



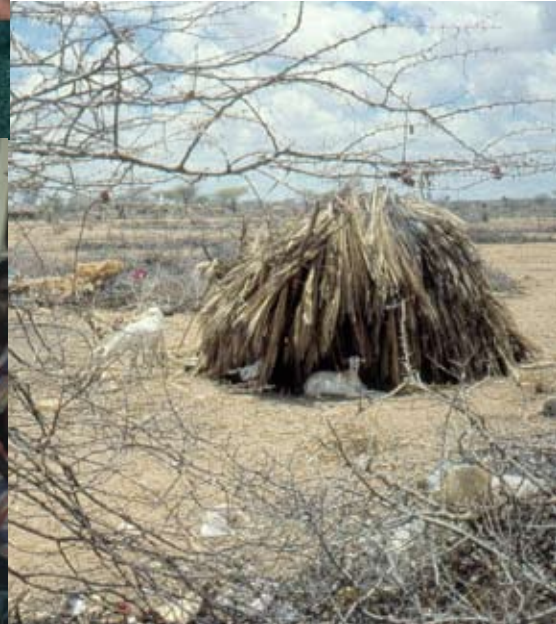
Thousands of girls
need your support.



Unfortunately this little girl's fate is not unique. Blacky was found in a garbage bin. Rats had started to eat her face.



*Survival?
Animals, people and plants struggle in the 40-degree heat.*



Huts of dried banana leaves don't hold up in rain. Despite that, 80% of the population live in such huts.

Garissa – the place forgotten by God.

Garissa is a town in the middle of a desert landscape in Kenya, a five-hour drive east of Nairobi. Poverty and famine are part of the everyday, fuelling violence and barbarism. Religion and old traditions have deep roots in a society where women have the lowest status. Female circumcision, pre-arranged marriage and domestic violence are common in Garissa. And if you happen to be an orphaned baby girl, you are worth even less than a goat, which can be sold for its meat and hide.

Every month, abandoned infants are found in garbage bins or left on the steps of mosques. Quite often the mother is an unmarried girl who has been forced to give birth in secret so that she isn't rejected by her family. Sometimes she has been a victim of rape, which is common in Kenya where there's a superstition that an HIV-infected man can be cured by having intercourse with a virgin.





Education is the best support. The need for certified teachers and educational material continues to be acute.



A grateful patient. Instead of extracting teeth, Monica repairs them.

The tailoring school was completed in 2007. Now there is a need for teachers, cloth, needles and thread.

Secure dormitories constructed to weather the storms.

There is comfort in a group of friends: Sophia from Womankind, Monica and some of the girls from the children's home.



Two senior enthusiasts create new hope.

In 1989 Monica and Carl-Axel Ekman, a dentist and a surgeon, were sent by Rotary's Doctors to Garissa. Since then Monica and Carl-Axel have been part of a team of doctors who spend 2–4 months a year in Garissa with the ambition to improve the health facilities.

The time spent in Garissa has given Monica and Carl-Axel new friends, new energy and a new purpose in life.

Back home in Sweden, they have lectured about the dismal conditions in Garissa and how a small contribution can create miracles in Africa. Empathetic and generous Swedes have contributed to helping Monica and Carl-Axel start:

- a children's home for 100 orphaned girls, the first in Kenya
- a school for more than 600 girls
- a tailoring school
- a prenatal and delivery clinic
- improved health care services for women



Reluctant to change. Traditional birth attendants (TBA) who perform female circumcision gather for information and training.



Paint prevents theft. The girl's goats have "Womankind" written on them.



The billboard that Womankind, Muslim priests and the Ekman's have posted is the first official protest against female genital mutilation.



From delivery clinic to a children's home and school.

The key to Monica and Carl-Axel's success in Garissa is friendship, trust and a close collaboration with two local partners – Womankind and Simaho.

Womankind is an organisation that is *opposed* to female genital mutilation and domestic violence and *for* women's rights. It is Womankind that is responsible for the operation of the children's home, girl's school and tailoring school.

Simaho (short for Sister Maternity Home) is a group of midwives and nurses who operate a little prenatal and delivery clinic. By providing information and training for the traditional birth attendants who assist at the majority of births and perform female genital mutilation, Simaho contributes to reducing the amount of female circumcisions as well as death in childbirth. Paradoxically, these traditional birth attendants are not paid for assisting at deliveries – payment is received seven years later when they return to perform total removal of the girl-children's genitals.



*Wanting to know more.
The eagerness to study is high
among the girl students.*

The need for help is huge – your contribution creates the future.

It is the education of women that will change the future for this community that today suffers from a lack of basic human rights.

Today hundreds of orphaned girls under the age of six are waiting to be admitted to the children's home in order to receive care and education. To be able to offer a good start in life to more girls, we need more dormitories, certified teachers, educational material, and financial assistance to ensure their continued education beyond the 8th grade.

The battle against female genital mutilation and HIV needs resources for information campaigns and education.



Prenatal and infant care save lives.



Monica and Carl-Axel Ekman's Charity Foundation.

The pioneering work with orphaned girls in Garissa must continue. A non-profit charity foundation was started in Monica and Carl-Axel Ekman's name to ensure that many more girls are given the opportunity to live a decent life.

The foundation was established in spring 2007 and is represented by:

Honorary Chairman	Carl-Axel Ekman	Docent, Surgeon
Chairperson	Susanne Bourghardt–Carlzon	Int'l Economist
Board member	Louise Linder	Priest
Board member	Ulf Ahlstrand	Economist
Deputy	Nadia Dyberg	Journalist
Deputy	Göran Claes	Docent, Surgeon
Deputy	Malin Sävstam	Economist
Accountant	Per-Anders Carlson	Economist

Monica and Carl-Axel Ekman's Charity Foundation is grateful for your support.

Every contribution counts, no matter how small.



Carl-Axel Ekman and Susanne Bourghardt-Carlzon.



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