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Jambo!

I wish all of you a peaceful and healthy New Year! Hopefully all of them are eagerly awaiting, finally the "news" from our children in Diani is coming.

In December 03 / January 04 my husband stayed for 6 weeks and me for 3 weeks in Diani Beach, Kenya. And there's really a lot to talk about, so I somehow do not even know where to start. Most important: the children are healthy, eagerly learn English and have a new teacher.

But in turn ...

Lucy (the "old" teacher) was high pregnant when we arrived in December 2003 and waited daily for the baby (for offspring is taken care of). Although there is neither "maternity leave" nor "parental leave" in Kenya, we decided on-site to grant Lucy a "maternity leave" of 3 months. She receives from our society about 33,- Euro per month in her maternity leave. Since Lucy lives exactly opposite the kindergarten (about 20 meters), she is still with the children every day, open the door in the morning and just keeps paying attention to everything. By the way, we waited in vain for the offspring in the 3 weeks, at the end of February 2004 a healthy girl was finally born.

Of course Lucy needed a substitute teacher, the children need the lessons and the regular nursery care. Right in the first week of January, Joshua (manager and local manager) introduced us to a Kenyan who would like to work. Miriam (the "new" teacher) comes from Ukunda (next 'bigger place) and has been teaching elementary school children since 1996. After the first lesson of the lesson, the children and we were excited about their teaching style. Miriam worked as a maternity protector with the children.

We have committed ourselves to help the children until the end of their compulsory education, so seven "our" big children had to say goodbye to their kindergarten buddies in the first week of January (2004). They were enrolled. Before, they had to measure the new school uniforms, shoes, stockings and sweaters, so that they could be bought in time. We decided not to allow children to attend a private school. They would prefer to live in front of the other children in their environment. But they should continue to be looked after in the state school through us. The school is in Ukunda and every day the

children have to go by bus. The bus money for these 7 young students is disproportionately high (1/3 of a monthly salary for a teacher).

#### **However, back to the kindergarten:**

with a big party on December 23, 2003, the "big ones" were bid farewell to the Christmas party. Chickens were slaughtered, 1 bag of rice bought, a goat (donated by Maria, German living in Kenya) had to "believe" in it, fruits, vegetables, milk and so on let the Christmas spirit really come up. The party with children and their parents has cost a total of about 80,00 Euro. And as Joshua told us almost apologetically, a lot of rice and milk would have been left over, so fortunately our children do not have to go hungry. Another German acquaintance who lives in Kenya and every two weeks looks after the right, bought for all children a "colorful plate" with many sweets. We were very happy about the many helpfulness on the ground in Kenya.

Since the vacant kindergarten places should always be "filled up" with new children, we had to introduce an age limit, otherwise the number of children would increase too quickly. New kindergarten children are now between three and four years old. Now 8 girls and boys learn together (we have also paid attention to the balanced quota!)

For the near future, it is necessary to buy a small piece of land for the kindergarten. In the past few months, the parish of the New Apostolic Church (our kindergarten is housed in the rooms of the church) had to move three times. Landowners are urged by the government's recent reforms to "decently cultivate" or sell their land. The first location of our kindergarten, right on the beach, belongs to the airline Kenya Airways, and they want to build hotels on their valuable land and is not interested in selling us a few square feet (would be too expensive).

The current location of the kindergarten about 5 minutes from the beach and is beautiful. The land is owned by the government and it allows the church and kindergarten to stay there free of charge. However, you never know for how long. For this property we have in January 2004 already made inquiries, inquiries at the "land registry", etc. The mills work but very slowly, applications disappear nowhere. Also, the first prices for the land must be obtained from Kenyans of our confidence, otherwise Europeans often have to pay the "white surcharge".

#### **For the daily lives of our children ...**

In January 2004, we bought new teaching material with Joshua (manager and administrator), Pens, a few uniforms had to be renewed and the 7 new kindergarten children needed their first uniforms for their kindergarten time. The 7 schoolchildren also got school uniforms, new shoes (some of them the first of their lives), stockings, textbooks, etc. Then Joshua asked if a pair of sweaters for the uniforms could be bought for the children during the coming rainy season and winter. In Kenya, winter is from June to September (which is the exact opposite of our seasons), but you have to imagine the winter with the lowest temperatures of about 19-20 degrees. Füruns still the most wonderful temperatures, but lousy cold for Kenyans. In otherwise average annual temperatures of 30-35 degrees understandable. So again taken measure and bought sweater.

Then we decided to buy a bike for Joshua (about 35, - Euro). Doing the daily "childrens garden errands" by bus (Matatu) is quite expensive over time. The presentation of the new bike for Joshua turned out to be slightly different than expected. We proudly showed him "his" new bike, but instead of cheering he looked embarrassed at this vehicle.

"Hm ..., unfortunately I can not ride a bike at all", he told us then. Okay, no problem. So the next days learning to ride a bike. What then after a few days reasonably folded.

In this first kindergarten year, we received a whopping 13,602.00 euros in donations. An amount that certainly did not even occur in our dreams at the beginning of our project. Class!!! Many, many thanks for the generous donations !!!

Our revenues and expenses have developed as follows:

Revenue	13,602.00 Euro
minus basic equipment and running costs 2 - 12/03	1.661,45 Euro
renewal d. Basic equipment 01/04	360,00 Euro
Prior payment 2004 lfd, costs	1.700.00 Euro
<b>credits</b>	<b>9.880,55 Euro</b>

The monthly costs amount to z. Currently about 240, - Euro for two salaries (cook and teacher), 1 maternity leave, meals, medicines, travel expenses, teaching materials, miscellaneous, everything for 23 children (16 kindergarten and 7 schoolchildren) i. about 10.50 Euro per child per month.

Thus, we have the future of the children once very well secured. However, if in the near future, a property can be purchased, this credit probably not enough. The government is still silent about land prices at the moment. But let's see.

Here in Bremen a lot is happening behind the scenes again: on **November 12, 2004** (due to the deadline !!!) a big concert will take place in Ritterhude (near Bremen) on a school on **November 13, 2004** (Make an appointment !!!) also organized a big Christmas bazaar at school. 50% of the net income goes to the Children's Funding Association in India and **50% to our Kindergarten KID Kindergarten in Diani**. Is that not great !!!

The details will be later.

**But dates necessarily keep clear and look over?!**

Also in Bremen, our club documents are now at a notary. We decided to have KID registered in the club register.

Yes, a lot has happened, and so many beautiful events are not even on paper. But maybe there is a personal conversation here and there.

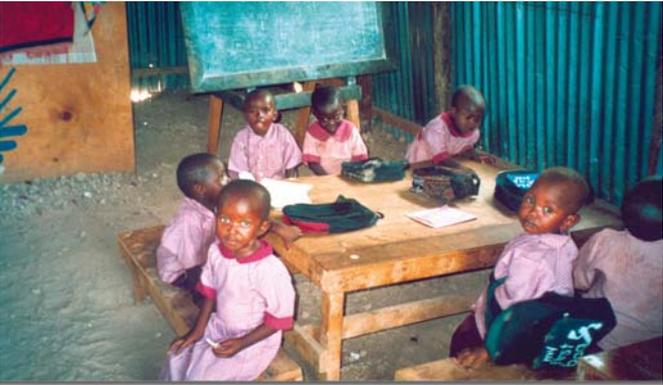
Two Letters from Joshua are still included in this letter, a brand new one.

All the warmest greetings, a nice Pentecost (Can that be again? The last letter ended up with Christmas greetings ... the time passes quickly).

Greetings and Kwaheri



On the left down, the "new" teacher Miriam, behind that the cook Miram, further Joshua the manager and the "old" teacher Lucy, right in down Heike Isbrecht, 1st chair of the KID and our children.r.



These seven children are new.

The seven "big ones" on the day of enrollment of the state school in Ukunda

