



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

**Donor Update**  
**December 2020**

As we approach the end of 2020, I am especially grateful to you for maintaining your support so consistently throughout this difficult year. **Covid-19** will have affected us all in a variety of ways, but this has not lessened your commitment to help others, who have struggled to cope with the severe impact of this truly global pandemic in **rural Western Kenya**. Indeed, your generous response to our **Covid-19 Appeal** in May enabled us to equip **Barbara Academy** with extra resources to ensure the pupils continued to access their education, despite the closure of schools nationally in March.

Thanks to your generosity, and in contrast to many similar schools in Kenya, we have continued to pay our **Teachers**, who have supported all 83 of our pupils through the provision of learning resources and home visits. The **Feeding Programme** continues to help protect pupils and their families from going hungry.

A phased reopening of schools nationally in October was halted by an increase in **Covid-19** cases, but we took steps to ensure that **Barbara Academy** was equipped to provide a Covid-secure environment by agreeing to fund additional expenses, including:-

- Reconfiguration of existing buildings and purchase of additional desks etc to accommodate social distancing within classrooms
- Installation of additional water storage and handwashing facilities
- Provision of face masks – made by local Widow Groups, who benefit from the additional income
- Purchase of thermo guns to check the temperature of everyone entering the site

This unbudgeted expenditure has placed our finances under additional strain before we face the challenges, which **2021** will inevitably bring.

Even without this additional expenditure, as mentioned before, we continue to access our modest reserves to bridge the gap between our regular income and normal operating expenses. **2021** will bring the following **specific challenges**:-

- The decision of the Kenya Government to compensate for the extended school closure during 2020 by scheduling 4 terms – not the usual 3 - with shorter holidays
  - This will add to our normal operating costs plus
  - Continued provision of **face masks** for all pupils – estimated cost £60 pm



- Addition of the final year (Grade 6) to complete development of the primary school in July 2021
  - This will involve:-
    - Recruitment of an **additional teacher** at a salary of £75 pm approx
    - Purchase of **additional classroom resources** – textbooks etc
  - I am pleased to confirm that construction of an **additional classroom** has already been funded by a generous new donor
- For these reasons, our **2021 Budget** has had to exclude provision for:-
  - **External Visits**, from which the pupils benefited greatly in 2019 – estimated cost £150
  - **Play/Sports Equipment** – especially for the older pupils
  - **IT Equipment** – specifically, replacement of a couple of old laptop computers, used primarily for vital administration and record-keeping – estimated cost £150 each



I am acutely aware that **Covid-19** has had a significant impact on the charity sector generally and has highlighted many worthy causes, both close to home and further afield. However, if you feel able to make an additional donation, it really will make a huge difference. I would of course be happy to provide any further information, which may be required.

Needless to say, your support 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.

Access to quality education remains a key factor – not only in Kenya of course - in determining how far children can go in achieving 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](http://www.rehematrust.com) – which has been recently updated – see **Gallery** tab for new photos and **YAWOSUP** for latest reports.

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