SAMBURUHILFE e.V. **Newsletter** November 2026

Dear members, dear sponsors, dear patrons, and friends of our work,

Just a few days ago, we, Gerda Wied-Glandorf and Michael Mailliart, returned to Germany. Behind us lies our second project trip this year – a trip that has once again brought the dramatic situation in northern Kenya vividly to our eyes.

Already during the journey from Nairobi to the north, we could see the frightening effects of the ongoing drought. Dried-up riverbeds, withered and brown-colored landscapes, and less and less water characterized the picture. The closer we got to our project area, the clearer the extent of the dryness became.



Since June 2026, the urgently needed rain has failed to materialize. The last harvest fell victim to the lack of water and withered in the fields. For many families, this means that an essential basis of their provision is missing. The tanks with which people collect rainwater from the roofs and other sources are now empty or dried up. The water levels at the dams and natural water points have dropped sharply.

Water is becoming scarcer –
and people's everyday lives increasingly difficult.

The animals are also suffering from the ongoing drought. They find hardly any food anymore. Young men therefore move with the cattle and sheep herds into the surrounding forest areas, where branches are chopped off the trees to provide the needed fodder, especially for the cows.

The situation is particularly difficult for the women. They often have to travel long distances to gather green leaves for the animals and also fetch water. Furthermore, it is not guaranteed everywhere that the water from the existing wells has good drinking water quality. Therefore, the women also go to still open water bodies, where animals also come to drink and which are correspondingly polluted and bacteriologically contaminated.

What is taken for granted by us – having clean water available at all times – as become a daily challenge for the people in our project area.

The well we constructed is a beacon in the region, as people here find clean and safe drinking water of high quality from a depth of 200 m. Only the sometimes long distances prevent more people from using our facility. Therefore, we are considering bringing the water closer to other scattered settlements via pipeline in a next expansion step.

In many places, everything is already prepared in the fields for the next sowing. People are currently waiting for the rain so that they can put their seeds into the ground and allow them to germinate and grow. But as long as the rain stays away, the hope for a new harvest remains uncertain. And currently, there is no sign of a noticeably changed weather pattern.

The school children are on vacation until early January 2027. But while they spend this time at home, the worry about water, food, and the future of their families determines everyday life.

In these difficult times, our solidarity is more important than ever.

We want to continue supporting the people in our project area and look for ways together with them to secure independent provisioning of water and food and to alleviate the consequences of the drought.

For this, we need your help. Every donation, whether large or small, can help improve the living conditions of the families and stand by them in this difficult time. Especially with the knowledge that climate change is progressing there as well and these droughts will continue to increase in the coming years.

Please stay by our side. Together we can give hope and help turn a time of great need into a time of new confidence again.

We will continue our commitment with your help in 2027.

1. Education and School Feeding

Compared to the previous year, we provided more money in 2026 for the provision of food for school meals at the four primary schools. We supported the schools for school feeding with around € 2,000, plus a contribution from the schools themselves of € 500.

We will begin the new construction of a large classroom at the primary school in Lalaingok in January 2027. The community already paid its own contribution of € 2,000 into the account of the CBO SamburuHelp Kenya in July – however, too late to submit a funding application on time to the Hessian Ministry of Economics. Our funding application, which has already been discussed in advance with the project manager for “Innovation Funding” of the Hessian Ministry of Economics, will now be submitted in November and approved at the beginning of the year. Regarding the construction execution and costs, we sat down again with our civil engineer Samwel T. We also feel the local cost pressure, as energy and transport costs have risen significantly. This also has effects on our projects. Approximately 50 people from the responsible community, headmistress Mrs. Nelius K., and the teaching staff participated in a meeting with the community of Lalaingok. The total costs for the construction of the classroom including furniture are increasing by approx. 10 %. We expect that the classroom will be ready for occupancy in April 2027.





2. Sponsorships

Through active sponsorships, 46 children and adolescents are currently supported – 2 students in primary schools, 20 students in secondary school, and 24 students in college. In total, this is an amount of around € 18,000 per year that we make available to the young people thanks to your support to finance their school fees. This is an important contribution because it gives some of the children a new perspective for their further path in life and they will also be able to support their parents and siblings later on. State pensions or retirement provisions are unknown here!

A very heartfelt thank you to all sponsors!

3. Women‘s Groups: Greenhouses

Tomatoes continue to thrive in the greenhouse at the Baawa Dam. The required new enclosure of the greenhouse is delayed due to the current situation, but is scheduled to be implemented in January 2027. We developed a solution to the problem in a detailed discussion with the women‘s group. The women‘s group covers 2/3 of the costs and SamburuHilfe 1/3. Tomatoes, cabbage, onions, and much more thrive in the expanded field around the greenhouse at the Baawa Dam. Julietta L. remains a great pillar of support and help for the women.

The greenhouse in Lkiloriti and the surrounding fields are currently not being cultivated – the fields lie fallow even though the adjacent pond still holds water. This women‘s group neglected field work and increasingly cared for the animals. After a detailed discussion in which it was conveyed that it is important and makes sense precisely at this time to cultivate the fields and obtain crop yields for the families, they resumed work during the time of our presence and nothing stands in the way of cultivating the fields anymore.

Local discussions have once again confirmed to us that the key to success in the various projects lies in promoting the independence and personal responsibility of the women‘s groups. They learn to act responsibly for their infrastructure, maintain it with foresight, and also operate it in an economic sense. We want to promote the necessary structure and commitment for this through greater presence by our local representatives and winning additional high-performers. Only then will our philosophy of “help for self-help” be fulfilled.









4. Health and Medical Station



We met with nurse Alice M. and her team in the newly completed dispensary. This has been in operation since August 2026 and consists of four tiled rooms, each with a washbasin, but currently without water. The dispensary has been connected to the local power grid so that a refrigerator can be used to cool the medicines.

After the tour, we sat down with the health workers. There are about 20 health workers in the Baawa region who travel voluntarily in the various scattered settlements. They continue to do educational work on the topic “Why good water is important”. Since “our” well is too far away for many women, the health workers distribute water treatment tablets. The tablets serve to kill pathogens in the water and thus reduce the risk of waterborne infections.

5. Well Project

Due to the ongoing drought, water sales at “our” well facility have increased significantly. In recent months, 20,000 liters per month were sold and the trend is rising. Naomi L., our new water kiosk attendant, fills out the daily forms exemplary and forwards the revenue directly to our representative Petri L.

The water from our well facility continues to be very good, which pleases us greatly. The facility is technically supervised by Lemayian L. and is in good condition. This is an example of acting with personal responsibility.





On the occasion of the one-year use of the new well, we celebrated a small well festival with the local people. For this reason, water was distributed for free for one week. This led to around 20,000 liters being consumed in that one week alone.

It was noticeable that men now drive up and transport 5 canisters (100 liters) on their motorcycle or 3 canisters (60 liters) on a bicycle or in a wheelbarrow. Young children help out and carry 2-liter bottles of fresh water home. Most of the water is still transported by women and girls on their backs.



On Tuesday, October 27, we invited to the well festival with food and drinks. The women‘s group of the greenhouse at the dam kindly took over cooking in a traditional way. There were vegetables, potatoes, and rice along with some meat. Our fear that there would be leftovers did not come true. Over 200 people came to this festival (for impressions see last page).

6. Outlook

Our goal is to look for ways together with the people to secure the water supply. There are initial considerations for building a water kiosk on the grounds of a fenced kindergarten approx. 3 km away. In addition to the children, the surrounding residents could then also gain easier access to good water – directly from our well.

We thank you for your solidarity, your trust, and your support.

Event Notice

On Sunday, February 14, 2027, the Marburg Chamber Orchestra will give a benefit concert in the Biedenkopf City Church in favor of SamburuHilfe e.V. Under the title “Musical Landscapes”, the String Serenade by Antonín Dvořák op. 22 will be heard, as well as works by Jean Sibelius, Bernard Boekelman, Hubert Parry, and Vasily Kalinnikov. The concert begins at 5:00 PM – admission at the box office is €18 (concession €14).

We look forward to numerous visitors!

We wish you and your families a luminous and peaceful Advent season, a Merry Christmas, and a good, hopeful start to a healthy New Year, combined with warm regards

Yours
Gerda Wied-Glandorf und Michael Mailliart
for the executive board of SamburuHilfe e.V.

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