

DIGUNA

AFRIKA NEWS



GIVE LOVE

Giving children a future

Lodwar in focus

PAGE 8

*Every
child counts*

PAGE 10

EDITORIAL

Because children are worth it! When we look at a child, we always find the sight particularly sweet. Children have something that adults don't have. The researcher Konrad Lorenz studied this phenomenon. He came to a very interesting conclusion. Children's faces have such proportions that they have a very strong effect on adults. Large eyes, a round head, a high forehead, a small nose, round cheeks, etc. He called this collection of childlike features the childlike scheme. It triggers an almost reflex-like sympathy in adults. Further research on this topic showed that people react hormonal and emotional to children through these characteristics, which leads to increased attention and commitment. God has endowed children with these characteristics so that adults like to look after them. It is important to him that children are treated well. Jesus himself exemplified this in a special way and thus set an example for us. 'And he took a child, set him in the midst of them, and embraced him, and said to them: Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me receives not me but the one who sent me.' (Mark 9:36-37) Jesus is our role model when dealing with children. He takes them in and shows them love. It is particularly important to him

that we treat them in the same way.

Children are one of DIGUNA's core concerns. In Africa in particular, children often suffer hardship and are neglected or left to fend for themselves. Unfortunately, there are also some children who are HIV-positive from birth. Helping these children, giving them love and prospects for the future, is a direct investment in the Lord's work. This issue of Afrika News shows how DIGUNA is doing this.

God's blessing on your reading



Artur Dreband

is pastor of Christus Gemeinde Gensingen and a member of our association

HOPE

To Children and Youth



Diguna known through spreading the Good News, is earnestly involved in various initiatives directed towards giving hope to children and youth. We play a significant role in shaping the lives of

Every week we can talk about Jesus in schools.

young people.

In Mbagathi, this is done through a combination of the following ministries:

School Ministry

This initiative majors on providing educational support, spiritual guidance, and life skills to students. Biblical teachings with academic learning are merged with a holistic development approach, motivating children to be very good academically while developing their spiritual lives.

Sports Evangelization

Sports events are organized,

INHALT

Hope To Children and Youth	3
Certificates	6
Station in focus	8
Every child counts	10
Prayer requests	12
Experienced with God	13
News from the work	15
Employee update	18
Team News	19

WE WANT TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE HOPE AND SHAPE THEIR LIVES IN A GOOD WAY.

including football and volleyball tournaments. We have training camps, high-ropes courses, and support a community-based football club. Particularly, such events are organized to share the gospel in a fun and relatable way. The connections made often lead to intentional conversations about faith and purpose.

Slum Ministry

We focus on some of the most vulnerable young people in the „Bangladesh“ slum in Nairobi. The initiative provides educational support guidance and life skills. Playing different games with them every Saturday breaks the ice and leads us to a common ground. Most importantly, the gospel is shared and afterward, there`s ‘swallowship’ which provides the platform for intentional conversations.

Children`s Rescue Center and Children`s Remand

The Rescue Center and Remand provides a haven for children facing challenging

WE BREAK THE ICE WITH A FEW GAMES AND THEN SHARE THE GOSPEL, EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS WITH THEM.



Above: Showing love by distributing food

Below: Meeting God in worship

Right: The children love coming to us

circumstances, including homelessness, abuse, or involvement in crime. Through counseling, life skills training, and spiritual mentorship we help the young people to reintegrate into society and build a hopeful future. Many leave the programs with renewed faith, a sense of purpose, and the skills necessary to navigate life`s challenges.

Camps

This initiative is organized to engage young people in a fun, relatable, and spiritually enriching atmosphere. Different activities take place ranging from Room devotions, Bible Hour sessions, Group Discussions, and Craftwork to games cultivating community and spiritual growth. This in turn provides the children with experiences that promote their spiritual development as we host them during school holidays.

Bible Kids Club

Every Saturday afternoon is a



special time for the children in the neighborhood. Different games, prayer, worship, and biblical teachings are integral components that we are committed to reflect during this time.

Bethel Worship Experience

This is more than just a gathering – it's a vital part of the ministry to bring hope, healing, and transformation to young people. Through worship music, they encounter God, grow in their faith, and are equipped to serve others.

God is actively at work in the lives of young people through Diguna initiatives. Many have shared testimonies of transformation - moving from hopelessness to purpose, from despair to joy. Many have also accepted Jesus Christ in their lives and joined in sharing the good news and making disciples.

Nancy Wahu was a very energetic and outgoing girl who was born again during one of the Bible Club meetings here in Diguna. She was a

good example to the other children and that extended to her family. Due to illness, she passed on. It was devastating to us, the children, and her family. The family was greatly encouraged because they knew Wahu was born again. That equally gave them hope because they believed and kept on insisting that Wahu was with the Lord. We were able to stand and support the family with daily visits, and prayer meetings and equally brought hope to the family. To date, the sisters attend Bible Club in pursuit of the word of God that brings them hope.

Healing, redemption and spiritual awakening abound, illustrating the transformative power of faith. Within ourselves, we have team members who are a product of the different initiatives Diguna took.



Samuel Watee und Joseph Memia

have been working faithfully in the children's and youth work in Mbagathi for years

MANY HAVE ALSO FOUND FAITH IN JESUS AND NOW TESTIFY TO HIM IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

TESTIMONIES FROM FROM EVERYDAY MISSIONARY LIFE

In the short time I have been here in Chad, one of the biggest challenges has been dealing with poverty. I had my first culture shock on the second day after my arrival, when a street boy clung to my skirt for minutes begging from me the 'nazarra' (white person), with wide eyes. It is really difficult to see the suffering and neglect of the children, but I always want to remind myself that our Father in heaven has not forgotten these children and treats them with compassion and love. I am allowed to hold a children's lesson here once a week and tell the Chadian children stories about Jesus. There are now 50 children who attend regularly and hear that Jesus sees them, loves them beyond comprehension

and says: 'Let the children come to me.' He is the one who can really give them hope. I am truly grateful that God gives me the opportunity to bring his light into the lives of these children.



Esther Rahner

has been on a short five-month assignment as a learning assistant in Chad since the end of July

Football camp

Ten of us travelled from Germany to Mbagathi in August to organise a one-week football camp for 8 to 13-year-olds with ten other Kenyans. Our aim was to teach the children the meaning of Luke 19:10 - 'The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.' From Monday to Wednesday, the mornings consisted of training sessions, which the kids completed in six different groups before competing in a tournament on Thursday and Friday. Every day before lunch, we used the story of the prodigal son to teach the children about the importance of our loving Father in heaven for their personal lives - first through a devotional and then through discussions in smaller groups. We are incredibly grateful to God for what he has done for the children through us! When

our hearts are centred on him, a football and a meal are enough to reach children with the gospel.





Paten gesucht

Machen Sie zu Weihnachten ein besonderes Geschenk durch eine Patenschaft.

FÜR UNSERE BERUFS- SCHULE

An unserer Berufsschule bieten wir die Chance auf ein selbstständiges Leben mit einer praktischen Ausbildung. Neben praxisnahem Unterricht, theoretischen Grundlagen und staatlich anerkannten Abschlüssen vermitteln wir unseren Schüler/-innen durch Bibelstunden und Gottesdienste christliche Werte.

FÜR UNSERE KINDER- HEIME

Durch die monatliche Unterstützung können wir die Kinder mit Lebensmitteln und Kleidern versorgen. Darüber hinaus werden von dem Geld Gehälter für unsere afrikanischen Mitarbeiter und Schulgebühren bezahlt.



FÜR UNSERE JÜNGER- SCHAFTS- SCHULE

In unserer Bibel- und Jüngerschaftsschule möchten wir junge Christen ermutigen und ihnen helfen, ein Leben mit und für Jesus zu führen. Obwohl die Gebühren bereits geringgehalten sind, ist es leider nicht jedem möglich, sich den Bibelschulkurs zu leisten.

diguna.de/und-du/patenschaften

LODWAR/KENYA

Jesus is the answer:

Lodwar, the semi-desert city in northern Kenya, is also teeming with young people. Many hang around idly, often without an education, without a job, without prospects. How can we meet this great need? 'Jesus is the answer', we sing. That is certainly true. But many steps are necessary before it becomes a reality in the lives of young people.

Nakuluja Primary School

Joyce Kilel, the wife of the DIGUNA Lodwar project manager, is a pastor at our Christian Nakuluja School. She puts her heart and soul into ensuring that the 500 pupils hear God's word regularly and in a formative way, giving them not only an education but also a good foundation of faith for their lives.

The big Christmas party

But not all children go to school. If they don't have the money for school fees, many end up on the street. Every year on Christmas Day, we organise a Christmas party for the street children of Lodwar. This party includes a good meal, a prayer and a food par-

cel to take away. The children are very disciplined, although many are spoilt by life on the streets and some are criminals. We are expecting around 400 children again this year. We want them to experience Jesus' love in a very tangible way at Christmas.

Community

We support and accompany children who have lost both parents in their foster families through our Turkana Child Care Project (TCCP). We regularly invite them to variously organised camps. They experience community there, which is very important for them. The feeling of belonging strengthens them. They also learn and practise biblical values that will help them move forward in life.

Start-ups

Even with a completed vo-

ational qualification, the chances of finding a job are slim these days. That is why we encourage young people to start their own small businesses as part of our TCCP orphan project. We guide them in seminars and provide them with start-up capital. Rose, for example, earns a small income by selling women's shoes and handbags over the Internet, and we would like to thank all our loyal supporters who help Turkana children and young people to have hope for a better life by sponsoring TCCP!

Mentoring

Stephen Kilel, who leads the work in Lodwar, has a real talent for accompanying young people. He gives young people guidance and encouragement in personal conversations almost every day. This often includes a meal at his family ta-



Part of the timetable: Joyce's devotions



We invest in the spiritual well-being of young people as well as in their physical well-being.



ble. He takes some of them on evangelistic outreaches where they can discover their talents and make a contribution to the Lord's work. This motivates young people, and mentoring takes time and commitment. But it is worth it and we are happy to see change in some young people - even if it often takes a long time.

Jesus is the answer... May we succeed in translating Jesus' answer concretely into the lives of young people and give them hope!



Elisabeth Bode

Bodes founded the DIGUNA project in Turkana and are now supporting the work from afar



Many street children from Lodwar take part in the Christmas party.

EVERY CHILD COUNTS

Wherever you go in Africa, you find children. They are everywhere. What a joy! Whether in spontaneous encounters, on evangelisation missions, on a building assignment or specifically at school assignments, camps or in the children's home: we use every opportunity to give hope and a future to those who come to us, and sometimes the question arises: can we really achieve anything? Isn't it just a drop in the ocean? There are so many children... But after all, a constant drop wears away the hardest stone! Every child is valuable and our aim is to teach them exactly that. Most of the children who come to our children's home are initially frightened, shy, malnourished or even mentally underdeveloped. The backgrounds of each individual are similar



and yet so different. Their young lives and little hearts have already been shattered. For example, 3-year-old S., who was left alone for days on end by her alcoholic father, 8-year-old K., whose life was deemed not worth living and who therefore had to sleep with the chickens, or 14-year-old E., who was taken in as an emergency case and is far too small and skinny for her age due to a lack of food. Everyone has experienced terrible things in different ways. But we want to offer them hope for a better future.

In the DIGUNA children's homes, we have the opportunity to accompany them, to love them and to pass on Christian values to them. Many traumas need to be dealt with. We don't just provide the children with a roof over their heads, regular meals, schooling and medical care. We want to be more for them: a home with loving parents. Here they can experience that they are wanted, valuable and loved - by us, but even more so by God - and we want to exemplify and pass on Jesus' love in a very practical way. Because he is the one who gives hope and has a future for everyone! In devotions, Sunday school and other programmes, the children get to know Jesus and his word, and as they get older, they are well aware of where they come from and what difference life makes for them in the home. They are grateful for their sponsors, who make it financially possible for them to have



a home with us in the first place, allowing us to see how the apathetic S. becomes a cheeky, courageous and happy girl. A few years later, the boy from the chicken coop is baptised and knows exactly what he wants to do and what he is able to do. 14-year-old E. wrote her final exams despite many absences from lessons and is now happily and confidently attending secondary school. She wants to support her family after her education and actively contribute to making things better. We are pleased to see that she is not the only one.



Malindi Njung'e

was an employee in Ngechek for many years, moved to our station in Uganda this year with her husband John



— PRAYER REQUESTS —

DAILY CONCERNS CAN BE REQUESTED AT GEBET@DIGUNA.DE
OR AT PRAYNOW4.ORG/DIGUNAEV.

TSCHAD

We are grateful for our colleague Asael, who brings new motivation and energy to the brass work. Last year, he was able to travel to Kenya and learn a lot from the trumpet work there. We are currently supporting three brass groups in three cities. Please pray for motivation, perseverance and patience for the brass players and Asael in their work, that they would get to know God better and witness to Him.

SOUTH SUDAN

Rahel and Dominik want to spend the next few months in South Sudan concentrating entirely on studying the tribal language Lopit. They are looking for suitable language mentors who are open to sharing not only their language but also their culture with them. Please pray that suitable sponsors can be found and that Rahel and Dominik can be witnesses of Jesus' love to them during their time of study together.

Thank you for praying with us!


MISSION ACTIVE KENIA
30.08. – 27.09.2025

Du willst Mission in Afrika hautnah erleben, hast aber nur wenig Zeit?
Wie wäre es mit einem Freizeit-Einsatz?

Mehr unter: diguna.de/und-du/einsatzmoeglichkeiten

A BABY IS HEALED

Time and again, residents from our village in South Sudan come to the DIGUNA centre to ask for advice and help with minor or major medical problems. In May, a young mother brought her 18-month-old baby to us after a serious fire accident. Little Monday had fallen into the open fire and suffered burns to his face and hands. As a trained nurse, I was able to take over the regular dressing changes. But the wounds were so deep, especially on his hands, that I couldn't see any blood flow and feared that an amputation might be necessary. I initially felt very helpless in this situation. In Germany, burns of this extent would be treated in

a specialist clinic under anaesthetic and absolutely sterile conditions. But Monday couldn't get this kind of care anywhere in South Sudan. His hands are his most valuable tool for his future as a cattle herder, farmer and hunter. What hope did he have in the face of these circumstances? Knowing that my treatment options were inadequate, I brought the boy before God, our Creator, in prayer with his mother every time I changed his bandages. I had no choice but to ask Him for help. How great was our joy when the wounds began to heal and the burnt tissue was replaced by rosy and then dark skin! How can this be explained medically? I don't know. But

WITH
GOD
EXPERIENCED




we have a God who works miracles - day after day. Through Him, there is hope in every situation! This experience showed me God's omnipotence anew and at the same time reminded me that He is absolutely trustworthy. How often do we first rely on our own abilities or human help? Only when our resources are not enough we remember to ask God for help. I want to learn to do this differently in the future.



Rahel Neuffer

She and her husband Dominik joined our team in South Sudan at the beginning of the year

A person is seen from behind, standing on a dirt path that overlooks a valley. In the distance, a dirt road winds through a valley with several houses and trees. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font.

*Denn mit Christus
hat der Weg des Gesetzes
sein Ziel erreicht.
Jetzt wird jeder,
der glaubt,
für gerecht erklärt.*

Römer 10,4

NEWS FROM THE WORK



ARU/KONGO

After the departure of our German short-termers, the African team is coming together again. A local senior pastor could very well encourage our fellowship at our monthly team afternoon. Klemens und Bärbel travelled to the Mission Conference in Kenya with three staff members from Congo. We are grateful for Bienvenu, our radio technician from Bunia, and Kiza, a long-time friend and experienced Sunday School teacher, who looked after the station with Saidi and Androa, our house and yard staff. Kiza kept the Sunday school preparation meetings and children's radio recordings going during this time. We are also very grateful that Dennis and Vanessa returned to the Congo with us and, after a short introduction period, will take over as station representatives for Klemens and Bärbel during their 6-month stay in Germany. A radio calendar for 2025, which will draw attention to church radio throughout the entire church region, was designed by Klemens. Saidi is completing a driving course so that our vehicles can be useful again.



ARUA/UGANDA

Our team has grown again since October. A short-term worker from Germany is supporting us for six months and Steffi, a volunteer from Arua, has returned from her parental leave. Approximately every fortnight, workers and team members spend an afternoon together to strengthen the community and grow in faith through play and dialogue. Two outreaches took place in November and we are always able to show the Jesus film in the surrounding area. The new car that we were able to buy after a long search is a great help. The Land Cruiser is particularly suitable for long distances and offers enough storage space for luggage and technical equipment. 27 years on air, one of our partners, the Christian radio station 'Voice of Life', celebrated with a big fundraising event to upgrade their equipment. We are grateful for the event and the positive impact the radio has had in the area. Many people in the West Nile area love and enjoy supporting the radio.



HAIGER/ DEUTSCHLAND

We always extend a warm welcome to people whom God has placed on our hearts to find out more about missions or to consider missions for themselves at our information seminars - as we did most recently at the beginning of September. We were able to invite those who had returned from their mission in Africa to a comeback weekend a few weeks later, where we shared our experiences with one another in wonderful fellowship. Let us pray that the returnees will have a successful return to life in Germany, especially when they start a new phase in their lives, such as studying or training. At the youth mission conference in Naila (Franconia) in mid-October, we had the opportunity to make young people aware of our missionary work and our outreach programmes. We want to trust that the Lord will lead the right people to us and close the gaps in our workforce. We have now been able to complete the retaining wall at the loading ramp where we removed the old railway sleepers and 100,000 New Testaments is currently being prepared for Uganda. ▶



LODWAR/KENIA

In August, we invited the foster parents who look after the orphans in our TCCP project to a three-day seminar. Important topics about raising children, faith life in the family, health and more were covered. The parents of the children we had recently accepted into our orphan project were also present, and in September we had a group of Bible students from the Kenyan Bible school Kao la Amani visit us. They were involved in Kalopiria, a young church. They evangelised, conducted church services, showed the Jesus film and also helped to construct a new church building. The mission was very profitable for them and a valuable support for us in Lodwar, and with the help of the organisation 'Drill for Life' we were able to drill another well in Natukutan, a very remote and needy place. God has granted success. We found plenty of good drinking water, which is not a matter of course. This is a great answer to prayer for the young congregation there.



MBAGATHI/KENIA

We thank God our team participated in the interstation ministry in Pokot where they helped build a slab for the missionary house in Lapoy-

in. We have revamped our fitness center where many young people meet every day to exercise and interact with our team as we share from our lives. We have a new populated school in our neighborhood which we are now visiting every week, (3.000 pupils). We thank God for the new families who joined us. We are excited that again we were hosting Mission Conference 2024. It's a time we look forward to, as all our sister stations join us for a week of spiritual renewal. End of October could host the a pastors conference facilitated by Andrew Isiaho, a lecturers from South Africa. We are now preparing for the remaining ministries of this year. Two of our trucks got licensed for ministry, we thank God.



MOUNDOU/ TSCHAD

Lately we have been rather busy at our mission station repairing things on the cars and houses. The rainy season is very heavy this year and there are some areas that have been affected by flooding. Areas that normally have little to no rain have also been flooded. Simon, the new learning helper for our children, has arrived well and is making rapid progress in learning French. Our other short-term volunteer, Esther, is working with some young women on the hygiene pro-

ject, where sanitary towels are being sewn. The Chadian women are so enthusiastic about the project that they now want to sew Bible covers and share the Word of God with each other. At the beginning of October, we organised a weekend brass seminar to strengthen the musicians in their ministry and to prepare a joint Christmas concert. The radio station in Moun-

IMPRESSUM

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werden herausgegeben
für die Freunde unseres
Missionswerkes.

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Mitarbeiter + DIGUNA !

dou broke down again, but we were able to fix it quickly.



NGECHEK/KENIA

We have started a course for church workers in Churo. We are supported by a local Bible school. The course takes place three times a year and lasts a total of two years. We hope that it will be a blessing for the local churches, and our newly founded junior high school has now completed a full school year. There is still a lot to do, but it is great to see how much joy and dedication the teachers are putting into their work. New children have been admitted to the children's home. This is always an exciting time. Please pray for the staff (especially the parents) that God will give them strength, joy and love for their work. We are also grateful that a new family has joined our team. They want to become home parents for a residential group and are currently familiarising themselves with the work. Having electricity and water is not a matter of course. We are all the more grateful that our turbine and water pumps have been running for many years without any major problems.

We are blessed with rain and how everything grows. Our maize harvest is complete and we thank God for the yield. We are happy about a new waste incinerator, a new septic tank at the children's home, a new biogas plant for cooking gas at the vocational school and beautiful painting work by two visiting families at the children's home. We also praise God for the many evangelistic opportunities over the past months: from house to house in Eldama Ravine, Elgeyo Marakwet and Pokot, sports tournaments in Kupere and on the station, youth meetings in Siaya and Ravour and other places. We miss the German short-term students who lived and served with us for almost a year, but we are also delighted to welcome eight new ones who will be joining us in the second half of this year. At the vocational school, fewer students than expected registered for the start of training in September, but we are expecting a big rush in January. In our primary school, we are preparing for the government's new 'competency-based curriculum' and the brand new year 9.



TINDERET/KENIA

EMPLOYEE UPDATE

Hello, we are **Vanessa und Dennis Jung**. We have worked in the administration in Haiger for the past four years: Vanessa as assistant to the head of mission/personnel administrator, Dennis in social media and public relations. Now a new chapter is about to begin for us. In October, we travelled to Africa with DIGUNA for a long-term assignment. We will first spend a few months at the station in Aru/Congo before travelling to Arua/Uganda. There we would like to contribute our gifts to the local ministry and are very excited about what God has prepared for us. Ephesians 2:10: 'For we are his creation, created in Christ Jesus for good

works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.'



DIGUNA
THE GIFT AND SERVICE FOR AFRICA

KIDS FOR JESUS
24.05. - 15.06.2025

Du hast ein Herz für Kinder und wolltest immer schon mal nach Afrika?
Wie wäre es mit einem Freizeit-Einsatz?

Mehr unter: diguna.de/und-du/einsatzmoeglichkeiten



Size ratio
Germany/Africa



TEAM NEWS

Back in Africa

Klaus und Ursel Koch

Home Stay

Siegfried Eppler

Martin und Elfriede

Mischnik

Daniel und Hanna Zobel

Return to Germany

Heiko und Katja Albs

Christine Lehmann

51995

A photograph of four children sitting on a wooden floor in a large, bright room. On the left, a young girl with dark skin and braided hair, wearing a red and black patterned top, is smiling and looking towards the center. In the middle, a young boy with dark skin and a black shirt is looking down. In the foreground, a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a pink patterned top, is looking towards the center. On the right, a young girl with long blonde hair, wearing a green and black patterned top, is looking towards the center. In the background, there are blue chairs and other people, suggesting a community or educational setting. The DIGUNA logo is visible in the upper center of the image.

FAMILIE UND MISSION
04.10. - 25.10.2025

Habt ihr schon einmal darüber nachgedacht,
wie sich Familie und Mission miteinander verbinden lassen?
Wir laden euch herzlich ein, dies in Ngechek/Kenia selber auszuprobieren!

Mehr unter: diguna.de/und-du/einsatzmoeglichkeiten