



Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2009

Dear b+c Supporters,

The bricks + cartwheels directors are fresh off the plane and we have some important news for our supporters. Following our recent time spent in Kenya, bricks + cartwheels is reluctantly withdrawing from the previously proposed Secondary School for Girls project in Katolo, Kenya.

Whilst in Kenya bricks + cartwheels were faced with a series of challenges and difficulties, some of which we were able to resolve and some of which were largely outside our control. We are particularly disappointed at having to make this hard decision but it was the only decision that was open to us. We also regret having to bring to an end the proposed project because of the great friendships we have made with so many people in Kenya and the ongoing need for education of children in this underprivileged community. During our time in Kenya we made every endeavor to rescue the project and this decision was not made lightly.

There were many issues that presented challenges to our working relationship with our project partner, TEMAK and with the community based organisation (CBO), Kano Girl Child Empowerment Group. We had endeavored to purchase the school site and commence Stage 1 works in January, however we were unable to achieve this aim due to factors beyond our control.

We had concerns regarding expenditure of funds without an agreement from TEMAK and the CBO regarding transparency and accountability. There was a fundamental difference of view between b+c and others in regard to accountability and expenditure of funds.

There was a lack of skills and experience in the community to be able to manage the

establishment of the school. Our experiences in Kenya left us with a lack of confidence that the building and running of the school could be realised.

We would like to assure our supporters that no bricks + cartwheels funds have been placed at risk and that all travel costs to Kenya were borne personally by bricks + cartwheels volunteers.

While our time spent in Kenya was at times frustrating and we are all very disappointed with the outcome, this experience has not discouraged the b+c team. We would like to thank you all for the support you have shown the girl child in Kenya, the Secondary School Project and the b+c team. We trust that our supporters will understand that it was impossible to continue with the project.

bricks + cartwheels is now assessing a number of other projects that focus on education and the girl child. We have every intention to utilise the funds we have raised thus far for a project that aligns with our objectives as an organisation. We remain committed to promoting the need for good design to be available to everyone.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to email us at [info@bricksandcartwheels.org](mailto:info@bricksandcartwheels.org). You can gain an insight into our time in Kenya at [www.bricksandcartwheels.blogspot.com](http://www.bricksandcartwheels.blogspot.com).

We appreciate your support and will be keeping in touch with you with all the future plans and developments for the new project!

Kind regards,

Amber Lush, Georgia Bowen, Harriet Stone, Kirstin Hume-Grimm and CC Ip  
bricks + cartwheels

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