschaft”

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<sup>6</sup> Those readers interested in more can receive the pdf of the whole report.

were recently changed; the account of our CDF-foundation is also affected. We kindly request you to use the new number below; donations via the old account will be considered until the end of 2024.<sup>7</sup>

Barbara Schmid-Heidenhain and Günther Schmid<sup>8</sup>

Berlin, 29 June 2023

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<sup>7</sup> Contributions should be sent to: Child Development Fund (CDF) (Barbara and Günther Schmid), Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Stuttgart, Swift Code/BIC: BFSWDE33XXX; IBAN: DE45 3702 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

<sup>8</sup> Emails and Homepages: [schmidhdb@aol.com](mailto:schmidhdb@aol.com); [gues@guenterschmid.de](mailto:gues@guenterschmid.de); [www.childdevelopmentfund.com](http://www.childdevelopmentfund.com); [www.editionpamoja.de](http://www.editionpamoja.de); [www.guenterschmid.eu](http://www.guenterschmid.eu); [www.tingatinga-berlin.de](http://www.tingatinga-berlin.de)