October Featured Grantee
Global Fund for Widows

Dining for Women

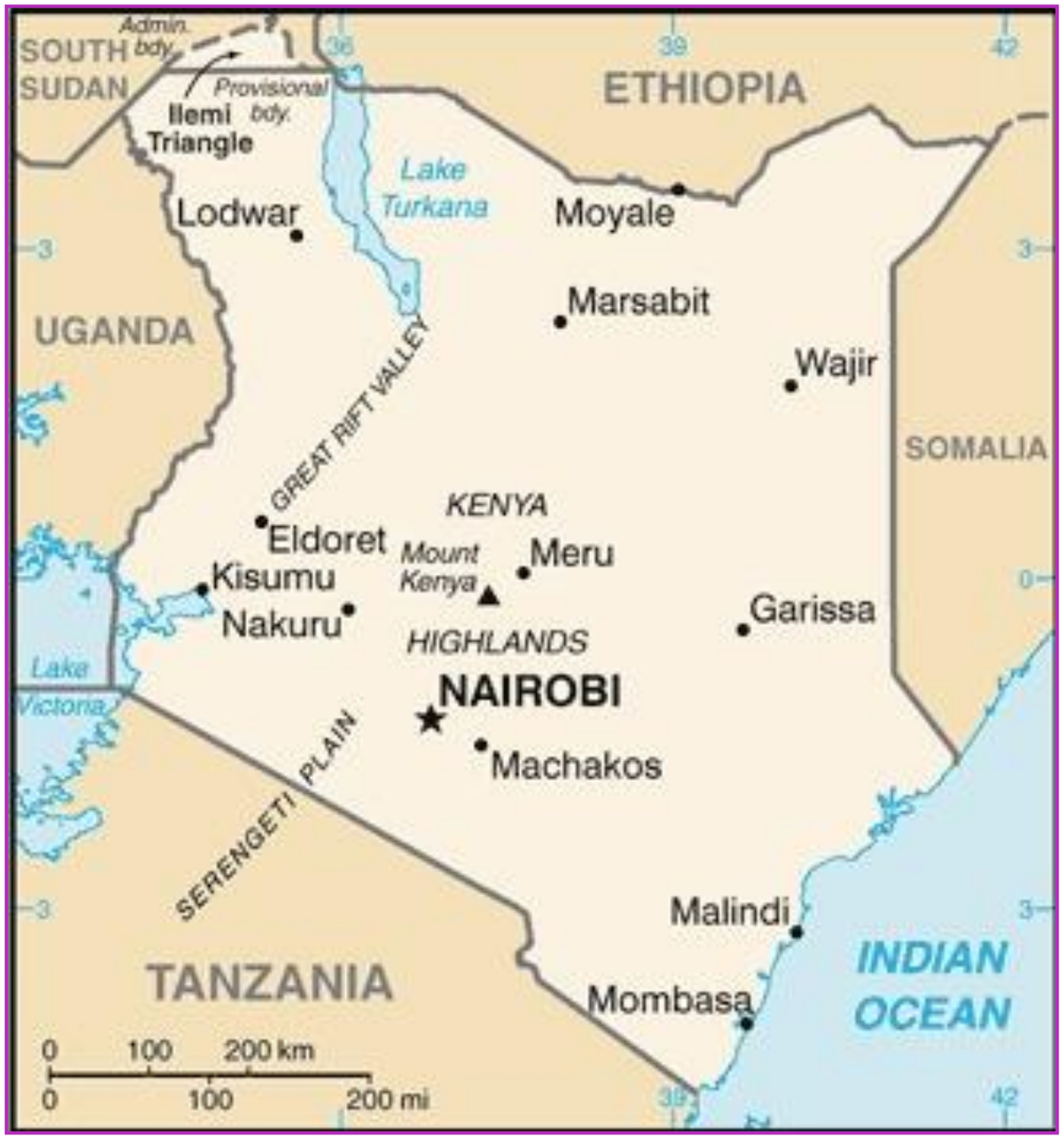
Kenya

Introducing Global Fund for Widows

Global Fund for Widows (GFW) empowers widows and female heads of households to overcome poverty in developing countries through skills-based training, micro-finance, and the establishment of Widows' Savings and Loan Associations (WISALA).

Where in the world?
Kenya

Where in Kenya?



About Kenya

- **Kenya has a population of more than 50 million people**
- **More than 40% of Kenyans are under the age of 15 due to sustained high fertility, early marriage and childbearing, and an unmet need for family planning**
- **The population growth strains the labor market, social services, arable land, and natural resources**
- **Men hold primary power, and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property**

Life Challenges of the Women Served

Widows endure three forms of human rights violations: Disinheritance, Discrimination, and Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP).

Life Challenges of the Women Served

- **Women's social and economic status is defined by lack of information and traditional practices.**
- **Women often face harmful traditional practices (HTPs), early marriages, forced eviction, female genital cutting, disinheritance and dispossession of land.**
- **HTPs can include widow "cleansing"- rape by a male relative from her husband's family, a village leader, or a "professional cleanser."**
- **Unable to afford lawyers and ignored by authorities, women's rights are routinely violated.**

What are we supporting?

GFW's Brookbank Project's main goal is to improve the lives of widows by economically empowering them through access to capital via establishment of sustainable banks or WISALAs and certifying them as community paralegals armed with knowledge of their rights and entitlements.

What are we supporting?

- **WISALAs for 350 widows provide them with capital to launch micro-enterprises, become economically empowered, gain self-sufficiency, and be leaders.**
- **Widows are certified as community paralegals, arming them with critical knowledge of their rights and charging them with disseminating their knowledge to their community and engaging with local leaders.**

Budget

DFW's grant of $49,895 will fund the following:

Item	Detail	Total
Salaries and Benefits	CTWOO Trainer salary	$3,000
Program Administration Costs	Includes training expenses, WISALA equipment, local travel and project oversight	$10,120
WISAL Co-capitalization	DFW grant to co-capitalize banks	$35,175
Monitoring and Evaluation	Photography and Video documentation/testimonials, surveys, analysis, and reports	$1,600
Total		$49,895

About the Featured Grantee

- Founded by Heather Ibrahim-Leathers after realizing a single event of widowhood destroyed her grandmother's family and the generations that followed.
- Serves widows in developing countries who have not only lost their husband, but their home, ability to provide for their children, and their dignity.
- Serves Egypt, Tanzania, Kenya, India, Nigeria, Malawi, Bolivia, and the Dominican Republic.

Share Your Thoughts

1. How do you think patriarchy perpetuates the violation of widow's rights?

2. How do you think this project model can address similar issues in other countries?

3. Do you think it is possible to change perceptions that are based on cultural and traditional mores?

October's Sustained Grantee:

HealthRight International Community-based Maternal Mental Health

- First project of its kind that specifically targets the mental health needs of perinatal women in a post-conflict setting
- Primary goal is to expand the MMH program to strategically target the new population of perinatal women among the South Sudanese refugees in Lamwo district of Uganda.

Direct Impact: 8,400 women Indirect Impact: 8,400 community members