

As I learned about the Milele Education Centre when I met Pia Kaufmann in May 2016, I was very excited. The fact, that it was a school in Mombasa, Kenya, supported by a Swiss organization, made me enthusiastic from the beginning on. I am a teacher myself and that made me decide within two weeks to go to Mombasa for about a month. Thanks to the phenomenal cooperation with Nadja & Mark I was able to start my volunteering program already by the end of June 2016. They helped me to organize the accommodation and informed me about Kenya/Mombasa and the upcoming school program. These matters of facts helped me to overcome my initial nervousness. As I arrived in Mombasa I was picked up by Nadja & Mark and together we went to the hostel, where we had time to talk about some important things. On the following day we went, sitting on the back of a motorbike, to school, which is located in the middle of a very poor part of the Nyali quarter, I call it "the village". First of all I was introduced to the staff and to the present children. On this day some of the children were absent because of participating at the Music Festival. The rest of the children, from class 4 to class 8 had a sports day going on, and with this I had the opportunity to learn about the all-round engagement in the school. The first half of the day I spent in school and had a look around, helped teachers where I could, and the rest of the day I spent at the Music Festival with the children, watching their wonderful performance. The following weeks passed by so quickly. I enjoyed the daily moments with the staff and the children. I taught a few lessons a day and learned a lot about Kenya, their people and their mentality. I was showered with positive energy and everybody, without exceptions, took care of my well-being in school. The time at Milele has enriched myself and my life immensely. I am thankful and happy that I was able to make this experience. The school is a great managed institution and one cannot describe it better than the very fitting school motto: "Milele Education Centre opens hearts, minds & doors!" Thank you again for this unforgettable time!

