



Dear sponsors, friends and supporters of our children in Kenya,

Well the year 2009 is actually coming to a much more pleasant end than initially feared by everyone a year ago. As we look back at the past twelve months the year's events have in fact got things moving in a positive way.

For example the difficulty for basic food supplies for the children really forced us to finally realize the project of creating our own farm. Thanks to two very generous donators on from 2010 we will be able to supply our children largely with provisions ourselves.

Also the crisis has shown our teachers and pupils that the future can only be shaped by outstandingly good performances. Yet again everyone has put in a lot of effort and achieved excellent results. Two A-level pupils of Lulu High school were awarded with a scholarship from the Equity Bank. Since 2008 the bank is offering this opportunity to the best girl and boy graduates of the KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) throughout the region. These scholarships are like winning the lottery for these lucky pupils, as it guarantees them support throughout their studies as well as a job within the bank.

Thanks to the kind support of HelpAlliance of Lufthansa the dining hall of MAS/HPS was able to be completed. Approximately 600 pupils receive a warm meal each day and now we are also able to start making plans for the dormitories for HPS. With a little luck (and the dorms and some additional classrooms) we should be able to offer boarding at HPS by the end of 2010. The parents and of course the pupils of MAS and HPS would be greatly relieved. Once the HPS is fully completed there will be almost 2,000 pupils attending our schools - at present there are almost 1,500.

In the meantime Watoto has been granted the DZI donation seal. Now we have it in writing and officially: the administrative costs of Watoto are approximately 0.5% per year and even these half of a percent costs are refunded to the Watoto society by the society's members out of their own pocket.

Unfortunately the DZI before granting the seal insisted that we are no longer permitted to show all children in need of a sponsorship on our website. Something to do with the dignity of man, as stated by DZI. Of course we are not pleased about this as up to now several sponsorships came to be thanks to the internet, but we will come up with something. We are really hoping for example for lots of advertising through your good selves dear sponsors.

On the same line we would once again like to refer all of our friends and supporters to our sponsor-programme "**Hamsini**" (<http://watoto.de/hamsini.htm>). Within this programme anybody is able to make a smaller, but very helpful donation and if required is able to be informed about the sponsored child's progress.

Dear friends and supporters there is also some not so nice news which we have to mention to you.

Our friend Frank, co-founder of Mekaela Academies and Watoto e.V. will not be available for our project for a very long time after having suffered a major stroke. This is a big blow and is very hard to come to terms with. Frank is one of the biggest pillars and soul of our project, without his help the work within the project will be difficult - and a lot less fun, that is for sure.

In comparison it makes the mentioning of the next subject seem trivial. However we are pleased to inform you that the costs for school fees in Euro will be remaining the same despite an increase of about 10% in Kenya (in Kenya Shilling). As the Euro has increased in value compared to the Kenya Shilling, we were able to sustain the Euro without an increase. Due to the better exchange rate we have therefore changed our conversion from 85/= Kenya Shilling to 95/= in value.

We would like to wish you and your families a Festive Christmas and all the best for a Healthy and Happy New Year 2010.

Best wishes from the team

Watoto e.V.

WATOTO