



March 2023 Featured Project

The Butterfly Project: Bringing the Bedrocks of Lasting Change to Northern Pastoralist Kenya's Most Excluded Girls



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Introducing Too Young to Wed

Mission: to empower girls and end child marriage globally

For their beautiful adornment, attire, and hairstyles, members of the Samburu community are sometimes known as “The Butterfly People”



About Kenya

- More than 40 percent of population under the age of 15
- Agriculture is backbone of the economy
- Extreme drought causing severe food insecurity
- Persistent rapid population growth



Life Challenges for Women in Kenya

Life-altering events for Samburu girls:

- 86% undergo FGC/M
- 50% are married off as children
- 62% become teen mothers

Women and girls spending more time

- grazing animals
- searching for water
- gathering fuelwood farther from home



The Butterfly Project:

For historically excluded girls, beginning at age 9, who are at risk of child marriage, FGC/M, and other harmful practices

Goals

- reduce gender disparity
- increase school attendance and literacy
- delay marriage
- inform girls and families of their rights



The Project

- Local day school scholarships or evening literacy/numeracy classes
- Curriculum-based mentoring
- Community dialogue/family agreements
- Livestock and nutrition provisions
- Economic empowerment opportunities

DIRECT IMPACT: 950+

INDIRECT IMPACT: 2,000+



Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Mentor Training	Facilitation allowance for two trainers, meals for mentors/staff/trainers, accommodations for two trainers and four staff, venue hire, transport for mentors	\$11,000
Safe Space Meetings	Weekly Safe Space group meetings with girls for eight months, refreshments for girls, mentors' monthly allowances, venue hire (as needed), transport reimbursement for girls (as needed)	\$15,000
Day School Scholarships	Local school scholarships for out-of-school girls	\$7,000
Monitoring and Evaluation, Communication	Travel expenses for field supervision visits; Printing training materials and monitoring tools, digital media coordination, phone credits for mentors and staff	\$1,600
Project Management	Program Officer, Program Assistant, Finance Manager, Senior Management	\$9,000
Indirect Costs		\$6,400
TOTAL		\$50,000

About Too Young to Wed

- Founded by Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist and activist Stephanie Sinclair
- Official launch was Oct. 11, 2012 – the first International Day of the Girl Child
- TYTW's international traveling photography exhibition on child marriage helped yield UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3 which aims to "eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early, and forced marriage"

Discussion: Share Your Thoughts

1. What are the intangible benefits of girls having a safe space and safe people with whom they can communicate?
2. Do you think the concept of “cascading mentorship” in communities can magnify the success of this project? How have you witnessed that in your own community?
3. How do you think this project can help girls regain the ground lost by the pandemic?



