



A COMMUNITY SCHOOL THAT IS A 'TRUE OASIS' IN THE DESERT

'Nyota Imara' Program

Join us as
we Raise Stars to
open up the
Northern Region
and Light up
Kenya

www.thetigoschool.sc.ke

BACKGROUND

Education is a Ticket of Life, but Many Lack the Ticket

The best anti-poverty programme, Barack Obama said, is world-class education. But what happens to children from poor backgrounds who can't access this prized ticket?

This can only be answered when you put yourself in their shoes. Imagine where you would be today if you didn't have the privilege of quality formal education.

For children living in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, education remains a far-fetched dream. Schools are as scarce as water in the desert they live in. Marsabit County, the largest county in Kenya, paints this grim picture. The county exhibits the poorest education indicators in Kenya, with literacy levels as low as 20%.



Stars Smile: Tiigo School is giving hope to pupils from very poor backgrounds

Keen to give these children a fighting chance in life, in partnership with the local community, the Pastoralist Community Initiative Development Assistance (PACIDA), www.pacida.org a development and relief organization that empowers pastoralist communities through sustainable community-driven development interventions in Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia, established Tiigo School in 2016.

THE SCHOOL

The School: Hope Springs ‘in the Middle of Nowhere’



From Desert to Green: Pupils at the forefront of conservation.

Referred by many as ‘**The School in the Middle of Nowhere**,’ Tiigo School (www.thetiigoschool.ac.ke) is literally ‘nowhere’. It is the only primary school in a radius of 50 kilometres in one harsh, larva rubble, dry and poor place.

The Tiigo School imparts pupils from poor nomadic communities with quality holistic education. The school currently has **344** pupils.

Working with its partners who gave it the ‘seed funds’ enough to just establish it, the school attracts pupils from Marsabit County as well as the neighbouring counties.

From its design and visioning, The Tiigo School is modelled as a centre-of-excellence in the northern region.

The founding local community and PACIDA visualised it as a centre for wholesome learning providing quality education, mentorship and co-curricular activities .

Due to its location in an area predominantly inhabited by pastoralists who seasonally migrate in search of pasture, it has boarding facilities to keep pupils in school – one of the toughest challenges in nomadic communities (Marsabit County has the highest absenteeism rate in Kenya (Education Quality Dialogues, Ministry of Education, Kenya, 2018).

The school is also located in an area known for very harsh weather, sporadic inter-ethnic clashes.

Many girls go through dehumanizing female genital mutilation and end up married off early. Being a boarding school, The Tiigo School is also a rescue centre and refuge of hope to such girls.

THE NEED

The Resourcing Gap: High Demand, Limited Capacity

Being the only school in the region, the demand for admission at this school is very high.

Yet it is severely limited in terms of infrastructure. Hundreds of underprivileged pupils from underprivileged backgrounds needing admission are turned back every year.

The school needs to increase its facilities so that it accommodate more pupils. For instance, its current dormitory capacity is already overstretched and pupils end up sharing beds.

Others are forced to sleep on the floor which causes congestion and an unsafe living environment that negatively affects the health of these young children.

The school depends on well-wishers support to supplement the little fee that parents from the neighbouring communities afford.

The pupils therefore end up paying drastically subsidised fees – which they still struggle to pay within the term.

Needed Resources

To address these challenges, the school is seeking funds to realise the following milestones:

Infrastructure:

We shall build the urgent amenities needed at the school e.g. dormitories, classrooms, sanitation facilities, health clinic, computer lab

Bursaries while at The Tiigo School:

We shall sponsor some bright pupils from underprivileged backgrounds through primary school

Bursaries for Secondary Schools and Tertiary Schools:

We shall set up an endowment fund with part of the support so that we can sponsor promising and bright pupils not to drop out school but transit to the high school.

HOW IT WILL WORK

The Target

Infrastructure development

Ksh. 75m (750,000USD)

Tiigo School Bursary Endowment Fund

Ksh. 50m (500,000 USD)

High School and Tertiary Education Endowment Fund

Ksh. 75m (750,000USD)



Before: Tiigo School desert location



After: A true green oasis now

MARSABIT IN PERSPECTIVE

Marsabit Development Indicators: A Grim Picture

- **70,961.2** square kilometres – the size of Marsabit (16% of Kenya landmass).
- **459,785** population of Marsabit County (Kenya population Census 2019)
- **1 doctor: 63,000 people** - Doctor to patient ratio in Marsabit, against the UN recommended **1:1,000** people
- **80%** of pastoralists live below poverty line
- **65%** Unemployment rate in the County
- **25 kilometres** – the mean distance an inhabitant travels in search of water
- **71%** percentage of malnourished and stunted children
- **75%** percentage of the population that cannot read and write (CRA, 2012)
- **30%** Girl child school enrolment rate in basic education while the national rate is **74%**.
- **6%** of Marsabit County residents have a secondary level of education or above.
- **26%** of Marsabit County residents have a primary level of education only.
- **68%** of Marsabit County residents have no formal education (SID, 2013).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PACIDA

Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance
Building on Indigenous Knowledge and Institutions