

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

## Desks for Maasai School, Kenya



### Background

State schools in many African countries are massively under-resourced by their government. Schools have very limited access to text books, desks and chairs and other learning resources. These schools rely for the greatest part on contributions from the local community to enable them to function, but it is communities living in rural areas of Africa who can least afford to do this. It is hard enough to feed their own children, let alone help fund their school. Their children, therefore, get trapped in the cycle of poverty as the educational environment in which they are schooled is severely deprived.

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One of the biggest challenges facing rural schools is their inability to provide enough desks and chairs for their pupils. Sitting on the floor or sharing desks with up to 5 others leads to impaired concentration and poor learning outcomes.

On a work trip for Born Free to Amboseli National Park in Kenya, our Founder Cheryl Mvula visited a local Maasai primary school called **Olmoti School**. She saw how 5-6 children were crammed onto desks meant for just 2-3 children, and how this affected their learning and future life chances. The school asked for support in providing desks and chairs for the older pupils in Classes 6 through to 8 – the all-important exam year classes.

**High Five Club Support:** We have joined hands together with the UK charity Schools for Kenya (SFK) for us each to provide a grant of £489 (66,000 KES) to enable Olmoti School to contract with local carpenters to make 50 x 2-seater desks out of sustainable, harvested wood, providing an enhanced learning environment for 100 of their exam-



year pupils. We are administering this grant through the Born Free Foundation who has an ongoing relationship with the school. For the equiv. of £9.78 per pupil this is a great investment in these children's education.

For more information contact [Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk](mailto:Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk)