

# Tourism can lead to miracles !

Imagine...you are driving near the sea in Kenya, the sun is shining, the scenery is beautiful...it is a long way from winter in Duisburg.



You have been coming to Kenya since 2007, and you have decided to buy some land to build a house. As you look for a suitable area you come across the Habari Njema School. The children come running to the car, waving and inviting you to visit their school. You go with them and meet their teacher, who is also a pastor, Mrs Esther Muthini Ndemwa. She founded the primary school, in 2007. It is a small local straw hut, with no classrooms, no desks, blackboards or toilets. But the children are obviously very proud of it.



What do you do? If you are Elke Salah, you go back to Duisburg and tell your family and friends about the school. You all want to help, so you start to organize donations to buy desks, blackboards, food and so on.

In 2010 Elke established the "Foerdereverein Kenia-Schule e.V." to systematically support the school.

There are about 35 members and they contribute anything from Euro 10 upwards, every month. With this help the school now has a concrete floor, walls, desks, blackboards, and toilets. The Foerdereverein also supports 20 children with school fees, uniforms, shoes, school equipment and food.



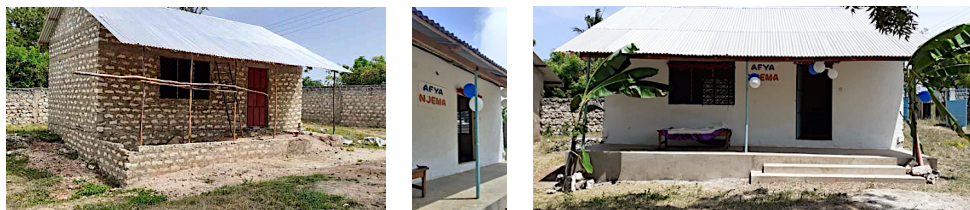


Now the school has 100 children, of which 40 are boarders (so the Foerderverein bought metal beds and mattresses); there are 10 teachers, a matron, a cook, a watchman and a driver for the school bus. Most of the pupils are children of single mothers or poor families, and some are orphans. Esther and her son are still managing it.

Meanwhile Elke has her house “Ocean Breeze Cottage” at the Indian Ocean, about 8 kilometres from the school. She spends several months each year there, and is in close contact with the school. She invites the children who are orphans to stay for the occasional weekend, and she goes to the school to play and sing with the children. The members of the “Foerderverein Kenia-Schule” have become friends, and some have been to stay with Elke and when they do, they too visit the school.

So where does FdE come into this lovely story?

In 2019 the Foerderverein decided to seek funding to set up a Health Care Centre at the school, to treat children who have malaria, worms or minor injuries.



The medical support would also be offered to neighbouring villages. The construction of a small clinic, with water and electricity and the basic medical equipment and furniture was essentially funded by FdE –and has been officially opened last month.



This story is an example of the best kind of tourism!

*Maeve Schiratti Doran  
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