

A Bed of
One's
Own





Providing Safe Dormitories for Girls in Rural Areas

Girls in rural areas face numerous daily obstacles, including household chores and lengthy commutes to and from school which prevent them from completing school work. However, when we learned that two female students had been chased by a hyena, we knew we had to act. Our further investigation revealed that wild animals were not the only danger – human predators were also present.

In a joint partnership the communities and the local government have built dormitories for secondary school students but it turns out the agreement was for the building and did not include the fixtures and fittings. So when we visited and found just the shells of buildings with no beds and no plumbing we are deeply saddened to see the potential not being realised. In discussions with the local government we agreed that if they complete the toilets and showers we will provide the bunk bed frames.



We are delighted that to date we have now added 40 bunk beds each to the Mutuka and Sigino secondary schools, and with the support of our amazing donors, we have this last year added 28 bunk beds to the Mamire Secondary School.

However, prior to providing the beds, we recognized the potential risk of placing young girls in one location and the associated safeguarding challenges.

We therefore collaborated with the Head Teachers of each schools and aided them in conducting risk assessments and guided them in designing suitable steps to ensure the safety of the girls in their care. The girls were involved in establishing and agreeing a Code of Conduct for their behaviour as they are key to ensuring their own safety.



As with all of our construction projects we engaged local crafts-folk to build the bunk beds and commissioned local transport companies to move the beds to their schools. This is part of our philosophy to always invest in the local economy.

We would like to thank everyone for their kindness in helping these girls to avoid the terrible risks they were facing. Every year 56 girls will be safer as a result.

Thank you for supporting our
'A Bed of One's Own'
Programme

MCDO ORGANISATION,
P.O. Box,
BABATI - MANYARA.

Dear sir / Madam.

RE: THANKS GIVING FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF
BEDS BY HOSTELS STUDENT AT MAMIRE
SECONDARY SCHOOL.

Refer the heading above, We are hostels students at Mamire secondary school. We are giving thanks for you the MCDO Organisation for the provision of beds in our school which will enable us to stay health and to be concentrated well in our studies.

A lot of thanks to you and we promise of-
or you, we are going to do wonders in our studies.

Your faithfull.

R. Gidbaso

Rozalla. Gidbaso

Hostel chair person,

This letter is from Rozalla, the student who is the elected chair of the hostel students. MCDO are our delivery partners in Babati. The Head Teacher, Mr Mathayo has also written a thank you note saying "We believe that this donation will led to good results as our students will now be emancipated from threats of early pregnancies and those from 10-12km will be accommodated in school and have enough time for self studies.... I highly thank you for the donation."

As a charity we take a low profile and are content to know that the student and community members may never know the names of the people who help them, but they will always carry with them the love that strangers have shown them in their time of need in the hope that when they find a person in need they will act selflessly as others have to them.

