

Volunteer report of Chiara, Kenya Chafisi

My name is Chiara, and my friend Elena and I went to Kenya from September 18.2024 to November 20.2024. We volunteered at the Wings of Mercy Dabaso Academy at the Chafisi Orphanage, close to Watamu.

Our typical day usually started at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast, where we used to eat eggs, fruit, or chapati. After that, we went to school at 9:30 a.m. Every day, we worked with a different grade, from the playgroup (about 3 years old) to grade 3. In the mornings, we joined the classes to help the teachers, play with the children, or organize activities such as coloring, drawing, origami, or Italian lessons.

In the mornings, we usually stayed from 9:30 to 12:00 in school and then we went home to have lunch and at 2.30 p.m. we went back to school. In the afternoons, the children had free time, so we played games or danced with them. This was our routine from Monday to Friday. On weekends, we had our free time, and we always had some activities to do, especially with Laureen and Mathias, our supervisors. Sometimes we cooked, went to the beach, visited Malindi, or explored the Alaskan Market. On Sundays, we attended church in the morning and rested in the afternoon.

My time as a volunteer was incredibly rewarding. I had so much fun with the children and rarely faced difficult situations. However, it was really challenging for me to accept that some of them live in some bad conditions and that they didn't have everything. Despite this, it was heartwarming to witness their simple and joyful way of living. They were always smiling, grateful, and full of life. Meeting them taught me so much, and I gained a deeper appreciation for the special moments in life.

We lived with Pastor William Fondo (founder of Chafisi Orphanage and Wings of Mercy Dabaso Academy), his wife Naomi Fondo, and a few of their family members. Their daughter, Sara, cooked for us every day, and we learned to enjoy typical Kenyan dishes. She even gave us cooking lessons! We tried many local foods, such as chapati, ugali, mchicha, samosas, and a variety of delicious fruits. It was a beautiful cultural exchange—we learned about their culture while sharing ours. I especially loved when we all ate together, sharing food, stories, laughter, singing, and dancing.

My time in Kenya helped me realize what I want to study in the future. I went to Kenya thinking I would study biology, but I discovered a passion for social sciences instead. This experience clarified my goals and showed me what I truly want to do with my life.

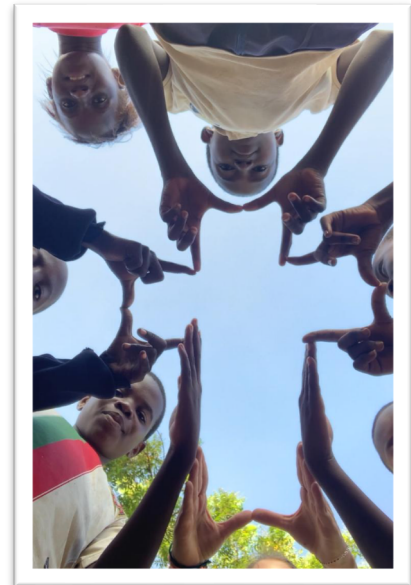
To sum up, it was an unforgettable experience. I thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the Fondo family, and I will always cherish every moment, every experience, and every child's smile. If I had to describe my time in one word, it would be *Nyumbani*, which means "home."

geschrieben von Chiara,

08.01.2025



Chiara mit Kindern der Wings of Mercy Dabaso Academy



Schulkinder der Wings of Mercy Dabaso Academy formen gemeinsam mit Chiara ein Kreuz mit ihren Händen