

## Support the Oloo Children Centre

This website belongs to the Dutch foundation 'Vrienden van Kibera'. This small foundation has supporting the Oloo Children Centre in Kibera, Nairobi (Kenya) as its purpose. Although elementary education is available to all children in Kenya, the financial threshold for a lot of children in the Kibera slums is too high. The foundation aims to help these children and make sure they get the education they need and deserve.

With our monthly contribution, the school can maintain the building, purchase teaching material and offer lunches on school days. If possible, we also provide extra financial support if the situation is dire (unexpected costs for the school). We can only provide these contributions with the help of our donors.

### *About the Foundation*

The foundation 'Vrienden van Kibera' was founded in 2019 after we heard from friends and colleagues that live in Nairobi about the Kibera slums and the Oloo Children Centre within them. To inform our potential donors as well as possible, we maintain close contact with the school. This usually happens online in meetings with employees of the school and indirectly through our close friends and (Dutch) family in Kenya.

Everyone that would like to contribute to the school can donate to the school itself. Periodic or one-off donations to the foundation are also possible. The board of the foundation is completely voluntary, this means every euro that comes in at the Foundation will directly benefit the Oloo Children Centre.

Donations can be made through

1. A one-off donation to the following bank account: NL53 RABO 0341 5064 19 listing 'Donation Vrienden van Kibera' – [your name].
2. A periodic contribution; meaning you will make the same donation 5 years in a row. We will record this in a contract. Periodic donations are important to us, because we can provide continuity in the funds we provide and with that continuity for the school..

In the Netherlands we are a so called ANBI: 'Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling' (charitable institution), a foundation that aims to improve public welfare. Because of that, people who pay tax in the Netherlands can deduct every donation from their yearly tax payments. This could be true for other countries, but we are not knowledgeable on laws outside of the Netherlands.

For more information, please email us:

Chairman of the board: [voorzitter@vriendenvankibera.nl](mailto:voorzitter@vriendenvankibera.nl) or

the secretary: [secretaris@vriendenvankibera.nl](mailto:secretaris@vriendenvankibera.nl)

### *Oloo children centre*

The founder and director Judy Oloo started the school in 2008 as a small kindergarten for children she knew and of whom she knew officially 'freely' available schooling was a bridge too far. Now, the school is a fully-fledged primary school with over 400 students. These students can enter in grade 1 and eight years later, end their primary education with the *Kenya Certificate of Primary Education*

(KCPE). This certificate is also the entry ticket to secondary education. For small children - aged 4 and below - Pre-Primary school exists. Children go to school here six days a week and are served a warm lunch and a snack.

We introduce two children:

**Rozen Shaniz** is a 12 year old girl in the seventh standard grade. Rozen lives alone with her mother (Christien). Her mother had a job as a hairdresser, but lost this job since the start of the corona pandemic. She now earns money by doing chores. Christien went to school herself for a year, but didn't finish her education, she can help Rozen with her homework. Rozen is with the Oloo Children Centre for three years. She started in grade 5. Her favourite subject is math, but 'learning' in general is her hobby. If the school wasn't there, she would still do it. This would have been a lot tougher though, because she doesn't have a phone or books and it would mean she would have to borrow everything. The school is great because she can learn a lot and gets a lot of support from the teachers and the school's director. She needs this, because she wants to become a neurosurgeon one day. To learn more about hospitals she went to one with one of the teachers recently.

**Mitchel Ouma** is 15. She went to school for eight years and in the spring of 2021 she got her *Kenya Certificate of Primary Education*. This was hard work because the school was closed for almost the entire year in 2020. She studied as much as possible by watching an educational tv channel. She enjoyed Science the most and in particular anything related to the human body (Biology). She wants to become a flight attendant for Kenya Airways. With a teacher from the school, she visited the airport and saw a plane from up close.

Mitchell lives next to the school with her mother and five brothers and sisters. She is the second oldest. Her father lives somewhere else. She knows him, but because of domestic abuse, her mother chose to live separately. Her youngest sister of 10 also goes to the school. She loves the school because of the support she gets from everyone and of course everything she learns there.

### **The teachers**

There are currently 24 teachers working at the school who all been educated at the Kenyan school for teachers. They are trained as a group teacher as well as an instructor for specific courses.

**Billy Wasonga** is one of them. He's been working for the school for 12 years. He was enthused about the school by Judy Oloo, but also because he can find other people within the school that share his passion for the community he lives in. The school has to make a difference for the children that grow up in Kibera. Within Oloo Children Centre you can find people that stand together for one assignment: Making sure children in the slums have a different foundation than their parents and making sure they develop a better future. This is what Billy works for and to him that is worth far more than a regular income and a job at a public school.

Oloo Children Centre is more than an ordinary school because the children in Kibera need more than ordinary children. They don't get much at home. The school tries to support children as broadly as possible in their development. This means taking children to places outside of Kibera; a park or a museum or a location that fits the profession they envision themselves in. In school, there are also activities like 'girl talk', 'health club' and lots of arts and crafts. Children can choose these as 'non-exam courses'. Not everyone likes sports or talking!

Students are being helped in finding the right secondary education. In Kenya, a couple of years of secondary education are crucial in getting a steady job. If possible at all, they try to find the kids a school outside of Kibera so that they meet a different world as part of their daily activities. Secondary school is not for free and asks for a relatively big contribution from parents who usually don't have this. Oloo Children Centre saves up for this, and tries to financially support where possible.

Billy finds it very important that girls also get a proper education, just like his fellow teachers. Chances of girls becoming pregnant at a young age are big, but less big when they go to school. The Corona pandemic has made this painfully clear. It is exactly because of this reason that during the mandatory shutdown of school (lock down) teachers have tried to be in contact with their students as much as possible. They would be fed at the school, which made sure they would come to the school.

### **Kibera, the slums**

Oloo Children Centre resides in Kibera, the biggest slums of Nairobi. Exact numbers of inhabitants are hard to give, but rough estimates give 2,000,000 people living in Kibera of which 500,000 children. The slums have existed since the start of the twentieth century. Kenyan soldiers who returned after the first world war were awarded a house in this area by the British colonial rulers. This settlement has grown immensely since then. When Kenya declared independence in 1963, the government forbade people from living in the area, but people continued to do so anyway. High rent of existing homes has led to building a lot of slims. Because officially it is not a living area, the government is not building schools and there is a lack of infrastructure. This means a lot of houses can only be reached on foot. Because of these circumstances a lot of private schools (primary and secondary) have been built and opened. Oloo Children Centre is one of these schools.