



Bringing hope to one of Africa's largest slums

WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN AFRICA

Child Endowment Education Program:

Child education sponsorship is an effective and fulfilling way to help give a child from the **Kibera slum** in **Nairobi, Kenya**, the chance of a brighter future.

The aim of the work is to help to ensure each child in our reach enjoys good health; is educated for life; is cared for, protected, and participating in decisions that affect their lives; and experiences the emergence of hope in their lives.

The community of Kibera slum faces specific challenges. Extreme poverty is the predominate feature throughout the estimated 1,000,000+ people living in Kibera. Violence, gangs, infectious diseases, HIV/AIDs and drugs are all too frequent. It is unsafe at night to venture outside. Girls are often pregnant at 13-14 years in Kibera.

Through partnerships with '**Wanawake kwa Wanawake' (WkW)** in Nairobi, local families, community groups, faith-based organisations and government, WFWIA builds trusting relationships to help identify the community's assets and needs, along with the underlying causes of children's poverty and vulnerability.

Experience has taught us that the best way to change a child's life is to provide an education, provide adequate food intake, provide safety for the child and provide care for their health needs. WFWIA try to place the children in boarding schools where they are safe from the dangers found daily in Kibera. These schools also provide real accommodation (no shared beds, couches or floors with other family members in 10ft x 10 ft shacks) and regular meals for the children which they would otherwise not have at home.

The Kenyan Education system:

Kenyan children have an option to attend a Nursery year, a Pre-school year, 8 years of primary school and then 4 years of secondary school. The 8+4 years of primary and secondary is equivalent to the Australian 6+6 year systems (ie, year 1-12).

Ideally, child sponsorship is a **long-term commitment**. But how long child sponsorship lasts will be different for each sponsor. Some sponsors join us at the beginning of their sponsored child's education and others join us towards the end. **Our aim is to educate children to at least the end of secondary school education with the opportunity to then continue further.**

Children begin a **nursery/pre-school program** for roughly two or three years, around the age of three years old, before commencing Grade 1 (Class 1 or Year 1) at 6 years of age.

Primary school education in Kenya is supposedly free; however, many parents still cannot afford to pay for school uniforms, textbooks, transport, meals and supplies, without which students cannot attend school. These fees are especially difficult for marginalized children such as females, orphans, and the financially underprivileged. The students must pass their exams at the end of Grade 8, (KCPE – Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education)

Secondary school in Kenya has four levels, Forms 1 – 4 and is completed only when students finish their KCSE (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations. Again, student grades play a key role in determining whether or not students are able to attend university and post-secondary education.

Despite advancements in accessing primary education, access to secondary education has remained quite low in comparison. There are a number of reasons that account for this. For instance, secondary schools still require tuition payments and have much higher extra-curricular fees. Uniforms, books, bedding and food costs are extra. Distance also plays a major role for some in accessing education. There are many fewer numbers of secondary schools compared to primary schools.

WFWIA also has the **Chappell Informal School**, which is run at the **WkW Community Centre** in Kibera. This is a place where children, newly accepted on to our program after their primary schooling but before secondary school,



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can go and receive some semi-formal education by teachers. These children spend up to a year at the Chappell Informal School while waiting for a sponsor to send them to secondary school the following year but still able to maintain a learning mentality. The Informal school keeps the children out of the trouble and dangers of Kibera if they were at home during the day.

Tertiary or post-secondary education may consist of vocational training courses, certificate courses, diploma courses and degree courses. Each is of differing lengths and costs. Competition for places is fierce according to marks obtained in KCSE exams, due to very few available institutions.

How to make Payments:

Sponsors can pay monthly by instalments or annually (our preference).

Payments can be made by:

1. **Direct credit:** Westpac Bank: BSB: 033-059, A/C: 660872; or
2. **Cheque:** Women for Women in Africa, PO Box 2184, Wattletree Rd PO, VIC 3145; or
3. **Online:** <http://www.womenforwomeninAfrica.org.au/donation/> ;or
4. **Credit card by phone:** 0409 614 630 or 0438 747 101.

We encourage automatic deductions from a bank account or credit card because this is the easiest and most reliable payment method.

We send **invoices** immediately a sponsor starts their involvement and that initial payment is for the current school year. Depending on the month when sponsorship starts, we may charge a pro-rata fee rather than a full fee.

Presently, we **send on-going invoices to our sponsors each November** for payment prior to the next school year.

Due to rapidly rising school fee increases in Kenya, the rate for **primary, informal school and secondary students is \$1,250 / year** for a calendar school year.

Tertiary education is generally much more and is dependent on the course chosen by the student and further details can be given dependent upon the student involved.

You can help WFWIA reduce administration work and costs by selecting an automatic payment method and/or a less frequent payment method.

Receipts are issued with payments. **Sponsorship payments and general donations are 100% tax deductible.**

Your Child:

We encourage you to connect with your sponsored child. Sponsored children love to receive emails, letters and cards from their sponsors and it can be a great source of encouragement for them to know that someone far away cares about them and their future.

Contact us:

Please feel free to contact us about the Sponsorship Program anytime by email to admin@womenforwomeninAfrica.org.au or phone to 0409 614 630 or 0438 747 101.

NB: WFWIA is committed to using all donations both wisely and effectively. All money received for Child Endowment Sponsorship is sent to our Kenyan partner at the WkW Community Centre in Kibera for the education of the students.