

MANY SMALL & BIG CORN KERNELS... AND OUR CHILDREN ARE SATISFIED

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023



Africa Amini Alama

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The first corn, beans, and pumpkin harvest - an experience of a special kind, as our students from Kilimo Secondary School eagerly gathered the harvest with their own hands, their eyes shining with excitement. Unforgettable moments and a symbol of what we experience every day here at the foot of Mount Meru in Africa Amini Alama. Corn kernels, seeds from people who visit us or support us from afar, makes Africa Amini what it is: A field of sharing. Food for survival through eating, nourishment for the mind through education, and nourishment for the soul through trust and love. This newsletter is dedicated to the many seeds that have been sown in recent months and that we can now harvest. Each one nourishes, strengthens, and holds a valuable place in one of our projects and in the lives of everyone we help here.



SPONSORSHIPS

I would like to begin with the sponsorships of all our students. On days like September 20th, the importance of this help emphasized once again. More than 150 mothers came to Momella early in the morning to enroll their children in the Worseg Vision. With admission and sponsorship, a child - and therefore their family - secures a safe future. All children starting in January are waiting for sponsors. At this point, a very special thank you to Christoph Franke, who supported Africa Amini throughout

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the summer by not only performing many other tasks but also using his photographic skills to take portraits of all our sponsored children. Thanks to his help, all sponsors will receive a current photo of their sponsored child in the next sponsorship report.



And when I look into the shining eyes of 13 to 15-year-old students a few days later, I feel a sense of pride. I sit across from our primary school students who tell me about their dreams and which of our schools they want to attend for the next stage of their lives: Pamoja, Africa Amini - Tourism School, or Kilimo - Agriculture School. Born into hopelessness and poverty, they are now beginning a life full of possibilities and decisions.

In September, the national final exams for the seventh-grade were held. As a gift, Peter Sommerer gave each schoolchild a small wood-burning stove! With this, we aim to provide many families with smoke-free, resource-saving cooking - through our schoolchildren, the stoves will help the poorest families.

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PAMOJA SECONDARY SCHOOL

At Pamoja, we celebrated the registration as a high school. The new teachers' house under construction is crucial for this. We would like to thank "Kick for Life" for the support of the construction and providing the new photocopier.

In August, 100 students began their first year of high school. Some of the other secondary school students who do not want to attend high school but instead seek vocational training at a college can do so with the support of their sponsors and a training fund established by Africa Amini which is financed by "Upside Trust". Thus, they can apply for a loan through this fund.



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KILIMO SECONDARY SCHOOL

At Kilimo Secondary School, with the support of “Moving Mountains”, we were able to complete a teachers’ house. However, we are facing a major challenge: the students are sleeping in the classrooms. But by early January, when the next 40 students are admitted, the girls’ dormitory must be completed. We urgently request financial support for this issue!

Water supply at this school, which is located in the heart of Maasai land is another challenge. But we are showing ways to use water resource-efficiently in agriculture. Ground-covering plants provide shade and retain moisture, and drip irrigation which was donated by the “Lower Austrian Rural Youth” and a water catchment basin with a solar pump from „Wege zu einer Welt“ can enable optimal water management despite challenging conditions.



AFRICA AMINI TOURISM SECONDARY SCHOOL

For those who would like to get a glimpse into the world of our tourism school, you can stay updated through the newsletter of this school via the following link.

https://africaaminialama.com/fileadmin/patenschaften_kids/Africa_Amini_Tourism_School_update_mid_2023.pdf

While the Form One students welcomed many guests for lunch under the Africa Amini tree at the restaurant. Our Form Two students are preparing for the national exams at the end of October.

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Now, let's turn to the foundation of our education projects: our primary schools.

I want to highlight a cross-school project supported by the “Artur Waser Foundation”. Because it's not the buildings that determine the success of a project, but the knowledge and skills of the people working in the projects. Over the next three years, four teachers will be able to attend an international Montessori primary school training. At the same time, a teacher specifically trained for this purpose will train teachers from all our schools in Maria Montessori's fundamental principles over a two-year course. The first course was successfully completed in June.

SIMBA VISION PRIMARY SCHOOL

Simba Vision, with its special Montessori school building, will host these seminars and will accommodate the first volunteers from October. In the summer, a group of 16 Swiss and Tanzanian architecture students built a new toilet facility in just two weeks at the school. In line with our Africa Amini Earth concept, which involves regenerative farming and permaculture, these are our first „compost toilets.“ Not only the concept but also the architecture is admirable. Simple building materials, but a special design!

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MUKURU PRIMARY SCHOOL

And now, a very special seed... with dance, blessings, and much joy, we were able to inaugurate the Mukuru school in Maasai land together with Sophie Hausherr and with the grateful support of the McPike-Zima Foundation. New classrooms, teachers' houses, school furniture, sufficient food, and four teachers selected by Africa Amini. Another Africa Amini school is being established in the heart of Maasai land. The focus here, in addition to the regular English curriculum, will be computer education.



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LENDOYA PRIMARY SCHOOL

For three years now, children in Lendoya, a remote school, have been taught in English. Children of underprivileged parents struggling to feed their families have been supported in recent months by the “Rotary Club München-Sölln”, and from September on, this support will be continued by Kerstin Wittmann and Christoph Bischoff. There will be enough food for a year and four teachers teaching the younger children. In a few years, they can also be admitted to one of our secondary schools. There is a great demand for food distribution. As much as they love their education, food takes precedence here. We also plan to renovate one of the teachers' houses at this school soon.



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MAASAI VISION PRIMARY SCHOOL

At Maasai Vision, our very first primary school, we are trying out a new concept for the first time. Students in the fourth and seventh grades who have to take their national exams can stay overnight in the new dormitories. Mama Inge has supported them and made this dream come true. Now they can prepare for the exams undisturbed in the evenings, with light and the support of teachers.



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WORSEG VISION PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Worsseg Vision School would also like to have a dormitory, but for now, we want to observe this new model in one school. However, they have something to look forward to as well. Artur Worsseg is helping convert the former storage room into a dining hall with benches, where children can have their lunch from October, protected from rain and wind before the short rainy season.



NEW SILOS AS STORAGE

Is the old storage space being abandoned? Where will the food for our over 2000 school children be stored now? Several infrastructural changes were necessary. For many years, we managed with the grain storage at Worsseg Vision and supplied all our schools from there. However, the number of children, fluctuating food prices, and the upcoming harvest on our own fields require a larger storage facility. Like at other schools in Tanzania, we have switched to silo storage, especially for maize and beans. "Fussl Modestraße" made this transition possible in the former buildings of the football academy, just in time for the harvest and the purchase of hundreds of bags of grain. Now the storage facilities are full, and we will manage for another 6 months.

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CARPENTRY IN THE FUNDI CENTER

A special seed has brought an unexpected blessing to our vocational school. Maria-Theresia Bretschneider worked with our carpentry team at the vocational school for two months. With a lot of effort and patience, the wood cutting machine was made somewhat functional again, and our team was instructed in the correct handling. With patience and sometimes serious words, she was always lovingly focused on leaving something lasting after her stay. Basic work is being done here, with the small hope that one or the other seed will sprout. For many of the apprentices, a vocational skill is the only chance to escape the cycle of poverty.



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TAILORING WOMAN

Another vocational school, our sewing workshop, was involved in all other school projects in addition to training the girls. They sew reusable sanitary pads for ALL our girls in secondary schools. A great help, as disposable pads are expensive and difficult to dispose. So, the girls have the choice between the sanitary cups we have already distributed and these fabric pads. This brings a whole new quality of life to their school days! Reinhild Wendl is already providing supplies in November, she will bring materials so the women can sew another 500 pieces for the students next year.



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WOMEN GROUP LEARNS REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Jackson, our permaculture expert, not only teaches the team on the fields we manage, but also shares his knowledge with the surrounding farmers. One of the women groups that emerged from this, regularly meets to exchange their experiences and to cultivate vegetables and grains regeneratively without chemicals. There are forty motivated women with the goal of opening an organic vegetable corner at the Ngare Nanuki market and growing healthy food for their families.



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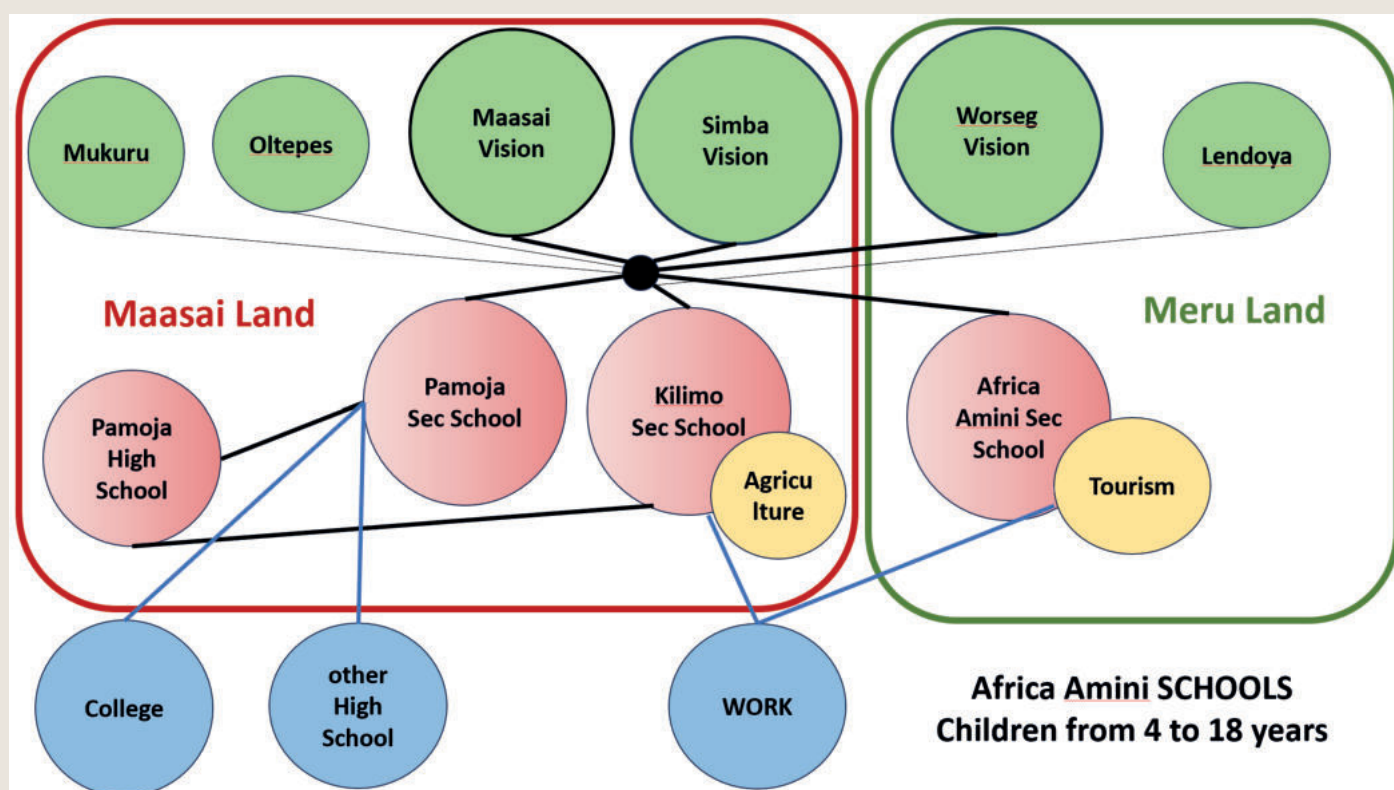
EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS: AN OVERVIEW

Our students will find answers to the questions of the future. Hardly any of our female students want to have more than 2 or 3 children. Education is probably the only truly meaningful measure to counteract population growth. Permaculture gardens with vegetables for the schools and nutritious old maize varieties without chemicals help the school children learn to eat healthier through school meals.

With lectures from our medical team in schools, health awareness and the necessary personal responsibility of future generations can be conveyed and taken into families.

The suppression of women is not a foreign concept for our girls because they learn on the school bench to compete with boys of the same age, and often take leadership positions triumphantly with good grades.

With a simple graphic, I would like to provide a brief overview of the various school projects at Africa Amini.



A brief explanation of the graphic:

Green represents our primary schools. In red, the possible secondary schools are shown, with the last two (the tourism school and the agricultural school) offering students the opportunity to find employment after graduation with a Veta College certificate. After completing Pamoja Secondary School, students can either attend Pamoja High School, another high school, or a college.

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Those who successfully complete high school can go on to attend a university. Every education is an opportunity, and many of our school children make the most of it. They learn English, mathematics, natural sciences, computer knowledge, and other additional subjects. However, Africa Amini offers much more. Another cross-school project that Johanna Auer developed with our social worker team in recent months reflects this. It's also about making our children aware of their basic values and providing them with a network and contacts to ensure that they uphold these basic rights. „The Amini Workers.“ We are currently working on a curriculum to train „Amini Workers“ in every school who will take on this special responsibility as contact persons for personal problems—people the children trust (Amini means trust in Swahili) and to whom they can turn if they don't have enough to eat, have health problems, face limitations in school, or confront violence in their environment.

WOMEN CAN SURVIVE

Our social worker team is in daily contact with many women who have gained a foothold for survival through the help of Africa Amini. Jessica and Mike visit the women and help them establish small businesses. Sometimes they accompany guests and bring tea, rice, sugar, and beans as gifts. Susi, during her stay, was not behind the computer as usual for translating texts into English but was actively with our team visiting families. „It's something completely different to experience Africa Amini up close again.“



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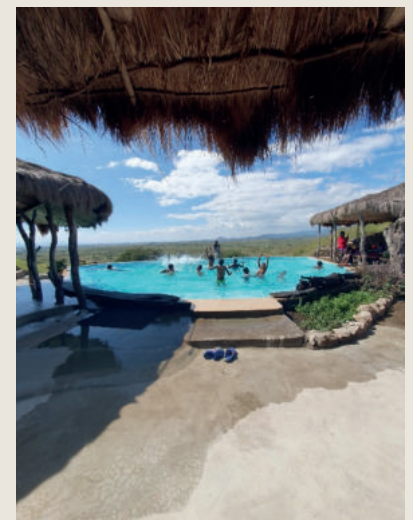


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OUR KINDERVILLA CHILDREN HAVE AN EVENTFUL LIFE

Our 45 children at the Children's Villa experience security, love, and many impulses with our volunteers. Johanna, Nina, Jonathan, and Rosa – they all do their best to make the school and daily life as diverse as possible: trips to the river, „Hot Springs,“ swimming at Hillside and Maasai Lodge, Nane Nane agricultural fair, visits to other orphanages, talent shows, children's disco, sports afternoons, yoga classes... There is no shortage of stimuli. And for all those kids who already show an interest in future careers, there is the opportunity to get a taste of the respective professions during the holidays. Sakita, one of our KinderVilla kids, got to experience the daily life of a doctor for a week and also met his mentor and longtime physician, Dr. Godwin, there.



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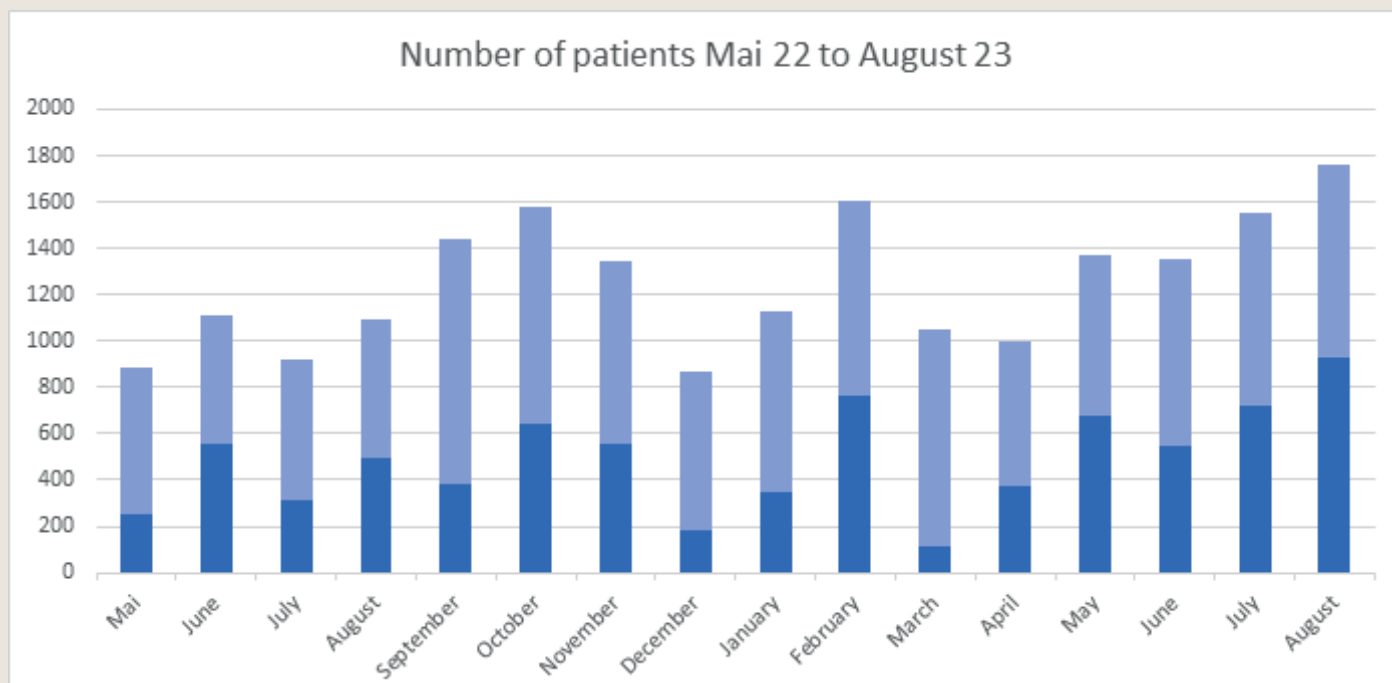


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MEDICAL MISSION

Through preventive medicine, we want to protect as many people as possible from serious health consequences in a timely manner. Since opening in May 2022, we have treated more than 12,200 patients and provided education to around 8,000 people in the surrounding villages and schools.



That I can now quickly get these numbers as well as many other statistical analyses is thanks to our patient information system and the excellent support of Nina Pettinger. She helped us on-site for a month with her know-how to make important adjustments to the system. Dr. Thomas (general practitioner) and Dr. Christina (child and adolescent psychiatrist) were also a great addition to our clinic team.

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Some focus areas are particularly close to our hearts: the treatment of patients with eye diseases, who, thanks to the support of the “St. Lucy Foundation”, have the opportunity to receive individually tailored glasses and regain their eyesight through cataract surgery. These surgeries are regularly performed in cooperation and in the facilities of our former hospital.

Furthermore, dental prevention and treatment in our clinic - the European dental team under the direction of Dr. Michaela Skrein has already wonderfully supported us both professionally and financially.

Another focus from our medical mission is cancer prevention in females. 70% of cancer cases in women here in Tanzania are attributed to deadly cervical cancer. Timely prevention can save many lives. Dr. Emanuela, specialized in this field and completed additional training in cryotherapy (freezing of precancerous lesions in the gynecological area) in July and breast cancer screening in September.

To better prepare ourselves for musculoskeletal problems and to better assess lung diseases, we have established a new X-ray station with the support of Dr. Bernhard Schwaighofer's Diagnostic Center and a donation of an X-ray machine from Dr. Patrick Wunderbaldiger, along with financial support from the Rotary Club Prinz Eugen. It is set to begin operations in October!



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THE MESSAGE OF AFRICA AMINI GOES FORTH

It's not just about projects, but about many individual destinies and the field of hope that emerges for them. Carrying this message outward, both within and outside the organization, is very important to us. At this point, I would like to thank all those people who, in the past year, have acted as ambassadors for the deeper meaning of Africa Amini to others.

Christoph Bischoff, who is making Africa Amini known in the German-speaking world through his podcasts. For those interested in his latest podcast conversation with Cornelia: <https://podcasts.apple.com/de/podcast/christian-bischoff-die-kunst-dein-ding-zu-machen-podcast/id1114395894?i=1000628338213>

Sonja Steger, with her film about Christine
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lfNLayRPGQ>)

Heidrun Henke, with her empathetic articles in the Austrian press
https://issuu.com/pphmediaverlag/docs/tipi_46_fruehling_2023/26

A journey to Tansania with ZDF with some insights about Cornelia's life – Neuanfang am Kilimandscharo
<https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/dokumentation-sonstige/videos/neuanfang-am-kili-mandscharo-100.html>

To be able to capture the voices of Africa Amini locally in the future, Sepp Sturm brought the necessary recording equipment to Tanzania and trained our team. Now we can record and disseminate the voices of Africa Amini in the highest quality.

AFTER SOWING - THE HARVEST

Many large and small projects, initiatives, and impulses...grains that nourish the people here. However, it is particularly touching to see that they come together, intertwine, and every single staff member feels this connection with Africa Amini. I see the formation of the Africa Amini soccer team as a symbol of this very spirit. The assistance from "Kick for Life" in Germany, through financing Lazaro, our football coach, materials, and transportation, enabled training in all schools. With this seed, the desire for joint sporting activities, regular training after work, and the founding of our own soccer team, which will participate in district championships next year, also grew among Africa Amini staff. A field where people come together, collaborate, support each other, and have fun at the same time.

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Together, we have already sown many corn kernels, which we will harvest in Momella and the Maasai land. For every seed, a whole maize stalk grows here in a short time. It feeds a child, a family, the whole village, and fills the stomach.

At this point, I can only say a heartfelt and passionate THANK YOU.



Before I conclude this newsletter, I would like to share a picture with you. A moment of strength that I captured for you: Full moon in the Maasai Lodge.



Yours, Cornelia Wallner-Frisee

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DONATION ACCOUNT

Donations to Africa Amini Alama are tax deductible in Austria, Germany, Switzerland & USA.



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