



KAKENYA'S DREAM

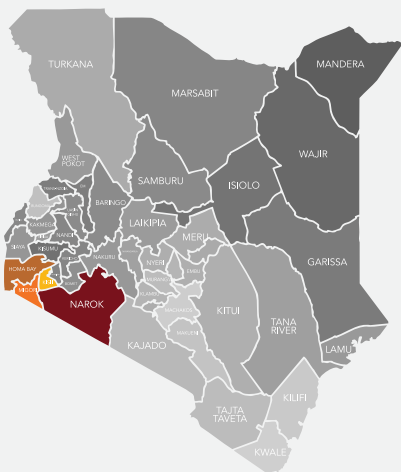


INVESTING IN GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES TO CREATE AGENTS OF CHANGE.

Kakenya's Dream is a nonprofit organization operating in Kenya's most marginalized and underserved areas, where over 90% of the population lives on less than \$5.50 per day. The basic rights of girls and young women in particular are being denied on a significant scale. This is due to discriminatory social norms, harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM), and denial of education and economic opportunities. These issues are interconnected and frequently trap girls in a lifelong cycle of poverty, keeping them from reaching their full potential.

Kakenya's Dream is transforming societal norms by engaging girls, boys, young adults, fathers, mothers, and community leaders. Our holistic programs address the many challenges girls face from childhood to young adulthood. This impact is only possible by working in and with the entire community, not just a segment of it. We believe that when a girl is educated, healthy, and well-supported, she is empowered to make her own choices, understand her rights, dream beyond traditional gender roles, and drive broader social change in her community, nation, and the world at large.

OUR COMMUNITIES



- ✔ 66% of girls undergo FGM
- ✔ 50% of girls are married before 19
- ✔ Less than 25% of girls graduate high school

OUR PROGRAMS



Holistic Education

Improving girls' educational attainment is core to our efforts as we believe it opens the doors for opportunities otherwise not available. We operate two girls' boarding schools that serve as models for what is possible when you invest in a girl's education. Outside of our schools, we provide financial aid and mentorship for girls to attend nationally ranked high schools. This support continues as girls progress to higher education.

Improving the quality of education in public schools across the region is paramount to our goal for girls' educational attainment. We work to improve public schools through feeding programs, infrastructure enhancements such as desks and washrooms, and teacher training until all girls receive a quality education.



Economic Empowerment

With young adult unemployment rates as high as 67%, we help young women transition from school to work by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to thrive in this highly competitive job market. Our programs include job readiness workshops, networking opportunities, financial literacy training, practical experience through internships, and entrepreneurship training.



Health and Human Rights

We built the community's first and only health clinic, providing primary care, sexual and reproductive health services, and mental health support to 10,000 community members who previously had little to no access to healthcare. Our clinic emphasizes youth-friendly care that is compassionate, educational, and stigma-free, ensuring young people feel supported and empowered to manage their health needs.

Working in public schools across two counties, we also equip thousands of boys and girls across southwestern Kenya with essential knowledge about their bodies, health, and legal rights. By addressing topics such as sexual and reproductive health and FGM and child marriage prevention, the program empowers youth to challenge harmful practices and beliefs and instead promote gender equality.



Climate Resilience

As climate change accelerates, catastrophic droughts and floods are devastating our rural farming communities and increasing the burden on women and girls. They are forced to spend far more time collecting water, firewood, and food for their families, obstructing their ability to attend school and work. In response, we've integrated environmental education into our curriculum and have launched community-wide conservation and climate resilience projects to ease the burden that climate change places on girls and young women.



Community Engagement

We address the harmful social norms at the root of many of women's health and rights challenges by facilitating community-led dialogues with parents, youth, elders, and local leaders. These discussions encourage open, solutions-oriented communication around taboo topics like FGM, child marriage, teen pregnancy, and reproductive health. We also partner with local media to spread educational messages via radio and TV. This approach is driving a societal shift in beliefs and attitudes around women's health and rights.



A Localized, Evidence Based Model

As a locally led organization, Kakenya's Dream is uniquely positioned to address the holistic needs of rural Kenyan communities. Our team's lived experience enables us to navigate delicate social norms, collaborate with traditional elders and religious leaders, and work closely with the Ministries of Education and Health, as well as local authorities. We incorporate robust measurement, evaluation, and learning (MEL) metrics in all of our programs to ensure we are achieving the desired outcomes. Our localized approach contrasts with one-size-fits-all models often used by international NGOs, ensuring our programs are culturally relevant, community-driven, and designed for long-term transformation.



Alignment with Global Efforts

Kakenya's Dream's mission and programming align closely with global priorities, particularly the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing key issues such as poverty (SDG 1), health and wellbeing (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), and climate action (SDG 13), the organization is contributing to systemic change that transcends local communities. Our holistic and participatory approach serves as a model for tackling interconnected global challenges, demonstrating how locally led initiatives can drive progress toward achieving equitable, sustainable, and inclusive development worldwide.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A holistic and scalable model for girls' empowerment, gender equality, and sustainable livelihoods across rural Africa

 kakenyasdream.org

 4250 North Fairfax Drive Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22203  +1 (571) 527-4960



    @kakenyasdream