

# ASANTE SANA! \*

\* Kiswahili, meaning: thanks a lot!



## Thanks to your support, **14 CHILDREN**

are going to school right now in Kenya and will be able to visit classes for the whole year. The amount of donations we received was overwhelming. From the bottom of our hearts we say thank you - for trusting in our idea, in our work and in us. We are thrilled and joyfull, how quickly

things can be accomplished and how much feedback we already got in such a short time.

And guess who is even happier? The Kenyans themselves! They would like to express their special thanks to you and are absolutely amazed by everything we achieved all together.

**Newsletter N°01**

For more information and stories check our blog: [www.smilesafrica.de/blog](http://www.smilesafrica.de/blog)

Trevors



Victor



Regina



Samuel



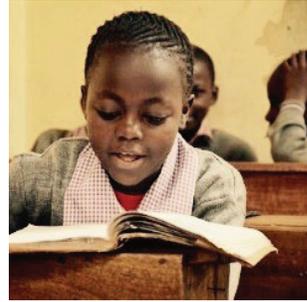
James



Henry



Tracy



## THE SCHOOL STIPENDIARIES

Our scholarship holders are children, who were born in the Korogocho slum and grew up there or in the poor neighborhood. Most of them live in little huts with one or two rooms they have to share with their siblings or other family members. The majority of the families has little money available to survive and is not able to pay for their children's education. In more difficult cases the children spend their whole day on the big landfill nearby looking for waste they can sell to earn a little bit of money for food and to provide for their family.

Two of our kids are complete orphans and live with relatives. The others live with their single mums. Special diligence was needed to find out if the families are actually not able to pay the school, or if the child's education is just not considered as a priority.

Some of the kids have gone to school for a couple of trimesters and therefore have to be assigned to their classes based on their level, instead of their age now. Not all of the schools allow a limitless age, which is why the kids need our special support to be able to get the right education.

## HOW THE DONATION HELPS

To ensure the kids can stick to their familiar surroundings and stay home, a school close to their home is chosen, as long as the social environment is convenient. At this point, close contact to the parents, or in some cases to the provider, is very important. Only if they are truly interested in the education of the children and supportive in every way, there is the chance for us to provide education on a long-term basis. With some of the families we sure needed a little persuasiveness and persistence. Once the support from home is given and the school is chosen your donations come into play.

The school fees for one trimester add up to an average of 22 euros. This makes just a total of 70 euros needed to pay for one kid going to primary school for a whole year. Being a former British colony, Kenya requires children to wear a school uniform in order to be allowed to attend classes. The uniform, including shoes, an exercise book and pen makes an extra 50 euros, which still is not a lot. Unfortunately, the most expensive part of the donation process is the remittance fee, but we are doing our best to keep it as low as possible.

# THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON

Our heartfelt concern is that, your donation being their support, from now on, every child can go to school every day. To them, education is a privilege and they are loving every minute of it!

One of the kids is already going to graduate from primary school next year. Having graduated he will be supported throughout secondary school, until he decides on his further education. We strive to continue the Smiles Africa Scholarship with every kid, until they find a job, with which they are able to provide a living for themselves and eventually for their family and hopefully afford their own children's education. When reaching that point we will thank him and you of course – for sharing this journey with us and pursuing the path together!

Education is the first and most important part of long-term and efficient help and makes the biggest change in the life of the kids and their families. However, there is so much more we could do for the people living in Korogocho and in other parts of East Africa. If you have any ideas or wishes, don't hesitate to let us know, as we happily develop and hopefully realize further projects and ideas with your help.

How did we come up with the idea of creating Smiles Africa? What made us happy or maybe annoyed us during the implementation of our ideas? What is the future we are imagining for this whole project? We want you to be part of our journey and share all of our experiences, thoughts and dreams on our blog.

**N°01** Vague ideas turned into vague plans. Initially, we wanted to incorporate a group of people to implement small fundraising projects. Our main aim was to make education assessable to children whose families do not have the financial opportunities to support them. Eventually, we not only wanted to be fundraisers, but also counterparts, motivators and supporters. We want to help people, who help locally. Thanks to the trust and communication between Peter and Monica in Kenya and us in Germany, we were able to convince and motivate others and turn our vague plans into the great project it is now. We might not change the world, but with some luck and effort we will not only bring education, job opportunities and hope to Kenya, but we will also give people a reason to think about tomorrow, which they never did.

Coming soon, the whole entry in English on our blog: [www.smilesafrica.de/blog](http://www.smilesafrica.de/blog)



Alvin



Flowrence



Asha



Maureen



Martin



Robert



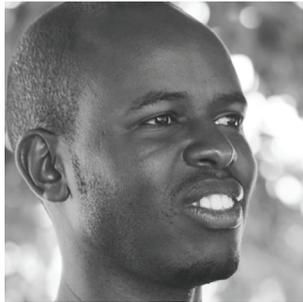
Mike

# TEAM KENIA

How does all this work from a distance of 10.500 km? Who supervises all the steps and guarantees that the children actually receive the help they need? Who is in close contact to the kids and takes care of the situation, if anything unpredictable happens?

Luckily, we have our better half in Kenya! On our website, you can read the story on how we got to know them. We are very grateful, because without them, we

would not be able to guarantee that your money ends up at the right place. Our project is not only based on confidence, but also on the fact that we are providing education for children and jobs for the adults. Peter, Monica, Rita and Kizito are the ones taking care of our scholarship holders, they keep us informed about current changes. To do so, we support them with a small amount each year. All of us together, aim to make the best education possible for each kid.



**Peter Mwashu Litonde**  
Initiator and Founder

Peter himself grew up in the slum of Korogocho and thanks to a scholarship was able to go to college and get qualified as a social worker. He is the main initiator of most of the aid projects of Korogocho. Through his passion for theater and art he teaches children about their freedom of speech and right to participate. He founded Smiles Africa

Experience as a networking organization to make it possible for volunteers from all over the world to connect with the locals. Through steady communication and active cooperation he provides the maximum of use for both parties. For our association, he is the main coordinator for implementing our scholarships in Kenya.



**Monica Wanja**  
Administrator and Host

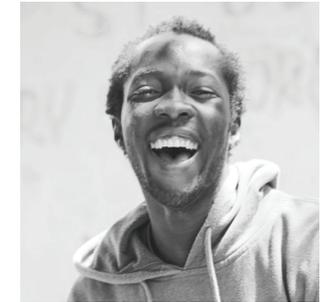
Monica is the go-to person in Korogocho, she hosts the volunteers and is in charge of the administrative activities. She once lived in Korogocho herself, hence has made first hand experiences she can pass on and talk about. She helps with the project development and makes sure there is a financial base, so that the initiati-

ves can actually get started. She has great negotiating skills, which often come in handy in a lot of situations. Especially her direct contact to the children's parents or their supervisors is essential, because only if they cooperate with us, a successful graduation of their kids is possible.



**Rita Anindo**  
Mentor and Organizer

Rita studies counselling psychology and looks after our scholars. She was part of developing the mentoring program and keeps in touch with parents, teachers and the children. She is also taking graphic and web design classes at her university and will be responsible for the appearance of Smiles Africa on social media in Kenya.



**Kizito Gamba**  
Mentor and Cameraman

Kizito is from the poor neighborhood Baba Dogo and a qualified photographer and filmmaker. He has international experience and documents our social projects in Korogocho for everyone to actually see what our work looks like. Apart from that, he contributes to the development and maintenance of our mentoring program.



## OUR GOALS

You may be wondering, what our next step will be? Hopefully more work and even more joy! With our starting mentoring programs we want to make sure, all of our scholars a taken care of throughout the whole year and issues and conflicts are recognized as soon as possible, so that they can be solved quickly. We do not want

to loose or give up on any of the kids. We want to support them on their education journey until the very end. Part of our German team is going to visit Kenya this year, to make experiences first hand. Of course, you will read about our trip on the Blog. However, you are and remain the most import-

ant part of our project. Your donations are the only reason we are able to achieve our goals. Your engagement really brings the smiles to Africa. Stay with us, tell other people about us and make them a part of the group too.



## NEWEST MEMBER

Our vivid Persian girl Sara Tavakoli loves everything about the vegetarian kitchen and is not only our fan number one, but also our very first member. She is in charge of translating all the stuff we talk about in English, so that all the information will be assessable to the whole world and especailly to our international supporters.

**SMILES AFRICA e.V.**

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