

macheo

CREATING A FAIRER FUTURE FOR KENYA'S CHILDREN



OKTOBER// NEWSLETTER

This time a completely different newsletter than usual. Two board members of Macheo Netherlands: photographer Sophie Laubert and copywriter Sarie Katsman, are visiting Macheo in Thika. To experience what it is like, to go 'into the field' with the social workers. A live impression in text (Sarie) and image (Sophie)

Overwhelming, impressive and moving. These are the first words that come to mind when I try to describe my first real introduction to Macheo's work in Thika, now that I have been here for a week. One can read about it, hear about it, see pictures. But how it really is: I can hardly believe my spoiled Dutch eyes. There are hardly words to describe the smell, the sight and the poverty in the living conditions of children in the slums and in the countryside.

It is equally difficult to give you an idea of how deep my respect is for the employees of Macheo. How professional, reliable and full of passion they do their utmost every day, to carry out Macheo's mission: to give vulnerable children a better future. Balancing between the will to help every child who needs help, and the struggle with the budget, that is always too tight. How they are motivated because they also see the successes of the holistic approach and effective Macheo method! How great to see that they spend your donations to get the best impact for the children as possible.



I can tell you a story about:

...the 9-year-old boy in a slum, who can hardly breathe because he has a growing tumor in his throat, and from his desperate mother who has to watch his toiling breathing. She has no money to pay for an operation. Time is running out!

...of the mother who cannot pay the rent of her meager house. As a result of Covid-19 she lost her job as a laundress in a hotel. She can no longer repay the loan she took out to pay the rent. She was arrested by the police, who demands a fine from her, on top of the loan. Her children do not know where she is or if she will ever return after her arrest. The eldest daughter (16) tries to keep things going: luckily the children are already in Macheo's food program at school, so she is not forced to look for another source of income to survive.....

...of the 14-year-old girl who was raped by the pastor of her church. She will have her baby in 2 months. She and her mother are intimidated: they must remain silent about the perpetrator and certainly not go to court.

But I can also tell you this part:

...that the boy will soon receive surgery, thanks to the negotiating power of Macheo's social worker, who succeeds in making a deal with the hospital. Macheo pays to get him into health insurance.

....that Macheo pays off part of the mother's debt, enabling her to recover. She also gets help setting up her own business, so that she is no longer dependent on 'casual jobs', as bite-snap-jobs are called here. She no longer has to worry about being kicked out of her house.

...that thanks to the support of her mother and coaching from Macheo, the girl did not give in to the harassment. A lawsuit has been filed to prevent her rapist from evading his sentence. The girl and her family are being guided so that giving birth will be safe, and that she can take good care of the baby and return to school. Exactly what they need now and in the future.



We already knew this, but it really is true: you can do so much with so little here!

With 6000 Kenyan Shillings (50 euros) the boy can be covered by health insurance so that he can be operated on.

The debt of the mother was 6000 KES (50 euros), the fine 2000 KES (16 euros)

The costs of the lawsuit and the guidance are 7000 KES (60 euros)

The costs of the teenage mother program are 11.000 KES (90 euros)

*So....Please help Macheo to help. It really works!
<https://www.macheo.nl/doneren/>*

