



Aliyetangulia katangulia; afuataye akazane – the one who is ahead is ahead; the one who follows must try. “Ahead” is our decision (see CDF-Newsletter Nr. 25) to end our CDF-foundation in the medium-term, what “follows” are efforts to make the best out of this situation. So, the next newsletters will report about these attempts. And as also promised in the last newsletter, today the emphasis will be on Kenya. But before turning to this side of our activities, we provide a brief account of the development in Zanzibar (Tanzania).

Good news first from our 14 students in the scholarship programme: Three of them have now received their Diploma certificate: Mayasa Sinatama Makame in “Information and Communication Technology with Business” and a “First Class” degree; Leila Suleiman Hassan in “Information Technology” with very good results; and Sabiha Bandari Ame excelled in “Journalism”; one of them – our CDF secretary Sharifa Kassid Ali – got her “Bachelor of Degree of Science in Environmental Health” with outstanding results and a “First Class” degree. We rewarded all four with a transition scholarship of half a year. Whereas Sabiha practices already her occupation with great success (see her story in the last Newsletter), Sharifa entered a one-year internship and proceeds with great talent and effort in her CDF secretary job. We intend to prepare a success story of Sharifa for the next Newsletter and add two of the many pictures from the diploma ceremonies of Mayasa (left) and Leila (right). All other students proceed well and document their progress in half-year reports.



Finally, we engaged in a larger project after careful preparation and assuring at least some co-financing support from the regional government in Zanzibar-South. We quote from the Memorandum of Understanding signed by CDF, the responsible project managers **and** the regional government:

KITOGANI TEACHERS CENTRE E-LEARNING LAB DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Kitogani Teachers Centre (KTC) E-Learning Lab Development Project is an initiative by the Child Development Fund (CDF) to establish a functional computer lab aimed at enhancing teacher skills and resources within the South District, Zanzibar. This lab will support continuous professional development, improve teaching quality, and introduce e-learning resources to educators. The project includes a structured Teaching Teachers Plan (TTP) for sustainable impact.

In cooperation with a Belgian NGO (“Friends of Jambiani”), the computers and the eLMS programme have already been installed in the lab and they are well functioning. The one thing remaining is the implementation of the TTC-plan for both head masters/mistresses and teachers for secondary schools only and the installation (plus maintenance, fees for internet) of the programme to those schools where eLMS is not yet available. Altogether, 249 teachers are involved who will be trained in two to three days weekend sessions and in rotating groups in the size of about twenty. Continuous monitoring and a final evaluation are foreseen. CDF will engage in this project with about 7,000 Euro. The project shall be finished in May/June this year.

Below a picture from the KTC-Lab:



And now to Kenya: On March 11, we had a Teams-meeting with Dr. Issa Kipera, some key members of ChildFund Kenya, and Monika Wiegand¹ based on an intensive exchange of memos before. The intention was to clear the most recent developments and how to organize our activities in the next three to four years when our engagement probably comes to an end. We came up with the following conclusions:

First, regarding the **Kamarandi Rescue Centre (KGRC)**, Childrise Development Programme of Kenya provided a long report of the activities in 2024 (available after request). We quote its summary assessment without going into details: “During the implementation period, KGRC actively engaged in advocacy initiatives, collaborating with local organizations and policymakers to raise awareness about children's rights. The center provided comprehensive care and support to rescued girls, offering shelter, nutrition, clothing, and medical attention. Emphasis was placed on psychosocial well-being, with counseling programs for emotional support and community outreach to address mental health stigma. Educational empowerment was a priority, ensuring rescued girls had access to quality education and the necessary resources for academic success. Life skills development initiatives aimed to empower the girls with practical skills and nurture their talents, fostering personal growth and resilience. The center also actively facilitated the reintegration of rescued girls into their families and communities, ensuring a holistic approach to their recovery and empowerment. All these accomplishments were made possible through funding from Child Development Fund (Professor Gunther Schmid), Childrise and ChildFund, highlighting the significant progress of the center in fulfilling its mandate. This success has strengthened stakeholders' confidence and optimism for continued collaboration with the Child Development Fund to further advance the center’s objectives.”

Yet, things developed in an unexpected way: the government taking over responsibility more quickly as we originally hoped. This is the consequence of a change in the official policy: The National government, through the Department of Children Services, decided to implement a fundamental care reform: childcare for orphans and vulnerable children is being shifted from institutional care into family-based settings, such as kinship or foster care. Because of this shift, it is only children in very difficult circumstances that will be admitted to rescue centers like KGRC, thus less children are expected to be staying at such centers. The government’s intention is therefore to invest more in the family-based care system. So, today, Childrise Kenya (in cooperation with ChildFund Kenya) is only partially responsible until the centre is handed over completely to the government. The exact procedure for the handover – and therefore any possible further need of support – will not be clarified until April 2025. Remains of previous contributions from CDF will be used to maintain the centre until June 2025. Any further investment costs for irrigation, drinking water and solar energy, both in connection with the nearby (primary, secondary or, following the education reform, "junior") schools, will be borne by ChildFund Kenya or its partner Childrise Kenya. Any income generating activities – as originally planned in agriculture or gardening, chicken farming plus possibly rearing goats – are now the responsibility of the schools nearby. Whether our recommendation is implemented to employ a professional (at least for the first three years) to produce not only for the schools, but also partly for the market, is not in our hands. Child Development Fund is currently only responsible for supporting two girls at the centre who will complete secondary school this year (F4) with modest scholarships.

¹ Monika Wiegand, representing ChildFund Deutschland, has extensive experiences from Ethiopia; she replaced Dr. Werner Kupper who assisted and supervised our Africa engagement from the beginning.

Second, the **Nielimishe scholarship programme** continues as usual this year.² If some of the currently 28 scholars finish secondary school successfully with their KCSE, the places will no longer be filled up as before. The *programme in the narrower sense* is therefore coming to an end, and its current total expenses (9,000 euros this year) will therefore decline. Since some years, the *programme in a broader sense* provides also post-secondary, i.e. “tertiary” scholarships. Currently, we are supporting eight of those scholars. We agreed that this element should initially be expanded as far as the CDF financial situation allows. ChildFund Kenya submitted three suggestions from Mutonga and five suggestions from Kendu Bay. We decided considering four of these eight suggestions; the selection of these four new post-secondary scholarships shall be made locally. The cost of this extension will be around 1,500 euros in Mutonga, around 1,000 euros in Kendu Bay, a total of 2,500 euros in addition to the current postsecondary programme costs of about 6.000 euros.

Silas Kinyua (CEO of Childrise Development Programme) and Lucy Mwendu (Programme and Sponsorship Coordinator) were so kind to provide a summarizing brief of our main activity in Mutonga and one individual success story:

Nielimishe Scholarship: Transforming Lives Through Education



Since its inception in 2009, the Nielimishe Scholarship Project has been a beacon of hope for bright students living in vulnerable situation in Kenya. Initiated by Professor Barbara and Gunther Schmid, founders of the Child Development Fund in Germany, the program is committed to fostering knowledge and skills that create lasting positive change for both

² We remind our readers of the long report of CDF’s engagement in Kenya published last year: The Child Development Fund (CDF) in Kenya: Useful NGO or post-colonial dream? [≥ pdf](#). The videos in this PDF are not supported by the browser; please download the file and open it with Adobe Reader.

individuals and society. Its primary goal is to support orphaned and disadvantaged children, enabling them to access quality education from Form 1 to Form 4. Over 120 students in the Childrise Program area received support from this life-changing opportunity.

More than just financial aid, the Nielimishe project provides holistic support that extends beyond the classroom. Participants receive mentorship, career guidance, and encouragement to strive for academic excellence. This comprehensive approach ensures that students not only excel in their studies but also develop life skills and confidence necessary for a successful future. The program's focus on personal growth and career preparation has made it a transformative force in the lives of many young people.

For outstanding students, the journey does not end at high school graduation. The scholarship opens doors to post-secondary education, empowering them to pursue higher learning and secure brighter futures. "I had lost hope after my parents passed away, but Nielimishe gave me a chance to dream again," says Jane, a program participant. "Thanks to their support, I have completed my degree and am ready to give back to my community." Through stories like Jane's, the Nielimishe Scholarship continues to inspire and transform lives, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

Nicodemus Musyoki Kiriungi's story is one of determination, hope, and the transformative power of education. Coming from a humble background, he lives with his parents who are small-scale farmers. Their livelihood has been severely affected by climate change, and their small plot of land, situated near the Tana River, is constantly threatened by the destructive force of hippos. With five siblings all in school, the financial strain is immense, making their dreams of a brighter future seem increasingly difficult to achieve.

Despite these hardships, Nicodemus has remained focused on his studies, consistently scoring top marks. His ambition, however, seemed out of reach due to the family's diminishing income. This is where the Nielimishe Scholarship came in, offering a lifeline. "The



scholarship gave me a chance to show my true potential," Nicodemus says. "Without it, I don't know where I would be today." Through this support, Nicodemus completed his secondary education at Nkubu High School-Meru with flying colours, earning a B plain in his 2024 exams.

This achievement opened the door to a bright future: he secured a place at the Kenya Medical Training College in Mswambweni, where he will begin his diploma in clinical medicine and surgery on March 28, 2025. The course will take five years to complete – three years for the diploma, followed by two years to earn his degree. "I never thought I would have the opportunity to pursue medicine," Nicodemus shares, his voice filled with gratitude. "Now, I feel that all things are possible."

The Nielimishe Scholarship has already changed the lives of many bright students, offering them an opportunity that they would otherwise never have had. "Thanks to this scholarship, my dreams are no longer just dreams," Nicodemus explains. "I am on my way to becoming a doctor, and I will use my education to help my community."

Nicodemus also extends his heartfelt thanks to Dr. Schmid and Barbara, whose tireless efforts have made this scholarship possible, allowing students like Nicodemus to succeed. "Your support has been a beacon of hope for me and many others," he says. "I am forever grateful." Furthermore, he thanks the Childrise team for their continuous mentorship, guiding the students in shaping their futures. "Their support has been invaluable in helping us grow into young adults who can make a real difference in society," he adds. This is not just a story of academic success; it is a testament to the life-changing impact that education can have when supported by generous donors like you. Your contributions allow students like Nicodemus to break free from the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future for themselves and their families. Thank you for making a difference.

To these success stories we can add another – a more personal one. If you were able to read our report “The Child Development Fund (CDF) in Kenya,” you may remember the story “It all began with our godchild *Fridah Mutethia Mutiiria* 26 years ago” (pp.13-18) when Fridah was 12 years old. You may also remember that she suffered several fates in her development that are not uncommon for girls in East Africa: early pregnancy which interrupted her school education, early marriage with a man who ran away after he left her with two children, one of her younger brothers was killed for unknown reasons so that Fridah took over – in addition to her two children – responsibility for her mother and grandmother. When we met her a couple of years ago, she was desperate. We included her into the Nielimishe project to support her part-time college training to become an educator. During this long process we provided often additional private support until she finished at the end of last year her diploma. A few weeks ago, she reported happily: “I have been offered a job at EAPC NTHIGIRANI CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER. The school is located at Embu County, far from home. I was invited for interviews yesterday and yesterday evening I was called for job.” She got the job and moved with one of her children to Embu. Now, we can say: Eventually, she stands on her own two feet.

Coming to the end, we would like to draw your attention to the website of CDF: www.childdevelopmentfund.com, especially to “other media” where you find all the links to the most recent publications related to our engagement. Any feedback to these works will be welcome. Finally, we once again thank our donors for their loyalty to our foundation and their many moral supports. As noted already in the last newsletter, we do not expect any more regular contributions. Nevertheless, if you feel inspired through the current activities, we will not exclude the possible need or opportunity of additional support. In this case, please let us know; the bank information remains the same as in the last newsletter.

Günther Schmid and Barbara Schmid-Heidenhain³

Berlin, March 21, 2025

³ Emails and homepages: schmidhdb@aol.com; gues@guenterschmid.de; www.childdevelopmentfund.com; www.editionpamoja.de; www.guenterschmid.eu; www.tingatinga-berlin.de