



Interim Progress Report

Prompt detailed progress reports are required for all Dining for Women funded programs. In addition to providing our members with donation accountability, progress reports also provide an excellent educational opportunity for our membership, helping our members understand the successes and the challenges NGOs face with program implementation in the developing world.

Your 6-month Interim Progress Report is now due. Please submit your report, within 30 days, to grants@diningforwomen.org.

Include all of the following in your report, answering the questions as completely as possible:

1. Please share 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 funding?

In 2011 Shining Hope for Communities received funding from Dining For Women for the Kibera School for Girls, the first free school for girls in the Kibera Slum of Nairobi, and our economic empowerment initiatives for the Kibera community. So far in 2012, we have achieved several milestones in both projects, including expanding the Kibera School for Girls and re-designing our economic empowerment programs to be able to help more women become economically secure.

Currently, the Kibera School for Girls provides a superior education to 100 girls from pre-K through third grade, and we will add one grade level every year until the eighth grade. We are able to use funding from Dining for Women to fully support our school operations including teacher salaries, health care and meals for our students, school supplies, uniforms, operate the library and IT services, and run our parent programs. This funding has also allowed us to allocate outside funding for important expansion and improvement projects at the school, including a new school building and new curriculum additions:

- In January 2012, Shining Hope opened a new school building for the Kibera School for Girls that has doubled the number of new students we are able to enroll every year, from 15 to 30. The new school building includes a computer lab, theater and art rooms, an assembly hall, and a rooftop playground. These facilities, paired with our innovative curriculum, will help our students receive a well-rounded, comprehensive education that will give them the tools to find paths out of poverty.
- At the Kibera School for Girls, we have also implemented some curriculum additions that make significant improvements on our previous curriculum and are far ahead of the traditional rote-learning system found in most Kenyan schools. For example, we have purchased a new interactive science curriculum that engages students with their environment, and a new math curriculum based off of the Singapore math curriculum, which is widely lauded as being the best in the world. In addition, we have improved our after-school and music programs. These curriculum improvements are enabling us to offer a world-class education to some of the most disadvantaged girls in the slum, and will empower them to be able to lead change for themselves and their community.



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Also in 2012, with support from Dining for Women, our economic empowerment programs have been expanded and re-designed to be able to help more women in Kibera achieve social and financial independence. We now have 86 women enrolled in our economic empowerment programs, the components of which include group savings and loans, business training, handicrafts, and social support networks.

- Shining Hope's Women's Empowerment Project (SWEP) is a collective of 27 HIV positive women living in Kibera that makes beaded jewelry and accessories made from traditional Kenyan textiles. In addition to learning how to make crafts, they also participate in weekly support group meetings, design and business workshops, and take part in a group savings and loans program. Recently in 2012, SWEP has found success in local Kenyan markets as well as abroad. Shining Hope has purchased more sewing machines so that we are able to keep up with the growing demand for our crafts.
- Like SWEP, which brings HIV positive women together to support each other through common challenges, our other economic empowerment programs are also designed for groups with common interests and challenges. These groups include parents of our students, youth, and new mothers. Each group participates in regular support group meetings, save together, and make investment decisions together with their collected funds. In addition, they participate in professionalism, accounting, and entrepreneurship workshops that help them find employment and/or start small businesses ventures of their own. Our economic empowerment programs were redesigned in February of 2012 and so far, we have a total of 91 participants in 4 groups, 86 of whom are women. Funds from Dining for Women will only be used to support groups that are for women, such as new mothers, SWEP, and pregnant HIV+ women.

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

While our original program objectives of educating the most disadvantaged and vulnerable girls of Kibera and helping Kiberans gain economic security have not changed, the specific program components have been modified and enhanced based on our resources and the needs of our community.

At the Kibera School for Girls, we continue to strive to offer the best possible education to our students. With additional funding last year, we were able to build a new school building and improve our curriculum.

Our economic empowerment programs have been redesigned in February 2012: We had previously proposed three economic empowerment programs for funding from Dining for Women—our Women's Empowerment Project (SWEP), Gardens for Growth, and Project Poultry. However, after monitoring our programs, only SWEP had clear potential for success. This was largely due to the fact that SWEP participants reach out to each other for social and emotional support through their common challenges as low-income women



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living with HIV. Thus, we redesigned our other economic empowerment programs to include similar social networks for our participants to be able to form strong social bonds that will help them reach economic stability. Furthermore, while there is a large demand for handmade crafts in Kenya and abroad, Project Poultry and Gardens for Growth had much smaller profit margins for our participants. Therefore, Shining Hope decided to provide business and entrepreneurship training to our economic empowerment participants so that they could apply the business skills to a variety of fields, depending on the state of the local economy, and their own creativity. Thus, our economic empowerment programs are now more flexible, robust, and provide more social support for our participants. We hope that with the re-design of the project, more women would be able to achieve economic security and overcome institutional challenges against women and slum residents in Kenya.

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

Our main challenge in implementation of our economic empowerment programs were that Gardens for Growth and Project Poultry did not adequately address the needs of our participants. Therefore, we re-designed our programs to include aspects that made SWEP a successful program (which was the social support based around common interest and challenges of the participants), and added the flexibility for our participants to take advantage of any small business opportunity in the local market (see previous).

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

The timeline for the program has not changed. Shining Hope plans to operate both programs—the Kibera School for Girls and our economic empowerment initiatives—for as long as there is a need in our community for girls' education and economic empowerment services.

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

Over the last year, our funding has changed significantly from our estimates in the original proposal given to Dining for Women. We have been fortunate to receive additional funds for the Kibera School for Girls, which we used to build the new school and enhance our curriculum. In addition, we have been able to receive more funding for our community programs including our economic empowerment programs. Whereas we originally conceived our economic empowerment projects to generate a modest income for Shining Hope, now, 100% of the profits made through group savings and loans and businesses of our participants in the economic empowerment programs will belong to our participants.

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

Of the \$36,263.79 that Shining Hope received from Dining for Women, \$22,656 was allocated for the Kibera School for Girls and \$13,607.79 was allocated for women's economic



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empowerment programs. We have spent \$13,216 of Dining For Women's restricted funds for the Kibera School for Girls, and will use the rest for the remainder of the school year. For our economic empowerment programs, we have disbursed \$4,535.93 to SWEP and \$2,592 to our remaining women-focused economic empowerment groups. We will use the remaining \$6,088 throughout the remainder of this year.

Additionally, we would love to receive photos of current program participants if possible, and personal experiences from anyone involved with the program. Please include them in your report.

Please see attached photos of the Kibera School for Girls, SWEP, and our other women's economic empowerment programs.

After submitting your report, please keep in touch with us about the progress of your program; we appreciate hearing from you and are available for feedback at any time. And as a reminder, a template will be provided for a more in depth Program Completion Report, typically due twelve months after fund disbursal.

Please send your report, within 30 days, to grants@diningforwomen.org

We look forward to hearing about your program!

Thank you,
Dining for Women