



Newsletter August 2011

Famine in the Horn of Africa

Many of you, having seen the traumatic news pictures of Dadaab refugee camp (now the third largest city in Kenya) and Hagadera Hospital, are asking if the famine in Somalia and the drought situation in the Horn of Africa is affecting our school in Mombasa. One of our group visits returned from Kenya one week ago with the following report:

“Although the East African drought is not directly affecting Mombasa and the Coast Province of Kenya, communities in this area are being hit by the indirect effects of this crisis. Food prices in Kenya have doubled in certain parts of the country. The price of rice has risen by 20% since June. Commodities such as maize flour (a Kenyan diet staple), sugar and cooking fat have increased by up to 70 per cent during this period. Families are going hungry and many people are living off an insufficient one meal a day.

“Specifically in the local Mombasa area, this high cost of food has resulted in children dropping out of school in attempt to help their families find alternative means of finding food. This has serious implications on the education of these children. Furthermore, with the price of food expected to increase further, the drought could have a serious impact on the students of Class Eights’ (aged between 13 and 14) performance in the upcoming national KCPE exams. These are important exams since good results allow Class Eight students to continue into high school education; giving a child a greater chance and opportunity to succeed in the future.”

The trustees met on Monday to consider the impact of these awful price rises on the feeding programme. In May we agreed to increase our contribution to the feeding programme to £300 per month and the Headteacher has indicated that this has been sufficient for the moment. However, it appears that with no let up in the increasing cost of food for several more months at least, we need to prepare for yet higher costs and even extend the feeding programme. Our teachers know the children and their families and will direct help to those in most need.

In order to do this we are asking our supporters to make a one off donation of up to £5.

Donations can be made by going on line to justgiving.com/mombasachildren, by texting 70070 and then FOMC01 £5, or by sending a cheque to our treasurer, Mr Chris Azzaro, 64 The Haven, Littlehampton, West Sussex. BN17 6NU

Thank you for your support.

Recent news

8 students led by Trustee Dan Purchase recently returned from a 2 week visit to Mombasa. Ben, Matt, Lauren and Natalie (both nursery staff), Vicky (2nd year nursing student), Mel and Kerry. They undertook a variety of tasks, not least organising the re-flooring of the nursery rooms thanks to money raised by the Connect Group at Rustington Methodist Church.



Also to have visited Freretown Junior and Primary this year is a group from the International School, Eindhoven. The students from Eindhoven took out a variety of classroom equipment. Support from ISE has been invaluable in maintaining the Medical programme.

Coming soon on the Website; individual school pages where you will be able see what our supporting schools are doing.



Fund raising events

Despite the best efforts of the English summer, our Treasure Hunt did eventually take place, at the second attempt, and a good time was enjoyed by all.

We have also been out and about, advertising our charity at Chichester Mayfest, Worthing Children's Parade and Broadwater Fair. Next up is Findon Sheep Fair on September 11th.

We have been given room to store items for sale at future auctions or market stalls. If you have books, bric-a-brac or saleable items that you could donate to the Charity please phone Karyn on 01903 236921 or Chris on 01903 718070

Dates for your diary:

October 22nd Our popular Annual Quiz

December 12th Carols, Comedy and Chips

March 31st 2012 Silent Auction

Could you help at one of our fundraising functions?

Contact Karyn Hinks 01903 236921

Our new-look website is up and running, see more at
www.mombasachildren.org.uk

Thank you to all our supporters and sponsors.

The Friends of Mombasa Children is a registered charity in England and Wales
Number 1095521