



# CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHERS

## General Custody of Kenya

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P.O. Box 14413-00800,  
Rhapta Road Westlands  
Phone: +254 20 444 25 84  
Cell: +254 720 249 317  
E-mail: [capuchinskenya@jambo.co.ke](mailto:capuchinskenya@jambo.co.ke)

### REQUEST FOR MONETARY SUPPORT TO FACILITATE LEARNING AT ST. JOSEPH GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL KAKRIGU - HOMA BAY DIOCESE



### CONTACT PERSON: THE CUSTOS

**BR. ARNOLD SHIRIMA, OFM Cap**  
CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FATHERS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE  
Box 14413 - 00800  
WESTLANDS – NAIROBI KENYA  
Cell Phone: +254 721261650  
Email: [arnoldcaps@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:arnoldcaps@yahoo.co.uk)



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### The Executive Summary

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars is a Religious Order in the Catholic Church, with members making a vowed commitment to serve the vulnerable across the globe. In Kenya, the Order was established in 1974 by the Missionary Capuchin Friars from Malta, who by then settled in the Diocese of Garissa, North Eastern region of Kenya. From there, the religious Order has spread to various dioceses; among them is the Nairobi Archdiocese, Malindi Diocese, Nyeri Archdiocese, and Kisii diocese, Kisumu Archdiocese, Homa Bay Diocese and Machakos Diocese. Currently, its headquarters are located along Raptia Road Westlands in Nairobi Archdiocese - Kenya.

Influenced by the Franciscan Charism, the Friars serve in various parts of the world through provision of education, health care, psycho-spiritual support, evangelization and community social services. Their services adopt and promotes a pro-poor model whereby, those involved commit themselves to social transformation through empowerment of communities to become drivers of their own development. **St. Joseph's Girls Secondary school** in the diocese of Homa-Bay is one of the places where the Capuchin Franciscan Friars serve.

The school was started in 1988 under the initiative of Fr. Tellen the then parish priest with the aim of providing education to the girl child in the region who were at the receiving end of the socio – cultural and economic challenges. The Capuchin Franciscan Friars started managing the school in 2015 and received an official ownership transfer in 2017 through the facilitation of Rt. Rev Bishop Phillip Anyolo, Bishop of Homa-bay Diocese and the Capuchins Franciscan Friars leadership in Kenya. By then, the school had suffered financial constraints to a point of closing down. The teachers and support staff had over six months without salaries. There was no enough food for the students and even maintenance of the school was not up to standard (see the attached photos).

From 2017 to-date, the school has seen much progress and new life is blossoming. However; the school is currently constrained due to negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The school is in a great shortage of monetary resource to facilitate learning, hence, this request for monetary support to help rescue the current situation as we strategically plan to move towards sustainability.

To enhance sustainability; the school has planned a three-fold approach. That is involving the direct beneficiaries (girls) through a give-back circle program; indirect beneficiaries (the local community) through a community ownership program and the key shareholder (the Capuchin Franciscan Friars) through income-generating school activities.

To achieve all the above, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars has embraced a **MEAL** system (**M**onitoring, **E**valuation, **A**ccountability and **L**earning) process in their programs and services. This ensures that transparency and integrity is upheld hence building trust among the stakeholders.

### Introduction

The Capuchin Franciscan Friars is a Religious Order in the Catholic Church, with members making a



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vowed commitment to the loving and service of God through their sisters and brothers in need around the World. Capuchin Franciscan Friars Order comprises of Priests and Brothers living the Franciscan Christ, serving in various parts of the world through provision of education, health care, psycho-spiritual support and community social services.

The Order was established in Kenya in 1974 by the Capuchin Missionaries from Malta, who by then settled in the Diocese of Garissa, North Eastern region of Kenya. Currently, its headquarters are located along Raphta Road Westlands in Nairobi. The Capuchin Franciscan Friars share the Love of God through several ministries in Kenya. Among them, provision of formal education, vocational training, health-care services, community support services, sacramental ministry, evangelization and advocacy on issues of social concern among others. They have a common goal to serve the poor population through identifying their needs and developing tailor-made projects to combat the challenges. The Friars have the practice in their missionary work of always being ready to go wherever they find a need to address especially among the vulnerable populations in the society. Since their establishment; the Capuchins have continued collaborating with a number of local and international organizations and donors to implement projects and programs in various parts of the country.

Currently the Friars have implemented several projects in respond to the needs of the vulnerable populations in their respective areas of mission. These projects include and not limited to:

- The reinforcement of this project in Homa Bay Diocese (**St. Josephs' Girls Secondary School**) to promote education and support the poor communities within the vicinity.

The provision of various services offered by Capuchin Franciscan Friars promotes a pro-poor model of people committing themselves to transform community through a holistic approach. The evaluation report of the various projects and programs in the year ended 2020 highlighted a great positive impact of the Friars' service to humanity and especially the poor and the marginalized. This project needs collaboration and good will from all stakeholders (individual well-wishers, the surrounding community and other organizations to enhance acquisition of this required and requested resources both in-kind and monetary for the achievement of the set goals.

We are now going into the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of COVID-19 pandemic; and lockdowns and closure of schools seem to worsen the situation; making more people prone to social-economic challenges and the countries' economies declining.

### **The History of St. Joseph Girls Secondary School**

St. Joseph Girls Secondary is a boarding school in the diocese of Homa Bay. The school was started in 1988 under the initiative of Fr. Tellen the then the parish priest with the aim of providing education to the girl child in the region who were at the receiving end of the social – cultural and economic challenges. Since then the school has passed through the management of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph (FSJ) and the lay administrators which has always been with economic difficulties due to the poor nature of the community that serves as its primary catchment area.



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The Capuchin Franciscan Friars entry to the school was in 2015 (as already pointed out in this proposal). By then, the school had suffered financial constraints to a point of closing down. The teachers and support staff had over six months without their salaries. There was no enough food for the students and even maintenance of the school was not up to standard (see the attached photos). It was during this difficulty moments when we were approached to help in the management of the school.

The local ordinary, Rt. Rev Bishop Anyolo, the bishop of Homa-bay Diocese approached the Capuchins Franciscan Friars leadership in which led to the takeover of the management of St. Joseph Girls secondary school and thereafter, transfer the school ownership to us in perpetuity.

### ***The school progress***

In the 2017 KCSE results, the performance was quite good and this influenced increased admission in 2018. The school started with 26 students and now it has over 100 students. A lot of maintenance has been done including improving the lighting system, equipping the laboratory, library and sports, dormitory and toilets, drilling of borehole, piping and water storage, construction of perimeter wall and installation of a gate to enhance security, renovation of the dining and school store among other areas of critical concern (see the attached photos).

### **The Problem Statement**

The facilitation of learning at any school requires contribution of resources both in-kind and monetary. The resources are meant to cover the costs of food, books, school bills, remuneration of workers both teaching and support-staff and facilitation of other services. Adequate flow of resources then makes the facilitation of learning to go on smoothly. This means that there will be no interruptions like students being sent home for school fees and teachers' and support-staffs unrest as well as electricity being disconnected and so on. Frankly, no leadership may want to go through such an experience and St. Joseph Girls Secondary School is no exception.

On the contrary, St. Joseph Girls Secondary school has a great shortage of monetary resource to facilitate learning. The school is not able to pay the workers. Very few parents are able to pay school fees, 90% of the students are from the local community which is poor and they lack social security for their progress and support of their families; including provision of food and water not discussing their support to education. The community depends on seasonal rains for survival. However, the negative impact of climate change has contributed to crop failure and long droughts leaving the community vulnerable to all sorts of ill-being. The government support system has never been sustainable and has also been greatly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic leading to high external borrowing. Such a situation has left the school leadership on the crossroads. Their dependent on the custody seems to be on the drying end but their hopes and motivation to provide holistic education to the vulnerable girls still remain high.

Therefore, St. Joseph Girls Secondary School requests for monetary support to help rescue the current situation of the school. Despite the previous challenges; the school had shown signs of overcoming



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with the support of the new management by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars. The community had seen some light for the future of their children and the students, teachers and support-staffs were highly motivated just before the break of COVID-19 pandemic.

Your support to this noble agenda will then be highly appreciated and will go a long way in stabilizing the school as it lays the bases of its sustainability strategies.

### The Proposal Objective

This proposal seeks to request for monetary support to facilitate learning at St. Joseph Girls Secondary School, Kakrigu in Homa-Bay Catholic Diocese of Kenya.

### Specific Objectives

1. To request for monetary support for 100 girls tuition fee at St. Joseph Girls Secondary School, Kakrigu in Homa-Bay Catholic Diocese of Kenya.
2. To request for monetary support for the school salaries for 15 teachers and 3 administrative officers – School Director, School Principal and his Deputy,
3. To request for monetary support for the salaries of 9 support-staff at St. Joseph Girls Secondary School as shown below in the BUDGET.

### The Sustainability Plan

St. Joseph Girls Secondary School has a sustainability plan in three key aspects: The school sustainability, financial sustainability and the community sustainability. The sustainability is how the School will continue to sustain in absence of the donor support while the financial sustainability is about the financial support required for the facilitation of learning after the grant has ended. Similarly, community sustainability is how the community will continue to support school activities when the grant will not be available.

**First**, the school has developed a give-back initiative whereby all students who have gone through the school will have different ways of giving back to the school in support of the ones already going on with the learning. There are various activities to do that both in-kind and monetary. Such an engagement will develop a strong relationship for the sustainability of the school. **Second**, the school has started income generating activities like keeping of dairy cows and goats for milk; growing of vegetables, engaging in extra-curricular activities, talents, skills, and competence based development leadership for the generation of products and services to be used in the school or sold to generate more income. **Third**, the school is engaging with the local community through a micro-credit, promotion of green economy and agribusiness. Such an engagement creates a core-ownership experience thus, increasing their contribution to the support of the school. **Fourth**, the sustainability plan also includes creating bonds worth the government at different levels to attract government funding for tuition and facility development.

### Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) Process



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The Capuchin Franciscan Friars have values of integrity, love and service to humanity which guide their work and service. In whenever they work they not only encourage but also practice to uphold the **Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)** processes. Therefore, monitoring of the expenditures will be done through daily records by the accountant and school leadership. The school has a Board of Management, (**BoM**), which meets every three months to evaluate the continuity. The **BoM** comprises of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars Custos for Kenya, his council and the appointed parents' representative as well as an externally sourced Ex-officio administrator and educationist person. There are also quarterly meetings which brings together all the stakeholders to enhance accountability checks and feedback for learning. Lastly, the school has a feedback system which ensures dignity of all individuals is upheld and guarded.

### Conclusion

Supporting St. Joseph Girls Secondary School for the tuition fee and remuneration of the workers will be a noble decision. Previously; the school went through a great challenge to a point of closure but it was revived by the new management provided by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars in Kenya. Despite of this, it has greatly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic; the school hopes to thrive again and rise to academic excellence as per its **MOTTO**. Your monetary support will then be of value and a great motivation to go through the next three years while strengthening their sustainability plan for a future full of hope.

### Appendix: Some photos for the completed renovations





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**NB: WE ARE REQUESTING ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ST. JOSEPH GIRLS**