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Kindergarten in Diani e.V.  
**KiD**

KiD - Kindergarten in Diani e.V. · Heidelberger Str. 20 · 28203 Bremen · Germany



Heidelberger Str. 20  
28203 Bremen  
Germany

fon +49 421 - 70 35 83

fax +49 421 - 7 22 40

eMail: [info@kid-kenia.de](mailto:info@kid-kenia.de)

Web: [www.kid-kenia.de](http://www.kid-kenia.de)

Bremen, August 2015

Dear KiD Friends and Supporters,

After a long pause, we say a hearty hello and jambo to everyone! Perhaps some of you will now say, „well, finally“, and others, „it’s about time!“ We say: „Yes, finally! It is about time!“ Most of you have supported KiD for many years, and we rely again and again on that renewable resource - the gift of your confidence and financial backing - whenever we make our journeys and decisions. In return, we strive to operate with the diligence, openness, deliberation and responsibility your generosity deserves. It’s exactly because we believe we owe you the value of your investment that we took a bit longer to update you on our progress, as we have encountered some challenges that have required us more time in order to consider our options fully. We will present our well-considered ideas in a moment.

But first of all, the most important news: Our by-now very big swarm of children are all fine, and growing fast - in that normal way that all children should do, if they receive good nourishment. It seems that no sooner do we gather our classes in the schoolyard for our annual photographs, than they grow another two



*...these are just some of the KiD children who recently attended school on our plot.  
Our students in forms 6,7 and 8 now attend classes in “Rainbow 4 Kids school.*

centimetres. But growth, of course, occurs all year, and many of our little scholars require new uniforms midyear. And new shoes. An important reason for all this growth: the fresh food we grow on our three, KiD-owned plots (aside from the one plot where the kindergarten, the school building and the other premises are situated). Watching our students - even the smallest ones - scarf down mountains of food prepared by our kind cooks, Ruth and Ann, you might think they had eaten nothing else all day. And, unfortunately, for



*Before, our children didn't have their own dining hall, and even lacked dining tables and chairs. Now nobody needs to dine on the floor any more.*

many of our students you would be correct. In fact, many of them may be eating „in reserve“, to compensate for having to wait until the next school day at KiD, for their next meal. Luckily, Ruth and Ann are experts at making healthy food that the children truly enjoy.

Children work up an appetite when they play, but their learning, developing brains require enormous amounts of fuel. Our children study hard, with much discipline, under the loving guidance of our local teachers, and they achieve strong, presentable results. Joshua, too, finished his own studies with a „presentable result“, so he was able to realise the long-planned, but postponed, journey to

Bremen in the second half of 2014. Although he stayed here for only a short time, he returned home with a wealth of new impressions and experiences as well as matters to think about.

We have a saying: Where there is much light, there is also much shadow. The daily achievements of the students of KiD bring joy and hope to the community. But unfortunately, for a while now, internal disputes among our staff in Kenya have cast a shadow over our wonderful project. This is why we have waited to write we needed either to resolve the disputes, or else to make a change to our project.



*Joshua in Germany. From the left: Heidi Linder, Heike Isbrecht, Maren Alfke, Joshua Kitendu Muthui, Heinz Isbrecht, Manfred Linder, Siegfried Lorenz.*

Our kindergarten and elementary school generally enjoy a very good reputation, not only in the region of Diani Beach but also in the surrounding area. KiD Kenia is a good and reliable employer for many employees and local suppliers, and our project comprises four large plots in one of the best locations in town. All of this is the beautiful fruit of persistent work in service to the best interests of the children, thanks to your generosity. And yet, we had hopes for something different. What started off simply the creation of a beautiful and sheltered world for our children has become complicated. To be connected locally with such a well regarded project confers a certain degree of power, and presiding over such a project makes one a „bigwig“. This can alter one's priorities to become one who must be consulted, to whom funds are allocated; however, true responsibility means

that one who must keep the books must also give account - one in such a position is not his own master and is not allowed to act without authority. In short, unfortunately, for some time now, trouble has been brewing between our „manager“ Edward in Kenya and our KiD team here.



*We also replaced the rusty roofs, which had become leaky. It is easy to appreciate the difference: on the left is the old roof, and on the right is the new one.*

Since the beginning, about two to four times a year we have traveled from Bremen to the KiD site in Kenya, where life and culture are completely different from our own. This is the same as it has ever been. Nevertheless,



we have always found a consensus that would work not only to the benefit of the children, but which was fulfilling for all sides. Over time, this relationship has become uneasy. We are unwilling to describe the particular incidents, but it does not feel good when decisions made by both sides are not put into action as agreed upon, or worse, when they are ignored. Bearing in mind that we are far from the scene, we try to evaluate the situation fairly. And because we have enjoyed generally good cooperation for such a long time, we are unwilling to throw in the towel yet. So we have now made a decision.

A loss of trust, and occasionally contentious discussions, have been disturbing the peace in KiD kindergarten and KiD school. We do not want that, but neither do we give up. Therefore and this may come as a shock - we have decided for our own KiD school to stop the support and close it! Whew! Whew? Yes, whew! It has not been easy for us, but after pondering the idea now for a long time, and allowing it to sink in, it seems to us to be the best decision.

Simply to be ready for the beginning of the next school year, we would need among other things yet another classroom, which would have to be newly built. Like every new structure, this would require both labor and new capital investment. We decided against it. You have entrusted us with the care of our little scholars, and supported our task generously. Naturally, we take our task, and your support, very seriously. So we want to assure you that, after much careful effort, we have found suitable educational „homes“ all of KiD's kids during our transition. The founders of two other well-respected neighborhood schools „Mekaela Academies“ and „Rainbow-4-Kids“ - will welcome our children for the next school year. Although their school fees are a bit higher there, we will continue to supply our children with uniforms, teaching materials and meals as well as with medical care.

As you might imagine, all that we have described here in a few paragraphs in fact required hours and hours of discussions (both here and in Kenya), caused many sleepless nights, and brought us to tears of anger, disappointment, and sadness. But now that we have made this decision, it feels good and right. Now, a feeling of calm can return here and, especially, in Kenya. And our decision is this: we will go back to where we began, we will become again only a KINDERGARTEN in Diani (selfhelp group). We will close the primary school and see to it, as always, that the very littlest ones continue to experience joy in learning and in life. We are going back to our roots!

We hope with all our hearts that you will understand and back all of these difficult decisions! For the time being, the school building remains unused. However, because we have always done our best to respond

with foresight and wisdom to any particular situation at KiD Kenya, we have now founded a local trust in Kenya, which is registered under KiD Kenya, to preserve and maintain the four KiD plots. To this effect, we have retained the services of a renowned law firm in to act as our representative. They will also represent us in court, where, unfortunately, we will likely have to resolve the aforementioned disputes with our Kenyan „manager“.



*Here's how it looks like every day during recess periods...*

Dear friends of KiD and, moreover, dear supporters of our children what we have told

you here is quite different from the cheerful updates you have come to expect from us. And after such a long time without news, it must seem even more surprising. But with so many issues for us to clarify on our end before we could report to you, we realized it would be irresponsible of us to give you only partial information, and to create false expectations. We thank you for your patience.

Now that we can act on these decisions, which we have made only after much careful consideration, our next report can come sooner. It is only with your continued loyalty and trust that we can pursue our mission, which is to support the education of KiD's children's education in the most responsible way. For now, that means the children will attend different schools we hope with the enthusiasm and success we have instilled in them - while we re-establish the learning environment we had envisioned before these stones appeared in our path. As we say, we can use the stones that are put in our way to build something good. In fact, we intend to build something even better.

So, while we cordially say goodbye for now, please know that we will see you again soon!

*Hilke Fischer*

*Manfred Linde*

*Anke Windeler*

*Heila Staff*

*Chae Althe*

*Marco Lindhardt*

*Stephan Lorenz*

*Heinrich Kiedt*