

**Serving the community needs of Western Kenya**

Charity No. 1073357

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7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Mr. Brian Donaldson  
The Kitchen Table Charities Trust  
2 The Crescent  
St Austell  
Cornwall  
PL25 4TA**

Ref; 04/2020

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

It is with great pleasure and many thanks that I am submitting this end of project report to the Kitchen Table Charities Trust following your very generous grant of £6,000 which we received from you in April last year on behalf of the Upendo Foundation in Kenya.

The grant has now been used fully to construct the two new classrooms at the Kirongo Rainbow School which is situated approx. 15km from the town of Oyugis in Western Kenya. The Kirongo project is a community based project which Amani UK supports through the Upendo Foundation, our NGO partner in Kenya.

I know that Jim Leftwich, my fellow trustee, has kept you updated on last year's progress but I wanted to delay this report until the COVID-19 situation enabled the Kenyan government to allow primary schools to return. The project would never have seemed complete until children were using the classrooms and schools in Kenya completed a phased return at the end of January.

As has happened worldwide, one of the consequences of the pandemic is that many people have lost their jobs and many families which had moved away for work purposes have had to return to their family homes in the local area. Consequently, the demand for places at local schools, including Kirongo, has increased and the new classrooms have made it possible to provide places for some of these children.

Thank you again for your tremendous support which we and our friends in Kenya appreciate so greatly.

Yours sincerely



Peter Fish – International Coordinator, Amani UK

## **Project overview**

The main funding for the total project cost of just over £10,000 was provided by the Kitchen Table Charities Trust's (KTCT) £6,000 donation but the local community was committed to providing approximately half the remainder in the form of materials and labour, with Amani UK using its general funds to make up the shortfall and to pay for some extras. These pictures tell the story

## **Materials donated by the community – end of May**



Murram



Bernard Ouma, Kirongo Manager with hard core



Local timber

The news of the project go ahead was received with great joy and the local chiefs and leaders immediately mobilised the Kirongo community to ensure that their commitments were fulfilled. The grant from KTCT was banked by Amani UK on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and funds for phases 1 and 2 of the project were transferred to Kenya in June and for phases 3 and 4 in July. Funds from Amani UK were available in Kenya from July onwards to enable phases 4, 5 and 6 to be completed.

A local engineer carried out a site survey and advised that the classrooms should be sited a few metres away from the originally planned location due to water run-off concerns.

The pictures on this page show some of the donations given by the community during May. The community also provided labour to prepare the site and to dig out the foundations.



## Phase 1: Foundations – w/c June 8<sup>th</sup>



At the beginning of June, work progressed impressively quickly. At that time it was thought that all Kenyan schools, colleges and universities would be returning at the start of September. The initial target was therefore to complete the work by the end of August, leaving 4 weeks for any overruns and finishing touches.

In fact, only the last years of primary and secondary schools returned in September with other school years and most universities and colleges returning in January 2021



## Phase 2: Walls – commenced June 15<sup>th</sup>







In the meantime, building work progressed at a pace. The walls were completed in two weeks and the shape of the new classroom block was becoming more apparent.

In the background of the picture on the left is the Ted Rayner Memorial Clinic which is staffed by a doctor, nurse, nurse-aid and laboratory technician. The clinic serves the local community and holds regular free of charge “open” days. The proximity of the school is useful in the drive to ensure that all children receive the necessary vaccines. A

ramp for disabled access to the classrooms was part of this stage of the build.

### Phase 3: Roofing – commenced June 29th







Roofing is a relatively quick and simple job with most of the expenditure governed by the cost of the materials. The construction is simply corrugated iron on wooden battens. Insulation against the cold is not required and heat will not be a problem as long as the classrooms are adequately ventilated.

#### **Phase 4: Windows and doors – commenced July 13<sup>th</sup>**



This phase is another phase where relatively little labour is required and where most of the cost is due to the purchase of materials. Doors and window frames can be made locally in Ringa or Oyugis.

#### **Phase 5: Plastering – commenced August 10<sup>th</sup>**







By mid-August it was apparent that due to COVID-19, schools would not be returning fully in September. There were mixed messages from the Kenyan government and the press as to exactly what would be happening but it became clear that the classrooms would not be required until the start of 2021 at the earliest. This enabled the programme to be relaxed a little and for labour to be used more efficiently.

### **Phase 6: Painting & Glazing – commenced September 28<sup>th</sup>**



This phase was completed in early October and although some finishing touches were still required, the classrooms were at the stage where they could be used. Unfortunately, due to COVID there were no children to use them.

However, Amani UK was funding a number of training courses such as various farming techniques and agri-business for local community groups and the classrooms provided a very useful venue during the rainy season for these training sessions and for other community meetings.

The classrooms form part of the Kirongo community compound and although the compound is fenced and has a security guard on duty 24/7, the completion of the glazing was necessary to enable classroom items to be stored safely.

## Return to School: January 2021



At long last schools were able to return at the beginning of the year. Amani UK had provided funding to tile the classroom floors and the external accessways to the classrooms.

As part of the schools return programme, the Kenyan government had stipulated that greatly improved handwashing facilities, teacher PPE, temperature guns, an isolation area with beds for any sick children, greater social distancing in classrooms (which required new desks) etc. had to be provided.

Unfortunately government funding for all this was not provided but Amani UK was able to source funds so that the school could re-open on time.

### **Financial controls**

The Upendo Activities Accounting system which is administered by Amani UK was used throughout the project. This entailed Amani UK authorising expenditure for the various project phases after which requisitions for materials, labour etc. could be raised by Bernard Ouma who is the Kirongo manager and was in charge of the project. Each requisition has to be approved by the Upendo finance manager before cheques or cash can be issued. Receipts matching each requisition must then be submitted within two weeks and no further requisitions will be approved until this condition has been met.

When we make our trips to Kenya we will spend at least one day doing a sample “audit” of the system and when it is eventually safe and sensible to make our next trip, this project will be chosen as one of the projects to be checked.

### **Physical inspection**

As is very apparent from this report, we are now fortunate enough to be able to receive photographs of the work going on in Kenya. This is an essential part of the checks and balances which are recommended by the Charity Commission and are so important, especially with charitable work in Africa. Amani UK works with a good team of people in Kenya and I am in regular email and Skype contact with the managers, enabling me to monitor the project closely. We would normally have had one or two teams visiting in January / February when they would have visited the Kirongo compound a number of times. Obviously, this has not been possible but we hope to be able to see the new classroom block “in the flesh” sometime in the second part of 2021 or early 2022.

### **Thanks**

On behalf of Amani UK I should like to repeat our thanks to the Kitchen Table Charities Trust for enabling this project to take place. Although we didn't know it when making the application, the COVID-19 situation has meant that the need for these classrooms has been even greater than anticipated.

I should like to leave the final word of thanks to Bernard Ouma, the manager at Kirongo. He has emailed the following:

Dear KTCT,

We as Kirongo Community want to send our sincere appreciation to you for the financial support you have accorded us towards the construction of the two new classrooms. We initially experienced shortage of classrooms but your intervention has really proven beneficial to us. We equally want to extend our appreciation to Peter Fish, the Amani Coordinator and, Jim Leftwich for their coordination in ensuring funds were released in time and for the regular communication we have been having throughout enabling the work to be effectively done.

The new classrooms have really come at a time when we needed them most. This is following the strict social distance measures that have been put in place by the Government to curb the spread of COVID-19. We were initially worried since we never had enough classrooms at the onset of COVID-19 and maintaining social distance would have been a nightmare. Luckily for us, you came in and we now have two new, well furnished classrooms which are currently in use by our pupils.

The local community is indeed happy for the aid you have given to us now that their children are using the classrooms. They are no longer fearful that their kids might be exposed to the coronavirus since social distance is at its best in all the classrooms. The teachers are equally happy, congestion has greatly reduced in the classrooms and teacher-learner interaction is optimal. We are optimistic that this will translate into better academic performance of our learners, hence, enabling them be productive in the post-school world.

Without your aid, all these would not have been achievable. We are really thankful and we are hopeful that you shall extend the wonderful work you have done to us, to others in similar situation to ours across the globe in order to transform their lives. We are always ready and willing to receive you wholeheartedly anytime you might feel like travelling to Kenya.

Regards,  
Bernard Ouma Auma ( Kirongo Project Manager)