



# IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Njabini, Kenya | October 2023

**AT FLYING KITES, WE BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IS A PATH OUT OF POVERTY. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS, WE ARE TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN KENYA BY:**

## INVESTING IN GIRLS

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Our holistic curriculum ensures that every girl has access to the critical resources she needs to come to school, stay in school, and thrive in school.

## UPSKILLING TEACHERS

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We provide primary school educators with access to technology and a multifaceted approach to professional development that lays the foundation for effective instruction.

## SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

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In partnership with the Ministry of Education, we launch School Meals Programs and invest in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure.

Team -

This year, we are celebrating 15 years of impact. And none of it would be possible without **you**.

What started as a small school in the mountains of rural Kenya has evolved into a locally-led Center of Education Innovation. **Today, we serve over 5,000 students and our campus has become a hub for education in Njabini. Thanks to your support, primary schools, teachers, students, and their families across our district are benefitting from our locally-led, holistic programs.**

We know that when students are supported by trained teachers, when girls have access to critical information about their health and their futures, and when all children can attend safe and healthy schools, **they thrive**. And when children thrive, **communities thrive**.

On behalf of our team and the thousands of students and hundreds of teachers across our School Network, we are grateful for the opportunity to share our work with you.

**After 15 years of serving and learning from underserved students, educators, and families in our rural community, we are in a position to transform even more under-resourced schools throughout our district and beyond. *We hope you will continue to walk alongside us on this next stage of our journey.***

Yours gratefully,



Leila de Bruyne  
co-Founder & Executive Director



**FLYING KITES FOUNDING STORY: *The Short Film***

Visit [flyingkites.org/foundingstory](https://flyingkites.org/foundingstory) to view the newly-released short film that tells the story of our journey over the past 15 years.

# SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

By introducing our School Meals Program, scaffolded by quality, eco-friendly kitchens and improved facilities for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) across our School Network, **we are reducing hunger as a barrier to learning and strengthening an infrastructure for student health**, resulting in increased enrollment and school attendance, as well as improved educational outcomes. **With your help, we have served more than 914,940 school meals to 5,083 students and 217 teachers across our School Network this year.**

## Supporting School Meals with our newly-opened Co-Op Farm:

With a goal of increasing the scope and sustainability of our School Meals Program, and with thanks to support from The Farvue Foundation, **we have doubled the size of our campus farm in order to harvest and deliver nutritious, fresh produce to schools in our Network** who do not have their own land to farm ingredients for school lunches.

**Currently, we deliver 545 pounds of produce every week to 2 schools serving daily lunches to 958 students and 49 teachers.**



Our Girls United Program addresses the biggest risks for girls dropping out of school in Kenya – early pregnancy, gender-based violence (GBV), and cultural norms that undervalue education for girls. **As safe spaces have been established through Girls United, more girls have begun sharing their experiences of GBV.**

Of the 463 girls participating in GBV-focused workshops, **8.4% reported having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime – statistics that are presumed to be significantly underestimated due to stigmas associated with victims of sexual assault.** While the Ministry of Education clearly articulates a duty of schools and teachers to protect all children from violence, educators lack the training, resources, and support to address instances of GBV, and girls are left without the support they need.

With support from The Dorothea H. Ross Foundation, we launched our latest initiative, ***Stand Together***, a coordinated program of resources, training, and community alignment that **equips school communities to stand together to address and reduce GBV.** In close collaboration with Network School leaders, teachers, the Sub-County Director of Education, the Teacher Service Commission, local Children’s Officer, child protection volunteers (CPVs), government officials, and local health service providers – **we are establishing a sustainable framework to address GBV.**

## **BASED ON QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE REPORTS FROM GIRLS UNITED LEADERS, OUR EFFORTS FOCUSED ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE HAVE RESULTED IN:**

- » **16 girls returned to school** following dropout due to GBV.
- » **28 girls reported utilizing the self-defense skills** in the 6 months following GBV workshops.
- » **After 1 workshop, 77% of girls felt confident in their ability to defend themselves**, compared to 56% at the baseline.



## **WHERE WE'RE GOING: DIGITIZING GIRLS UNITED**

With support from The L’Oréal Fund For Women, we are digitizing Girls United in order to increase girls’ access to critical information in resource-poor settings and scale our work more broadly. Our innovative series of animated videos is centered on Kenyan girls sharing contextualized health information and delivered in a digital format that is accessible and downloadable for private viewing, ***putting the girls themselves in the driver’s seat of their learning.*** These digital resources are designed for delivery through our Girls United Program utilizing government-issued school tablets and have the potential to reach hundreds of thousands of girls across Kenya. **To learn more, visit [flyingkites.org/digital](http://flyingkites.org/digital).**



# UPSKILLING TEACHERS



Through our Teacher Training Center, we are building the capacity of teachers to enhance student learning in their classrooms. Teacher Tech Training is currently available to 217 teachers across 9 schools in our Network. 78 Training Workshops were conducted during the 2023 Academic Year for 217 teachers attending workshop modules based on their own skill level and pace. Current proficiency data shows:

**Module 1 - Introduction to Basic Technology Devices** – of 217 total teachers participating in Module 1 workshops:

- **66% of participants have achieved full proficiency** (able to demonstrate skills with independence) *compared to 0% at baseline*
- **27% of teachers are approaching proficiency** (able to demonstrate skills with some self-direction and some coaching)
- **7% of teachers (mostly new to the program) are developing proficiency** (utilizing ongoing guidance and coaching)

**Module 2 - Introduction to the Internet and Online Resources** – of 217 teachers participating in at least one Module 2 workshop:

- **22% of participating teachers have achieved full proficiency**
- **70% of teachers are approaching proficiency**
- **8% of teachers are developing proficiency**



**“SO THE TABLETS REMAINED IN A CLOSET GATHERING DUST AND, AS TEACHERS, WE FELT LEFT IN THE DUST AS WELL.” – MONICA KINYUA**

In August, UNESCO published the 2023 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report entitled *“Technology in Education: A tool on whose terms?”*

In connection with the report, our Teacher Training Center was featured as an example of how harnessing the power of technology can help educators unlock their potential and transform their classrooms. Specifically highlighted in UNESCO's GEM Report World Education blog is Monica Kinyua, a teacher at our Network School, Nyakio Primary.

As Monica writes, although technology has been introduced as a key component of Kenya's new competency-based curriculum, teachers in our School Network lack the skills, resources, and confidence to effectively integrate technology into the classroom. By expanding the curriculum and capacity of the Flying Kites Teacher Training Center and providing access to technology training, resources, internet, and EdTech software, we can enhance teacher performance, improve student outcomes, promote digital literacy, and nurture the development of 21st century skills for thousands of students across Kenya.



## INTRODUCING MARK LAICHENA

Flying Kites is thrilled to welcome Mark Laichena, Chief Strategy Officer at Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) in Kibera, Kenya, to our Board of Directors. Prior to joining SHOFCO this year, Mark was a leader on Children's Investment Fund Foundation's (CIFF) Africa Girl Capital team, developing and managing investments focused on girls education and young women's livelihoods. Mark also led GiveDirectly's work in Africa across seven countries, overseeing cash transfer-focused programs in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, DRC, Malawi, Liberia, and Morocco.

### COMING SOON: **THE FLYING KITES ROOTS**

We are excited to launch The Flying Kites Roots: A community of monthly supporters helping us transform underserved schools across rural Kenya. When you sign up to join The Roots, you will receive a Pamoja (*Together, in swahili*) sweatshirt. Make sure you are following us on social media and subscribed to our newsletter to be the first to know about The Flying Kites Roots - **coming November 2023.**



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**JOIN US: [FLYINGKITES.ORG/DONATE](https://flyingkites.org/donate)**