

Classroom construction in Kenya

In Busia and Teso Districts, Kenya, schools are lacking sufficient accommodation since the recent introduction of mandatory free primary education. This project will relieve the most urgent accommodation problems by constructing 40 classrooms and 8 administration blocks and providing furniture. Net4kids' partner for this project is International Child Support (ICS) The project is contracted and monitored by Wilde Ganzen.



The need for educational facilities

Sustainable poverty reduction begins with allowing children to have quality access to education so that they may be able to create alternatives for the future. Ensuring that children are able to learn is an essential component of an effective education system. This ability to learn partly depends on the quality of facilities in school and the school environment.

Busia and Teso Districts in Western Kenya have the highest levels of poverty in the country. All schools in Busia and Teso Districts report overcrowding and cannot properly accommodate students due to the recent introduction of mandatory free primary education. Although the government of Kenya meets the cost of teachers' salaries, and teaching resource materials, the parents are expected to construct classrooms, build toilets, provide desks and other facilities within primary schools. Staff facilities are also a problem. Teachers often are forced to grade students' work and prepare classes outside, seated beneath trees in the open air. Without proper facilities in which teachers can properly prepare themselves for their work, it becomes

difficult (both logistically and psychologically) for their work to be effective. Surveys show that lack of such facilities leads to decreased staff performance in the classrooms.

Child Development Program

ICS has initiated the Child Development Program (CDP), a 3 years during program intended to benefit 11,448 pupils, 200 teachers, 350 school management committee members, and about 2500 parents in 25 primary schools in the Busia and Teso Districts. The overall goal of Child Development Program is to improve the well being of Primary School Children.

CDP wants to help remove outside obstacles to educational achievement such as inadequate educational facilities, nutritional deficiencies, infection, poor sanitation, etc. in order to promote a healthy school environment and encourage greater participation in education amongst some of Kenya's poorest school children.



As an integrated part of removing outside obstacles to educational achievement, Net4kids sponsors CDP's effort to improve educational facilities by providing finances for the construction of classrooms and administration blocks and the purchase of furniture.

Participation and responsibility of the local community are of main importance to carry out the project. School committees, teachers, parents and local leaders are actively involved in the whole project cycle. The school committees, parents and community members are primarily responsible for activities as purchasing the

material, donating labour for construction and administration. Local leaders and government (departments) are involved to mobilise people.

Objectives

The program plans to build classrooms and provide furniture for 20 schools in the Busia and Teso Districts. The total project will provide 40 classrooms, 8 administration blocks, 1,500 desks, 60 chairs and 60 tables.

How can you help?

We currently look for funds for two schools: Lunga Primary School and Okisimo Primary School. Lunga Primary, which is situated in Matayos Division, Busia District, Western Province, Kenya. The total amount needed is Euro 5.549 for a twin classroom and furniture. Okisimo Primary School is located in Amukura Division, Teso District, Western Province, Kenya. The total amount needed is Euro 5.126 for a twin classroom and furniture.



About the organization

ICS is based in the Netherlands and founded in 1980. ICS became independent from Interaid International in 1992. It then created two regional offices, one in Kenya in Nairobi, and another in Sri Sa Ket, Thailand. ICS's mission is to render support to children and the poorest of the poor in the rural areas in Asia and Africa. This is irrespective of gender, religion, colour or political affiliation, with the ultimate objective of making them self-reliant. ICS focuses on improving education and basic health care for school children. To achieve this, ICS implements its own development programmes and also provides support to non-governmental organisations. In Busia, Kenya, ICS has a close co-operation with several universities and institutes to measure the impact of its interventions.

ICS is working at grass root level with active involvement of the local community and in close relationship with the Ministry of Education and Health on national and district level.

Updated June 2006