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**REFURBISHMENT OF FLOORS IN SEVEN CLASSROOMS AT
STAR OF THE MORNING SCHOOL**

A REPORT TO
SI, AARHUS CLUB, DANISH UNION
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Background

Thursday 5th of March marked an early start for four SI, Kisumu Club members (President Mary Akunja; President Elect, SIUK, Dorothy Shiroya; Treasurer, Margaret Rambo and PD, Dolphine Anyango). The guests from SI, Aarhus Club, Danish Union (Hanne Jensbo and Kirsten Lundburg) and Kirsten's husband Andreas Lundburg had to be picked from The Vic Hotel, Kisumu at



8.30am. They had expressed their wish to make a brief stopover at Star of the Morning School in Rabuor, Kisumu on their way to the famous Maasai Mara Game Reserve. In true demonstration of the spirit of Soroptimists, Mary Adada, the Secretary joined us later after teaching early morning classes at her work station.

About the school

Star of the Morning School was initially a nursery school. It has since advanced to include a primary section running up to Class 7 which has 12 pupils expected to sit for the final year primary school examination (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education/KCPE) in November 2016. The youthful teachers and energetic Director, Seraphine Muga are working round the clock to ensure that they post excellent results despite the myriad challenges they face. The school has a total of 251 pupils, 11 teachers and 3 support staff. SI, Kisumu Club has partnered with SIE, SIA, Netherlands Union, Danish Union and several SI Clubs (SI, Mt.Adams,USA; SI, McMinville, Oregon,USA; SI, Brande Club,Denmark and SI, Aarhus Club, Denmark) in the initiation and implementation of several projects in the school.



Challenges

The guests from Denmark were impressed by the work that the School Director, Seraphine Muga is doing with the backing of a youthful team of teachers to serve the surrounding poor rural community. One of the major challenges noted by the guests was the poor state of the floors in seven (7) of the classrooms. The cemented floors were badly cracked making the environment difficult to

clean. The dusty classroom floors resulted in respiratory diseases in the pupils. Poor health led to chronic absenteeism, which impeded performance.

Proposal Development

Working in collaboration with the management of the Star of the Morning School, the Programme Director, SI, Kisumu Club, Dolphine Anyango developed a proposal on the refurbishment of the floors in the seven class rooms. SI, Aarhus Club gave a generous donation of USD 730 towards the same.

Project Implementation



The Treasurer, SI, Kisumu Club, Margaret Rambo kindly offered to take charge of the implementation of the project. She coordinated the purchase and delivery of materials to the school on Friday 26th of June 2015.

The refurbishment began on Saturday 27th June when the pupils were on a weekend break.



Margaret Rambo supervised the work diligently throughout the weekend. She was joined briefly by the PD, Dolphine Anyango on Sunday 28th of June.

Community assets and contributions

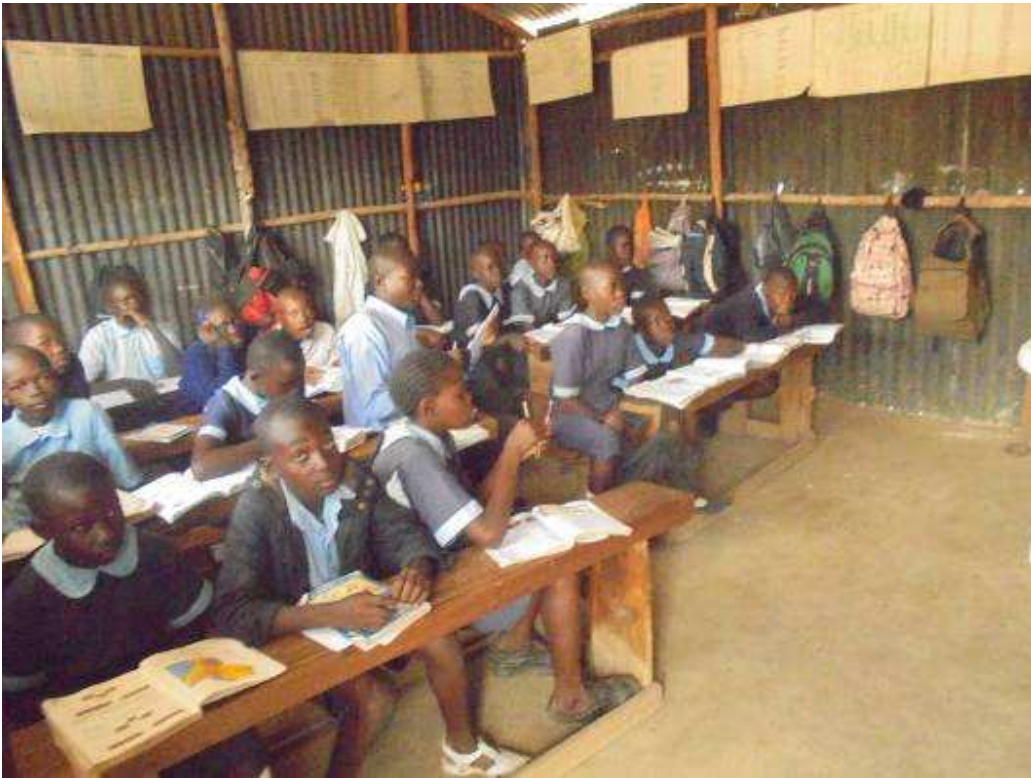
Community members and parents contributed long hours of hard physical semiskilled and/or unskilled labour to transform the classrooms. Drawing and carrying water to the site was done free of charge. This was their contribution towards cost-sharing to reduce the cost of repairs.



Classrooms without walls

From Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd of July, the pupils whose classrooms were refurbished attended their lessons under the clear blue sky. Thank God the weather was beautiful the whole week. The freshly cemented floors required adequate time to cure and dry completely.





"Goodbye to the dusty floors; welcome clean environment and better health. Thank you SI, Aarhus club."

The refurbishment of the classroom floors at the Star of the Morning School will contribute towards having a clean physical environment for the 251 pupils and their teachers. This will result in better concentration and improved academic performance.





Director Seraphine Muga, the teachers and all the pupils of Star of the Morning appreciate the continued support from SI, Aarhus Club. A clean and conducive physical learning environment is an important aspect in an educational institution.

Acknowledgements

I would like to acknowledge the following people:

- SI, Aarhus Club members for their generous donation towards this noble project. Thank you Hanne, Kirsten and Andreas for visiting Star of the Morning School. Thank you so much Hanne for the timely disbursement of funds and your constant email communication on the same
- All SI, Kisumu Club members for creating time to serve our local communities. Every coin and every second spared goes a long way to improve the lives of girls and women. Thank you President Mary Akunja and President Elect Edna Tado for your able leadership.
- Club treasurer Margaret Rambo for taking care of the finances, not forgetting the endless visits and calls to the bank. Thank you so much for creating time and supervising the project to its successful completion.
- Our able contractor Fundi Ouko for your expertise and for ably coordinating the volunteers at the project site. Your dedication to duty is exemplary.
- The School Director, Seraphine Muga and her youthful team of teachers for their cooperation and partnership with SI, Kisumu Club. Special gratitude to the pupils for their patience during the implementation of the project.