

DINING FOR WOMEN

KENYA SELF-HELP PROJECT INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018

Organization Name: Kenya Self-Help Project
Project Title: Girls Empowerment Program
Grant Amount: \$44,990 (over two years)
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Outcomes the project was designed to achieve

The project is designed to improve the social and economic future of 3,400 girls in 23 rural primary schools through a program that strengthens gender identity, provides opportunity for practical application of life skills, and mitigates the causes of girls' absenteeism, poor performance and school dropout.

Outcomes the project was designed to generate include:

- Girls' primary school dropout will be under 0.002%
- Pregnancies will be near zero in 23 schools
- Absenteeism caused by lack of personal supplies will be under 0.001%
- Girls' high school eligibility will be near 100%
- Girls will hold the majority of top performing students in each school
- Girls will hold the majority of class position #1 in grade 1-8 classes
- Girls will hold the majority of the Speakers of Schools Congress
- Girls will hold 25% of the leadership positions of school president

Funding

There have been no changes in funding and no unexpected funding/income from another source.

Organization/Project Situation

All leadership, staffing, funding and implementation represented in our initial proposal remain unchanged.

Beneficiaries

The number of beneficiaries *Directly Impacted* has **increased**. KSHP Girls Empowerment program now serves an additional 115 girls, who receive Dignity Kit personal supplies and

weekly Girls Club education and mentoring. Dining for Women support enables us to positively impact the lives of 3,515 girls in 23 rural primary schools. An additional 3,400 girls, grades K-3, in these schools are *Indirectly Impacted* by the positive role modeling of their elder peers as well as 7,200 boys, who benefit from gender awareness education during community events AND their parents and guardians who join these attend KSHP-organized community events 2-3 times per year at each school.

Challenges

KSHP is the only stable non-profit organization operating in the zone. The success of our Girl Child education program has led community members and teachers to believe that Kenya Self-Help Project can solve almost any school-related need. Lacking government support, KSHP is regularly petitioned for textbooks, for new school latrines that have collapsed due to flooding or for a feeding program. School leaders feel disappointed when their requests, which fall outside our program mission, cannot be fulfilled. We greatly value how our project manager maintains positive relationships with local school communities and teacher leaders through these difficult discussions.

Additionally, surrounding communities see the gains made by Nyakongo girls and frequently petition KSHP to bring the Girl Child Club and mentorship program into their schools. Our staff stands ready and able to train mentor teachers and share our Girls Club curriculum, but funding restricts our ability to provide the 'whole package' with Dignity Kits, weekly KSHP supervision and debate support. This causes neighboring zone communities to feel let down by not having access to the same resources.

Project objectives

The objectives of this program remain unchanged. Aspects of implementation continue to evolve, with growing emphasis on girls' leadership training and community service.

Progress made toward achieving our goals

From September 2017, progress toward achieving these goals is as follows:

GOAL - Girls' primary school dropout will be under 0.002%

PROGRESS – We are proud this goal has been surpassed. In 23 rural primary schools, where girls receive KSHP's Girls Club education and personal supplies, girls' school dropout has dropped to ZERO. This contrasts with a dropout rate of 230 girls per year prior to initiating this program.

Our director credits program mentorship and role-modeling for contributing to this achievement. Local girls now in high school make regular visits to Girls Clubs to talk with their younger peers about the value of working hard and staying in school. Club members relate to their stories of being orphaned at a tender age and surmounting obstacles to their education. Adolescents are inspired to see how a homeless girl has managed to become a university

graduate and a successful career woman. “I want to be like her,” is a dream that motivates every girl to stay in school.

GOAL – Pregnancies will be near zero in 23 schools

PROGRESS – Pregnancy has been ELIMINATED in all 23 schools. When a reliable source of sanitary supplies became available through KSHP distributions, adolescent girls stopped relying on boys to supply their needs. The trading of sex for sanitary supplies is common in rural communities, where families lack the resources to purchase pads for their daughters. Dining for Women has enabled every adolescent girl in the zone (2,100 girls) to receive reusable personal supplies and underwear twice annually.

Girls Club mentorship program reinforces safe conduct in its curriculum and its Girls Club pledge, which states in part, “This is my body and I will not give it to boys.” The ethic of being ‘your sister’s keeper’ also encourages girls to seek adult intervention when a girl sees a friend engaging in wayward behavior.

GOAL – Absenteeism caused by lack of personal supplies will be under 0.001%

PROGRESS – Achieved. Girls no longer stay home from school due to lack of sanitary supplies. Improved attendance has enabled girls to keep up with their studies and be academically competitive.

GOAL – Girls’ high school eligibility will be near 100%

PROGRESS – High school eligibility of girls in all 23 partner schools is now 100% - up from 43%.

KSHP Girls Empowerment deals with the root cause of absence and girls’ school dropout - the lack of sanitary supplies and girls’ health education and low self-esteem. “If you want to solve an issue, deal with the roots, not the leaves and branches.” With KSHP support, girls no longer miss learning time, fall behind in their studies, become discouraged and drop out of school. Girls Club education and peer mentoring have demonstrated that staying in school are key to building a secure future.

GOAL – Girls will hold the majority of top performing students in each school

PROGRESS – Girls in our 23 partner schools now hold the majority of top performing students in each school.

GOAL – Girls will hold the majority of class position #1 in grade 1-8 classes

PROGRESS – Girls hold position #1 in 75% of all grade 1-8 classes in our 23 partner schools.

GOAL – Girls will hold the majority of the Speakers of Schools Congress

PROGRESS – Girls have gained four Speakership positions in a Congress of twelve students.

GOAL – Girls will hold 25% of the leadership positions of school president

PROGRESS – Seven girls now hold the position of school president in Nyakongo zone's 23 schools.

Message

Our personal thanks flows to every member of Dining for Women for how your generous support has helped us to secure the outcomes of our Girls Empowerment program. Your giving has improved the lives of thousands of girls and their families – a gift that empowers girls to reach their fullest potential. We could not possibly have seen the progress noted without Dining for Women at our side.