**TCC: JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Tumaini Brooks exists to break the poverty cycles that have impacted our community negatively for decades. We do this by touching the lives of children, one at a time, by meeting their most basic needs in an educational set up. Recently, our school system changed from the model where children spent 3 years in pre-school, 8 in primary school, 4 in high school and another 4 at the University (3-8-4-4). This system has been criticized for being highly theoretical and exam oriented.

In 2017, the government made changes to the school system and launched a 2-6-3-3-4 model, splitting the 8 primary school and the 4 high school years to accommodate a Junior secondary school (3 year) in between the two. The new system, Competency Based Curriculum has great promises, but it comes at such great cost. Hopefully this is sustainable.

**Junior Secondary School Unit**

The new education system demands that in January 2023, we create room for a Junior Secondary School (Grades 7,8,9). The government has put it categorically that the Junior Secondary should be a standalone block. But for schools with more than enough space in the high school, they will be approved to house the section there. Unfortunately, we don’t have this advantage.

**Impact**

Not having a Junior Secondary School Unit means that Tumaini will support children from preschool to Grade 6, and then bid them goodbye, starting December 2022. Grade 6 is a transitional class with children slipping into their early teenage. Having these kids out of school can be disastrous. Many girls are likely to end up as teenage mothers while boys are lulled into some criminal activities in their search for food. It means that each year, we will be losing a class of 40 children from Tumaini, most of whom will return to the streets. With time, this numbers will grow substantially, and we will be losing on gains that we have made for many years.

The bigger picture is that if children don’t make it for the Junior Secondary School, they will not also make it for high school or college education. It is both urgent and important that we think about ways of hosting a Junior Secondary School in Tumaini, where, apart from education, children access basic needs, spiritual and social-emotional support.

It is utterly important for us to have a structure to continue taking care of this children. Working with orphans and children from needy, and in many cases dysfunctional families, calls for consistence. To achieve our dream of breaking poverty cycles for these young lives, transitioning from Primary to Junior Secondary and then high school is key.

Any help that can keep our doors open for our ages 12 moving up is most appreciated.