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Growing Leaders From Every Soil

WE ONE ACTION NETWORK (WOAN) – SUNFLOWER TRUST

Reporting period: January – May 2025

Introduction

The Sunflower Trust commenced the 2025 academic year with a strategic round of partner school visits on January 8, 2025. These visits were designed to engage school administrators, directors and teachers across our partner institutions. The purpose was to communicate important updates, including the upcoming visit by donors from the Dance of Courage – a key partner of Girl Rising. These donors visited our literacy lab to witness firsthand the Dance of Courage storybook reading sessions and the impact of our work on the girls' literacy development.

During these visits, we also shared information about our ongoing Pathways to Alternative Learning and Education (PALE) program, particularly the recruitment of new grade five learners for 2025. In addition, we introduced the expansion of our STEM Education program, detailing the number of girls engaged per school and the specific grade levels targeted. These efforts mark a significant step in scaling up access to quality education and life-skills training for girls in underserved communities.

Scholarship Awards

In our 2025 update, Sunflower Trust is proud to announce the awarding of scholarships to 15 deserving girls. Each scholarship, valued at Ksh 15,000, is a powerful enabler for the recipients, helping to remove financial barriers that often hinder continued education. The selected girls were recognized for their resilience, commitment to learning and academic achievements. Their inspiring stories – shared at the end of this report illustrating the life-changing role that access to education can play in a girl's life. With this support, the beneficiaries are now better

positioned to focus on their studies, grow in confidence, and pursue their long-term goals.

Infrastructure Development

In terms of infrastructure development, Sunflower Trust has made steady progress in school and classroom improvements. At Sunflower Early Education and Development (SEED) school, we have installed new floor tiles to enhance learning conditions and create a more comfortable classroom environment. We also painted the classrooms walls and gave the school gate a fresh coat of paint, including a newly designed logo that reflects the presence of an organized educational organization. The name "Sunflower Early Education And Development (SEED) school" was inscribed, accompanied by illustrations of a boy and girl to clearly signify the purpose of the Sunflower Trust space. We are excited to share during this reporting period that we also replaced all the broken learner's chairs and tables to ensure a safe and conducive learning environment.

Challenges Faced

However, despite these accomplishments, the implementation process has not been without its challenges. One of the key difficulties has been the disbursement of funds in staggered installments over the course of the year. This funding schedule necessitated that Sunflower Trust cover school fees upfront to prevent disruption in the education of the targeted girls. To address this issue, we temporarily reallocated resources from other budget lines, prioritizing our core commitment to keeping girls in school.

OTHER UPDATES

Exploring STEM Education.

We are thrilled to share the successful conclusion of our first STEM Education cohort, which wrapped up on 22nd March 2025. Over a period of two transformative months, 127 adolescent girls from our community actively engaged in a dynamic STEM program designed to ignite curiosity and deepen their understanding of

science and technology. The participants explored a wide range of scientific concepts, including composite materials, aerofoils, hydrogen, rockets, satellites, and the effects of vacuum and gravity. Beyond theory, they also took part in practical, hands-on learning activities such as Scratch programming, creating mathematical shapes, and analyzing scientific forces that influence the modern world.

In addition to STEM, our girls benefited from play-based literacy sessions that were both joyful and tailored to meet their individual learning needs. Through phonetic games, storytelling, level-based reading, and group activities, the girls developed essential reading skills in an engaging environment. As a result of this holistic approach, 57% of the girls progressed from recognizing basic letters to confidently reading full sentences. These impressive literacy gains stand as a testament to the effectiveness of combining education with fun, relevance, and compassionate support.

Building on the success of the first cohort, our second STEM Education cohort officially commenced on 5th May 2025. This time, 123 girls have embarked on a 12-week educational journey, made possible through our continued partnership with Phoenix Space and F5. This cohort will benefit from a rich blend of hands-on STEM education, designed not only to spark curiosity but to equip the girls with the critical tools to explore, innovate, and lead in areas traditionally less accessible to them. The program is set to run through the week of 21st–26th July, and we look forward to witnessing another group of girls grow in confidence, skill, and vision.

Staff Development and Leadership Achievements

In March 2025, our Program Coordinator, Victor Owuor, was selected to participate in the prestigious Advanced Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) course. Bringing together educators and changemakers from across the African continent including Zambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Botswana, Uganda, Kenya, Madagascar, Togo, and Nigeria - this training focused on building foundational literacy and numeracy skills. For Victor, the experience was a powerful reaffirmation of his dedication to educational transformation through the PALE Afterschool Program and Sunflower Trust's literacy programs.

We are also proud to celebrate a significant leadership milestone. On 19th March 2025, our Executive Director, Ms. Rukia Sebit, graduated from the Metis Alumni Cohort. Her achievement is not only a personal triumph but a collective victory for Sunflower Trust. Rukia's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to reimagining education in Nairobi continue to shape our programs and inspire our community. We are proud of her journey and eagerly anticipate the continued impact of her transformative leadership.

The 2025 WOAN Scholarship Recipients



Esther Mukimba is a resilient and ambitious student whose story is a proof to strength, hope and determination. Her favorite subjects are Christian Religious Education (CRE) and Physics reflect both her moral grounding and analytical mindset. Deeply passionate about healthcare, Esther aspires to become a medical professional, driven by a desire to care for patients and make a lasting impact in

underserved communities. This passion was born out of personal experience, especially witnessing her grandmother's struggle with illness and lack of medical attention.

Esther's early life was marked by significant adversity. Abandoned by her parents at the tender age of three, she was raised by her grandmother, who later fell ill and returned to her rural home. With nowhere else to turn, Esther was taken in by a compassionate neighbor, a single mother of five who worked tirelessly as a casual laborer to support her children. Despite these difficult circumstances, Esther remained focused on her education and with support from Sunflower Trust and she successfully completed her primary education.

The path to secondary school, however, seemed nearly impossible due to financial challenges. That changed when Esther received a life-changing scholarship from the We One Action Network (WOAN) this year. Now in secondary school, she is fully committed to pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor and providing care to those who, like her grandmother, are often forgotten by the healthcare system.

Outside the classroom, Esther finds strength and joy in sports, especially football and volleyball. These activities not only offer her a mental break from her academic challenges but also build her confidence and teamwork skills. Esther's broader vision goes beyond personal success –she hopes to become a role model for other orphaned children, proving that no matter the obstacles, dreams are valid and achievable. Through her journey, Esther continues to embody courage, resilience, and the transformative power of education.



Cynthia Aoko is a bright and focused girl whose love for English and Business Studies reflects her passion for communication and financial literacy. A proud resident of Soweto village in Kibera, Kenya, Cynthia lives with her parents in a modest home. Despite the tough environment and limited resources, she has consistently excelled in her academics, standing out as one of the top performers since joining Sunflower Trust in January 2018.

Cynthia's dream has always been to become an accountant, a goal she has pursued with unwavering determination. However, financial difficulties at home once made this dream feel out of reach. Her father, a local carpenter in Kibera, and her mother, who works as a house-help, do their best to provide for the family. But the burden of supporting Cynthia's education has often been heavy. This year, her dream was given a lifeline when she was awarded a scholarship by the We One Action Network (WOAN) through Sunflower Trust. With this support, Cynthia now has the means

and motivation to focus on her final year of secondary school and is determined to excel in her upcoming national examinations.

Beyond her academic ambitions, Cynthia is a creative and expressive young woman. She enjoys dancing, drawing, and plaiting hair – talents that bring her joy and provide a sense of identity beyond the classroom.

Cynthia is a shining example of what determination, talent and timely support can achieve. With renewed hope and access to education, she is well on her way to becoming a successful accountant and a role model for other girls growing up in challenging circumstances.



Melvin Akinyi is a determined and ambitious girl whose love for English has fueled her passion for learning and self-expression. Born and raised in Gatwekera village within the Kibera slum, Melvin is the eldest of six siblings. Her life has been marked by significant challenges, including the painful loss of her blood father. Despite

these hardships, she now lives with her single mother and stepfather, who do their best to support the large family under difficult circumstances.

Melvin's dream is to become an engineer, a goal that reflects her curiosity, creativity and desire to solve real-world problems. For a long time, pursuing secondary education seemed like an unreachable dream due to financial barriers. However, through the support of the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship, Melvin is now in a boarding secondary girls' school and work toward her ambitions with hope and determination.

Outside the classroom, Melvin finds joy in reading novels. Books offer her a comforting escape from the daily challenges of life in Kibera while strengthening her language skills and deepening her love for English, her favorite subject.



Mary Atieno is a determined and vibrant girl whose passion for language and storytelling shines through her favorite subjects including English, French and

Biology. With a deep interest in current affairs and communication, Mary dreams of becoming a journalist, using her voice to amplify stories that matter and bring positive change to her community.

The second-born in a family of seven, Mary lives with her parents and siblings in a single-room dwelling in Gatwekera village, located in the heart of Kibera slums. Life at home has not been easy. Her father struggles with alcoholism, which has affected his ability to provide for the family. Her mother, a hardworking domestic worker, carries the weight of supporting the household. Despite these challenges, Mary has remained focused and resilient, showing a strong commitment to her education and future.

Mary's life took a hopeful turn when she received a scholarship from the We One Action Network (WOAN) through Sunflower Trust. She is now enrolled in a boarding secondary school in Nakuru, an opportunity she deeply values and acknowledges would not have been possible without the scholarship. The support has not only provided her with access to quality education but also a safe and stable learning environment where she can focus on her goals.

Outside the classroom, Mary is a well-rounded student who finds joy and balance in extracurricular activities. She loves singing, dancing, swimming, and playing volleyball activities that nurture her creativity, build confidence and give her a sense of freedom beyond her daily challenges.

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Mitchelle Juma is a passionate girl whose favorite subjects are Chemistry and English, reflect both her curiosity about the world. A resident of Kisumu Ndogo village in Kibera, Mitchell comes from a humble background and lives with her parents and four siblings. Her family has faced significant financial challenges, especially with her father, a trained chef, currently unemployed. Despite these hardships, Mitchell has never let her circumstances define her potential.

At the start of her secondary education journey, Mitchell nearly missed her Form One admission due to a lack of school fees and the necessary learning materials. She eventually joined school late, after her peers had already begun their classes. Even so, her resilience and strong will to succeed have seen her excel in her studies. Her story is one of perseverance, and she proudly acknowledges the support of the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship, which she describes as a blessing and a symbol of renewed hope not only for herself but also for many other girls who face similar struggles.

While Mitchelle is committed to her academics, she also has a deep love for the arts. She dreams of becoming a choreographer, inspired by her passion for music, singing and dance. These creative interests not only bring her joy but also serve as an outlet for self-expression and strength in the face of life's challenges.



Zamzam Abdulrahman is a compassionate girl who dreams of creating a safe haven for orphans and vulnerable children by building an orphanage. Her favorite subjects are History and Business Studies, reflect her interest in understanding the past and learning the skills needed to manage and lead future projects that can uplift her community.

Born and raised on Karanja Road in Kibera slums, Zamzam comes from a humble background. She lives with her parents and three siblings in a household where her mother is the sole provider. Each day, her mother wakes up early and waits outside nearby estates, hoping to secure a laundry job to earn enough for the family's daily needs. On the days she returns empty-handed, the family often survives on just a

cup of sugarless black tea and a single doughnut for dinner. Her father, currently unemployed, stays at home.

Despite these hardships, Zamzam has remained resilient in her pursuit of education. Before receiving a scholarship from the We One Action Network (WOAN) through the Sunflower Trust, her mother would tirelessly visit various bursary offices around Kibera, often in vain, seeking support to keep her children in school. The WOAN scholarship changed that reality, giving Zamzam a renewed chance to focus on her studies and chase her dream of helping other disadvantaged children.

Beyond the classroom, Zamzam is a vibrant and creative individual. She is a gifted dancer, singer, and TikToker, using her talents to express herself and inspire others.



Florence Akinyi is an ambitious and compassionate girl whose favorite subjects are Biology and English, reflect her deep interest in human well-being and effective communication. A proud daughter of Soweto village in the heart of Kibera slum, Florence was born into a humble but close-knit family. She lives with both of her parents and five siblings in a small home where resilience is a way of life. Her father works as a night watchman to support the family, while her mother, a housewife, manages the household with care and dedication.

Florence's journey through education has been marked by perseverance. Like her older siblings before her, she faced frequent interruptions in school due to financial challenges, often being sent home for lack of fees. Yet, through sheer determination and faith, her siblings completed secondary school, and Florence is following closely in their footsteps – but with an opportunity that marks a turning point in her family's story.

Thanks to a scholarship from the We One Action Network (WOAN), in partnership with Sunflower Trust, Florence became the first in her family to attend a boarding secondary school. This experience has opened her world to new perspectives and

has allowed her to meet students from diverse backgrounds across the country, an experience she describes as transformative.

Outside the classroom, Florence is active and sporty. She enjoys playing football while in school and squash during school holidays. These activities not only keep her physically fit but also provide her with joy, confidence, and a sense of balance in her life.



Everlyne Atieno is a bright student with a keen interest in Biology and English, subjects that complement her curiosity about the world around her. As the eldest child in her family, she is the first to attend secondary school and notably, she studies at a boarding school outside her residential county. Everlyne lives with her parents and two siblings in Soweto village, within the Kibera slums. Her family's background is humble, her father works as a plumber while her mother is a

housemaid. Despite their hardworking nature, meeting the financial demands of school fees and daily expenses remains a constant challenge.

Everlyne's educational journey took a hopeful turn when she was awarded a secondary school scholarship by the We One Action Network (WOAN), facilitated through the Sunflower Trust. This scholarship opened doors for her to continue her studies and has fueled her ambition to become an air hostess, a career she envisions as a path to exploring new horizons and opportunities.

Outside the classroom, Everlyne is passionate about singing and dancing, activities she enjoys while at school, home and even at the Sunflower Trust literacy, STEM, and leadership centre.



Irene Natasha is a hardworking and focused girl whose passion for Mathematics and History and Government reflects her sharp analytical mind. Aspiring to become a doctor, Irene is driven by a strong desire to make a difference in the lives of others through healthcare.

As the firstborn in her family and the first to attend secondary school, Irene carries both pride and responsibility. She lives in Soweto village within the Kibera slums, Nairobi, with her mother and four younger siblings. Her family faces daily struggles, and her mother works tirelessly selling maandazi, chapatis and a mixture of cooked beans and maize by the road side to provide for them. Despite her mother's hard work, affording school fees has always been a significant challenge.

Irene's educational journey took a positive turn when she received a scholarship from the We One Action Network (WOAN), allowing her to continue her secondary school education without the constant fear of missing classes due to unpaid fees. This support has renewed her hope and strengthened her commitment to achieve her goal of becoming a doctor.

Outside her academic pursuits, Irene finds joy in reading storybooks during her free time. This love for stories not only fuels her imagination but also nurtures her language skills and broadens her understanding of life beyond her surroundings.



Marion Nyambogai is a 16 year old young girl from Kisumu Ndogo in the heart of Kibera slums. She is the third born in her family and currently lives with her father and two siblings. Marion's life has not been without challenges, she lost her mother while still in lower primary school and since then, her father, a night security guard at a nearby church, has worked tirelessly to provide for his children.

Despite the financial hardships her family faces, Marion has remained focused on her education and dreams. Her favorite subjects are English and Kiswahili, and she aspires to become a languages teacher in the future. She believes that language is a powerful tool for communication and change, and she hopes to inspire others just as her Sunflower Trust teachers have inspired her.

One of Marion's most cherished talents is storytelling. Whether through spoken word or written pieces, she finds joy in weaving stories that reflect everyday life and spark imagination. This creative gift makes her stand out among her peers and is a sign of the educator and communicator she hopes to become.

Marion's journey in education took a hopeful turn when she received a secondary school scholarship from Sunflower Trust through the support of WOAN (We One Action Network). The scholarship has allowed her to continue her studies without the constant worry of school fees, giving her a real chance to pursue her dreams.



Marashan Raya is an ambitious young girl from Kibera with a passion for learning and a heart full of dreams. Her favorite subjects are Christian Religious Education (CRE) and Kiswahili, which reflect her deep values and strong sense of identity.

Marashan aspires to become a nurse – a calling driven by her desire to help others and serve her community.

Raised by a single mother who works as an Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teacher, Marashan is the 2nd born of three siblings. Her mother, the family's sole breadwinner, has worked tirelessly to provide for the family despite limited resources. Life in Kibera has presented many challenges, and there were times when Marashan missed school due to a lack of tuition fees. However, her resilience and commitment to her education remained unwavering.

The WOAN scholarship has been a blessing in Marashan's life. She sees it as a blessing that has not only lifted a financial burden but also renewed her hope for a brighter and more secure future. Beyond academics, Marashan finds joy and comfort in music. She enjoys listening to songs and singing, which gives her a creative outlet and adds balance to her life.



Mary Movine Adhiambo is a bright and determined student whose favorite subjects are Mathematics and English. A firstborn in a family of five, Mary lives with both her parents in Kisumu Ndogo Village, located in the heart of Kibera. Her journey has not been without challenges. In 2019, her father lost his job as a security guard, leaving her mother the family's sole breadwinner to shoulder the responsibility of providing for the household through her work as a saloonist.

Despite the hardships, Mary remains focused on her dreams. She attributes her continued education to the life-changing support of the WOAN Scholarship, which

gave her the opportunity to join a nearby boarding girls' school in Nairobi. Without this support, Mary admits, she would likely not have been able to pursue secondary education.

Mary is not only academically gifted but also has a unique passion, she enjoys playing squash and football. She is also an active participant in the PALE program, which she considers a significant and transformative part of her journey. With her strong will, gratitude, and support from well-wishers, Mary Movine is on a path to a brighter future, determined to better her life and that of her family.

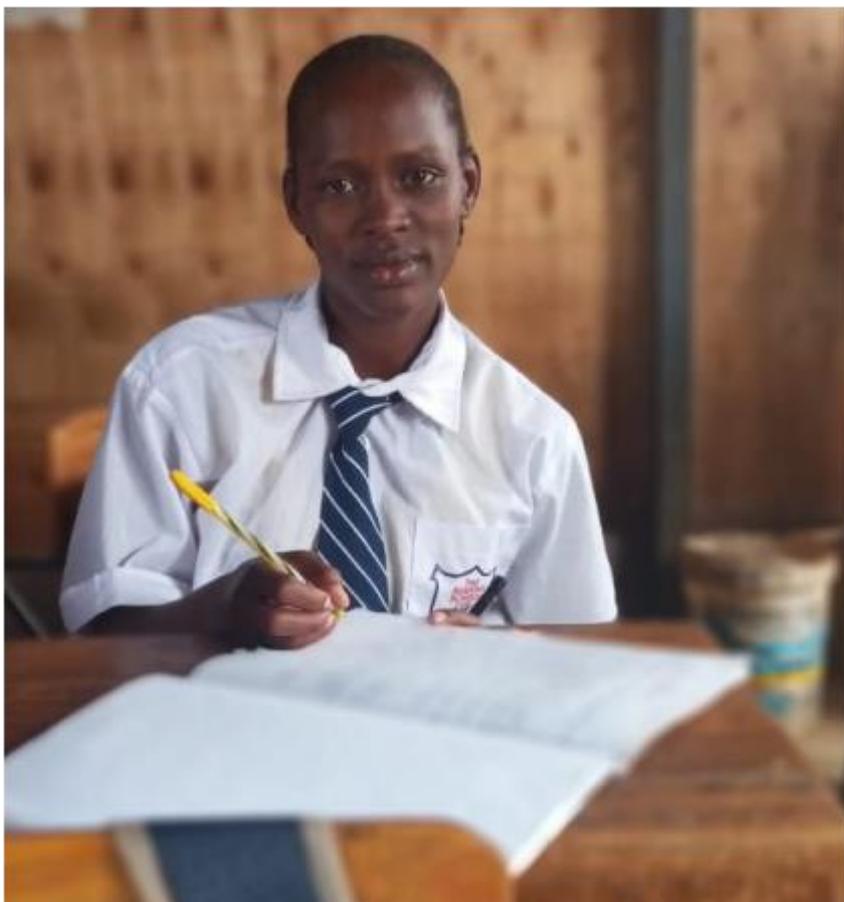


Naomy Wakesho is a compassionate young girl with a deep passion for education and a heart for service. Her favourite subject is History and Government, which reflects her interest in understanding society and shaping the future. Naomy aspires to become a teacher, not only to impart knowledge but also to support learners from families facing financial difficulties. Her dream is to be a source of hope and encouragement to students who, like her, have experienced the struggles of limited resources.

Born in Magarini Constituency, Kilifi County, Naomy's early life was marked by profound loss. Raised by a single mother, she was orphaned at a very tender age. Since then, she has been under the care of her aunt, a dedicated ECDE teacher in Kibera who works tirelessly to support Naomy, her sisters and cousins. The family currently resides in Laini Saba village within Kibera, where daily life comes with numerous challenges.

Naomy is deeply grateful for the scholarship support she received from WOAN through the Sunflower Trust. She openly acknowledges that without this important assistance, continuing with her secondary school education and accessing quality education would have been impossible.

Outside classroom, Naomy enjoys listening to music and playing football. Her involvement in the Sunflower Trust family has not only given her academic opportunities but also a sense of belonging and inspiration. Naomy's story is one of courage, gratitude and the unwavering belief in the power of education to transform lives.



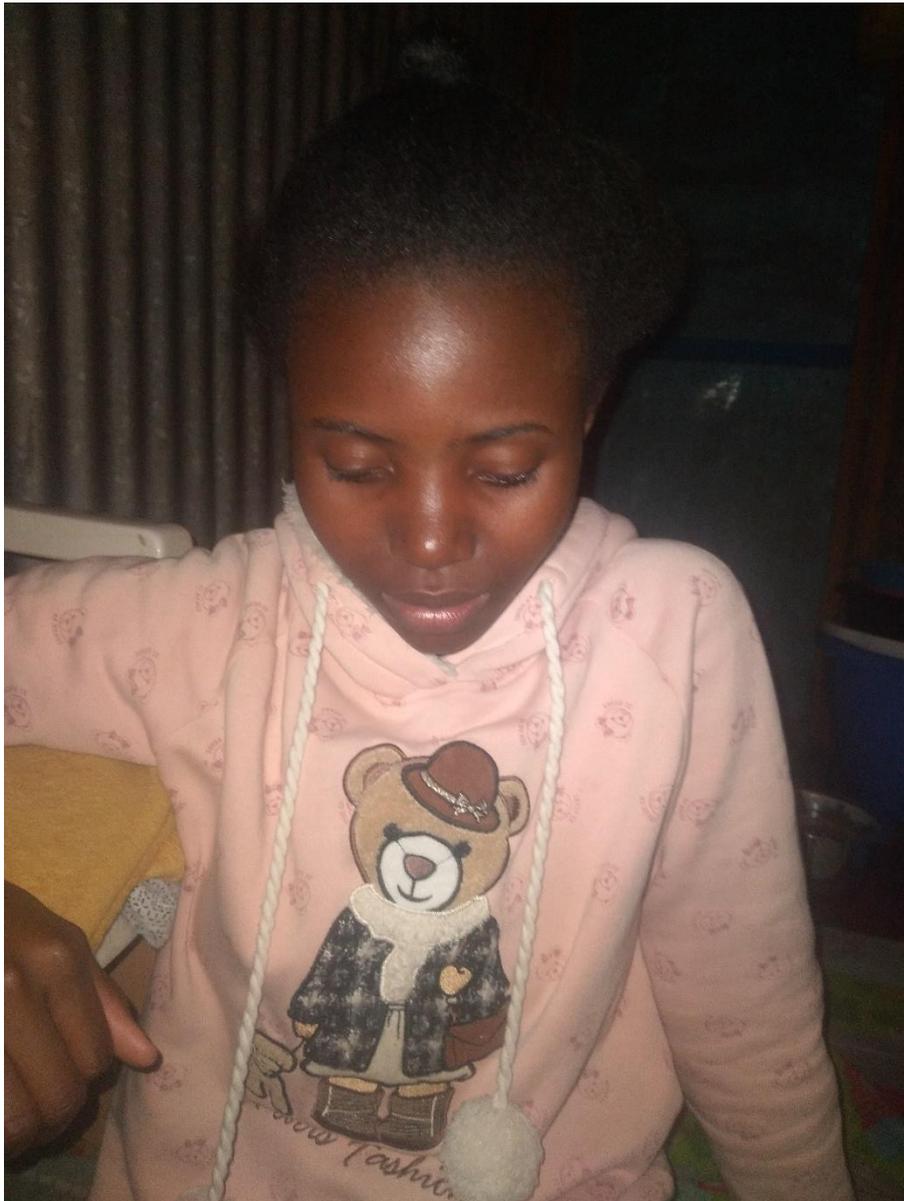
Meet Ashleen Intoi is a resilient and determined young girl with a passion for learning and a deep desire to transform her life and that of her community through education. Her favorite subjects are English and History and Government, which reflect her keen interest in understanding society and its structures. Inspired by her love for these subjects, Ashleen aspires to become a Social Scientist, a dream rooted in her lived experiences and her desire to create positive social change.

Born and raised in Kajiado County, Kenya, Ashleen currently lives in Kibera, Nairobi, with her father. She is an orphan, and her father, a single parent, works tirelessly to support the family despite facing immense financial hardships. Ashleen's educational journey has not been easy. She was the first girl in her family to return to school, a significant milestone that marked her courage and commitment to education.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of school fees, Ashleen was forced to drop out of secondary school in Form 2. Her younger sibling also dropped out in Form 1 and was married at a young age – a painful reality for many girls in underserved communities. However, unlike her sibling, Ashleen remained determined to continue her education, refusing to let poverty define her future.

Her life took a turn when she was awarded a scholarship by the Sunflower Trust through the We One Action Network (WOAN). This support has reignited her hope and opened doors to opportunities that once seemed impossible. With renewed determination and a second chance at education, Ashleen is working hard to pursue her dreams and break the cycle of poverty in her family.

Ashleen's story is a powerful proof to the importance of educational support and the incredible potential that lies within every girl when given a chance.



Juliet Aloo is a bright and focused young girl with a strong sense of purpose and resilience. Her favourite subjects are Christian Religious Education (CRE) and Mathematics, reflecting both her spiritual grounding and her analytical mind. Juliet dreams of becoming a journalist, a profession she believes will give her the platform to tell stories that matter and amplify the voices of the unheard.

Juliet comes from a humble background and lives with her parents and two siblings in Kibera. Her mother, an ECDE teacher, is the sole breadwinner of the family, working hard to provide for them. Her father struggles with alcohol, adding emotional and financial strain to their home. These circumstances have made life in Kibera particularly difficult for Juliet, often causing her to miss school due to lack of fees.

Despite all these challenges, Juliet remains hopeful and motivated. She describes the WOAN scholarship as a dream come true, an opportunity that has given her a second chance at pursuing her education and future ambitions.

Outside her studies, Juliet enjoys watching movies and reading storybooks, activities that fuel her imagination and creativity. With the support of WOAN and her own determination, Juliet is well on her way to becoming a powerful storyteller and changemaker in her community.