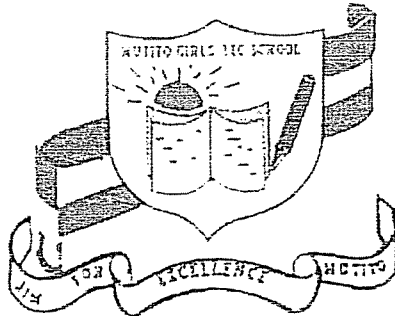


**Partnership Agreement between St. Aloysius' College  
Life Links Immersion Project, Carrigtwohill, Ireland**



**And**

**Mutito Girls' Secondary School, Kitui, Kenya**



## **Partnership Agreement**

**Between**

**St. Aloysius' College Life Links Immersion Project, Carrigtwohill, Ireland, and Mutito Girls' Secondary School, Kitui, Kenya**

In 1984 the SMG Sisters set up Mutito girls secondary school to provide secondary schooling for girls in the remote arid and semi arid region of Kitui district known as Mutito {As from April 2009 Mutito has been gazetted as a District of its own}.

St. Aloysius College, also founded by the same SMG sisters, created an education bursary in 1996 to help poor students begin or complete their secondary schooling in Mutito girls secondary school.

The decision to have this partnership was agreed by the College Principal and Teachers involved in the link committee in 2007. Irish Aid (Department of Foreign Affairs) was then encouraging Irish schools to link with schools in the Developing World to facilitate a greater understanding of the issues involved in development and to encourage students to

think about and perhaps also to act on these issues. Many schools including this college in Ireland have now begun including Development studies in their curriculum. The Life Links logo was then designed by one of the College student for the project. In the logo a lady is holding aloft, the shamrock which is a national emblem of Ireland. St Patrick, who is said to have brought Christianity to Ireland, is reputed to have plucked this little three leafed grass from the ground to explain to the Irish people about the trinity of persons in the One God, similar to the trinity of leaves in this little plant.

Concerning this partnership both parties agree on the following:

### **1. Shared Vision**

A partnership should live and can only be achieved if you allow enough time for its development.

Partnership is mutual giving and taking. Above all it includes cultural, spiritual and personal developments.

We will observe the following principles:

1. Through our partnership we will endeavour to experience and respect each others culture and way of life and to link lives with a view to mutual understanding and support in the future.
2. To plan together to provide opportunities for students in Ireland and Kenya to learn about each others lives.
3. To promote an international understanding and to **“Deepen understanding on global poverty and injustice and encourage action for a more just and equal world”**
4. Raise students’ awareness of the work of the SMG sisters in health care, education and in many community projects.

## **2. Quality teaching and teaching methods**

This will be realised through experience, shared practice and mutual observation. Development education should be evident across the curriculum in all subjects. This is a process which requires time, patience and perseverance to achieve quality teaching and

learning. We hope that all pupils will show an awareness of the importance of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

### **Themes: Culture, Gender, Health**

i. We hope to share on cultural issues. This would help to overcome some of the cultural barriers towards learning e.g. popular belief among female students in Kenyan context is that science subjects are male dominated. It is hoped that through shared experience and practice this attitude can change. Such exchange of ideas between Kenyan and Irish students would foster a sense of empowerment within the young women of the school. Global issues relating to health and HIV/Aids will be addressed and ideas on these issues exchanged.

### **ii. Resources**

To support this mutual and teaching and learning experience, both schools require a variety of resources namely experts/professionals in specific areas, audio-visual equipment,

newspaper articles, books, drama and music.

### **3. Education Objectives**

Our agreed educational goals are mutual learning, shared practice and personal development. This can be achieved through an awareness of international development issues such as gender, culture and health. The identified areas of potential/actual curricular collaboration are CRE, English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Business studies and Biology. Other areas include music and games like basketball, badminton, table tennis, etc.

The educational outcomes will;

- ✓ Support mutual respect between learners
- ✓ Challenge and inform perceptions of development issues
- ✓ Develop critical thinking
- ✓ Encourage open-mindedness
- ✓ Develop participatory skills amongst other things.

### **4. Values and principles**

Mutito girls secondary school values are: Respect, Obedience, Diligence and Honesty. In St. Aloysius College we affirm the values put forward by Mutito Girls School and we respect the uniqueness and foster the potential of each individual. The St. Aloysius Code of Excellence is as follows: All conduct is measured by the standards of; courtesy, kindness, honesty, justice, loyalty, trustworthiness, commitment, ambition and generosity.

As far as we can measure there are no non negotiable expectations concerning values and principles.

### **5. Mutual trust and respect**

Mutual trust and respect will be achieved first and foremost by nurturing the relationship through sharing experiences and learning from each other. There will be openness and transparency in the relationship and this can be developed through continuous and consistent communication. While we would not foresee a breakdown in the relationship, in case of this occurring both parties should resolve in dialogue by revisiting the issues that led to the breakdown, refer to the partnership

agreement and where possible undertake SWOT analysis of the partnership and look for a way forward maximizing on the strengths and opportunities and minimizing weaknesses and threats.

### **6. Sustainability**

The Linking project is of great importance to the partnership schools and plays an integral role in the ethos and basic functioning of both. Obviously resources are required to sustain the project in the form of people, time, skills, finance etc.

In order to strengthen the sustainability of this project both parties would endeavor to involve parents, teachers, students, community members, government {ministry of education}, local churches and local leaders, without whose support the project will not grow.

### **7. Inclusiveness and quality**

The project is inclusive in that it considers all members of the community both the poor and the able, students, teachers, local community members, local churches and local leaders. The marginalized individuals and groups {in school and local community} will be

involved during open forum meetings, discussions and skills training programmes and become directly involved in school projects like construction. The goals of the project are based on mutual respect and understanding and by constantly reminding ourselves of these principles equality is assured.

### **8. Obligations and responsibilities**

The roles and responsibilities for each school are holistic in their approach encompassing, Educational, Social and Spiritual values.

The rights and obligations for each school are: provision of quality education, appreciation of one another's' culture, maintenance of individual identity, respect partnership agreement and provision of spiritual guidance and uphold Catholic faith.

### **9. Reporting, Reviewing and Reflection**

To ensure that there is a two way and on-going process in reporting, reviewing and reflection, there will be a partnership committee formed comprising of 2 board members, 2 teachers, 2 students, 2 parents, 1

community member, 1 church member and 1 SMG member. The committee would sit periodically to review and send report and this should be a two way process. Meetings of involved parties, reporting sessions, an official bi-annual report to capture the years achievements and challenges will be used for reporting, reviewing and reflection.

#### **10. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation can only take place based on the set targets {shared goals}. Monitoring is a continuous process which will be undertaken from the very beginning. Such issues like education syllabus, lessons undertaken, records of work, attitude change, discipline, school grades improvement, etc will be key indicators for success and individual parties will determine this. All parties should share such experiences to make it open and collaborative. Progress will be measured by ensuring the longevity of the project through a variety of means; on the ground surveys, classroom assessment, personal reflection, review meetings between organizing parties and reciprocal visits to ascertain

whether learning and attitude change has happened. Indicators for success will be attitude change and an appetite and enthusiasm for the life of the project for all parties involved.

#### **11. Timelines**

Yes there are indicative and actual timelines related to specific tasks and outcomes. Timelines are very necessary to ensure successful outcomes.

#### **12. Financial issues**

In any financial matters, there will be acknowledgement upon receipt of money or any donation. Financial management standards such as proper record keeping and all books of accounts without mixing money for projects will be upheld. Transparency and accountability for all resources will be key. Each project will have its own records and all the required attachment to it will be observed in any report preparation.

#### **13. Fund raising**

Fund-raising is not an integral part of this LifeLinks project. However, that is not to say that fund-raising cannot be

undertaken by the partners where development projects in a partner school could be supported through the partnership. Mutual agreement will be reached for the use of funds being sought for a project before committing any funds to any project. Financial and other contributions will be equally valued.

#### **14. Conflict resolution**

In resolving conflict, dialogue will be highly encouraged. This will create mutual understanding and promote harmony. Both parties will strive to abide by the terms stipulated in the partnership agreement.

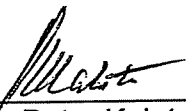
Depending on the nature and magnitude of the conflict, the third party will be invited to foster understanding, harmony and restore the relationship.

Mutito, Kenya 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2009

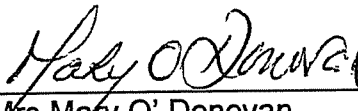
Mutito, Kenya 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2009

For Mutito Girls Secondary School

For St. Aloysius College, Ireland



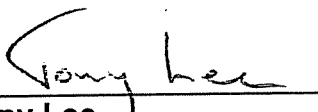
Mr. Peter Kalutu  
BOG Chairperson



Mrs Mary O' Donovan  
Project co-ordinator




Mrs. Judith Mutisya  
School Principal



Mr Tony Lee  
College Principal

**PRINCIPAL**  
MUTITO GIRLS' SEC. SCHOOL  
P. O. Box 139-90202 NDOOA KITUI  
TEL: 0723-149110

  
FR. JULIUS MUTIMAMBWA  
EDUCATION SECRETARY