

Newsletter Friends of Kibera Foundation (12)

January 2026

Dear Reader,



A new newsletter from the Friends of Kibera Foundation (www.vriendenvankibera.nl). The Foundation was established in 2019 with the aim of supporting the Oloo Education Center in Kibera, Nairobi (Kenya). Supported financially, we make it possible for children from this slum to receive education. Oloo Education Center, a primary school, is founded eighteen years ago by Judy Oloo. Together with a team of (voluntary) teachers and support staff, she is committed to getting the children of Kibera out of poverty through education. Judy and her team depend to a large extent on the support of private individuals. Parents pay a contribution that is feasible for them. As the Friends of Kibera Foundation, we structurally support the school with an amount that is feasible given our budget (your gifts). If possible, we help pay for additional and unexpected costs that the school has to incur. The spending of the money is always in consultation with Judy Oloo as the director of the school; online with the entire board, physically with one of the board members who lives in Nairobi. At the moment, the focus is on building a new location for a *Junior High School* department. Our fund is filled by structural and/or incidental donations from people and Dutch organizations/funds that are willing and able to contribute to this way of developing opportunities for disadvantaged groups in Kenya.

Start 'Junior High School'

The new department Junior High School as part of Oloo Education Center started in Kenya on the fifth of January. In 2024, thanks to an additional gift from the Dutch Jan Amos Comenius Foundation, the school was able to buy the necessary materials and new uniforms were also bought for the twelve-year-olds who are about to start.



The land for a building was bought in the autumn thanks to the Dutch Books4life. The start of the new construction has been delayed somewhat because there was still habitation on the land that was purchased. The residents left mid-December and then construction started. They are expected to be able to move into the building in two months.

At least after the April holidays that end on April 27. Judy Oloo is assisted by her father and brother for the construction.



A major challenge at the start of the secondary education department is to attract (and retain) qualified subject teachers. These are required for this form of education. Primary education in Kenya does not require a teaching qualification. The teachers who work at Oloo's Education Center have studied, but not everyone has been trained as teacher. A completed teacher training course - necessary to be allowed to teach in secondary education - means inclusion in the Kenyan register of teachers and the right to a job in a 'public school'. This also provides social security such as inclusion in the pension system. Judy Oloo, as a private school, cannot offer all that and that does not make it easy to attract the necessary qualified teachers. It depends on well-intentioned people who are willing to dedicate themselves to their community, at least in part.

Project sponsoring school fees for secondary education

All 26 students for whom we as a Foundation pay school fees from January 2024 (thanks to those friends of Kibera) started their third year of '*secondary education*' in January (this group still under the old education policy: secondary education from 14 – 18 years old). We get positive reports from Nairobi. They 'do' well and are enthusiastic. They realize that it is special that they are given these opportunities and that they have to take advantage of them. They can do this thanks to the many donors who guarantee four years of school fees and all those others who supplement that budget and ensure that we as a Foundation can also pay for the education for all those children. The payment goes smoothly via the well-known detours. In mid-December 2025, we received another overview of the amounts to be paid per student for the first trimester of the 2026 school year. Every year the amount increases slightly, but because we are now dealing with a relatively falling exchange rate of the Kenyan shilling, we can pay the amounts.

New: 'project Teambuilding'

Inspired by another Dutch Foundation with a similar objective, we have proposed to Judy Oloo to invest in professionalizing the team in 2026, if that is financially feasible.

Education at Oloo's Education Center is provided by teachers who live in Kibera. In their younger years, they were given the opportunity to go to school and then continue studying. For the latter, they had to leave the slum temporarily. The teachers of Oloo Education Center have chosen to return to the place where they grew up after their studies to dedicate themselves to 'their' community with the knowledge they have gained. They find that

more important than opting for a job and possibly a home outside Kibera. Oloo Education Center does not have enough money for a 'fixed' salary for the teachers. Depending on what is available, they get paid something every month. In addition, they themselves provide additional income by what they call 'nibbling'. They earn extra money by cooking for a Western family outside school hours and weeks, taxi driving or doing the laundry for a hotel, et cetera. The Friends of Kibera Foundation has only a limited budget, we cannot (yet) pay salaries either. The teachers and managers at Oloo's Education Center have often mastered this profession 'on the job' and with success. The school scores well and students get high grades in the final exams. In order to keep the team enthusiastic, competent and interconnected, we have decided in consultation to investigate whether it is possible to organize a professionalization program. We have sent out a first application to make this financially possible.

An exploration of opportunities for training/professionalization in Nairobi brought us on the trail of the local organization: *Don Bosco Development Outreach Network (DBDON) – Digital Education*. They work demand-driven and are familiar with professionalization for teams working in schools in slums.

In consultation with the school, a three-day program has been chosen for the time being that is organized outside the school. The school would like to cover four topics:

1. **Class management and behavioural support** for pupils with behavioural problems
1. **Progress reporting and formative assessment**
1. **Psychosocial support (including fear of failure)** to strengthen the well-being of the student
2. **Teaching methodology, including learning to work with (affordable) digital learning resources**

Further consultations will be held with Don Bosco about the exact details if it is certain that the process can continue.

The Friends of Kibera Foundation

In 2025, we have been successful in bringing in additional finances. Of course, we hope that 2026 delivers a similar score. The close contact with Judy Oloo and the direct ties between our board member in Nairobi and the school gives a lot of confidence. This also applies to us as a Foundation and that makes us dare to ask... and get. Thank you for supporting us!

In addition to financial donations, we also want to search actively for more "friends" in the coming period. We notice that direct ties and direct contacts bring a lot to our foundation. In order to continue to be valuable to Oloo in the coming years, we therefore want to expand the group of friends with more enthusiastic active people. We understand that not everybody has the opportunity to donate. If you are just interested, or want to know more, send us a message.

If there are any questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter, please let us know so that we can include them in the collaboration with the school. We send a newsletter to everyone who has donated and/or is interested in our school. If you do not want to receive it in the future, you can report this to Gerda Geerdink:

secretaris@vriendenvankibera.nl. Forwarding to other interested people (better yet friends) is always allowed.

Thank you for your support and/or interest!

Friends of Kibera Foundation, Van Oldenbarneveldstraat 34, 6512 AX Nijmegen, Netherlands. Mail:
secretaris@vriendenvankibera.nl Rabobank IBAN: **NL53RABO 0341 5064 19** / Chamber of Commerce 74000977.
www.vriendenvankibera.nl

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