

Newsletter July 2020



How we are helping our children and friends at Unity School, Mombasa, during the lockdown.

Thank you for all your support

How are things in Mombasa? That is probably the question I and my fellow trustees are most frequently asked. The following excerpts from an email received from the School Manager, Mr Norbert Were, gives some of the answers

Dear trustees,

We thank God for how far He has brought us. We are also glad that you are all safe. Still praying for our safety as well. Mombasa is hard hit by corona virus, we thank God that we are still safe since our surrounding is dangerous, the shops we go to on a daily basis, the matatus we board in case going to our banks, motor bikes when need for boarding them arise, we share toilets with the neighbours, we share bathrooms, we share the main gate, so it has been God who has protected the Unity staff so far. Keep praying for us as our neighbourhood is really affected.

In terms of wages, we thank God that we are at least getting a great help from the friends of the Mombasa Children. This has cushioned a number of teachers and management. Though we are still praying that a miracle happens for the rest of the staff members, some of whom are vulnerable. Most landlords have forcefully ejected some of our staff members from their rooms. They have myriads of challenges, though some who are married to those working with the state are still lucky since the state pays its workers faithfully. Those in businesses and private sectors are also praying for the best.

The government has indicated that there will be a gradual reopening of schools come September, we hope and pray that the number of positive cases goes down completely, so that resumption of schools can be for all older children.

The food programme came at a time the parents were really struggling, they have really benefitted from this gesture and they have felt closer to the school and friends of the Mombasa children than the county government of Mombasa and National government. The food donations given by the county government goes to very few members of the society, equitability while donating is yet to be addressed. This makes them feel so much attached to Unity as the food donated by the FOMC can take them for two weeks or so depending on how large or small the family is, this is Africa where some families are still very big.

We say THANK YOU so much for the food donations, we pray that this continues as long as you can be able to SUPPORT. We have done it cleverly though it has come with challenges, word travels so fast, sometimes we wonder how fast it goes, dealing with the unexpected number has always been a challenge. We have always ended up choosing the most vulnerable among those who come. We have so far served about 35 parents twice.

Thank you for taking care of the illness of our learners medically, we are happy to report that God has kept them so safe and about 37 learners have attended the hospital so far since April.

Once again thank you so much for heeding to our request to reach the largest population of our learners in terms of assignments. We have managed to reach 397 children with photocopied packs of assignments. These packs have been given out over the last 3 weeks. We have also taken photos of the pupils collecting their assignments. This gesture has made 5 parents out of the 68 to part with 4,500kshs that is £36, hope they continue to appreciate like that. We are now among the very few schools doing this. We care for the vulnerable children by giving them meals, we care for all medically, we care for all education-wise now. Thanks to you all. May God keep you all safe, May He provide all your desires, May He keep instilling this great heart in you as well as all the people you talk to about Unity school. We will keep in touch again soon. God's peace be upon you all! We will meet again soon!

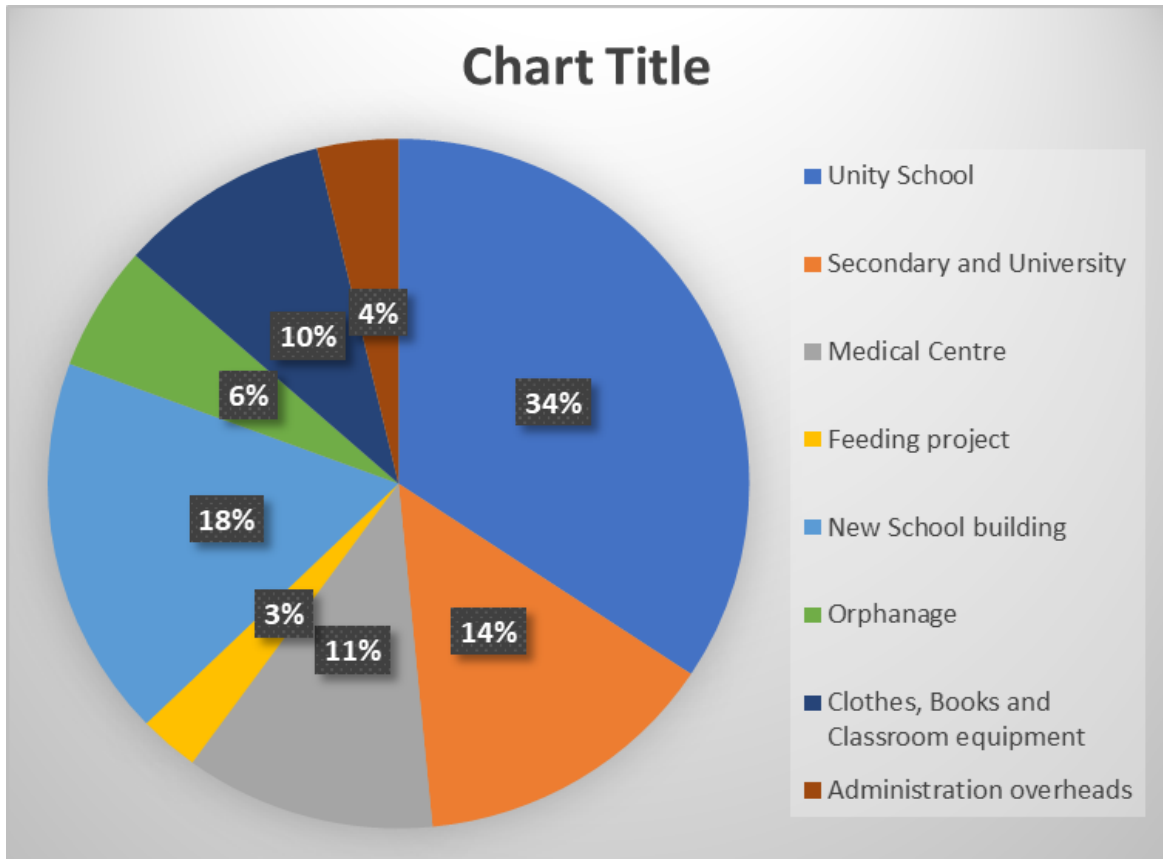
Norbert

Since receiving this letter, your generosity has enabled Friends of the Mombasa Children to give help to those teachers who had insufficient income to pay their rent. Thank You.

Glossary: Matatu –the minibuses that operate in many African countries. Often crowded.

Motor bikes - usually teenage boys taking one pillion passenger. Used for short journeys off the main roads.

Where does the money go?



Last year, 2019, we spent a total of £61,517

You can see from the pie chart that 48% of this was spend directly on education

(Unity school, secondary and University fees) Of the rest, the completion of the new school building accounted for 18%, welfare 30% and only 4% was spent on administrative costs. When most national charities are spending 20% - 30% on advertising and administration, we believe we are demonstrating good stewardship of the financial trust shown by our supporters.

In 2020 the pie will look rather different—very little on building work but a huge response to the crisis referred to on page 1 of this newsletter.

Raffle

The draw for the African Hamper raffle will take place 'live' on our Facebook page on 1st August. It is not too late to buy a ticket @ £5.00 per person - just donate through our Virgin Money giving (link below) and state African Hamper. Then email c.groves@mombasachildren.org.uk letting us know that you have donated and you will then be added to the list. Good luck everyone. Here is a preview of some of the goodies.



You can donate to Friends of the Mombasa Children via

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/mombasachildren>

Or by on-line banking. Our Treasurer Khatija Volk or Carol Groves can give you more advice.

Friends of the Mombasa Children C.I.O. is a registered charity number 1155625

There is more information about Unity School, Mombasa and all our activities on our website:

www.mombasachildren.org.uk