



Akili nyingi huondoa maarifa, in English: “Too much intelligence drives out skills.” A recent experience with artificial intelligence (AI) reminds us of this saying: A former CDF scholarship holder in Kenya, who earns a low salary as a non-permanent chemistry and physics teacher and got into financial difficulties for family reasons (death of a family member, operation), asked for support and generally offered his services in return. One of the adventurous ideas we came up with was to have him translate a long German text into English with the help of AI – financed from our own resources – even though he hardly understands a word of German.¹ He succeeded brilliantly with the help of several translation programs, with the additional advantage for us that he was now able to understand our assessment of Kenya and to correct some (marginal) points. Of course, the time saved was not significant for us, because his drafts had to be revised – with some back and forth – to iron out both the 'stupidities' of AI and his own misunderstandings. The result is impressive.² In our experience, such translation programs are getting better and better (unfortunately not yet for Swahili-German-Swahili), but – as with digital calculators – they tempt you not to use anymore the skills you have learned (in this case, mastery of foreign languages) or even develop them further.

One more note before we get down to business. In the last newsletter we indicated that it might be time to close the foundation for reasons of our age. We also indicated a process of reflection and can now report on the result. After an exchange with our umbrella organization ChildFund Germany (director Alexander Busl), we have decided to formally dissolve the foundation at the end of the year. The funds still available (including the foundation's capital of 35,000 euros) are to be spent on current projects over a period of three to five years. This decision was made despite the overall very positive result of our extensive "contemplation" in connection with our last trip to Kenya.³ Further donations to the CDF are therefore no longer necessary from next year. Of course, we will continue to follow up the projects and to report on the results, especially since some changes may still occur here and there.⁴

¹ It is the matter of an essay in German „Bildung in Afrika. Wie leistungsfähig sind die Bildungssysteme in Kenia und Tansania? Historischer Rückblick und aktueller Vergleich“, downloadable at the CDF-Website: https://www.childdevelopmentfund.com/pdf/Bildung_Kenia_Tansania_Vergleich.pdf.

² See: https://www.childdevelopmentfund.com/pdf/GueS_RAO_Education_Kenya_Tanzania-1.pdf.

³ The result, a 62-page multimedia report (with photos, hyperlinks, videos), will soon be made available in German and English on the Internet (with a corresponding link on the CDF website). We have already sent a printed German version to several major donors and are happy to make it available to any donor upon request.

⁴ For example, we are in contact with the Teacher Center in the south of Zanzibar, which looks after and supervises around 80 schools; there is a possible cooperation with the respective regional government in which we participate in the further training of teachers, especially in connection with the introduction of eLMS (electronic Learning Management System).

In *Tanzania/Zanzibar*, our secretary Sharifa Ali Kassim reports good news⁵: Of the current 13 scholarship holders, Mayasa has completed her diploma in IT and Sharifa her bachelor's degree in medicine with a focus on environmental sciences; as usual, the results are still pending (until the graduation ceremony). The four upper secondary school students (F5, F6) – Husna, Fatma, Mujibat, Miza – have also successfully completed school. All four have been accepted for a three-year bachelor's degree, so we have decided to support them for a further three years with a scholarship of 1,000 euros each per year (plus a one-off payment for a computer). Mujibat Abdulmutiq Ayoub has chosen to study 'Human Resources Management', Husna Mussa Mbuge 'Business Information Technology'; Miza Mtumwa Makame 'Education (English, Arabic)', and Fatma Nadhif Khamis 'Tourism Management'. These scholarships mainly cover the relatively expensive tuition fees.

Furthermore, we also have a new and special scholarship holder: Mukrim Haji Shaka, whom we met on various visits to the secondary school in Jambiani. Mukrim is the fourth child in a large family. His father is a fisherman and his mother works in the seaweed farms. Their income is therefore very modest and volatile. Mukrim is blind but still managed to complete secondary school (F4). He is determined to become a journalist and has now received a study permit at the Zanzibar State University. A teacher from the secondary school is looking after him and we have decided – given the circumstances – to provide him a generous scholarship; a German visitor to the school with whom we are in contact is covering a quarter of the costs.⁶

We can conclude this part of the report with a 'contemporary' story, which Sharifa Ali Kassim has prepared and which we therefore reproduce 'uncensored':

“Empowering Dreams: Success Story of Sabiha Bandari Ame



Born in 2002 in Jambiani Mwendawima village, Zanzibar, Sabiha Bandari Ame grew up as the lastborn in a family of 11 children. Her story is one of resilience, willpower, and the strength that gets support to lead one out of difficult situations. Raised by a financially constrained family, her journey through school was an uphill task, but later it became the stepping stone to her success.

Jambiani Kikadini Nursery School was the earliest station of education in her native town, followed by Jambiani Primary School, and then Jambiani Secondary School. Financial hardship brought in by her parents was a decisive barrier in the way of Sabiha's higher education. She also did not do well enough in her Form 4 results to carry her through to advanced level. But Sabiha had something in her mind: her dream to become a journalist. Instead of repeating her exams, Sabiha plunged directly into journalism as this was what she has been passionate about.

⁵ The report can be made available upon request.

⁶ See again the profile in more detail on the CDF-Website.

It so happened that her principal, Mr. Yussuf Saburi, and the assistant principal, Mr. Abdallah Mussa recommended her to Child Development Fund. With their encouragement, Sabiha submitted her records to CDF, after which she was selected to the CDF-scholarship-programme. Yet, it was her choice of journalism – an unusual pursuit among the kids supported by CDF, which made her an asset to the organization itself and promising returns to the community and possibly to whole Zanzibar.

Sabiha started her certificate in Journalism at Mwenge Community College in Amani, Zanzibar, in 2020 and went further for a diploma at the Morogoro School of Journalism up until her graduation in 2024. Over these years, all from tuition and study materials down to daily needs like transport and even food was provided by CDF, right down to assisting her family when things were tough. This support allowed Sabiha to focus on her studies and divest herself of the weight of financial burdens.



CDF's commitment to her growth did not stop at financial aid alone; they gave her the confidence to pursue a passion in journalism and community storytelling. Equipped with such skills, Sabiha was able to unlock not only academic success but also her entrepreneurial potential. Today, she and her husband have risen to become successful content creators in TikTok, Instagram and YouTube. This also brought in sponsorships from several companies, providing a good stream of income for her family. Sabiha's journey came full circle when today, she herself employed people, contributing toward the growth of her community.

Sabiha's story of success epitomizes the power of education coupled with support. She could not only achieve her dream of

being a journalist, but also earn a livelihood that is sustainable, thus inspiring other young women in her village. This would not have been possible without CDF, which gave her the foundation to realize her dreams and break free from the constraints of poverty. She expresses her immense gratitude to Barbara and Günther, the founders of CDF, and to all those who supported her, like CDF-secretary Sharifa, her parents and teachers. Their encouragement propelled her into a better future and proved that with the right support, dreams can indeed become true.”

In the *Kenya* section of this report, we limit ourselves to the most important news, because the scholarship program (currently 34 scholarship holders) is on its good way, so we can postpone the details (including one or two success stories) of the development to the next report, along with the upcoming CDF budget for 2024.

Reforms by the Kenyan government have led ChildFund Kenya and the regional NGO Childrise, with whom we work together (see CDF Newsletter 24), to give up the day-to-day management of Kamarandi Girls Rescue Centre (KGRC) by June 2025 and hand over full control to the Department of Children's Services and the Tharaka Nithi District Government. Should the centre cease operations due to the girls' successful reintegration into family-based care, the facility will be transferred to the nearby Kamarandi Secondary School and used as a boarding school for senior girls, ensuring that the infrastructure continues to benefit the local community.

KGRC currently cares for 13 girls. Investments in a solar-powered water pump on the nearby Mutonga River have been successfully completed, partly with CDF funding. However, KGRC's ambitions to generate its own income through agriculture and livestock farming appear to have been abandoned. Positions for new leadership and support staff have been advertised. The transition to the new structure is estimated to take one year, with the corresponding budget for the entire year 2025 at approximately USD 19,000. The financing of the transition is still unclear. A detailed report on the KGRC's activities in 2024 is still pending.

This new development prompted us to refrain from further investments in the center and at most to take on some enriched scholarships for girls to complete secondary school.

We would like to cordially thank once again our donors for their loyalty to our foundation and their many moral supports. Below you find the necessary information in case for another support in this year.⁷

Günther Schmid and Barbara Schmid-Heidenhain⁸

Berlin, November 14, 2024

⁷ 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 **yearly receipt for contributions** to a recognised charity.

⁸ Emails and homepages: schmidhdb@aol.com; gues@guenterschmid.de; www.childdevelopmentfund.com; www.editionpamoja.de; www.guenterschmid.eu; www.tingatinga-berlin.de