



St. Thomas Aquinas Kithuene Mixed Day Secondary School Was started in 2016 in a community led initiative inspired by the alumni of the Kithuene Primary Day School.

The community noted that most of the children in the area were unable to successfully complete Kenya Certificate Secondary Education mainly due to inaccessibility to quality secondary school education owing to the background of most families and long distance that have to be travelled to the nearest secondary school.

Geographically, the school is located in a semi-arid area on an extensive plain that borders the more arid regions of Isiolo County. Rains are experienced twice a year though the rainfall quantity has largely decreased over the past decade owing to the current world-wide crisis of global warming.

The World Bank as at 2014 indicated that 46% of Kenyans live below the poverty line. Most of the families rely on peasant farming which is dependent on rainfall which has been having a diminishing trend over the recent years owing to global warming. It is from farming that the families get food to place on the table.

Without adequate food, children are forced to skip school. According to UNICEF (2017) 174,000 children in Kenya who are in pre-school and primary school are missing school due to ongoing drought.

The phenomenon is not unique to only primary school children but also to secondary school children. Worldwide according to the international labour organization, 152 million children are under child labour with 82.1 million of them being in Africa. In sub-saharan Africa, one in every five children is a child labourer, 52% of all the children labourers are aged 12-17 years old. 12-17 years age group denotes the period when most children should be in secondary school.

Due to the high poverty rates, some children opt to drop out of school in order to assist their parents make ends meet. It is common for boys to search for employment in miraa businesses in nearby sub counties, whereas girls become domestic house workers or even get married off at an early age preventing them from studying their secondary education.

300 students (180 boys and 120 girls) have the school as their spring of knowledge and platform to advance their educational aspirations. Within a radius of 15 km from the school, there is no any other secondary school meaning that some children have to walk that distance or at times seek the utility or at times seek the school even further.

Poverty with most of the household relying on rain dependent, peasant farming on farms whose outputs are diminish is a real hurdle to education. These challenges have led to high levels of school dropout which if not checked will lead to wasted academic potentials of community children. The model of this project emphasizes on accessing quality education through expansion of the current school thus availing affordable learning. It also goes further to encourage, respect and support for education as a child right and reaching out to stakeholders in order to raise the necessary funding and community ownership for the success of the project.

The first phase of the project will cost **Kshs. 44.2 million** which the school anticipates to raise from the donors, parents and the community at large. With the benefits accrued being substantial as well as sustainable in long term stakeholders indeed should anticipate a great return for their inputs and much better is that the children in Kithuene will have a better future.

St. Thomas Aquinas Kithuene Mixed Day Secondary school was set up to help fill the gap of scarcity as regards to secondary school education. However, like is the situation in the rest parts of the country, adequate facilities remain a hurdle to providing quality secondary school education. An example is that the school does not have adequate classes, it has no laboratory, shares toilets with the primary school and has no kitchen. This is a great hindrance to enabling the school offer the standard of education delivery as compared to schools with the normal facilities. Also, the school is the only secondary school within a radius of 15km to itself showing the distance that children have to trek to school and the scarcity of a secondary school facility in the locality of the school. This is not only tiresome but also a risk to their safety.

Project Budget.

Objective one: To avail quality education through expansion of current facilities.

Details	Cost per Unit	No.	Total Cost Budget Note
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Construction&Tiled, Furnishing of classes	1500,000	4	6000,000
Construction of Admin block and furnishing	2000,000	2	4000,000
Toilets	200,000	6	1200,000
Landscaping and fencing	1500,000	1	1500,000
Kitchen/Dinning Hall	2000,000	1	2000,000
Laboratory	5000,000	1	5000,000
Water Drilling, Water	5000,000	1	5000,000
Computer Lab and computers	5000,000	1	5000,000
Library	2500,000	1	2500,000
Electricity	1000,000	1	1000,000
School Bus	10000,000	1	10000,000

Plus

Creative of awareness on children rights (total cost 1000,000 – 100 sessions)

Publicizing and mobilization for government suport (100,000 – 20 sessions every month for 10 months)

Total Project Cost = Kshs.44,200,000

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