



PARTNER WITH A SCHOOL IN AFRICA

African Adventures is an award-winning volunteer travel company that provides humanitarian and financial support to educational projects in Africa, and organises opportunities for people in the UK to spend time volunteering at them.

Dan Mew first travelled to Kenya in 2007, where he volunteered at a community project called The Walk Centre. Set up by Alex and Patricia Maina, it provided a basic education and lunchtime meal for children living on and around the nearby dumpsite.

Dan was so impacted by his time at The Walk Centre, and in Kenya, that he decided to set up African Adventures, which would support similar projects and increase access to education for disadvantaged children in Africa.



Today, we support over 20,000 children across our three volunteer programmes via the partnerships that we have with 25 schools, which are a combination of non-government organisations and government schools.

Our principle aims as a company are to enable development at these partner projects in order to increase access to education for young people, and to provide valuable learning experiences for people from across the UK to increase global awareness.

By engaging in our School Partnership initiative, you can help us to do just that whilst bringing a bit of Africa and its culture into your classroom.





ALEX MAINA

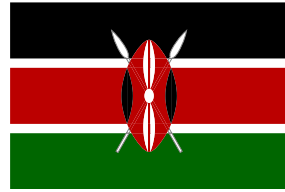
ALEX IS OUR EAST AFRICAN DIRECTOR. HE HAS BEEN WORKING WITH AFRICAN ADVENTURES SINCE 2009.

Prior to setting up The Walk Centre in 2005, Alex and his wife Patricia were both teachers. Finding themselves in a relatively fortunate financial position, they were unable to stand by and do nothing when witnessing the plight of children living on the periphery of the Hilton Dumpsite in Nakuru. Many of these children were unable to afford an education, so spent their days scavenging on the dumpsite for materials to sell to help support their families. Initially, Alex was able to rent two rooms in a local church, and started providing a basic education and food for 60 nursery-aged children. When the school grew to over 100 pupils, more space was needed, and, with support from a generous donor, The Walk Centre was able to relocate to its permanent site.

Together with African Adventures, Alex has increased the access to education for thousands of children, providing them with the opportunity to change their lives. He has dedicated his life to helping others, and we feel privileged to work alongside him.

After a tragic incident at a Nairobi school in 2019, all Kenyan schools have been subject to investigations with a view to closing any schools which were deemed inadequate or unsafe. Each of our partner projects passed inspection on the provision of a number of improvements being made. Volunteers who will travel in 2021 will be working to action these and guarantee every project is able to register and remain open for the academic year.





Your school partnership with

THE WALK CENTRE

KENYA

KEY INFORMATION

15

STAFF

230

STUDENTS

13

CLASSROOMS

All figures correct as of February 2020.

The Walk Centre was set up in 2005 by Alex and Patricia Maina in Nakuru, Kenya, and now provides a free education to 230 children between the ages of four and 14. We consider The Walk Centre as our 'flagship' partner project, as it was the inspiration behind the founding of African Adventures in 2009.

Since its inception, The Walk Centre has grown to have the largest feeding programme across any of African Adventures' partner projects. All students are provided with a free breakfast and lunch, in an attempt to ensure that most children receive three meals per day. Alongside this, the school delivers a small range of extra-curricular activities, including dance, music, and sports.



The feeding programme is a crucial service that the Walk Centre provides, so it is a priority for the project to ensure that there are sufficient funds to allow for this. In addition, the school is always in need of uniforms for the children, as well as additional clothes for time away from school, which many families cannot afford.

The school delivers Kenya's national primary curriculum to students before they sit their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam.





EARLY YEARS

In the early years of our partnership, volunteers work to make the learning environment more engaging by creating murals and posters to decorate the newly built nursery. Soon after this, a stone wall was constructed around the perimeter of the school to allow the children to play safely during their break times.

2012

This is when we saw the needs of the project develop, as more and more students benefitted from the feeding programme. A new kitchen was built, featuring energy saving stoves, to accommodate this. The school also installed electricity and acquired seven computers so they could begin teaching their first IT class.





2015

Plans were made to construct an independent The Walk Centre primary school, so students could continue their education at The Walk rather than having to move to a local government run school. Up until this point, once the children reached the age of seven, they had to leave The Walk Centre and move to a government school in the local area. The Walk Centre covered any associated costs with them attending government school, including any resources needed, to ensure they continued with their learning.

2016

Volunteers worked to resurface the playground in preparation for the build of the new primary school. The benefits of this, aside from being aesthetically pleasing, was that it provides a more practical and safe area for the students to play on.





2017

Thanks to numerous fundraising campaigns and the work of Chichester College, the new primary school was able to open for the new academic year. The building featured 10 classrooms, which have allowed the school to increase its intake, and provide the children with a bright, engaging space in which to learn.

2018

Following the build of the new classroom block, it became clear that the original kitchen wasn't capable of catering for the increased student population. The old kitchen was knocked down and reconstructed to accommodate the new primary school. The Walk Centre continues to use energy saving stoves.





2019

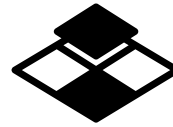
In 2019, volunteers assisted with decorating, cementing, and the painting of fixtures at the project. By painting the classrooms, volunteers helped to make the project more engaging and stimulating for the pupils. This is vital as it helps encourage attendance and aids student learning.

We are working with The Walk Centre to improve their facilities and extend their outreach in order to encourage more children to attend school. To do this, we are aiming to:



UPGRADE ALL BUILDINGS

To become permanent classrooms



TILE CLASSROOM FLOORS

To make maintenance and upkeep easier



PROVIDE NEW UNIFORMS

For new student intake

Perhaps in the future you'd like to fundraise?

A large group of children in a classroom, many wearing red and white checkered school uniforms. Some children are holding up colorful paper crafts. The background shows a classroom setting with windows and a teacher.

ERIC MWANGI - SOCIAL WORKER, ONE CHILD MATTERS (NAIROBI)

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE WALK CENTRE, VISIT:

<https://www.african-adventures.co.uk/twc-partnership/>

The students are looking forward to hearing from you!