



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update
August 2022

After such a difficult period for all of us – whether in Kenya, the UK or elsewhere – during which life has been so dominated by **Covid-19**, I am pleased to report that, matching our own experience, life has returned to something much more normal for our mission partners in Kenya.

However, global issues continue to have a significant impact – specifically **the war in Ukraine** and the resulting increased costs of farm inputs (fertiliser) and basic food items (maize). In addition, **Climate Change** results in unpredictable rainfall, putting at risk their capacity to provide food for their families until the next harvest.

The wider **cost of living agenda**, discussed so much here in the UK currently, is directly affecting the running costs of **Barbara Academy** – specifically, the **Feeding Programme**, a vital contribution to the health and wellbeing of the pupils, and **Transport Costs**, concerning the hiring of a bus to transport those pupils, who have been attracted from further afield by the growing reputation of **Barbara Academy** for providing quality education and consistently good test results.

Thanks to your generous and faithful support, we have been able to equip **Edward Wata** and his team in expanding both facilities and the range of activities at **Barbara Academy** to continue to meet the demands of a new national curriculum, including:-

- Achieving the target of recruiting **120 pupils** to complete the development of the **Primary School**
- Construction and fitting out of another **Classroom**, accommodating the most senior pupils



- Investing in the extension of electricity to all classrooms, additional computers and Wi-Fi equipment to provide vital IT access to all pupils across the curriculum



This has only been made possible by the generous donation of additional specific project funds. Having already mentioned the inflationary pressures on our key costs, we continue to face the challenge of matching our **monthly operating costs** with the same level of **regular giving** – made that little bit more difficult by the **exchange rate** moving against us, compared with last year:-

- **Our income shortfall is something like £150 per month, which has to come from our modest reserves – if you are able to contribute towards bridging this gap by considering even a small increase in your current support, it would make such a difference**

In this way, your invaluable support will continue to allow us to educate local children, whose families are unable to pay even the modest fees in place.

Our **Project Fund** has been used further in recent months to:-

- Complete construction of new **Pupil Latrines**
- Repair and maintain the **Access Road**, which regularly suffers from the effects of increasingly extreme weather conditions



Looking ahead:-

- We are seeking to **improve the ratio of text books : pupils in each class** – currently shared typically on the basis of 1 text book to 4 pupils per subject
- Our **Grade Six Pupils** will complete their primary education at **Barbara Academy** in December and face the challenge of moving to secondary schools, where even **State Day Schools** require fees of **£35 approx per term** – a challenge for some families to afford

If you would like to know how to help meet these challenges, please do contact me for more information.

More than six years on since Barbara died, I shall never tire of thanking you for your support, which continues to encourage **Edward Wata**, the staff at **Barbara Academy**, myself and my fellow trustees, in our efforts to respond to the critical needs of this very poor local community in rural Western Kenya.

Together we are helping these children achieve their full potential and we already know that we are making a real difference to many young lives.

Please continue to check out our website – www.rehematrust.com – see **Gallery** tab for new photos and **YAWOSUP** for latest reports.

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