

Newsletter



Collection

The foundation is collecting toys & books

School visits

A report from the chairman

New land

Double the space for Mombasa

Word from the Chairman

Dear friends of the foundation,

The first half of 2025 has just flown by. It's incredible how quickly time passes and how much can happen in such a short span. I'm still struck by how the world seems to be – both literally and figuratively – on fire in so many places. And above all: how we, as a society, choose to respond.

Last month, I attended a concert by Di-rect at 'De Kuip' - Rotterdam's iconic football stadium. It was an impressive evening, not just because of the music, but also because of the recurring message: look out for one another. It echoed something I often say myself: just be a little kind to each other. During the concert, my thoughts drifted to the other side of the world, to places where bombs were literally falling from the sky at that very moment.

Of course, people often say that war is as old as time. And maybe it's naive of me, but I never imagined that in 2025 we would once again be surrounded by so much suffering. My hope is that world leaders will soon come to their senses and realise that this is not the way forward.

Thankfully, there is also positive news. In March, I had the privilege of travelling to Kenya

for the first time in my life. What I saw and experienced there left an indelible impression on me. You can read our travel report later in this newsletter.

We haven't been idle these past few months. Thanks to a wonderful fundraising campaign and the dedication of Hannie van der Linden (our secretary) and Daphne Nieuwenhuizen (granddaughter of our former chairperson Annemarie Nieuwenhuizen), we were able to give presentations about our projects in Kenya at several schools in the region.

The impact of this is hard to put into words. In addition to the generous amount of €2,556.67 raised, we continue to receive messages from children asking if there's anything else they can do to help the children in Kenya. And that, that shows that at heart, there is still so much kindness and compassion in people.

On behalf of the Dutch Equal Opportunities Foundation, I wish you all a very lovely summer!

Marcel van den Brink

Colofon

This newsletter is a publication of Kenia Stichting Gelijke Kansen.

Layout
EWS Group

Editors
EWS Group

Please send in copy via email:
info@gelijkekansen.org

Your donations do make a difference!

Donate a small amount monthly via the form: €5 already makes a big difference.

www.gelijkekansen.org/donatie-formulier

Or make a one-off donation via the QR code below:



With your support, we are building a better future together for underprivileged children.



Contents



Visiting Mombasa and Nairobi

A visit to the schools we support leaves a lasting impression. A report from the chairman once again shows: together, we make the difference.

4



Updates

We're happy to keep you informed about current matters and initiatives. Tremendous progress has been made in Nairobi – you'll see the difference. And there's big news from Mombasa!

6



Call for new donors and sponsors

Support ongoing and future projects, either personally or through your business. Fundraising remains a key priority.

8

Christmas celebrations

Thanks to your support, the children of St. Dorcas and Child Support Mombasa enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. With Santa hats, a festive lunch, and soft drinks, they clearly had a fantastic day. Your support truly makes a difference, turning a celebration into a spectacle.



Visit Mombasa and Nairobi

On Monday 24th March 2025, our special journey to Kenya began. In the dead of night, we landed in Mombasa—tired, but full of anticipation. The following morning, we were up early for our first mission: shopping for the school. Think basic necessities like flour, rice, beans, cleaning supplies and drinks, but also a treat to hand out to the children.

At the school in Mombasa, we received a warm welcome. Together with the children, we unloaded the car – a beautiful moment of teamwork and connection. After that, we were introduced class by class to the 70 pupils. What stood out most was the immense gratitude; our visit truly meant something to them.

Following a formal moment where we signed the visitors' book, we sat down for a talk with the teachers and Lilian, the person in charge of the location. Over a shared lunch, we exchanged ideas and concerns. The situation there is still very basic: there are only four classrooms for six classes. The wish is to expand with at least two to four additional rooms to provide better education. Local legislation states that classes with different learning goals cannot be combined—further highlighting the need for expansion.



We had brought extra suitcases full of toys, which we divided between Nairobi and Mombasa. Two suitcases remained in Mombasa. The moment the children discovered the toys was absolutely priceless. Those joyful faces will stay with us forever. We promised everyone that we would devote even more effort to the foundation in the coming years.

The next day, we took the train back to Nairobi. The contrast with Mombasa was striking. Nairobi is busier, more chaotic, and the poverty seems even more acute. Once again, we started our day with shopping—this time with the help from Jacinta and Chris. Rice, beans, cartons of milk and other essentials were carefully selected. A special moment was the gift for Jacinta: her laptop had broken, and we surprised her with a new one. Her gratitude was overwhelming, and we've already had our first contact through her new device.

At the school in Nairobi, a whole delegation was waiting to welcome us. Around 70 orphans live there full-time, and another 80 children come daily for lessons—making a total of roughly 150 children. Here too, we handed out treats: fruit and large lollipops for everyone. We visited all the classrooms, introduced ourselves and briefly met the pupils.

We were invited to serve the lunch ourselves – a humbling and meaningful moment. Then the programme kicked off. Children of all ages had prepared dances, short plays and words of thanks. What a celebration, what talent, and above all: what heartfelt gratitude. There we sat, on plastic chairs, in the midst of a powerful tribute to the bond we've built with this place over the years.

The dormitories made a deep impression. Boys and girls sleep separately, often four to a bed meant for two. Their entire life fits into one box – only slightly larger than a shoebox. That reality is deeply moving.

The need for improvements was clear here as well. The school urgently needs its own water well. At present, all water is brought in from afar in jerrycans, and then used with buckets to operate the toilets and showers upstairs – even to do the laundry. Additionally, the last three classrooms still need to be completed. At the moment, 48 boys sleep together in one small classroom, with a makeshift, leaky roof. A permanent solution is urgently needed.



At both projects, we were able to give the teachers a small bonus as a token of appreciation. Their monthly income is around 80 dollars, which amounts to less than 3 dollars per day – barely enough to cover basic living costs.

Finally, it's important to mention that the foundation does not focus solely on education. All children receive three simple meals a day. For many, that is one of the few certainties in their young lives – and therefore of immense value.

The trip was both impressive and moving, but also heartwarming. Our bond with these people and their communities is stronger than ever. We return with renewed energy and commitment in our efforts for the foundation. Because if there's one thing this journey reminded us of, it's this: together, we make a difference!



New sponsor

We are proud to welcome Van Donge & de Roo as a new sponsor. Their support enables us to provide children in Kenya with daily access to education and nutrition. Together, we are building a future full of equal opportunities. Thank you!





Tidy kitchen, better cooking

Earlier, we proudly shared the news about the new kitchen at Child Support Mombasa. Thanks to your recent contributions, the finishing touches have now been completed: sturdy cupboards, practical drawers, and ample storage space ensure that everything is off the floor. This not only makes things more organised but also much more hygienic. Now, every day, we cook for the children in a safe, clean, and well-organised environment.



Action for Kenya

In May, volunteers from our foundation visited local schools and churches to give presentations. It was a heartwarming week of engagement, raising over €2,500! A new addition is our donation trailer: thanks to a generous sponsor, schools can now collect toys, English-language (educational) books, and other items. These will be shipped to Kenya in a shipping container. Is your school interested, or do you know a school that might like to contribute? Let us know at info@gelijkekansen.org and help us create opportunities!



Land for growth

The school in Mombasa is bursting at the seams. With only four classrooms for six classes, there's a lot of improvisation. But there's good news: a plot of land has become available directly opposite the current site. Thanks to your donations, the foundation can purchase this land and build three additional classrooms. This brings the dream of a fully-fledged primary school within reach. The local team is incredibly grateful – this is a major step forward, made possible by your support.



Books & the future

With pride, the children hold up their new text books – made possible thanks to your support. At our foundation, donations are never lost in overheads: they go straight to what matters most. Education and a daily meal. This year's learning materials are in place, and now we look ahead. Will you help us prepare for 2026? We're also looking for a sponsor to support teacher Sheila's professional training, so she can qualify to teach in upper primary education. Invest in her future – and in the future of her pupils.



Old vs new

What once began on a rented plot of land, with wooden walls and corrugated iron roofs, has grown into a beautiful, new building on land we now own. Jacinta and her team are incredibly proud and thankful to be able to provide daily education, meals, and care for 150 children. The school's name now stands proudly in bold red letters on the façade. Another major milestone has been the construction of the new classrooms required by law.

Call for new donors and sponsors

The daily costs for education and meals are currently posing a challenge, partly due to rising food prices and unfavourable exchange rates. Perhaps you are considering making an additional donation yourself or on behalf of your company.

Please know that we are eager to collaborate with companies on how to make their support visible. If you have any questions about this, please send an email to:

info@gelijkekansen.org

Further fundraising contributes to the following current and future projects:

- a borehole at the new location of St. Dorcas;
- continuing education for students of St. Dorcas, transitioning to university;
- teachers at the Mombasa location who can eventually teach grades 5 and 6;
- a higher expense allowance for volunteers in Mombasa.

Education



Amount required:
€ 2,500

Waterwell



Amount required:
€ 15,000

Bedding



Amount required:
€ 2,500



Thanks to all our loyal donors and well-wishers!

Would you also like to become a sponsor? Email: info@gelijkekansen.org