



# Newsletter

## September 2024

News from Mombasa and events in the UK

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**CAN YOU HELP?**

WORK HAS STARTED ON THE LAST 2 CLASSROOMS IN THE PARRY BUILDING.

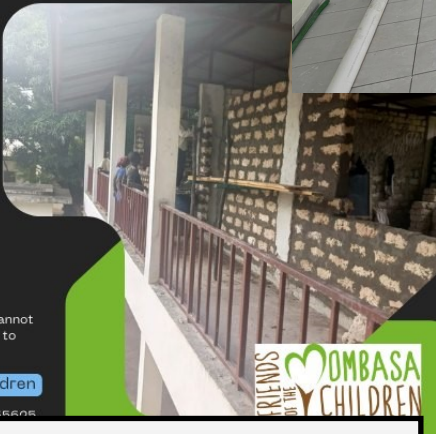
THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO GET THE CLASSROOMS FINISHED AND FURNISHED.

WE STILL NEED TO RAISE £6000 TO GIVE THESE CHILDREN THAT COULD CHANGE THEIR LIVES.

We believe that being able to learn, successfully pass exams and contribute to society.


**New Website Coming Soon**

Friends of the Mombasa Children



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**Eindhoven International School Sponsored Walk**

**Dates for your diary**

December 6th 4pm—8. pm, and 7th 10am—4. pm

Christmas Tree and Crib Festival, with Littlehampton United Church

14th December 3.00pm Concert by The Edwin James Festival Choir in aid of our work

**Friends of the Mombasa Children C.I.O.**  
a registered Charity number 1155625

[www.mombasachildren.org.uk](http://www.mombasachildren.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/mombasachildren](https://www.facebook.com/mombasachildren)



The new washing up area

## Kitchen Renovations Completed

The constant use of the kitchen has taken its toll on the equipment and building. The final straw were strong winds that damaged the roof and chimneys. We had started to make preparations for repair work to be done in the next school holiday. The Health Inspectors turned up and decided that the situation was too bad and gave us 12 days to complete a list of repairs. A letter was sent to the inspectorate explaining that if we closed the kitchen for repairs, children would not receive a mid-day meal.

Before we received a reply, demonstrations against the Government of Kenya became widespread and I expect the inspectors had other matters on their minds—we never received a reply.

The repair work was completed during the recent holiday and included:

Repairs to the “Jikos” (Boilers for cooking rice etc),

Chimneys repaired along with the roof

Sinks and drains installed for food preparation and hand washing

Floor repaired and tiled

Separate food storage area created

Student washing up area enlarged, taps and drains installed.

When our cooks returned from holiday, they were delighted with the new kitchen and look forward to resuming the feeding programme programme.

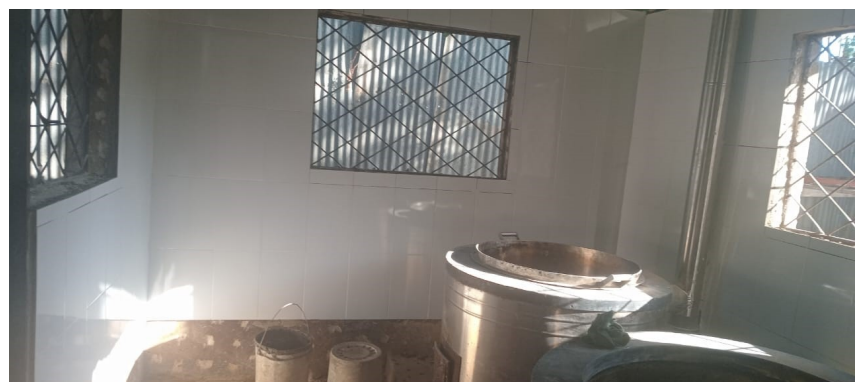


Work underway

Inside the kitchen

Walls renovated—all signs of wood-smoke removed, Jikos repaired.

The shiny new chimney can be seen in the far right. New Windows make kitchen look brighter.





## Two Success Stories – two classrooms and a new kitchen Work is now complete

### History of our new classrooms

Over the years, with your support and a much-needed inheritance fund, we were able to build a brand-new building with five classrooms and a large upstairs space with a roof while waiting for the final five classrooms when funds allowed. Over the years, and particularly the last couple of years, the Kenyan Education Department have gradually condemned the old, corrugated sheeting classrooms. We have tried to 'patch them up' and keep them going, but the time came when they could not be used. For a short time, Unity School was able to rent a few rooms opposite Unity School, but the rent was very expensive.

Two years ago, we were able with your generous support and fundraising, to finalise three classrooms on the upstairs floor. With more old classrooms now being condemned, we urgently needed to finalise the last two classrooms. They are now built! But we still have to complete payment and purchase desks, chairs and textbooks for the new Grade 9 class that will commence in January. Thank you for your continued support.

**Without this new building Unity School would not be in existence today.**



Left: Outside view



Right: A completed classroom (The other one is identical)

### Another success story

The picture is of Grace who has just graduated at Taita Taveta University with a Bachelor of Education Science (Maths, Physics). Joash Obento pictured with her is Unity Schools Deputy Director and oversees our further education pupils.

Grace went through her primary education at Unity School, and we were able to support her onto high school. Unity school helped Grace's father to apply for grants, loans and bursaries, and she was able to go onto university and complete her education. Graces parents wanted their joy to be shared with Unity School and ourselves.

**This is just one of many successes, but the base that Unity School can provide goes far beyond and helps these students into a good education and future careers.**





## UNITY SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME A report from Dr Luke Odiero

In the past we have faced; and indeed continue to face and deal with; a myriad of health issues in the pupil and student population. The main aim of the health program is to take care of any emergent health issues and nip them in the bud before any damage is done; thus keeping the children in class to enable effective learning. We dare say this has contributed in its own unique way to the ever increasing stellar academic performance of the children every year. We are proud of it.

The main health care issues are, and still remain:

### Respiratory tract infections

This remains our biggest cause of morbidity in the children. The hot and humid conditions of Mombasa, the sometimes dusty, windy and rainy conditions combine to make this a threat throughout the year with significant exacerbations as the conditions change. Currently we have a flu like infection sweeping across the populace in Mombasa making many people seek care. If not taken care of in time; especially in children and the elderly, this can lead to pneumonia. This might go up a notch if floods come our way.

### Malaria and Dengue Fever

By its very nature, Malaria remains a major threat in our population which requires quick intervention whenever it strikes. It leaves no room for error. It is endemic in Mombasa due to our large mosquito population. Dengue Fever is also carried by mosquitos and can be very painful. Early treatment is essential. The assistance from the charity has been instrumental in this fight and we are glad to say we have never lost a child to this monstrous disease since the inception of the program. A big thank you from the children of Mombasa.

The health programme has helped a lot of children in the school over the years. The quick intervention that is available to them on a 24hr basis means there is no delay in accessing healthcare when it is needed. We emphasize on early consultation and intervention before any illness becomes more serious. Both the parents and the teachers have been very cooperative and this has worked well. We have so far had 100% success in managing the children .who have attended our facility over the years.

The International School in Eindhoven (ISE), took on the medical project in 2011, which involved an annual sponsored walk. These events were run by the senior pupils who encouraged the whole school to support the event. We are so grateful for their support over the last 12 years. This has enabled our much-needed medical care for pupils at Unity School to continue. This is the last year ISE will be fundraising for us, but the good news is that we have a school in the UK that will be taking this on.

The trustees would like to thank ISE, its staff, teachers and pupils for all that they have done over the years. We couldn't have had this medical support without them. THANK YOU

