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Growing Leaders From Every Soil

WE ONE ACTION NETWORK (WOAN) 1st INVESTOR REPORT – SUNFLOWER TRUST

Reporting period: January – June 2024

Introduction

The 2024 academic year commenced on January 8th, 2024, with a series of visits to our partner schools during the week of January 15th, 2024. These visits aimed to inform school management, including headteachers, directors, and teachers in charge of the program, about the Pathway to Alternative Learning and Education (PALE) literacy and leadership development program kick-off. Additionally, we discussed the recruitment date for new grade five girls into the program and outlined plans for Sunflower Trust girls who completed their final class eight National Examination (KCPE) in November 2023. The six PALE partner schools visited included Miracle and Victory Children Center, Star of the Land, Global One Kibera School, St. Stephen Education Center, Baraka Za Ibrahim and Utu Montessori Academy.

Scholarship Awards

During this reporting period, the Sunflower Trust is delighted to announce the award of scholarships to 10 deserving girls. These scholarships, each valued at Ksh 15,000, represent a significant milestone in our commitment to supporting the educational journey and personal development of our beneficiaries.

The profiles of the 10 scholarship recipients can be found at the end of this report. Each of these girls has demonstrated outstanding dedication, perseverance, and academic achievement. Their stories serve as a testament to the transformative power of education and the impact of our programs.

The scholarships awarded will and have played a crucial role in supporting the educational aspirations of the recipients. With financial barriers alleviated, these girls will have the opportunity to pursue their studies with greater focus and determination. Additionally, the scholarships will contribute to their personal development by empowering them to explore their potential and pursue their dreams.

Infrastructure and Resource Enhancements

Through our partnership with We One Action Network (WOAN), significant enhancements were made to the Sunflower Trust programs and infrastructure. We were able to purchase an LCD screen for our SEED program to facilitate digital literacy classes. Moreover, the organization underwent comprehensive renovations, including library shelves, classroom floors, and the compound where the children play during break time. Additionally, classrooms and perimeter walls were painted, both inside and outside, to create a conducive learning environment for our beneficiaries.

International Day of Sports for Development and Peace Participation

On April 6, 2024, a delegation consisting of 16 Sunflower Trust girls and one staff member had the privilege of attending and actively participating in the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace at Silver Springs Secondary School in Kibera Nairobi, Kenya – We One Action Network (WOAN) sponsored event. The event, which commenced at 9:00 am and concluded at 6:00 pm, featured a diverse range of activities aimed at promoting sports, unity, and peace among youth.

The event included a wide array of engaging activities, including football matches, a dance competition, spoken word performances, singing, rapping, rope jumping, sack jumping, and three sticks, among others. These activities provided an opportunity for participants to showcase their talents, foster teamwork, and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship.

We are pleased to report that both the Sunflower Trust girls and the staff member thoroughly enjoyed and actively participated in the day's events. The girls embraced the opportunity to engage in various sports and cultural activities, demonstrating enthusiasm, skill, and camaraderie throughout the day.

During the event, one of the participating girls approached our staff member and expressed her desire for future outings, remarking, "Victor, can you ask Sunflower Trust to take us on a trip next term? Imagine in our school, there are no trips like this." This interaction highlights the significant impact of such experiences on the lives of the girls, underscoring the importance of providing opportunities for enrichment and exploration beyond the classroom.

Students Profile



Student Name: Mary Juma.

Favorite Subjects: Mathematics and Chemistry.

Aspirations: Mary dreams of excelling in her final Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams and pursuing a career as a Neurosurgeon, Computer Scientist, or Roboticist.

Background: Mary was born and raised in Kibera, one of the largest slums in sub-Saharan Africa. She lives with her father in Soweto village within Kibera, while her mother resides upcountry with her three siblings. Until class 7, Mary lived with her mother, who returned to her village due to the high cost of living in the city, which her father couldn't sustain for the entire family. This left Mary behind at a crucial time in her life.

Living with her father, Mary took on all the household chores, leaving her little time to study or complete her homework. Despite these challenges, she scored 379 marks out of 500 in her final KCPE examination in November 2023. Through the support of the We One Action Network (WAON) scholarship, Mary now studies at an extra county school, where she continues to strive for academic excellence and work towards her ambitious career goals.

Unique element: In addition to her academic pursuits, Mary enjoys playing squash. This sport not only provides her with a healthy outlet for physical activity but also teaches her valuable lessons in discipline, strategy, and perseverance, further aiding her in her studies and personal growth.



Student Name: Esther Mukimba.

Favorite Subjects: Christian Religious Education (CRE) and Physics.

Aspiration: Esther's passion lies in medicine and caring for patients, driven by a desire to make a meaningful impact in healthcare.

Background: Esther Mukimba faced adversity from a young age when her parents abandoned her at three years old. Raised by her grandmother until she fell ill and retired to her rural home, Esther was then taken in by a neighbor—a single mother with five children, struggling as a casual laborer. Despite these challenges, with support from Sunflower Trust and her primary school, Esther completed her primary education.

The dream of continuing to secondary school seemed distant due to financial constraints until she received a scholarship from the We One Action Network

(WOAN) this year. Now able to pursue her secondary education, Esther is determined to achieve her dream of studying medicine and dedicating herself to patients who often lack adequate medical attention just like in the case of her grandmother.

Unique Element: Esther finds joy and strength in sports, particularly football and volleyball. Beyond her academic goals, she aspires to be a role model for orphaned children, inspiring them to pursue their dreams despite hardships.



Student Name: Cynthia Aoko.

Favorite Subjects: English and Business Studies

Aspiration: Cynthia aspires to become an accountant upon completing her studies next year, which is why she decided to study Business Studies in school.

Background: Cynthia is the only child in her family of three, living with her parents and a little cousin in Soweto village within Kibera slums, Kenya. Despite the challenging living conditions, Cynthia has consistently been among the best performers since joining the Sunflower Trust in January 2018.

Her mother recalls, "When I used to sacrifice and pay for her evening tuition, she was not performing well. She used to be at the bottom of her class. When I stopped paying and let her join the Sunflower Trust After-school program every evening, everything changed—her performance, behavior, and attitude towards people and how she approached things." This transformation was evident during a monthly literacy parents' meeting on June 8, 2024.

Although Cynthia aspired to become an accountant, her dream seemed unattainable before securing the We One Action Network Scholarship earlier this year. Her mother echoed this during a monthly parents' literacy meeting, saying, "Cynthia wanted to drop out of school because she was frequently sent home for school fees, and our income couldn't afford to take her back."

Cynthia's father works as a carpenter in a local wood shop within Kibera, while her mother is a day scholar house-help. Despite their efforts, meeting Cynthia's educational needs has been a struggle. With the scholarship from WOAN, Cynthia now has renewed hope and is motivated to achieve her educational goals and determination to succeed.

In an interview in April 2024, Cynthia said, "Since I joined Sunflower Trust, I feel and believe I have become a smart, creative, and innovative young girl who aspires to become one of the top and best accountants." Cynthia is determined and works hard in school to achieve her ambition.

Unique Element: Beyond her academic pursuits, Cynthia loves dancing, drawing, and plaiting hair. These hobbies provide her with a creative outlet and balance in her life. She draws inspiration from Wadley's story of Haiti, which she encountered through a video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDOGvdOdYS>) about Wadley's determination to continue her education despite difficult circumstances. Cynthia admires Wadley's stubbornness and encourages her peers to stay in school even when faced with challenges like being sent home for school fees. She relates to Wadley's situation, noting that her village in Kibera has been affected by disasters ranging from fires, floods, and road network issues, leading to loss of property and suffering.



Student Name: Melvin Akinyi

Favorite Subject: English

Aspiration: Melvin dreams of becoming an engineer, driven by her passion for creating and building.

Background: Melvin is the eldest of six siblings, born and raised in Gatwekera village within Kibera slum. She tragically became an orphan and is now raised by her single mother, alongside her stepfather. Life has been incredibly challenging due to poverty, often leaving them without enough food to eat, relying on water to stave off hunger at times.

Her stepfather works as a bodaboda rider, and her mother earns a living as a domestic worker ("mama fua"). During school breaks, they work together doing laundry for residents in nearby estates to earn enough for food. Despite these hardships, Melvin's determination to continue her education remained strong.

Thanks to the support of the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship, Melvin can now attend secondary school, which was previously unattainable. Beyond scholarship, Sunflower Trust also provides essential support through We One Action Network (WOAN) by supplying Melvin and other 185 PALE girls with sanitary towels each academic term.

Unique Elements: In her free time, Melvin enjoys reading novels, which provides her with a valuable escape and enriches her love for English. Her determination to overcome adversity and achieve her dream of becoming an engineer is truly inspiring.



Student Name: Mary Atieno

Favorite Subjects: English, French and Biology.

Aspirations: Mary aspires to become a journalist.

Background: Mary Atieno is the second-born in a family of seven. She lives with her siblings and both parents in a single room in Gatwekera village within Kibera slums. Her father struggles with alcoholism, often found lying drunk beside the road in the evenings. Her mother works tirelessly as a domestic worker to support the family. Despite these challenges, Mary has shown remarkable resilience.

Without the scholarship from We One Action Network through the Sunflower Trust, Mary acknowledges she wouldn't have been able to enroll in secondary school. Born and raised in Kibera, one of the largest slums in sub-Saharan Africa, Mary's journey has been filled with obstacles. However, the scholarship has provided her

with the opportunity to pursue her secondary education and work towards her dream of becoming a journalist.

Unique Element: Mary finds joy and balance through singing, dancing, swimming, and playing volleyball. These activities not only provide her with a creative outlet but also help her maintain a positive outlook despite her challenging circumstances. Her determination to succeed and passion for journalism make her an inspiring figure for many in her community.



Student Name: Mitchell Juma

Favorite Subjects: Chemistry and English

Aspirations: Mitchell aspires to be a choreographer.

Background: Mitchell Juma hails from a very humble background, living in the Kisumu Ndogo village within Kibera. She resides with both her parents and four siblings. Her father, the family's breadwinner, is a chef by profession but is currently unemployed. Growing up in this environment has brought its share of instabilities. Despite almost missing her admission into secondary school due to a lack of school fees and educational resources, Mitchell's determination has remained

unwavering. She joined Form One late after all the other students had already started, yet she continues to excel in her studies. Mitchell regards the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship as a blessing and a beacon of hope for those who have lost faith in continuing their education.

Unique Element: Mitchell enjoys listening to music, singing, and dancing.



Student Name: Emily Adhiambo

Favorite Subject: English and Home Science.

Aspiration: Fashion Designer

Background: Emily is the firstborn of five siblings and shoulders the responsibility of being a good role model to inspire her sisters and brothers. Raised by both parents, her mother makes ends meet by doing laundry for people within the slum, while her father struggles with alcoholism, often found in sewage and lying by the roadside. Despite these challenging circumstances, Emily has always dreamed of finishing secondary school, a dream she feared would be unattainable due to her parents' inability to afford school fees. Known for her vulnerability, industrious nature, and disciplined character, Emily excels academically and is highly

promising. With the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship, Emily is now confident she will complete her studies smoothly without being sent home for school fees. Thanks to WOAN, her dream of finishing secondary school and achieving her educational dream of becoming a fashion designer is within reach.

Unique Element: Emily enjoys playing badminton, drawing, and plaiting hair during her free time.



Student Name: Zamzam Abdulrahman

Favorite Subjects: History and Business Studies

Aspiration: To build an orphanage for orphans and needy children.

Background: Zamzam Abdulrahman was born and raised on Karanja Road within the Kibera slum. She comes from a humble family and lives with her parents and three siblings. Her mother is the breadwinner, taking on both parental roles, while her father is jobless and stays at home. Every morning, her mother lines up at nearby estates, hoping to secure a laundry job to make ends meet. When she's unable to find one, the family often ends up with just black tea without sugar and a single doughnut before going to bed.

Before Zamzam was granted the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship by Sunflower Trust, her mother would queue at random bursary offices within Kibera slums, with hopes of getting cheques to pay for her children's school fees, all that she said had been in vain. Both Zamzam and her mother are immensely grateful for the WOAN scholarship. This support has given Zamzam the hope and confidence to complete her secondary education and pursue a degree at the University of Nairobi's School of Social Sciences without the fear of dropping out.

Unique Element: Beyond her academic pursuits, Zamzam is a talented dancer and a singer



Student Name: Florence Akinyi

Favorite Subjects: Biology and English

Aspiration: She aspires to become a nurse in the future.

Background: Florence Akinyi was born and raised in Soweto village within the Kibera slum. She lives in a single room with both her parents and five siblings. Her father, the family's breadwinner, works as a night watchman at a nearby church in Kibera, while her mother is a housewife. Despite their struggles, her older siblings managed to finish secondary school by the grace of God, often being sent home for school fees, just like Florence experienced while pursuing her primary school education.

Florence's older siblings attended a low-cost nearby day school, facing many challenges, including being sent home for school fees, feeding money, and lacking necessities like sanitary pads. Florence considers herself fortunate as she can get sanitary pads from Sunflower Trust and she is the first in her family to attend a boarding secondary school, thanks to the We One Action Network (WOAN) scholarship in partnership with the Sunflower Trust. Meeting people from different backgrounds in the county has been a transformative experience for her in a boarding school. Her father expressed immense gratitude, describing the WOAN scholarship as a breakthrough for the family, making it possible for his daughter to receive a secondary education.

Unique Element: Florence enjoys playing squash while on the school holidays and football while in school.



Student Name: Everlyne Atieno.

Favorite Subjects: Biology and English.

Aspiration: Everlyne aspires to become an air hostess.

Background: Everlyne Atieno is the firstborn in her family and the first to attend secondary school. She lives in Soweto village within the Kibera slums with her parents and two siblings. Coming from a humble background, Everlyne's father works as a plumber, and her mother is a day scholar housemaid. Despite their hard work, they struggle to raise enough money for school fees and to keep their children in school.

Everlyne's hope of continuing her secondary education was revived when she received the news that she had been awarded a WOAN secondary school scholarship. "Sunflower Trust has done so much for me and my family since I joined the literacy lab in class five. Through literacy lessons, digital literacy classes, and leadership and mentorship sessions, I have come to understand my worth as a girl from the slum," she says. The WOAN scholarship, secured through Sunflower Trust, has been a significant motivation for her dreams of becoming an air hostess.

Unique Element: Everlyne enjoys singing and dancing, both at school and at the Sunflower Trust literacy, STEM, and leadership centre.

Introduction

In conclusion, the first half of 2024 has been a period of remarkable progress and impactful initiatives for the Sunflower Trust in partnership with the We One Action Network (WOAN). Our efforts have focused on enhancing educational opportunities and personal development for the girls in our program. The successful kick-off of the Pathway to Alternative Learning and Education (PALE) literacy and leadership development program in January set the stage for a year of growth and achievement.

One of the significant milestones achieved during this period was the awarding of scholarships to ten deserving girls. These scholarships have not only alleviated financial barriers but also empowered the recipients to pursue their educational and personal aspirations with renewed vigor and determination. The individual stories of these girls highlight the transformative power of education and underscore our commitment to making a lasting impact in their lives.

Additionally, our partnership with WOAN has enabled us to make substantial infrastructure and resource enhancements. The acquisition of an LCD screen for digital literacy classes, comprehensive renovations, and the creation of a conducive

learning environment are all testament to our dedication to providing high-quality education and support to our beneficiaries.

The participation of Sunflower Trust girls in the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace further exemplifies the holistic approach we take towards their development. Engaging in sports and cultural activities has not only fostered teamwork and unity but also provided the girls with enriching experiences beyond the classroom.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this reporting period, we are filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the future. The stories of resilience, ambition, and determination displayed by the scholarship recipients inspire us to continue our mission with even greater dedication. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all We One Action Network donors and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our cause.

Moving forward, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide quality education, support, and opportunities for girls in underserved communities to realize their full potential and contribute positively to the society.