

# November 2018 Featured Grantee WISER International



**Muhuru Bay, Migori County, Kenya**

## Introducing WISER International



**WISER works with girls to transcend poverty, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence by creating environments that empower young women to drive change in their communities.**

## Where in the world?

- Kenya's population is nearly 48 million
- More than 40% of Kenyans are under 15 because of sustained high fertility, early marriage and childbearing, and an unmet need for family planning
- 36% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- 1.5million people live with HIV/AIDS



## **Life Challenges of the Women Served**

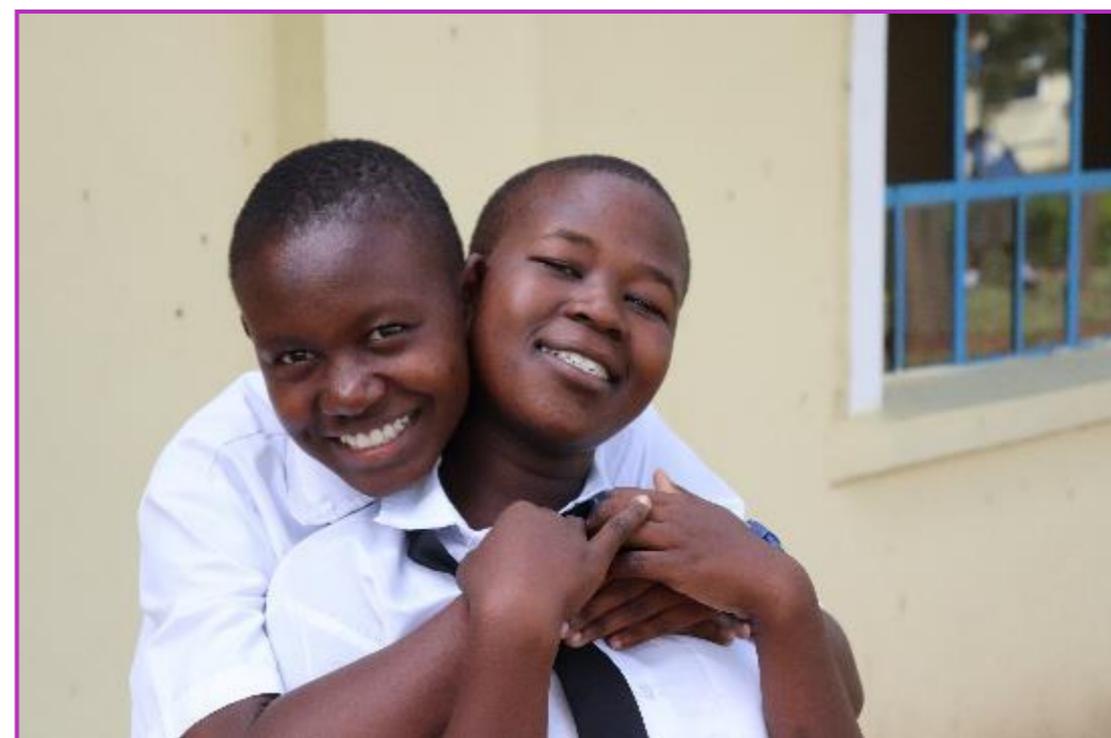
- **Girls face limited economic mobility, alarmingly high rates of HIV, and local schools that perpetuate gender-based violence while remaining cost-prohibitive for many.**
- **Girls in Muhuru Bay are have poorer health outcomes, lack schooling, and are disempowered due to the combination of entrenched barriers they face.**
- **Only 7% of girls complete secondary school due to poverty, child marriage, child pregnancy, orphanhood from AIDS, or gender-based violence.**

## **Life Challenges of the Women Served**

- **Parents often believe their daughters' dowry to be worth more than her education. An estimated 57% of girls in Migori County are married before age 18.**
- **Fifty percent of sexually active girls ages 10-16 in Muhuru Bay resorted to paid sex to obtain resources essential to education.**
- **In a community with an estimated HIV prevalence of nearly 30%, girls are putting their lives at risk just to stay in school.**

## What are we supporting?

This project's main goal is to increase the sexual, economic, and interpersonal agency of girls in rural Kenya. Addressing systemic barriers for girls through this project means changing economic, educational, and health outcomes for generations.



**Direct Impact: 975**  
**Indirect Impact: 16,000**

# Budget

DFW's grant of \$49,402 will be used for the following:

Item	Description	Total
Healthy Environment	Includes \$2,161 to support clean water, \$26,218 for healthy meals, and \$1,200 for essential medicines and treatment	\$29,580
Academic Resources	Textbooks, school supplies, and laboratory equipment and chemicals	\$10,545
Alumni Support	Alumni mentoring event	\$2,500
Community Outreach	Sexual and reproductive health outreach	\$2,000
Experiential Learning and Leadership Development	Academic and athletic competitions, Science and Engineering Club, East African Girls' Leadership Summit	\$4,777
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$49,402</b>

## About the Featured Grantee

**WISER was co-founded in Muhuru Bay, Kenya in 2007 by Dr. Rose Odhiambo of Egerton University in Njoro, Kenya and Dr. Sherryl Broverman of Duke University in Durham, NC.**

**WISER's core programs holistically target adolescent girls ages 14 - 18 from families with minimal formal education and extreme levels of poverty. Over 40% of WISER girls are orphans, the majority due to HIV/AIDS.**



## Share Your Thoughts

1. How important is WISER's holistic approach to the success of this project?
2. What impact does community buy-in have on girls' education?
3. How do you think this program will impact the region in the years to come?



Changing the world one dinner at a time