



## ***EMERGENCY CALL FOR HELP WITH THE KINDERGARTEN TRANSPORT - CURRENT SITUATION AT RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL MBAGATHI NAIROBI***

In comparison with the recent past years, the vehicle expenditure rate has speedily gone up at an alarming rate. This is an attachment to the main appeal document. The revised transport budget shows an overall dramatic increase of 25%. This is due to the following circumstances:

- Pandemic consequences
- War in Ukraine

Covid-19 had severe consequences to the general economy. Many jobs were lost, salaries were cut and the ones with businesses realized low sales as the spending rate went down. The number of financially stable earners in a family went down and the available resources had to be shared with a larger group. Here in Kenya, since mid-2021, Covid-19 had taken a back seat and the economy was slowly beginning to get back to recovery. Like the world over, Kenya has also felt the effect of the war in Ukraine. Fuel prices have intensely gone up affecting the prices of transport in general. Parents are not able to pay transport fees for the school bus.

It is also important to highlight that it is an election year and so the business environment is not so friendly. Fear, uncertainty and lack of political goodwill are some of the feelings filling the air. One area of uncertainty is in the pricing. Every month has come with increased cost of fuel. Our children did not report to school in time. Most parents did not have money to bring back their children to school in time.

Most of our parents are from the bottom most part of the economy and so they were most affected and became needier with every calamity that struck. Just before things got better after Covid -19, there were news about war in Ukraine and the latest drought in April that got severe by the day. This means our transport budget will be dramatically overstretched because of hiked prices and the many trips due to increased number of children in the school. School fees income may not be forthcoming since the families are struggling with affording basic needs. Sponsored children in the Kindergarten who are the youngest in the school do not pay for transport. This means the school has to shoulder the responsibility and with increase in overall budget, this will be very difficult.

We therefore request for your help during this emergency situation. The situation may become worse in the coming months. The effects of the war are not only felt in Ukraine but the world over. Ukrainians need all the help they can get and so are the underdeveloped areas of the world. The school strives to provide free transport for the youngest and the most vulnerable who may not be able to walk to school an offer that may cease if there is no breakthrough with the transport budget.

  
**Judith Brown**  
*School Leader*

and



**Mercy Njoki**  
*Sponsorship Office*



## THE WAY TO SCHOOL

**A long exhausting walk on the dusty,  
bumpy road OR**

**A ride in the yellow school bus**

It can be very challenging to be a child. Sometimes you have to stay brave and strong through life's circumstances; even if you are only a child of 3 or 5 years old.



An underprivileged and needy child really long to go to kindergarten or to school. It is the place where you can feel safe. Where you, for some hours during the day, can forget all about your hard,



fearful and often traumatizing life in the slum-area. Where you get your tasty and healthy school meals, together with the 375 other students in kindergarten and primary school at the Rudolf Steiner School in Mbagathi Nairobi, Kenya. It is in this school, where you can feel your capacities and possibilities can grow by the help of a good understanding from caring teachers and the society at large.



But! The way to and from school can be the hardest time. The Masai Lodge Road is not tarmacked; it is rocky and rough characterized by deep cracks and potholes with constant dust from the red soil filling the air and hence



covering your face with a layer that gets into your eyes and nostrils. Many vehicles are constantly on the road among them cars and heavy loaded old construction trucks that produce smelly exhaust fumes. There are also motorbike-taxis and the fast-driven minibuses called "matatus" which are carelessly driven without observation of traffic rules. They do so to increase the number of trips so as to carry as many passengers as possible since there are always huge crowds of passengers waiting to be transported to and from town.



The way to school for some children is quite a distance. Some have to cover as many kilometers as 28 km both ways. These are many little steps along the road for a little kindergarten or school child with small feet without suitable shoes.



Many of these children are tiny. Many of them may not have eaten enough or had any food for supper or even breakfast to supply them with adequate energy and strength to walk the way to school. “Can I have some food “, they ask the

teacher when he/she greets them in the morning at the door as they enter the classroom.

The children are also engaged in house chores, when they get back from school very late in the afternoon. The chores include fetching water, fetching firewood, washing their few items of clothing as well as their old worn-out school uniform for the next day, taking care of their younger siblings when their parents go out in the evening to see if they can get some food by selling some few items by the roadside. The children may have no time to rest or to be ready for the next day, which often starts around 5 O’clock, long before sunrise.



But help can be found! A way out of these challenges for the child. The Mbagathi School has 3 big old school buses and in the eyes of the kindergarten and school children, these 3 buses are like an adventure and a means to escape the problems associated with walking to school. A strong yellow paint makes them highly visible on the road. Inside there is a happy community of children, staff, teachers and very importantly some very kind and friendly school drivers who proudly take their daily trips with the big bus, up and down the bumpy road, aware of every little pothole and crack in the road.

The buses leave the compound for their morning trips at 10 minutes past 6 in the morning; the last one is back at around 6 in the evening, just before the tropical nightfall makes the landscape totally dark.

Yes, the transport has a cost which the parents cannot possibly afford to pay, given their life circumstances where they struggle to afford basic needs of food, clothing and shelter for their families to survive. **Schooling of these children is totally dependent on sponsorship.**



The Covid-19 Pandemic has put many of the families into a much harder life situation. All the financial consequences have affected the poorest most. Loss of jobs, increase of prices caused by a terribly high inflation, separation of parents caused by stress and fearful situations are some of the severe consequences.

Currently there are 63 small kindergarten children from 3 - 6 years of age whom the school wants to help through a Project dubbed: **“Partner in Securing Transport - 2022”**. We therefore request for support, so that The Mbagathi School can continue to carry the small children in the Kindergarten to and from school.

The budget for 2022 covers all the expenses: salary for drivers, petrol, maintenance of buses and insurance.

It means a total budget for 2022 of KSh 1,600,000 or Euro 12,500

The amount per term for the 63 kindergarten children costs

KSh 400,000 or Euro 3,125

All 63 children costs KSh 9,000 or Euro 70 per day

1 child costs KSh 143 or Euro 1.1 per day

