

2022

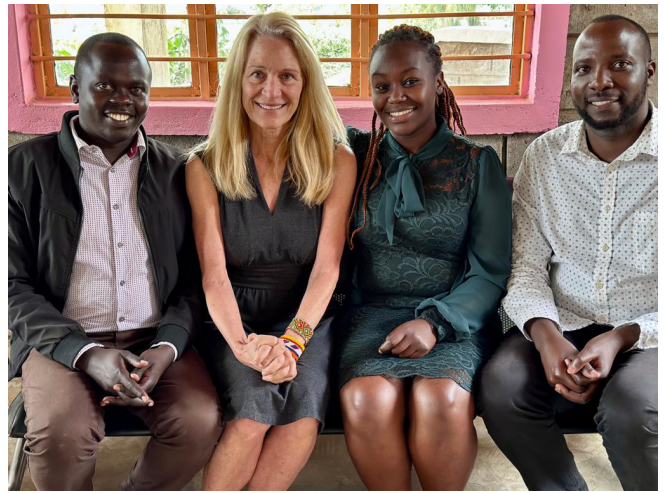
TOGETHER, we are empowering children and families in vulnerable circumstances to overcome poverty and tackle human rights issues in Kenya.



Dear Kenya Works Friends,

As I reflect on 2022 and the many challenges faced by individuals and communities across Kenya, I am inspired by how we, as a global community, came together in collective voice and action. It is evident that successful collaborations are crucial for substantial progress—no single organization or institution can achieve as much alone. This embrace of partnership and community is what has allowed us to grow opportunities for the people of Kenya.

United in the shared belief that all people should be afforded human dignity, we are creating a movement of positive change. I am so grateful to this community that walks together in a shared purpose—our Kenya Works donors, our amazing team on the ground in Kenya, the U.S.-based board of directors and Kenya-based Advisory Committee, alongside many partnering organizations and volunteers. Once again we have demonstrated that united in purpose translates into tangible and positive outcomes for the organization and so, our beneficiaries. We ARE stronger together.



As an organization, we strive to gain a deep understanding of the poverty-related obstacles facing the individuals and communities we serve. We recognize that poverty is multifaceted with many dimensions and barriers, and requires holistic solutions. To keep our sights sharply focused on these needs, the Kenya Works team solidified our programming around four proven pillars of opportunity: food and shelter; menstrual hygiene management; education; and community-based human rights training.

Through these intertwined pillars and across multiple touchpoints, we are building security, empowerment, knowledge and equality. In 2022, that amounted to meaningful change for tens of thousands of children and families. What's more, this is generational change with lasting, rippling effect. We invite you to read more from our families within these pages.

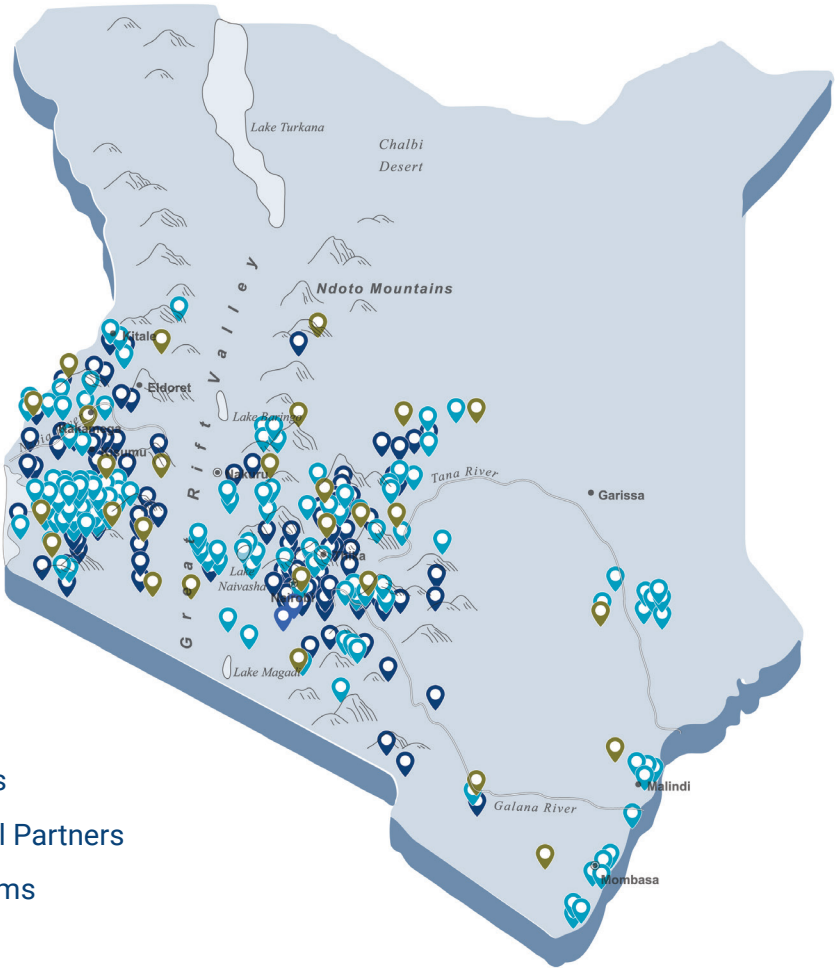
There is a quote, from Sandra Day O'Connor which speaks to my heart, the power of the Kenya Works community, as well as communities that are connected for social good,

"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone...Whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something."

When we harness the power of community to create positive change, we make a real impact in the world. Whether it's through advocacy, activism, volunteering, sharing the story...we can work together to address issues, challenges and build a more equitable and just world. We look forward to 2023 as we continue to weave this beautiful tapestry of change, together.

Julie Schalla-Schmidt

FOOTPRINT



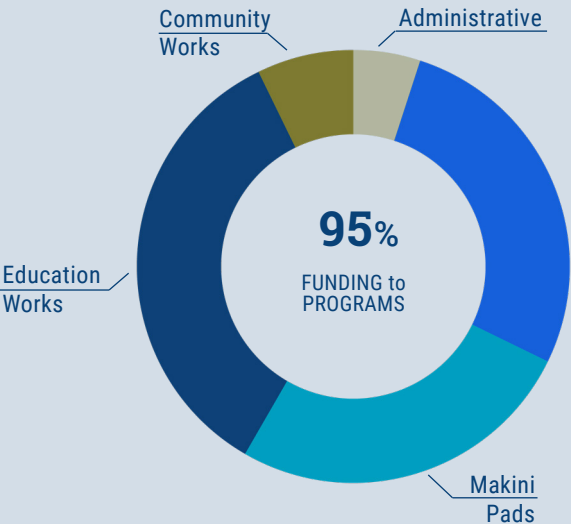
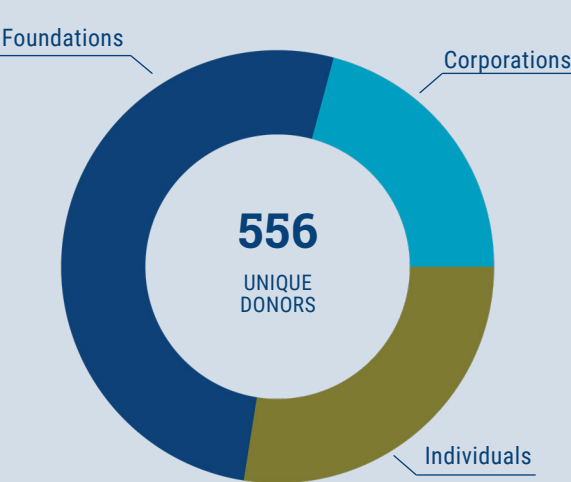
MAP LEGEND

- Shelter Works
- Makini Pad Distributions
- Education Works School Partners
- Community Works Forums

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Donations: \$1,086,930

Expense: \$1,002,350



Note: These financial figures are not yet audited. Adjustments may occur as a result of any audit adjustments. Kenya Works is audited by Erickson & Associates, S.C.



41,394

Nights
of Shelter



445

Shelter
Entrants



339

Children
Reintegrated



405,992

Plates
of Food



SHELTER WORKS

MAY is a bubbly 12-year-old girl who lives at the Kenya Works children's shelter Miale ya Tumaini (MyT). She arrived at the center with her two younger brothers eight months ago.

May recounts, "I was just a child myself when I became a parent to my two younger brothers. I was barely old enough to understand the gravity of the situation, let alone handle the responsibility. I remember long nights sharing a bed with my brothers, comforting them as they cried in hunger and despair. Days were no easier. I had to ensure we had enough food to eat and clean diapers for my brother. I was forced to steal and lie to survive. Our home was always locked due to non-payment of rent, and we slept at our doorstep. Our family was not much help either. They turned me away when I asked for food. They asked me not to sit on the sofas because I would make them dirty. This was a dagger to my heart."

To make matters worse, when her mother was home she was often violent with May beating her after neighbors reported she had been stealing. "But the hardest part was watching my mother sink deeper into addiction, leaving us to fend for ourselves. I still carry the scars of that dark time."

Last year, authorities took the three abandoned children into protective custody. At age 11, May along with her

two young brothers, found the security of home she had never known. But, the trauma of her former life remained.

Diana Wambui is the director of Miale ya Tumaini. As a counselor, she knows trauma leaves wounds that children express through behavior. At the center, she and the team of social workers provide trauma-informed care, helping children like May heal and thrive in the wake of tremendous hardship.

"Because of what she had gone through, May found it difficult to separate from her brothers," Diana said. "Though against the rules, she insisted on sharing a bed with her siblings and cautioned caregivers against mothering the boys. She watched over them at night. She regularly fought with other children, sometimes becoming physical," Diana said.

In this nurturing environment, May has made remarkable progress. She has learned to regulate her emotions, making friends and rarely fighting. She has learned to trust others to care for her brothers so she can focus on her own needs. She is approaching academic expectations for her age in most subjects, despite years of missing school.

May hopes her mother will get better and return one day. But at Miale, she has found home and family.



27,500
Pad Kits
Distributed



41,256
Youth
Trained



6,000
Boxers
Distributed



35
Production
Staff Employed



MAKINI PAD INITIATIVE

EVELYN is a machine operator on the Kenya Works Makini Pad production team.

Raised by a single mother who did casual work and struggled to provide her family's basic needs, Evelyn knew the shame and stigma girls face when they don't have access to products for managing their periods.

"The boys would make fun of me while others would say that there is an odor I am emanating," she narrated, balancing tears. Such hurtful remarks and the lack of menstrual products resulted in her missing school for up to a week at a time, which had a negative impact on her education and future prospects.

As a member of the Makini Pad production team, Evelyn is proud to make quality reusable pads that Kenya Works distributes to girls in need. "I know my work is helping girls stay in school and feel confident and comfortable during their periods," she said.

"I missed important parts of my education—too ashamed to go to class when we had no money for supplies," she added.

Evelyn's work also provides important income for her family.

Her husband is a boda boda driver (motor cycle taxi). With two parents earning money, her children have access to education and basic necessities without worry, living a much better life than what she experienced growing up.

A mother of three, Evelyn wants to impart to her son and daughters that menstruation is a normal part of life. She believes that it is crucial to educate young people on menstrual health and to end the stigma surrounding periods.

Kenya Works provides adolescent empowerment training along with pad distributions, helping to normalize the conversation around menstruation. We bring boys into the conversation as well with Boxers for Boys, recognizing they are important advocates for girls' equality. Our primarily female production team empower their children contributing to family income and standard of living.

Looking ahead, Evelyn hopes to become a nurse. As she advances in her career, she wants to continue to have an impact on girls' lives, holding forever what she has learned on the Makini Pads team. She recognizes the importance of empowering adolescent girls and is determined to play a role in creating a better future for girls and women.



563
Students
Sponsored



330,060
Plates
of Food



4
Building
Projects



163
School
Partners



EDUCATION WORKS

Leslie cherished her older brother. He wanted to become a pilot, so she did too. “To become a pilot,’ my father told me, ‘you must love all of your subjects at school and work hard.’”

It was December 2016 when tragedy struck. Leslie was finishing second grade and her mother Anita was in the hospital with the arrival of baby Desmond. Anita got a call learning her husband and Leslie’s older brother had died in an accident.

The devastated family went “up country” for the burials. When they returned home, all their possessions were gone. The landlord had let the place to another tenant believing they wouldn’t be back. Their grief and trauma spiraled into homelessness.

Anita and her children suffered life on the streets for nearly a year, often sleeping under the shelter of a wooden produce stand, the baby tucked in a fruit crate, mother and daughter on a dirt floor. Everywhere Anita turned for help, people dismissed her story as fiction. She worked hard selling porridge and washing clothing, but without job skills and with two young children, she

could not earn enough to feed her family, let alone rent a home or pay school fees. In the midst of this hardship, she was referred to the police for Leslie’s truancy.

After a year of being ignored, dismissed and demeaned, Anita found her voice, demanding help. Leslie was referred to Kenya Works preferred primary school VICODEC, where an education sponsor would walk with her. Despite a year of living on the streets, the bright child began fourth grade along with her age mates.

In 2022, Leslie graduated from VICODEC with high marks. She is joining an excellent high school. She still dreams of becoming a pilot. Now, her young brother looks up to her with admiration, as a model of who he wants to become.

Sponsors play a critical role in extending hope and opportunity for a generational lift. For a parent like Anita it reaffirms humanity and dignity, giving her the strength to advocate for Leslie despite crushing obstacles.



305
Community
Leaders Trained



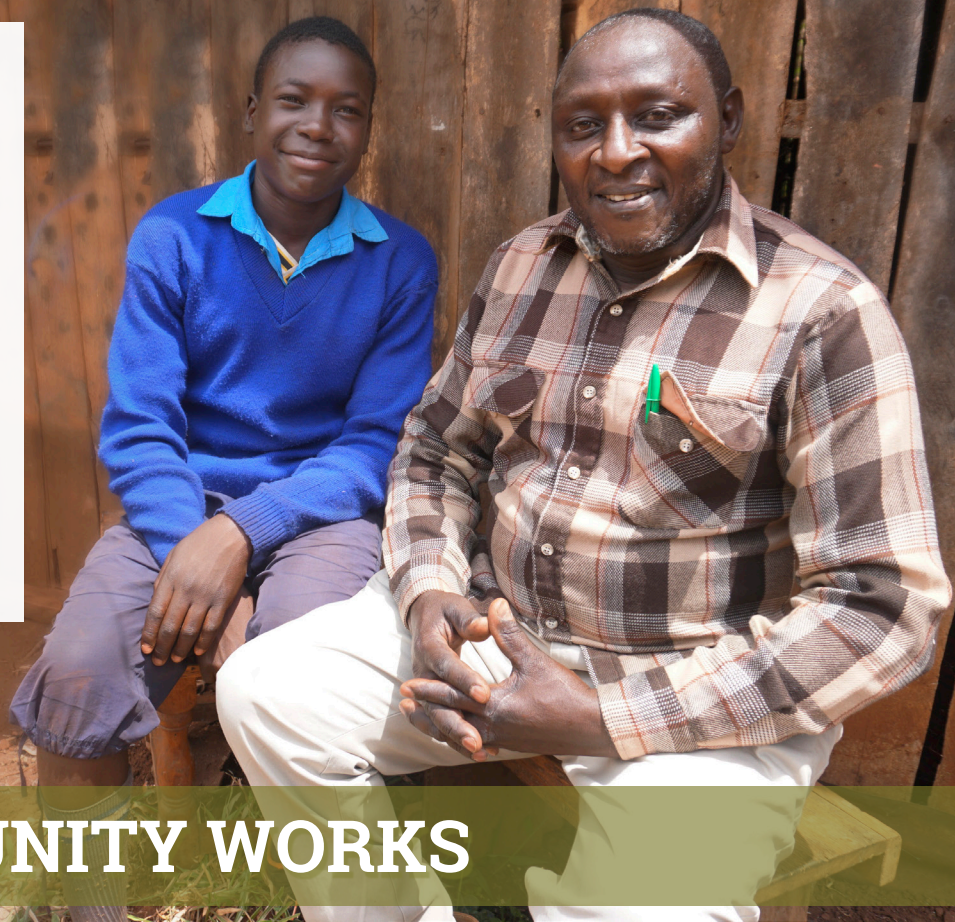
2,327
Community
Participants Trained



1,357
Girls Trained Anti-FGM/
Child Marriage



12
Counties
Reached



COMMUNITY WORKS

TOM thought he was going to die many miles from home in Western Kenya. It was mid-September 2022 when the young boy was caught stealing food. People stormed out of their houses shouting for help. Thinking he was a burglar, an angry mob began beating the boy.

Were it not for Jackson passing by, Tom might have been beaten to death. A well-regarded member of his community, Jackson quelled the crowd and ushered a badly wounded Tom into his home.

"I grew up seeing my father fight for the rights of the downtrodden. I am simply embodying the values I was raised with," Jackson shared about intervening on Tom's behalf.

Jackson opened his home and heart to Tom, and in time, Tom opened up about how he landed in the hands of the mob.

"I was brought to Kirinyaga by my father who was working here before he passed away two years ago," Tom narrated. "When he died, I went to my grandmother's. In time, she also died and I had nowhere to go." On his own at age 13, Tom dangerously jumped on a moving transit vehicle and returned to Kirinyaga. He sheltered in a close-by forest, scavenging leftovers from hotel dustbins. Pushed to the edge, he stole to survive.

Within weeks of meeting Tom, Jackson's chief invited him to attend a Kenya Works Community Works human rights training session because of his community activism. He quickly realized the team's expertise on child welfare, and remained after the workshop to inquire about what steps he should take to legally take the boy in off the streets.

He learned from the professionals that he would need to become Tom's guardian in order to enroll him in school. He also learned how to help Tom get inheritance from his late father's property, and how to find reunite Tom with his extended family.

Through sheer determination, Tom completed his primary education in 2022 and is now in high school. He has been reunited with his uncle who he now visits often, but he has found his home with Jackson. In turn, Jackson, a big-hearted man, has become a father.

Kenya Works is accelerating human rights in all corners of Kenya, ensuring community leaders and advocates like Jackson have the resources they need to develop local impact. The sessions focus on the legal, moral and economic advancements for advancing human rights across child welfare, gender equality and the elimination of harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage.

TEAM



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KENYA WORKS VALUES

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