



Mashimoni Primary School is situated in the Kibera Slum area of Nairobi.

Most children in Kibera live in appalling conditions and it is estimated that more than 1 million people live crammed into less than 2 square miles. Sewage runs down the streets and mud huts, no bigger than 12 square feet, house up to 8 people.

The running of the School was taken over by Ann Gloag's Balcraig Foundation in 2007, becoming one of the associated projects of Kenya Children's Home (KCH), the main charitable project run by the Balcraig Foundation in Kenya.

At this time, the School was a series of ramshackle mud huts, there were no canteen facilities and no proper playing field. The uniform was a dull brown and many children hadn't eaten properly for months.

Since then, a programme of reconstruction has transformed the mud huts into brick built classrooms with desks and chairs, the grounds have been re-designed with grass and plants and a playing field, and proper canteen facilities have been developed. Toilet facilities have been improved and a library, a pre-school unit and headmaster's office have also been built. The uniform at Mashimoni has now been changed to a vibrant blue.

Mashimoni now offers an exceptionally high level of education to more than 600 children who otherwise wouldn't be at school as all the state schools in Kenya are fee-paying. This has led to outstanding results, proving that despite coming from hugely deprived backgrounds, these children can positively influence their futures through the education and support they receive at Mashimoni. All pupils now follow the Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education and Standard 8 leavers now regularly score 25 points above the national average.

Due to the indescribable levels of poverty in Kibera, many children are sent to school to be fed as much as to be educated. So, in addition to the high level of education, KCH works in partnership with the World Food Programme to ensure that every pupil has two nutritious meals a day – very often the only food they will have in a day.

Furthermore, the school remains open for 50 weeks of the year, with holiday camps being run outwith term time to ensure that pupils continue to be fed and can learn and play in a safe environment.

The mission of Mashimoni Primary School is to promote social equality by encouraging education in a slum environment and this ethos of equality and provision of opportunity runs throughout all the KCH projects in Kenya.

Help us to help them ...

to learn

to laugh

to live



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