



flying kites

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Njabini, Kenya | May 2024

Friends —

Your support has had a big impact on our efforts these past 16 years to transform primary education in rural Kenya. And, while parts of our model have evolved over the years to respond to the needs of our community, **the heart of our work has always remained the same: strengthening public schools in a sustainable way so that vulnerable students can thrive.**

And 2024 is proving to be our most impactful year yet. You may have noticed that we have accelerated our work to support girls, in particular, through the expansion of our Girls United Program, thanks to support from *If! Foundation*, *The Obama Foundation's Girls Opportunity Alliance*, and many of you. **While we remain committed to supporting all students - boys and girls - in our School Network, increasing girls' self-efficacy has become a central focus of our 5-Year Strategic Plan.**

Why girls, and why now?

Evidence shows that communities prosper when girls and women are educated, **but currently, 1 out of every 2 girls in Kenya will not complete school.** In rural Kenya, girls are dropping out of school due to gender-based violence, early marriage and teen pregnancy, inadequate infrastructure and resources, and lack of support around their health and wellbeing, **denying them their fundamental right to education.**

While access to education for girls in Kenya has improved, in South Kinangop, the sub-county served by Flying Kites, barriers to education continue to inhibit a student's, especially a girl's, ability to succeed in school. In an effort to address these challenges, we are scaling our work to ensure that more girls have access to the knowledge, resources, and support they need to stay in school and make informed choices about their bodies, their education, and their futures.

If this energizes you too, please get in touch with us directly to learn about opportunities to support our expansion. We are honored to share our latest impact with you in this Impact Snapshot, **and we hope you will continue to join us on this journey.**

Yours gratefully,



Leila de Bruyne
co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer

PARTNERING WITH TEACHERS TO INVEST IN GIRLS

Today, we serve over **5,000 students and 217 teachers across 9 public primary schools**. Our work is carried out through 5 targeted activities, providing a holistic approach to ensuring that girls in primary school have access to the knowledge, resources and support they need to stay in school and live healthy, self-determined lives. **Our impact this year includes the following:**

01. GIRLS UNITED CLUBS

Our Girls United Club Curriculum & Guidelines are designed to introduce age-appropriate learning objectives based on UNESCO International Technical Guidance for Sexuality Education. **We trained 41 Girls United Club Leaders on the new curriculum and facilitated Term 1 Club Meetings across our 9 Network Schools.**

02. GENDER EQUITY INITIATIVE

We partnered with 29 Child Protection Volunteers (CPVs) to facilitate 18 sensitization workshops for students and teachers at each of our Network schools. CPVs effectively used age appropriate components of USAID's Doorways Student Training Manual **to introduce 3,040 VYA girls and boys to concepts of gender and gender equity, discuss beliefs, and examine gender roles.**

03. WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

With a goal of increasing access to facilities for WASH and menstrual health management resources among girls in public primary schools, we partnered with schools in our Network to:

- **Construct WASH infrastructure and new latrine blocks at 2 Network schools** for students equipped with a raised slab foundation for strength and stability, drainage and sewerage works, and new handwashing stations for students, and
- **Provide 1,488 menstruating girls with Menstrual Health Management Kits** consisting of resources needed to manage their periods for 3 months, including underwear, pads, and a period tracking journal.

04. TEACHER TRAINING

As of January, **99% of teachers enrolled in our Teacher Tech Training have reached proficiency in technology equipment, internet, and online resources.** Five Technology Open Houses have been held at the Flying Kites Teacher Training Center since the beginning of Term 1 during which 59 teachers from across our School Network accessed our digital library of teaching resources, including teacher-recommended curricular resources and information on topics of menstrual health management, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and gender equity.

ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) IN RURAL KENYA

05. GBV PREVENTION INITIATIVE

In an effort to address one of the greatest barriers to learning for girls in our School Network, gender-based violence, we have:

- » **Trained and positioned 29 Child Protection Volunteers** as primary resources for reporting and addressing cases of gender-based violence in schools;
- » **Facilitated 6 gender-based violence sensitization workshops** for 625 attendees made up of Girls United Club Leaders, representatives from the Directorate of Children's Services, female community leaders, Child Protection Volunteers, and the head of the Teachers Service Commission, and
- » **Facilitated 18 on-site school-based sensitization and capacity-building exercises** designed to ensure all teachers and students are equipped to prevent, respond, share knowledge, and report instances of gender-based violence.

***Pictured here:** Flying Kites' Director of Programs, Georgina Ngugi. Georgina works directly with community leaders, Girls United Club Leaders, and Child Protection Volunteers as the primary facilitator of all trainings and workshops focused on gender-based violence and gender equity.*



OUR LATEST IMPACT

- » Since launching our Gender-Based Violence Prevention Initiative, **knowledge of gender-based violence laws, policies, and procedures increased from 58% to 87%.**
- » As a result of our trainings, **96% of Child Protection Volunteers recognized corporal punishment in and out of schools as a type of gender-based violence**, from 40% at baseline. **100% of Girls United Club Leaders identified corporal punishment as a type of gender-based violence** compared to 61.5% before the training.
- » Additionally, the number of Girls United Club Leaders **feeling "Very Confident" that they have the information and resources and trust that authorities will respond appropriately to GBV doubled from 39% to 78%.**

IMPACT HIGHLIGHT

GIRLS UNITED CLUBS

Delivered in public primary schools, our Girls United Clubs support girls during very young adolescence (ages 10-14), a critical time for their physical and socio-emotional development, and an age where they are exposed to increased risks to their rights and wellbeing. After one year of participation, we saw the following results:

39% REDUCTION IN PERIOD SHAME

After 1 year of participation in our school-based Girls United Clubs led by trained female teachers, **we saw a 39% reduction in period shame among girls** (from 64% at baseline to 25% at endline).

I used to be scared during my period and I avoided people. Now I do not fear because I have all of the information I need and what I do not know I can ask my girls united club leader.

- Grade 7 Girl, Sasumua Primary School

IMPROVED SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

After 1 year of participation, we saw a **23% reduction among girls surveyed who felt "less confidence" in class while on periods** (from 42% in baseline to 19% at endline).

Many girls were performing poorly in academics because we feared the teachers and suffered low self esteem. We did not have anyone to share our challenges with, especially period-related issues, but that has since changed. Our performance and esteem has really improved.

- Grade 7 Girl, Sasumua Primary School

LATEST NEWS

OUR TEAM IS GROWING:

Flying Kites' programs are planned, designed, and led by our on-the-ground Leadership Team composed primarily of female Kenyan professionals and educators who boast a diverse range of experiences in education and gender health service organizations, community-based organizations, and global NGOs. Each of these women actively serves as a role model for students and girls in our larger community, inspiring young women and carving a path for female professionals in a largely male-dominated rural area. This year, we welcomed to the team:



CAROLINE WANJIKU GACHWE

SOCIAL WORKER



BEATRICE NJERI HENU

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COORDINATOR

JOIN ROOTS:

We are excited to launch **The Flying Kites Roots**: A community of monthly supporters helping us transform underserved schools across rural Kenya. When you sign up to join The Roots, you will receive a Pamoja (*Together, in swahili*) t-shirt or sweatshirt. Visit www.flyingkites.org/roots to learn more and sign up today!



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