

# RUSH Kenya



## An update on RUSH Kenya and its new partnership with International Needs.

International Needs is delighted about its new partnership with RUSH Kenya, run by Andrew and Lucy Amukowa in Western Kenya. So far, 2018 has been a year of getting to know the projects, each other and transferring supporters from RUSH UK and Embrace Kenya over to International Needs. We have had varied success in gaining support for RUSH Kenya and really hope more supporters will sign up to child sponsorship, regular giving, fundraising and one-off gifts.

The journey Andrew and Lucy have been on as their work has grown really is incredible; today they have two schools, one vocational centre, one church and numerous community initiatives. We reckon there are about 730 people directly benefitting from their programmes and about 3,650 indirectly benefitting. This is bringing great change for families in Kakamega.



Though some resources are raised locally, the current reality is that RUSH Kenya really need more support from the UK for these projects to continue and flourish. We are working with Andrew and Lucy to plan how the school can be more self-sustainable, but this will take time. This transition period and funding insecurity has been tough for RUSH Kenya; with your support we hope to build reliable funding.

## So what has been going on with RUSH Kenya?

### Report from Ali Mbugua, Programme Manager at International Needs UK.

#### *RUSH Academy*

It is now nearly the end of the academic year in Kenya. This has meant many exams for all students, a graduation ceremony for the pre-school students and final exams for the form 4 students.

RUSH Academy is a brilliant primary and secondary school that provides accessible high quality education. The majority of the 450 children at these schools come from very humble backgrounds. Many of them have lost parents to HIV/Aids therefore some live with guardians, while others have been abandoned. Even for those living with their parents, life can be very challenging as their parents struggle to find employment and reliable income to support their families.

A majority of the pupils cannot afford to pay school fees for their education. Fortunately, some are supported by the generosity of Child Sponsors in the UK who pay £20/ £25 per month



to enable their education. We currently have 38 sponsored children at RUSH Academy and would love to reach 100 sponsored children in 2019.

It is customary for children in nursery classes to have a graduation ceremony before they enter into Class One of primary school. I was privileged to be able to join a graduation ceremony on my recent trip to RUSH where I saw the very smartly dressed graduates and various energetic performances from the students. The parents who attended seemed very proud of their children.

At the secondary school, the Form 4 students were studying hard as they prepare for their final exams. The examination system has become very strict in Kenya in recent years so the school is ready to be on lock-down with police on watch during this exam season. We hope and pray the students perform very well!

### *Vocational Training*

There are currently 25 young women studying tailoring and preparing for a nationally accredited exam. They recently made 26 cloth bags to be sold by Joan Hadlow in the UK to raise money for RUSH – here are the beautiful bags. Get in touch with Joan if you'd like to buy one... ([ednajoan@hotmail.com](mailto:ednajoan@hotmail.com)).



The facility used for both the carpentry and the tailoring courses is rented from the Public Works. It would be wonderful if RUSH Kenya were able to find a permanent location for this training facility, this would enable them to register it as a national polytechnic.

### *RUSH Women*

The RUSH women's group continues to meet together on Tuesdays which gives them an opportunity to worship, pray, catch-up, plan, learn and support one another. This fantastic group of women are definite movers and shakers in their community. They divide themselves into many groups including Home Based Care, Livelihoods Projects, First Aid, Group Banking and much more. International Needs would love to help this group of women continue to reach out to support their community. Through International Needs Kenya, we hope to strengthen the programmes they are running and enable them to do more.





At Christmas each year, this group of women come together for a meal and to share gift baskets of food with vulnerable women in the area. These women come from humble backgrounds, some have been abandoned by their husbands and others suffer with HIV/Aids. RUSH Kenya want to give these women the gift of food for them to enjoy over Christmas. Could you help us raise £2,000 to do this?

### *Burdekin Christian Life Ministries*

Andrew and Lucy are Pastors at Burdekin Christian Life Ministries, a Pentecostal church in Butere. They run various ministries during the week including bible studies and groups for different age groups. Lucy also runs a theological training course from her house for Christian Leaders from different denominations. They were telling me about how lively these conversations can get!



## **Some of the main challenges we are working on:**

- We urgently need to be able to send approx. £4,000 each month to support this work; we currently get about £1,600 income for RUSH Kenya each month.
- We are formalising an annual budget for RUSH Academy so that we can prepare for costs throughout the year.
- We are working together on an annual income and expenditure budget for RUSH Kenya to take into account funds raised locally, through school fees and contributions from donors in the UK.
- The schools need a reliable source of food as they no longer have a field rented from the government to grow maize. The best solution would be to buy about 10 acres nearby to grow maize for school consumption and for sale.
- The school needs some refurbishment works such as painting and replacing windows before the new academic year in January. This will cost about £4,600.
- We are also preparing a list of the project priorities that we can start working on in 2019, such as completing the new classroom (£3,298) and dormitory (£22,000), repairing the dining hall (£20,000) and fencing the secondary school.

## **How can you help best?**

Any fundraising you can do would be of enormous help. We have taken a great leap of faith in taking on this new major project and really need significant financial support to ensure it flourishes.

- Could you sponsor a child for £20 per month? Or find some friends to do so?
- Could you donate monthly to RUSH projects by signing up to the International Needs Family?
- Could you set a target and fundraise for RUSH Kenya in 2019?
- Could you introduce International Needs to your church, company or friends to see if we can find more support?

**If you have any questions about the project and the progress of the work, please contact Ali Mbugua, Programme Manager, on 01883 331332 or at [alim@ineeds.org.uk](mailto:alim@ineeds.org.uk)**