



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update
December 2021

Covid-19 continues to dominate our news coverage, as we approach the end of another difficult year, including reminders that its impact remains truly global. This is undoubtedly true, but I am pleased to share with you news of further positive developments at **Barbara Academy**, despite the inevitable challenges.

Most people living in **Rural Western Kenya** continue to fight **Covid-19** without the protection of a vaccination programme, which continues to reach only a small percentage of the population. Thanks to the continued efforts of **Edward Wata** and his team, **Barbara Academy** remains a Covid-secure environment with no pupils or staff infected to date.

Thanks to your support, we have managed to employ an additional Security Guard to control access to and from the school site, reconfigure some of the buildings and meet the extra costs of supplying Facemasks, Hand Sanitiser, Handwashing Stations etc.

I am especially pleased to report that, with schools in Kenya remaining open throughout this year, the local reputation of **Barbara Academy** for providing good quality nursery and primary education has continued to grow. **Pupil numbers** have increased from **83** in **2020** to **110** currently. Recruitment in recent months includes a demand for places from families, attracted to the school from further afield, who are able and willing to pay fees plus the cost of bus transport. Your invaluable support continues to allow us to educate local children, whose families are unable to pay even the modest fees in place.

Edward Wata has recently reported that these new parents in particular are becoming more active in seeking to support the school, including the **Feeding Programme**, often through ‘payment in kind’. **Edward** has also provided us with evidence of **strong academic achievement** in recent pupil assessments, thereby underpinning the school’s growing reputation.



As reported last time, the continued expansion of **Barbara Academy** towards achieving full primary school status provides us with the challenge of constructing additional classrooms (picture shows the latest one, completed in the summer).

A final classroom will be needed by July next year and, although construction costs have already been generously funded, other costs (additional teacher, classroom resources, textbooks etc) will need to be funded.

We established a separate **Project Fund** some time ago in recognition of the need to plan ahead for the known demands of the school's expansion on our financial resources. However, we have inevitably faced other demands on our resources which, albeit likely to occur from time to time, are less easy to predict. In recent weeks, we have responded to the following fully costed funding requests:-



Repairs to Access Road –damaged by recent heavy rains – last repaired in 2018



Replacement of Latrines – damaged in recent heavy rains - for use by the Pupils



- In addition, our **2021 Budget** had to exclude adequate provision specifically for **IT Equipment**:
 - Pupils are expected to acquire IT skills, which impact all aspects of their curriculum and which will require significant investment in 2022
 - Replacement of a couple of old laptop computers, used primarily for vital administration and record-keeping – estimated cost £150 each

You will therefore appreciate that the continued expansion of **Barbara Academy** plus the ongoing demands to maintain and improve our school facilities, continues to place pressure on our limited financial resources and will continue to do so in the future.

If you feel able to consider making a further contribution, either by way of a one-off or increased regular donation, it will make a real difference. Please let me know if you require any more information.

At the risk of repeating myself, more than five years since Barbara died, 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.

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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