



Erlenbach, July 2023

HALF YEAR REPORT 2023

We are currently working in Kenya in three different schools that are facing different challenges and problems. The new semester started in all three schools on 03 July 2023.

REHOBOTH SCHOOL

Since the beginning of 2023 we have been supporting the Rehoboth School. This school is located in Kitengela Noonkopir, the largest slum in the Kajiado District, right next to a dumping site, the "workplace" of many of the students' parents. The school was founded by Jane Gitonga, a mother of five, in 2014 with the aim of giving poor children from the area the opportunity to attend school. Rehoboth is a public school and unlike Europe, in Kenya public schools are for the poorest of the poor as they do not have to pay school fees. The stories of the students are similar and are mostly of sexual and domestic violence, HIV, and abject poverty. Before Covid, the school had about 170 students, most of whom were financed through sponsorships. One consequence of the pandemic is that the school lost many its sponsors. As a result, teachers' salaries could no longer be guaranteed, and some left the school. A considerable rent arrears accumulated, and the landlord was already threatening to kick them out. The number of students had dropped to 90 as the school had to ask for support from parents who could not afford it.

In this emergency, the WeCare Association decided to take over the school's fixed costs as of January 2023. The children now receive three meals a day, 7 days a week. In the last month alone, 20 new students joined the school, and the total number of students is now 170 again. The number of daily cases of illness has decreased due to the improved nutritional situation of the children. Since there is no caning in this school (a practice that is officially banned in Kenya but is nevertheless common in many schools), the children like to come to school because they not only get food there but also have a haven. As the pupils are also provided with school materials and uniforms due to our donation, the cooperation with the parents has improved massively. The motivation of the teachers has increased, as they no longer must fear waiting for months for their salaries. It was also possible to increase the number of teachers from seven to eleven, which has a direct impact on the quality of teaching and all school subjects can now be taught.



In the schoolyard



Happy students



New students at school



New desks in the classroom



Teachers' meeting in the office



Tired students in the classroom

ILOSHON

We visited Iloshon four times in the first semester of 2023, but in April 2023 the visit ended halfway due to a closed road. The "normal" road, on which we have also visited the school in Iloshon several times, had been closed by the landowner due to disputes with the local population. This had a dramatic effect on the primary school in Iloshon, which is attended by 430 pupils. The teachers did not come to school, the pupils also had problems in some cases and of course our aid delivery also had to be picked up halfway by the pupils, as the alternative route was not passable. We contacted the local authorities, but unfortunately the mills grind very slowly in Kenya. The government is working on finalising the new route. Just for understanding: It is not about road construction in our sense, but the roughest stones are being removed to create a "road".



In addition, Iloshon has a new school headmaster named Mr. James. According to Agnes Gitonga, he is an older Masai, but very open. He has promised to motivate parents in terms of having their girls attend the Nasaru Learning Centre.

We also organized and carried out the long-needed renovation of the drainage pipes and connection of the washbasins in the "bathrooms" of Nasaru through the vice-director Purity. This was urgently needed as the drainage pipes in the outdoor toilets had holes in them, causing a massive health problem.

There is also good news from the sewing studio: the sewing teacher Lilian has managed to sell some bags. We are not sure if these sales were profitable. But it is a very good start. However, Lilian is currently pregnant again and will soon stop working. We will try to find an acceptable interim solution.



Entrance to Nasaru and Iloshon Primary School



Agnes visiting the classes in Iloshon



Alternate route to Iloshon not passable



Great joy about the upcoming meal.



"WeCare"-girls in Iloshon



Visiting the classes



MPERRISHI

We visited Mperrishi four times in the first half of 2023. According to the budget, only three visits were planned for this period, but we were able to win a sponsor for an additional 10 girls from Mperrishi. The donation now covers the higher frequency of visits that has become necessary as a result, which will of course also benefit the girls already supported.

There has also been a change in the school management in Mperrishi: Mr. Immanuel has been replaced by Mr. Reuben. In addition, the number of teachers has been increased to a total of 9, which will have a positive effect on the learning success of the students.

Another positive development is the arrival of a young Masai teacher named Charity, who can act as a role model for the girls.



Mr. Immanuel - former headteacher of Mperrishi



Charity - a new teacher in Mperrishi



Agnes and Mr. Reuben, the new headteacher of Mperrishi



The new teachers team in Mperrishi



At the beginning of the year, the first three girls we supported from Mperrishi started secondary school. Abigail and Rhonda are in the same school and Emily was assigned to another school. Although the girls are very happy about this opportunity and are extremely motivated, there were some teething problems at the beginning. They have now overcome these, and we are eagerly awaiting their first school results.



Abigail's start in Secondary School



Emily is moving into Secondary School



Abigail and Rhonda in Secondary School

The other girls in Mperrishi primary school were visited and are doing well so far. During the first visit in January, they were again provided with uniforms, tracksuits and school supplies.



"Our" Mperrishi girls with their new uniforms (Jan 23)



"Our" girls with their new tracksuits (Jan 23)



WeCare-girls in Mperrishi with their sanitary pads.

A big issue is also the supply of sanitary napkins, as these girls are affected by the problem of period poverty. We are currently investigating whether there is an alternative to the classic sanitary napkins. These contain a lot of plastic and then become a disposal problem after use. There are several start-



ups that are experimenting with biodegradable sanitary pads made from corn waste. Alternatively, there are reusable versions that could also be financially interesting.

We will also be able to add another 10 girls in Mperrishi to the group of girls we support because of the additional donation.

When we started this FGM programme in Mperrishi, we started with a group of girls who were already victims of FGM. In the meantime, two of them have become mothers and have been "replaced" by younger girls. We have decided on the following procedure for all new arrivals:

Requirements for sponsoring the girls:

- The girl has not been mutilated.
- The parents of the girl commit themselves not to let the girl be mutilated in the future.
- The parents cover the cost of having a pregnancy test done twice a year.
- The parents undertake to send the girl to school regularly.
- In addition, the parents also ensure that the girl has time to study at home. The problem is that the housing conditions are very precarious, and the girls do not have a quiet place at home to study and do homework.
- The girl is motivated and works hard for school.

These conditions should motivate the parents to refrain from FGM with their daughters and send them to school instead.

However, we are already seeing the first successes with all the groups involved. We have already been able to convince several men of the senselessness of FGM. They are now actively involved in the fight against FGM, such as the local pastor Amos or the chairman of the parents' association Peter.

It is very important to also involve the men and especially the students. In this way, everyone also benefits from our monthly water and food deliveries. Excluding the men from our activities would also jeopardize the entire project. We can only win the fight against FGM and the consequences of FGM together with the men.



Agnes with the local pastor, who is very committed to the fight against FGM.



Agnes talking to the village elders - it is important to get the men on board!



Together we can make a difference!



Also young men have to be part of the process!



Unloading the food delivery in Mperrishi - motivation for parents, pupils and teachers!

Finally, I can report a wonderful development. Our power mother-daughter duo Agnes Gitonga and Keren Happuch get free support from their social network, which serves the cause very well. For example, during the March 2023 visit, Agnes' mother, Jane Gitonga, was also in Mperrishi. She is the headmistress at Rehoboth Primary School in the slums of Kitengela, which is also supported by the WeCare Association. As a Kenyan who also must deal with many challenges, she has much more credibility and authenticity towards the Maasai than we "Muzungus". She was accompanied by Lucy's foster mother (we talked about her in the annual report and she is from Mperrishi). A male relative of Agnes was also present on this visit and he, as a man, explained to the Maasai men the advantages of a monogamous way of life. Again, the fact that a man is doing this adds credibility and lends more weight to the arguments.



It was a mixed first half-year with many ups and downs. But we see progress in many areas and are convinced that we are on the right track.

Thank you for supporting us on this journey!

I am at your disposal for a more detailed presentation of our projects or you can contact me with your questions at any time.

For regular updates, please follow us on social media:Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/femmes_des_rizieres

<https://www.instagram.com/wecareassociation>

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<https://www.facebook.com/WeCareAssociation>

And of course, on our websites:

www.wecare-association.ch

www.femmes-des-rizieres.com

Now I wish you all a wonderful summer 2023!

Very dear greetings

Susanne Riz

President WeCare-Association



PS: I would like to point out once again that 100% of donations to the WeCare Association go to the recipients. **All expenses** for administration and marketing are fully borne by me personally and privately!

PPS: Please use the following account numbers for donations to the WeCare Association:

WeCare-Association

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THANK YOU!