



**REHEMA TRUST**  
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

**Donor Update – Special Edition**  
**May 2020**

***CORONAVIRUS – A TRULY GLOBAL PANDEMIC – IMPACT IN KENYA***

***OUR RESPONSE***

Once again, my main purpose in writing to you is to thank each and everyone of you for playing your part in making it possible to improve the lives of children, living in a very poor and deprived part of rural Western Kenya, through the provision of good local education and other practical and spiritual support.

As illustrated by the photos above, we were able, at the beginning of this year, to celebrate what has been achieved, including the construction of another classroom to accommodate the planned expansion of **Barbara Academy**.

The new school year began very positively, including the recruitment of 20 additional pupils from the local village community, many of whose family backgrounds were especially deprived – including genuine malnutrition and the lack of proper healthcare. Total pupil nos increased to 83.

George Ochieng needed hospital treatment before being admitted to the school



Margaret Anyango came to school by herself and requested to be admitted. She had been neglected since her parents had separated and was living with an old lady who could not provide for her properly

Although these are some of the children, whose critical needs precisely reflect the vision for why **Barbara Academy** was set up in the first place, this does mean that these families are unable to pay any fees (currently only £6 per month approx), thereby placing additional pressure on our finances.

**BUT then**, in common with so many countries around the world, Kenya had to face its own **Coronavirus Crisis**. Although the numbers of reported cases and deaths remain mercifully small at present, by comparison to the UK and other countries, the Kenyan Government acted quickly to close all schools mid-March and impose a night-time curfew, amongst other measures.

What is affecting the people most is the level of poverty - especially many in the rural areas - who are already living below the poverty level and, even in normal conditions, struggle to feed their families. The effect of the Coronavirus and recent floods has simply made their situation much worse.

Thanks to all of you, supporters of **Barbara Academy**, we have continued to pay **Staff Salaries** in full and contributed, together with mission funds from **Ashtead Parish Church**, so that **YAWOSUP** has been able to provide **Emergency Relief Food** to many families in the local community during the month of April.



### **Our New Challenge – Resources for Home Schooling - Can You Help Us?**

While the pupils of **Barbara Academy** are at home, the lack of technology means they are unable to access the government's substantial Digital Learning Programme (DLP), aimed at supporting e-learning at home - putting them at a significant disadvantage to many children in urban settings and elsewhere.

Our pupils cannot currently access the e-learning provided by the government because their parents lack TV, radio or smartphones, which are the gadgets used to access the e-learning.

We are now seeking to support **Edward Wata** and his **YAWOSUP** team through the provision of:-

- 1. Smartphones to 20 families of older pupils at the cost of Ks.4,000 (£32) each - TOTAL Ks80,000 (£640)**
- 2. Simple radios to 40 families of younger pupils at the cost of Ks1,200 (£9) each - TOTAL Ks48,000 (£360)**
- 3. Learning materials - i.e. pens, crayons, exercise books, rubbers etc. to 83 learners at the cost of Ks.500 (£4) each - TOTAL Ks41500 (£332)**
- 4. Farm Inputs (seed/fertiliser) to 60 Barbara Academy parents/caregivers at the cost of Ks.1000 (£8) each TOTAL Ks60,000 (£480)**

**TOTAL Ks.229,500 (£1812)**

Having set out in 2013, when **Barbara Academy** first opened, to provide good quality education for those children, who might otherwise miss out on maximising their potential, we find ourselves having to find new ways of achieving this. If you are able to contribute in any way to helping us, in addition to your existing generous support, we will be very grateful.

**Please continue to check out our website – [www.rehematrust.com](http://www.rehematrust.com) – which has been recently updated**

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