



DFW 6-Month Interim Progress Report

October 2013

Period Covered: December 2012 – September 2013

1. A brief description of what has been accomplished so far, including progress on the goals and objectives of the program DFW is funding. What impact has been made through DFW's funding?

Dining for Women funding is allocated to the following MGEF programs: the annual Mentoring Workshop, Business Training for Rural Maasai Women, and Community Education Programs (comprised of Mothers Workshops and Life Skills Workshops for Girls). Below are descriptions of these programs.

Mentoring Workshop

In December 2012, MGEF held its annual Mentoring Workshop for post-pubescent MGEF scholarship students. Forty students from across Kajiado County attended the two-day workshop, held at ACK guesthouse [see photos in DFW dropbox]. The MGEF Mentoring Workshop was introduced in 2010 to help MGEF scholarship students stay in school. The workshop offers life skills to prevent teen pregnancy, female genital mutilation (FGM), and the spread of HIV, and also addresses the social barriers to academic success, such as pressure for marriage and FGM, self-esteem, standing up for oneself, and pressures for sex, which are most intense during secondary school years, and setting goals for the future. The workshop also creates a system for MGEF alumni and college students to act as mentors and role models to younger students during the most vulnerable years.

This year, we distributed a booklet on women's health and wellness, called "Freedom for Girls." The small manual was created by the Health Education Africa Resource Team (HEART) in Kenya, and came highly recommended to our Kajiado staff. Each and every Mentoring Workshop participant left with a personal copy of "Freedom for Girls," a resource that highlights the most important lessons we address in the workshop. It is our hope and intent that this booklet will benefit students throughout the school year, as well as their siblings and friends, until the next Mentoring Workshop.

Total Cost of Mentoring Workshop: \$1,383 of which \$702 was funded by Dining for Women.

Business Training for Rural Maasai Women

Funding from DFW has also enabled MGEF to hold successful three-day Women's Business Training workshops in March 2013 (cohort one) and another in August 2013 (cohort two). The workshops were facilitated by Equity Bank in Kajiado and attended by sixty total rural Maasai women [see photos in DFW dropbox]. Twenty new businesses have emerged as a result of these two trainings and an initial transfer of an 8,000 Ksh seed grant has been made to each business, equaling 80,000 Ksh seed grant money in total. At the 3-month follow-up meeting for cohort one, a final seed grant of Ksh 4,000 was distributed to the five businesses that had reached their 3-month savings goal of Ksh 5,000. At the 6-month (and final) follow-up session for cohort one, the facilitator reported that in total Ksh 61,250 of the Ksh 80,000 had been deposited in the business savings accounts, and all but one business had a savings balance of at least Ksh 5,000. The facilitator noted that the groups from cohort one "[A]re very happy about the business capital given to them and they...wish traffic jams of blessings to MGEF for their generous funding."

The training facilitator continues to monitor the progress of the 10 brand-new enterprises in cohort two, and after six months, will submit a final report, with details on the successes, challenges, and outcomes of the 10 businesses. The reports from the second cohort 2-week and 4-week follow-up sessions have indicated progress among cohort two businesses. The businesses indicated that September was a difficult month for sales, but their facilitator is working with them to improve performance in October.

Total Cost to date: \$1,607 funded by DFW.

Community Education Programs

Between May 2013 and September 2013, MGEF-Kajiado organized seven Mothers Workshops, as well as eight Life Skills Workshops for girls in Kajiado County (see photos in DFW dropbox). These workshops did not begin until May 2013 due to significant nationwide events in Kenya (see #3 below). In total, 629 participants attended the Mothers Workshops and Life Skills Workshops. A majority of these participants indicated that they would relinquish harmful customs, like early marriage and female genital mutilation, which bar girls from entering and completing school.

Among the Life Skills Workshops facilitators are Simantoi Kilama and Caroline Kashinin, two MGEF alumni. Simantoi and Caroline serve both as educators and as excellent role models for younger girls. They prove that education benefits not only an individual but also the community in which they live. As the head-teacher at Lorgosua Primary School shared in a letter of appreciation for the Life Skills Workshop, "The workshop was of great importance to the school community at large...because the pupils can spread the knowledge and skills achieved to their homes." He went on to ask that MGEF facilitators return to the school for a follow-up session, which administrators at other schools have also requested. We agree with their assessment that the best way to learn is by receiving information at least twice. Therefore, our next eight Life Skills Workshops will be held at the same schools visited between May 2013 and September

2013. Likewise, Elders and Mothers workshops will repeat in each location, beginning in October 2013.

Total Cost to date: \$1,862 for Life Skills Workshops and \$1,415 for Elders and Mothers Workshops funded by DFW.

2. Has anything changed in regard to the original program goals and objectives?

Our original program goals and objectives have not changed, but we have made scheduling adjustments to compensate for circumstances beyond our control, described under Item 3 below.

3. Have you experienced any significant challenges or obstacles in implementation? If so, how are you addressing them?

On March 4, 2013, Kenya held its first presidential election since the highly controversial 2007 election. Fortunately, very little post-election violence took place this year. However, in the weeks – and even months – before the election, the entire Kenya infrastructure was affected. For example, primary and secondary schools postponed the beginning of first term from early February to mid-March. The Kajiado organization used this time to collect school enrollment and retention data around the County, though even this activity was limited by a lack of working school administrators and teachers.

In addition to scheduling impacts resulting from the election, in July 2013, a four-week nation-wide teachers strike took place. This caused the premature closure of public primary and secondary schools in Kenya. During this period, the MGEF Kajiado staff worked tirelessly with cooperating head teachers to keep the Community Education Programs going as planned. With the exception of a Life Skills Workshop, originally scheduled for July 20th and rescheduled for July 27th, the teacher's strike did not impede MGEF programs.

Despite these significant nation-wide events, the MGEF Kajiado organization was able to re-schedule and conduct workshops (which can only take place when school is in session). As noted above, between May and August 2013, MGEF-Kajiado organized seven Mothers Workshops and eight Life Skills Workshops for girls in Kajiado County. In total, 629 participants attended these events.

The revised schedule for the workshops, amended because of the election and strike, is shown in Item 4 below.

4. Has the timeline for the program changed from the original funding application?

The MGEF timeline for DFW-funded programs has changed from the original funding application, due to the Kenya election and its direct impact on school openings (described under Item 3). Additionally, the 4-week teacher's strike in late June through late July affected workshop schedules. Working closely with the Kajiado organization, we have restructured the schedules for our Mothers Workshops and our Life Skills Workshops for

Girls, as shown:

Mothers Workshops

CURRENT DATES	ORIGINAL DATES	PRIMARY SCHOOLS	DIVISIONS	FACILITATORS
18 th May 2013	18 th May 2013	Lorgosua	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
8 th June 2013	8 th June 2013	Ilmotio	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
22 st June 2013	22 st June 2013	Esoit	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
17 th August 2013	13 th July 2013	Ilpartimaro	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
22 nd August 2013	27 th July 2013	Ilmarba	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
7 th September 2013	10 th August 2013	Leboo	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
16 th September 2013	17 th August 2013	Oiti glory	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok
21 st September 2013	21 st September 2013	Eseki/Emuruadikir	Namanga	Elias and Eva Kiok

Girls Life Skills Workshops

ACTUAL DATES	ORIGINAL DATES	PRIMARY SCHOOLS	DIVISIONS	FACILITATORS
11 th May 2013	11 th May 2013	Lorgosua	Namanga	Simantoi, Rachael, and Elias
25 th May 2013	25 th May 2013	Ilmotio	Namanga	Simantoi, Rachael, and Elias
1 st June 2013	1 st June 2013	Esoit	Namanga	Simantoi, Rachael, and Elias
15 th June 2013	15 th June 2013	Ilpartimaro	Namanga	Simaloi, Rachael, and Elias
29 th June 2013	29 th June 2013	Ilmarba	Namanga	Simantoi, Rachael, and Elias
6 th July 2013	6 th July 2013	Leboo	Namanga	Simantoi, Rachael, and Elias
27 th July 2013	20 th July 2013	Oiti glory	Namanga	Simantoi, Rachael, and Elias
10 th August 2013	14 th September 2013	Eseki/Emuruadikir	Namanga	Caroline, Rachael, and Elias

5. Has funding changed for this program? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?

We have received additional funding of \$5,080 for the community education program from Stiftung Kinder-Hilfe, which will first be applied to the cost of men and boys' workshops, since DFW is not funding that part of the program.

Additional funding of \$249 has been received from individuals since the fiscal year

beginning July 1 2012.

6. How much of the original DFW restricted funds have been disbursed and how much remain?

MGEF has spent \$6,267 as of the date of this report, leaving a balance of 10,592.

7. Is your organization or program situation different than presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant program staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding, or other significant changes?

The Maasai Girls Education Fund sadly mourns the passing of its Founder and President, Barbara Lee Shaw, on October 17, 2013. Barbara was an adventurer, a visionary, an inspiring philanthropist who devoted her last 14 years to Maasai girls. With her vision, dedication, her heartfelt connection to Maasai women, and her profound sense of justice, Barbara changed lives forever.

The Maasai Girls Education Fund is and will continue to be the effective, committed, award-winning organization Barbara created it to be. With the foresight and precision that marked all of Barbara's endeavors, Barbara planned for this transition, and MGEF remains unwavering in its mission.

In accordance with MGEF's goal of transitioning to a new level of program growth, we have added an important new member to our team, Zara Bott-Goins, Director of Development & Programs. Zara has extensive experience working on education and development programs in Africa. Formerly she was the Country Director of The Girls Foundation of Tanzania, a non-profit dedicated to educating girls. In this role, among her many responsibilities, she lived with, mentored and managed the day-to-day lives of more than 10 girls and attended to all their schooling and housing needs. Previously, she was an AmeriCorps member at the American Red Cross, Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, and she also worked on anti-human trafficking issues at California Against Slavery, a non-profit based in Los Angeles. Zara's responsibilities at MGEF include grant development, working with donors, and the management of day-to-day operations.

With our strong Board of Directors and our dedicated team, MGEF's promise to every one of our students will be kept, and we will continue leading the way for future generations of Maasai women and girls.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we move forward.