



Statement of Need

Construction of a High School

THE FLEISCHER FOUNDATION

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Introduction

The Fleischer Foundation (“the foundation”) is a registered 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organisation founded in September 22, 2016 in The United States of America. It was later incorporated in Kenya on March 15, 2017. It was established by Mr. Stephen A. Fleischer after realizing, first hand, how many Kenyan youth from the slums of Nairobi are financially unable to access higher education after primary school. The foundation’s primary focus is on these underprivileged youth from the Mukuru Kwa Njenga slum of Nairobi, Kenya.

The Fleischer Foundation supports the children from the Mukuru Kwa Njenga slum by providing selected students full scholarships to secondary school and to university. The foundation has developed a three-stage interview process to best select the most deserving and talented students for our competitive scholarship. Our experience has taught us that subsidizing school fees is not enough to make a meaningful impact in these young peoples’ lives. As such, the foundation also provides mentorship to these youth by having six-day long mentorship sessions per year. These sessions have included educational opportunities such as a tour of the United Nations in Nairobi or visits to large firms in various fields. These sessions also host speakers, therapists, and religious counsellors to help these children with academic and non-academic issues via one-on-one meetings. Lastly, the foundation has developed a job search committee to assist with CV creation, mock interviews, networking, and job applications.

Vision Statement

We aspire to be a catalyst of change in the developing world by enabling underprivileged youth to access higher education and mentorship. By providing educational opportunities to the youth from slum environments, we create the opportunity for these young-persons to leave the slums, escape poverty, and attain sustainable employment.

Mission Statement

The Fleischer Foundation seeks to promote the personal development and empowerment of underprivileged children in developing countries through mentorship and education.

Why We Need a School

Inaccessibility of Public High Schools

The Kenyan children from the Mukuru Kwa Njenga slum in Nairobi need access to a secondary school because high school education is inaccessible to those from the slum environments.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), 36.1% of the Kenyan Population lives under the poverty line. The poverty line is defined by KNBS as anyone whose monthly



consumption is less than 3,252 Kenyan shillings (\$32.25 USD).¹ This statistic showcases an inability for disenfranchised families to pay the school fees and attend secondary school. School fees for a standard public high school in Nairobi cost roughly \$600.² When 36.1% of Kenyans spend less than \$32.25 a month, they are unable to access high school and therefore, are totally unable to find employment.

Additionally, according to the United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF), access to education, health care, sanitation or even clean water is often a luxury for many people in Kenya.³ Many of the most underprivileged in Kenya live in the urban slums that have emerged in various areas of Nairobi. The Mukuru Kwa Njenga slum is one of these areas. Every year, many students from Mukuru kwa Njenga slum fail to attend secondary school due to lack of school fees.⁴ In some situations, parents take loans from slum loan sharks to pay school fees which they ultimately default on. This is something the foundation has personally witnessed. Education is a vital human right, enshrined both in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The inaccessibility of secondary school to Kenyan children is a serious problem and one in which construction of a secondary school will stop.

This inaccessibility also results in some dire consequences such as poverty and marginalisation. According to the Humanium Organisation, many children from disadvantaged backgrounds are forced to abandon their education due to health problems related to malnutrition or in order to work and provide support for the family.⁵

This is the problem The Fleischer Foundation's school would solve. It would provide free education to a select number of students from the Mukuru Kwa Njenga slum thereby giving them access to an education that would have been inaccessible otherwise.

Poor Public Education

Even if children from slum environments could afford to attend high school, public education in Kenya is continually deteriorating. This leaves those who attend unprepared for their national exam and unlikely to attend quality universities.

In a bid to reach its goal of ensuring every child gets at least 12 years of education, the Ministry of Education in Kenya has enacted a policy which attempts to create a 100% transition, for all Kenyans, from primary to secondary school. In a recent survey by the Sunday Nation, this 100% transition

¹ "Kenya's Poverty Rate Drops Sharply in 10 Years -Stats Office." *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 22 Mar. 2018, af.reuters.com/article/kenyaNews/idAFL8N1R440U.

² "Govt Releases 2018 School Calendar, Fees Structure." *Business Today Kenya*, 8 Nov. 2017, businessstoday.co.ke/govt-releases-2018-school-calendar-fees/.

³ "Overview." *UNICEF Worldwide*, www.unicef.org/kenya/overview_4616.html.

⁴ Shiundu, Linda. "Bright Pupils from Nairobi Slums Unable to Join High School despite High Marks." *Tuko.co.ke - Kenya News.*, 6 Feb. 2019, www.tuko.co.ke/297290-bright-needy-pupils-nairobi-slums-distraught-unable-join-high-school-high-marks.html#297290.

⁵ "Right to Education : Situation around the World." *Humanium*, www.humanium.org/en/right-to-education/.



policy was deemed a recipe for an educational crisis in Kenya.⁶ Through this policy, public schools have become overpopulated. There are simply not enough schools to cater for the added number of students the Ministry of Education is sending to secondary school. According to the same survey by the Sunday Nation, most principals, in an attempt to cater for these added number of students, have converted dispensaries, laboratories, stores, libraries and others into classrooms and dormitories to cope with huge number of students.⁷ Other schools have also been forced to take some classes under trees due to lack of adequate space in schools.⁸ These problems are also due to insufficient government funding with some schools facing budget cuts.⁹

All of these problems make it incredibly difficult for public schools to give its students a quality education. A Poor quality of education is almost like no education at all.¹⁰ In an environment like Kenya with a 40% youth unemployment rate, employers are only hiring those children from quality schools.¹¹

Because of this, The Fleischer Foundation has adopted the position that it is not enough to just send needy children to school, we also need to ensure that they learn the skills necessary to be a positive member of the workforce. The Fleischer Foundation's secondary school will have a class size of 10 and a form (grade) size of 20. This is compared to the national average in Kenya of 45 students per classroom.¹² These small class sizes will allow individual attention between our teachers and students. Good teachers are essential to solving the global learning crisis and closing the gap between poor and good quality education, and as such, the foundation will focus its efforts on compensating teachers well and thereby attracting the best.¹³ The new school will ensure our students from the slums do not face the challenges that public schools face and moreover, it will give them an educational option that will prepare them for university and a future career.

Why the Location?

The 5-acre piece of land acquired by The Fleischer Foundation is in Kajiado County, roughly 5 minutes outside of the town of Kiserian and 45 minutes away from the busy capital city of Nairobi. The site of the school is located just off the newly made Kiserian-Isinya road. Because the road was only just completed, it also has newly created electrical lines and fibre optic (internet) cables placed

⁶ "Maths under a Tree: Hits and Misses of 100pc School Transition." *Daily Nation*, 18 Feb. 2019, www.nation.co.ke/news/education/The-hits-and-misses-of-100-percent-transition-policy/2643604-4986802-jkopq0z/index.html.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ "Education." *Global Partnership For*, www.globalpartnership.org/education.

¹¹ "Resources For." *Kenya - Youth Unemployment: Challenges & Opportunities in Economic Development*, web.worldbank.org/archive/website01259/WEB/0__C-107.HTM.

¹² "How Education Ministry Is Congesting Public Schools." *Daily Nation*, 25 Mar. 2017, www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/lifestyle/How-Education-ministry-is-congesting-public-schools/1214-3864466-132ube5z/index.html.

¹³ *Ibid.*



alongside. The land is higher in elevation than Nairobi with views of Ngong Hills and will allow our students to see a more serene and calm environment than that of the Mukuru slum within the capital city of Kenya. For some of our students, this will be their first time substantially leaving the borders of the slum.

Kajiado County is primarily populated by the Maasai tribe. The Maasai, one of Kenya's most famous tribes, enjoy a more traditional way of life and can often be seen on the roadside grazing their animals. Many live in Maasai huts known as manyattas and the typical Maasai diet consists of only meat, blood, and milk. The Fleischer Foundation's secondary school will place an added focus on exposing our students to the Maasai culture and interacting with our neighbours.

Potential Impact of this School

Using a common model in philanthropy and in Kenya, The Fleischer Foundation will have a student population mixed with fee paying students and subsidised students. This model allows the school to be self-sustainable, with the fee-paying students easing the financial burden of non-fee-paying students. It also has the additional benefit of creating a diverse population where both groups of students learn from the other. The Starehe School in Nairobi, Kenya uses a similar structure with great success. An estimated 14,400 students who have passed through the institution, out of which 70% were from poor families, are now working in senior positions.¹⁴ The Starehe School educates a minimum of 70% of its students for free.¹⁵ Even though some of its students were admitted from underdeveloped primary schools, it remains one of the top performing schools in Kenya. Candidates are admitted to the school on the basis of need, parental income, and their scores in Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exams.¹⁶

Budget and Costs

The school project in total will cost roughly 1.6M USD. Thus far, roughly \$600,000 USD has been raised. We have employed In5 Architects, a Welsh architecture firm with offices in Nairobi, Kenya to assist us with the technical designs of the structure. Additionally, we have employed Getso Limited, a Kenyan quantity surveyor who have already prepared a cost estimate for the school. This document includes the materials required, a breakdown of the costs, and a final figure for construction.

¹⁴ Kareithi, Amos. "Starehe Centre: Orphans' Refuge That Became a Beacon of Excellence." *The Standard*, June 2019, www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001328119/starehe-centre-orphans-refuge-that-became-a-beacon-of-excellence.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*



Conclusion

The Fleischer Foundation's new secondary school is coming in at a crucial time. Kenya faces a 40% youth unemployment rate. This unemployment makes all sectors more and more competitive as there are so many applicants vying for the same job. Additionally, access to public education is impossible for students from the Mukuru slum without outside assistance. Even with this assistance, the foundation has witnessed poor education quality across the public education sector. With all of these impediments, it is critical that a school is built to give these children a true chance to find employment and attend quality universities. If the foundation can control the education, that is exactly what will happen.