

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN THE RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL LIFE-GIVING FOOD PROGRAMME

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Context

On behalf of Mbagathi School, Kenya, we are seeking support to preserve our essential school meals programme for 2025.

Climate change continues to pose severe challenges, leading to extreme weather patterns that significantly impact food production in Kenya. This has led to severe drought and flooding, which significantly impacts the production of basic food products such as maize, rice, and wheat, and resulted in the loss of cattle for milk production.



In 2024, Kenya experienced severe flooding, the worst in decades. This destroyed acres of newly cultivated farmland that were beginning to be re-established after a prolonged period of drought. The country lost 17,000 acres of agricultural prime produce. These adverse impacts have created a perfect storm where the country continues to experience price increases on food and other basic commodities. In 2025, food insecurity across Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASAL) counties in Kenya remains critical and is projected to worsen due to the anticipated below-average rainfall (ipcinfo.org).

These facts have left the population with a cost of living that wages have not kept pace with. Employment growth in Kenya has not been sufficient to meet the rising unemployment rate, and many unskilled Kenyans who live on casual day labour are facing increasing challenges as job opportunities decrease. Thirty percent of the Kenyan population lives below the poverty rate, and the impact is greatest on children, where malnutrition is ever-increasing. This is the context in which Mbagathi School operates, and the conditions under which the children who attend the school live each day.

How The Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi Intervenes in the current situation



Established in 1989, Mbagathi School is situated on the plains of the old Masai land, a vast natural area bordering Nairobi National Park. It has grown steadily over the years and is now a large institution with an average of 430 students, including 136 who board in the school, and 65 staff members. The school's mission is to provide education and creative learning to the most vulnerable and at-risk children in the surrounding communities. These children come from extremely underprivileged and challenging backgrounds. Their families reside in the most underdeveloped areas of Nairobi and further afield, and many are orphaned from

broken and traumatic homes. Fear and lack of basic necessities like food and a safe environment are their reality. Sadly, these conditions have become increasingly prevalent for many children in Kenya due to recent societal developments.

The school's vision is to develop balanced individuals who can contribute to Kenyan society through their academic and social qualifications acquired at the school. Being a private institution that receives no government support, Mbagathi School relies heavily on grants and donations from individuals, schools and charity organizations to support its programmes such as sponsorships, school meals and school materials.



The school's food programme is considered the most critical, as it directly impacts the children's nutritional status, learning conditions, and overall well-being.

The school's food programme provides three meals/snacks daily for regular students and five meals/snacks for boarding students. The meals consist of:

- **A morning emergency snack:** To the 50 most needed day children, who arrive at school on empty stomachs as the only meals they receive are the ones at the school.
- **Morning porridge:** To secure concentration & energy during the morning until lunch is served.
- **A substantial hot lunch:** This provides essential nutrients and helps to maintain the children's energy levels throughout the day.
- **An afternoon snack:** This serves as energy boost for the day students before they leave the school to go home, and provides additional sustenance for boarding students before their evening meal.
- **A dinner and breakfast:** These meals are exclusively for the boarding students.

This comprehensive meal programme ensures that the children at Mbagathi School do not suffer from malnutrition. It also improves their ability to learn and grow, increasing their chances of graduating as healthy and academically strong individuals who can actively contribute to Kenyan society.

BUDGET 2025

The school's budget food in 2025 outlines the costs associated with purchasing food and ingredients for the school's meal programme.

BUDGET ITEM	Kenyan Shillings (KES)	EURO
FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES	1,800,000	13,235
MILK, MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS	2,700,000	19,850
GRAINS, CEREALS, FLOUR	2,300,000	16,910
COOKING OIL, MARGARINE AND SUGAR	820,000	6,030
COOKING GAS AND FIREWOOD	550,000	4,050
CLEANING AND SANITATION	330,000	2,425
TOTAL	8,500,000	62,500

EVERY DONATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

Sponsorship Team
Judith Brown, Clara Ussing and Trizer Ouya
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