

Safaricom Foundation Donates Facilities Worth Kshs. 5.6 Million To Four Schools For Children With Special Needs In Meru County.
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Over 200 pupils with special needs from four schools in Meru County have benefitted from various facilities valued at Kshs. 5.6 million from the Safaricom Foundation.

The projects, which included a perimeter wall, 30-bed capacity fully equipped dormitory, two classrooms and sanitation facilities, will improve the learning environment for the children.

Safaricom Foundation handed over the facilities to Manyatta Alakara Home for the Physically Challenged Children, Meru School for the Mentally Challenged, Kariani Primary school- Special Unit and St Joseph Children's Home.

Speaking during the handovers, Safaricom Foundation Chairman Joseph Ogutu emphasised the importance of investing in the education of children with special needs.

“Sustainable Development Goal four calls for inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long learning opportunities for all. This includes children with special needs,” Ogutu said.

He said that a large number of children with special needs faced stigmatisation and neglect from a society that does not understand them. Their exclusion from school reduces their likelihood of economic independence.

“The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the rights that must be realised for children to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. At Safaricom Foundation, we are constantly working to aid the achievement of this,” Ogutu said.

In 2016, the Special Schools Heads Association of Kenya reported that more than 100,000 children with disabilities are out of school for various reasons, the leading causes being discrimination and stigma.

In the same year, the Commission of University Education released a report showing that only slightly above 600 students with disabilities were enrolled in both public and private universities across the country.