

# MAINTAINING A SCHOOL'S INFRA-STRUCTURE for SUSTAINABILITY IN A 'GREEN' ENVIRONMENT



*The Swahili saying “usipoziba ufa utajenga ukuta”*

*If you don't fill in a crack on the wall you will have to build a brand new wall*

The Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi is situated south of Nairobi National Park, in Kenya, it has 400 children; the majority (80%) of the children comes from socially and financially disadvantaged family backgrounds with severe social and economic needs. It is the school's mission to help these needy children to have an education. Many children are orphans, or with absent mothers and fathers. The children face home situations like, alcoholism, neglect, abuse, and others that are difficult to imagine. 120 children are in full boarding; this provides a much needed safe area. The children flourish in this environment, with their dedicated teachers, regular healthy meals and a caring/loving environment.



The school's running costs are dependent on sponsorship and fundraising; this is because the parent body are unable to pay school fees. Parents can hardly meet their own rent and food costs which are the most basic needs that face them. The task of finding school fees is therefore left to the school with no support from the government. The school in the last few years have been increasingly challenged financially for a combination of reasons. We took in more children over the COVID pandemic period due to the large number of children and families seeking help. Prices of especially food and fuel, rising inflation due to world events - the Ukraine war have affected our school's economy.

On the national level Kenya is facing its own economic challenges. Firstly, we are in a severe drought which is having devastating consequences in the lives of Kenyans. The new Kenyan government is trying to save the Kenyan economy by finding all ways to meet the needs of the country. They look to the people - for example the electricity prices are set to rise by 78% in April 2023; these measures place greater stress on organizations and individuals.

We need to maintain our infra-structure - not only build. We need to care for our surroundings, our buildings, our water system, our solar/electrical system our kitchen – this is our school's infra-structure which must be kept well maintained for us to fulfil our school's aim. All these areas need to be running efficiently, clean, safe and healthy. These are all parts of our green environment which we need to protect. To reach this goal we have to acknowledge the needs of maintenance and we need to meet these costs.

**Our Staff Team: the School Leader, the Head of Finances, the Compound Manager and the Head of Maintenance - have carefully identified - a long list of highly needed and severe acute Maintenance tasks, which has been put together into a Project for 2023. It covers the following 5 main areas – in summary:**

- 1) Earth's Environment – buildings and grounds**
- 2) Water – clean water - plumbing**
- 3) Light - generator, solar – electrics**
- 4) Warmth - cooking, vegetables/food production**
- 5) Labour/Casuals**

TIMELINE for the maintenance project runs from April 2023 to December 2023. We have a schedule in three sections of three months each, they can be carried out independently. We will follow up after each section.

<b>April, May, June</b>	<b>July, August, September</b>	<b>October, November, December</b>
<b>Water developments:</b> Secure water system, repair pipes, water tanks, sinks and leaks. Ensure efficiency and water saving initiatives, secure borehole infrastructure, develop rain water collection and drip system for food production.	<b>Infrastructure</b> of sanitary system for school and boarding. Secure toilets, waste and flushing system to meet the school's and Government requirements for Health and Safety.	<b>Furniture</b> , repair desks, cupboards, chairs, beds, teachers tables, benches, dining tables and shoe racks.
<b>Electricity:</b> Secure the electricity and fire alarm systems, solar units, and hot water units also solar lights and batteries. Replace vital solar component, ensure safe electric wires to ensure safety of children. Service generator for back-up.	<b>Infrastructure</b> of exterior buildings. Repair of roofs, gutters, windows, wall cracks, doors and fire doors, handles and locks.	<b>Compound:</b> Hedge cutting, repairing paths, flower beds, clearing branches and stones, removing old wood and tree trunks, repairing fences and gates.
<b>Main Kitchen:</b> strengthen wood burning stove and wood burning oven after years of cooking for 450 children and staff. Repair kitchen sink, cupboards, floors and surfaces. Maintain high standards of hygiene by filling cracks where insects can hide.	<b>Infrastructure</b> of interior upgrade focusing on classrooms and boarding where the daily use needs higher stands of cleanliness. Showers, tiles, door frames, wood work, skirting, painting of walls and varnishing doors.	<b>Completion</b> <b>Finalize projects</b>

### **Labour/Casuals:**

A lot of work at the school is done by casuals – needy Kenyan workers. Without labour/casuals no work can be completed. The above mentioned areas of work require their human input. Our system is functioning well and efficient with monitoring from the Maintenance Team. Every time we support a casual we support a needy family.



## BUDGET SUMMARY

AREAS	COSTS
Buildings	600,000
Water	300,000
Light	100,000
Warmth	100,000
Casuals	400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>

**WE SEEK SUPPORT TO ENSURE WE CAN CONTINUE  
TO HELP OUR CHILDREN LIVE IN A CLEAN,  
HEALTHY and SAFE ENVIRONMNET.  
Please help us with Euro 11,500 or KSh 1,500,000**

### OUTCOME AIM

- A clean, healthy, green and well maintained environment for our children
- Safe and risk free spaces - both internally and externally for our children and staff
- Prompt repair works to save overall costs
- Meet School and Government standards for Health and Safety in an educational institution with boarding facilities

**Judith Brown for the Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi 9.3.2023**

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School Classrooms



Boys Boarding



Solar unit



## MAINTENANCE



Furniture repair



Sink repair



Floor repair



Chair repair



Plumbing



Hedge cutting



Path repairs



Building extension