



AFRICA FOUNDATION



FROM DUST TO DESKS

Moya, Lake Manyara, Tanzania



Meet Johnson Sembua - Principal of the Moya Primary School. Right now he's in a spot of difficulty, recovering from a motor accident during the holidays. But don't be misled by Mr Sembua's weakened state. He's in a constant battle to keep his school functioning in the face of almost overwhelming odds - and he's staying just ahead of the game.

But to even the untutored eye, Moya's primary school is in shocking shape. With only five classrooms for 485 children, two of which are still unfinished, the pupil/class ratio is appalling, and many children have to study outside in the dust and under trees.

There is no administration block or common room for the teachers, and no kitchen/canteen facility to provide lunch for the children. The school also needs toilets and urgent work to the existing staff accommodation, plus additional housing. And there is a desperate need for a project to pipe water by gravity to the school and the community from the nearby hills.

We find Mr Sembua resting his broken leg outside the ramshackle house in which he is forced to live. 'Look about you,' he says. 'How do we run a school with so many children - and more coming in all the time - with not enough classrooms, no place to house teachers, no place for us as teachers to work - and without any water for the kids to drink and wash and to keep the place clean?'

Mr Sembua, with the help of the &Beyond lodge management and the &Beyond Foundation, together with the village elders and the school's staff and governing body, have developed a plan to fix the worst of the problems and bring the school to a point where it can offer the hope of a reasonable education to the children of the village.

'We have the builders, we have some money from the people themselves, we have promises of support from the government in the form of teachers and funds for topping off school buildings once they are at roof height, and we have a plan to fix things,' Mr Sembua will tell you, 'but we just don't have the money!'

Help Africa Foundation to enable Mr Sembua and his community bring water from the hills, build the five new classrooms they desperately need (and the staffroom to go with them), fix the ones they already have, make the desks to furnish them, build and equip a kitchen and canteen so the kids can eat, build the homes for the teachers who make all the difference - and last, but not least, fix Mr Sembua's home so he can get on with the job with some dignity!

Help Africa Foundation provide the **£155,000** that will make this possible.