



REHEMA TRUST
(Registered Charity No: 1175562)

Donor Update – August 2024

Having been a committed supporter from the beginning, I willingly accepted Malcolm's invitation last year to become a Trustee of Rehema Trust, since when I have enjoyed learning more about the work in Kenya plus the challenges of running a small charity. He also asked me to write this **Donor Update**, which I hope you will find interesting and encouraging.

Thank you for your continued interest and generosity towards Rehema Trust which financially supports the Barbara Leighton Academy based in Siaya County in Western Kenya. The school is registered by the Ministry of Education and has qualified staff recognized by the Teachers Service Commission.

At the end of last year there was a new curriculum initiated by the Kenyan Government. The CBC – Competency based Curriculum - is a more practical based curriculum compared to the old curriculum which was more academic. Our teachers have adapted well, but it does mean the school needs to be equipped with a wider range of resources than previously.

The other major change, introduced by the Kenya National Government, is that pupils are now expected to stay on for 3 more years (Grades 7, 8 & 9) as part of a Junior Secondary School. It was felt important that we could offer this to the students or the numbers may decrease as they may wish to move to a school they can stay with throughout their studies until Senior School.

This has brought some major changes and financial challenges to the school. Two additional teachers needed to be hired, through your generosity we have been able to hire one teacher at a cost of 15000 Kenyan shillings - £94 per month. The parents have agreed to fund the other teacher which is wonderful news as it is a long-term financial commitment and shows their eagerness to support the school.

It is incredible to see how much further a British Pound goes in Kenya with the exchange rate being very favourable with £1 pound sterling equating to around 160 Kenyan Shillings making our donations go much further than they would in the UK.

Due to heavier than usual rainfall causing some flooding we have financed the building of terraces to protect the school buildings.

There also remains the ongoing challenge of funding the increasing operational costs, including additional teachers and scaling up the Feeding Programme, which is considered a key priority.

With additional pupils there is also the need to provide additional latrines!

The other changes the new curriculum have brought about are the need for additional classrooms and for a Science Lab and a Computer Laboratory. The Grade 7 class has been accommodated this year and, thanks to the generous response of our donors, a Grade 8 classroom (pictured undergoing construction) has already been built in preparation for 2025 and a new Science Laboratory which is an extension to the Grade 8 classroom is being constructed and equipped including power and Wi-Fi.



We still need to fund in due course the construction of a Grade 9 classroom and an expanded Computer Laboratory. They currently have 3 computers and are looking to increase this to 5 initially, adding more as funds allow.

We have funded the purchase of primary textbooks and teacher guides to help towards achieving a ratio of 1 textbook between 2 pupils in all subjects. Another interesting change to the curriculum is the introduction of Storybooks to encourage reading for pure enjoyment.

It isn't all work and study! We have funded external trips, supported their handball team and partially funded their Scouts uniforms.



The projects we are needing to finance are:

Storybooks £1.25 each

Additional Textbooks £430

Two additional computers, including cabling £300

Four latrines (these could be achieved in 2 stages) £1000

Replacement Equipment (Kitchen/Grounds/Classrooms) £400

Thank you so much for your prayers and donations. We hope through this update you can see how much impact you have had on the school and the children

Jackie Iles (Trustee)

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For more information, please see our website (www.rehematrust.com) or contact Malcolm
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