



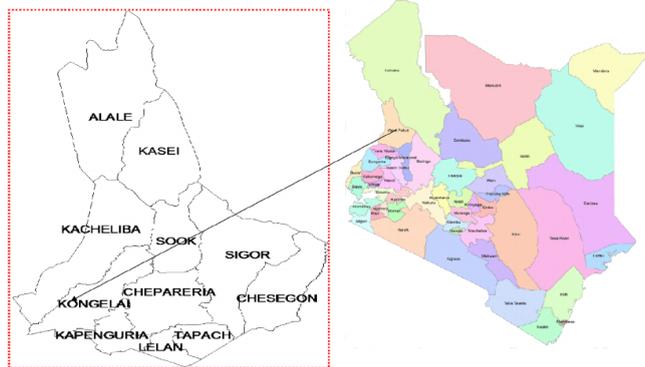
Thank you St Richard's...

On behalf of the Yellowmen Charity we would like to thank the staff and students of St Richard's Catholic College for their continued support of our work in Pokot County, Kenya.



For over seven years now Mrs Massey and groups of students have regularly sold Kenyan jewellery, walking sticks and blankets to students and staff raising hundreds of pounds. We used the money spent on resources to distribute to about 25 schools, ranging from pre-school to secondary. Included in the resource bags are exercise books, pens, pencils, erasers and chalk which are always in

short supply in the schools. Most schools are really very poorly resourced and because of the size of classes and the lack of technology; using a blackboard is how the vast majority of teaching is delivered. Of the ten exams the students take at 18, nine are written in English except of course for Kiswahili, because it is a language. In Kenya there are over 42 languages spoken and therefore it is essential from a career



perspective that the students learn both English and Kiswahili as they are the national languages. The Pokot people are Nilotic nomads originally, moving in search of pasture for their cattle or goats but although they still herd animals most now supplement their income by becoming pastoralists and settling permanently.



The Pokot value education and many of the children have to board even in state schools because of the distance they have travel with many living far out in the bush or in the surrounding mountainous areas.

Therefore we appreciate very much the support we receive from St Richard's as it helps to transform lives. Pokot is an extremely poor area of Kenya and

education is the most secure way to escape poverty and provide for your family.



We are also pleased to tell you that we have begun to transport the rugby shirts kindly donate by your school to distribute to as many schools as we can. It was wonderful to receive these shirts. In fact one of the three suitcases I took was full of these rugby shirts, varied in size and colour. Two schools were chosen to receive these fantastic shirts. Both were primary schools, with one situated next to the study centre where we stay in Marich Pass and the

other in the Sekerr Hills which overlook Marich and where we have built a maternity unit to complement a clinic that the county have just completed with our support.

The one in the Pass, Dr David Roden Primary School is small with just over 30 students most of whom board. They really loved being presented with the shirts and wore them with pride. We gave them out at their assembly point just prior to leaving the school for their half term. On arriving we were treated to delightful singing led by a young girl of about eight years of age. The children do not play rugby because of the terrain which is baked hard by the sun, rocky and covered with sharp acacia thorns so will wear them as part of their normal clothing.



The second Primary is called Chepotwo and is part of our Health Education Project and is particularly disadvantaged. The shirts were presented to the whole school and once again the children welcomed us with beautiful singing. The accompanying photograph illustrates the mountainous nature of the school's setting as we were enveloped in fog for the first hour we were there. The Headteacher intended to

distribute the 30 rugby shirts to those children most in need or for their positive attitude to learning.

Finally, you will be pleased to know that since COVID we have financed the building of a maternity clinic in the Sekerr Hills in the village of Mbara through Crowdfunding and our next step is to fully equip the clinic, organise a Health Education Programme for four schools and ensure the clinic and schools have access to clean water. In addition, we intend to upgrade the toilets and showers in each school and set up an outreach programme whereby nurses visit the schools on a regular basis. Below is a photograph of the maternity unit on the left and the clinic on the right. Through the help of generous sponsors, such as St Richard's, we will be able to offer an integrated health service in the mountains. The local people are so pleased to have this new facility and it will help to transform their lives.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Mike Stewart

Yellowmen Charity

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