



BASECAMP FOUNDATION KENYA

PROGRAMS BRIEF - 2023





... leave a positive footprint





01. Who we are

Basecamp Foundation Kenya (BCFK) is a not-for-profit trust working with the marginalized maasai communities around Naboisho conservancy, adjacent to the vast Maasai mara National game reserve in Narok County, Kenya, for almost fifteen years. The organization aims to transform lives through innovative sustainable development models anchored on its four pillars; Education, Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and energy. This is done through implementation of projects in partnership with Stromme Foundation, Swedish and Norwegian family trusts among other stakeholders. The organization is headquartered in Nairobi and has a field office at the 'Biotisho / green centre', talek township, Koyaki Location, Narok South sub-county.

02. Background

Based on its four pillars; Education, Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and energy, BCFK implements 5 core projects. Community Based Education Intervention Program (**CBEI**); Adolescent Girls Empowerment Program (**Bonga**); Community Managed Savings Group Program (**CMSG**); Mara Girls Leadership School (**MGLS / Talek Green Centre**); **Civil Society** - Community Institutions & Leadership (**Green Villages**) and **COVID-19 Emergency response**.

BCFK's overall Education goal is to promote access to education for all. It is for this reason that its core programs are Education-centered. Activities under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) / Community Based Education Intervention (CBEI) program included Baba & mama sessions, BOM capacity empowerment, Early Child Development care givers training, Village education on importance of education etc. They also focused on improving, maintaining and developing school infrastructure to promote quality education through the provision of an environment that promotes learning. Which would in turn lead to retention, as the kids enjoy being in school and therefore improving performance. BCFK endeavours to building effective partnerships between parents and schools to support children's learning for improve outcomes. Parents are viewed as the main advocates for continued education for their children.

Mara Girls Leadership School (MGLS) on the other hand, is a model school established by BCFK with an overall goal of securing primary education for talented Maasai girls, guaranteeing them transition to high school education. The school is housed at the Biotisho/Talek green center and has three single stream classes 6, 7 & 8, of 16 pupils each, bringing the total enrollment to 48 girls of ages 12- 14 years. The school implements the Kenya national curriculum (8-4-4), which has been transitioning to the new CBC system since 2017. The Green Centre is a community education and empowerment centre intended to serve as a demonstration centre for sustainable development concepts. These concepts include solar energy solutions, a showcase of micro -small businesses and innovations in the Mara.

On its part, the Bonga program specifically targets, out of school adolescent girls and young mothers in order to address challenges associated with negative cultural practices such as, early marriage & birth, female genital mutilation and child abuse. Bonga provides 6-months informal education which equips the young mothers with basic life skills. Upon completion, the graduates enlist as members of the *Bonga Forums*, which is the programs sustainability approach which ensures that the girls continue to utilize the knowledge gained, through collective activities at the village level.

The community managed saving groups (CMSG) project aims at empowering women by providing an avenue through which they can, save, invest and access loans to start micro and



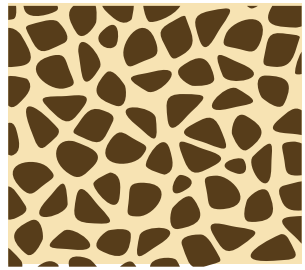
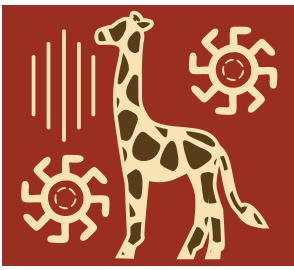
small businesses. The programs' methodology is based on the self-help group concept to ensure that the women champion their own journey to economic empowerment. In its mature stage, CMSG explores opportunities that link mature established groups to other development agencies, micro-financing institutions and other stakeholders that can contribute to the growth and sustainability of the program.

The Civil Society - Community institution & leadership program (Green Villages) aims at promoting sustainable development concepts in each village that we operate. Using the eco-storm approach, BCFK builds the capacity of communities so that they are able to champion their own development agenda. Its main focus is to providing access to adequate clean water for domestic and livestock use, improve access to quality education for all children, address illiteracy among women and youth through vocational skills trainings, providing access to renewable energy and sustainable waste management.

In the context in which the Naboisho and Maasai Mara community live, Basecamp seeks to protect wildlife and the ecosystem, particularly focusing on working with landowners. This project intervention is critical because wildlife forms an integral part of the community's culture, economy and future prospects.



funding partners from Skagerak Energi take part in the BCFK climate change mitigation project.



03. Programs Overview

a. Mara Girls Leadership School (MGLS)

Mara Girls is a model school for talented maasai girls. The school has been in operation since January 2017. Its focus is to provide quality primary school education to talented maasai girls of ages 12 - 14 years, in upper primary level (Class 6- 8). The school originally comprised of single stream classes of 16 pupils each, and a maximum population of 48 pupils per annum.

However, with the transitioning to a Junior Secondary school under the CBC (2-6-3-3-4) Curriculum, we hope to maintain the three single streams of 30 girls each in-line with the ministry of education requirements and target to eventually house 90 girls within the complex. The first in take of Grade 7 students takes place in January 2023, and in the same year we shall host the final Class of the 8-4-4 system.

The school continually has 100% transition to the top secondary schools in Kenya, except for one girl in 2022, who dropped out on her own volition due to pregnancy despite teachers, management and parental guidance on importance of completing her primary school education.

In addition to the government curriculum, girls at MGLS are privileged to get training and mentorship in other areas like computer studies, Art and leadership skills. They also participate in extracurricular activities like music, sports and public speaking. They also from time to time acquire skills through short term workshops from volunteers who have given the girls in other areas like Art therapy, information technology and a program reading program that promotes literacy by virtue of the well-equipped school library.

The girls also participate in exchange learning



Figure 1: Class of 2023



Figure 2: MGLS Alumni launch

visits in collaboration with other public primary schools supported by BCFK, where they undertake joint exams to promote academic excellence through competition. These joint exams mainly act as benchmarking opportunities for both learners and teachers.

The school also launched an Alumni association through which the institution shall be able to track the learners progress beyond higher education and promote peer collaboration under the "big sister" program that would enable the alumni to nurture future generations.

The school is largely funded by Stromme Foundation (Skagerak & Agder Energy as the back donors) and Five Private Swedish & Norwegian Family trusts (Nordtug, Sällström, Lanner, Hans Lundström, Anita Lundström). BCFK board and management are actively



Figure 3: Art therapy class in session

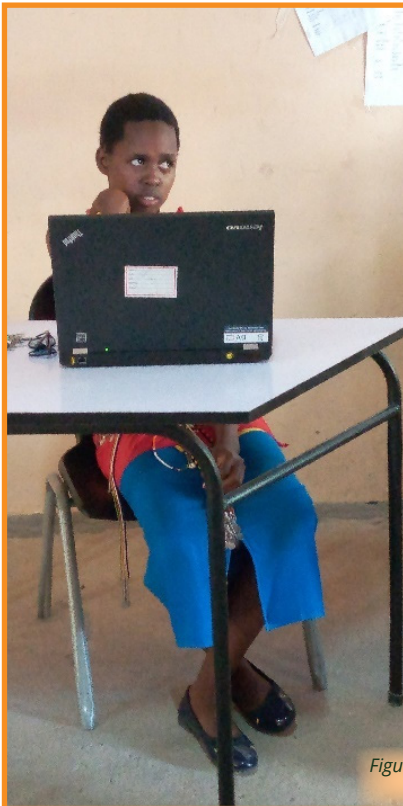


Figure 4: MGLS pupils listens keenly during an information technology lesson

seeking partnerships and a funding model that will ensure the schools sustainability, and plans to invite self-sponsored girls to the school to diversify the funding portfolio.

b. CBEI- (Community based Education initiatives) and ECCE – (Early Childhood Care & Education)

The CBEI Both the CBEI and ECCE programs promote the provision of quality primary school education in the community we work with. It focuses on collaborative engagements with the school leadership, board of management and parents to foster collective responsibility to quality education for their children.

This is done through investment in school infrastructure, improvement of the learning environment by providing ECD playground equipment, colorful motifs, capacity training of teachers and boards of management, forums for Community participation on involvement in education like parents' seminars, Bonga for schools and developing school clubs in areas like conservation.

The **ECCE program** focuses on the promotion of education for early learners, ages 3 – 8 years. This is done through the improvement of the learning environment (classrooms with colorful motifs, playground equipment), capacity building for care givers (ECD teachers) and encouraging parents to enroll their young ones into ECD as soon as they reach recommended age.



Figure 5: Mother-daughter forum - Rehero Primary



Figure 6: Program Manager Purity Taek conducts a Baba Sessions - Parents seminar for fathers

ECD centers are not stand-alone facilities, but are part of the primary school facilities. It is however not uncommon to find stand-alone ECD's which act as feeder schools to the surrounding primary schools.

The *‘bonga for schools’* program has gained momentum, since we rolled out the program at the height of the pandemic in 2020. In addition, since we rolled out the program at the height of the pandemic in 2020 to 2022 We now have 11 schools using the approach to address teenage and adolescent issues like teenage pregnancy, early marriage and school dropout. These include; MGLS (32), Talek (143), Oloigero (95) Enkeju-enkoirien(30), Olesere (45), Rekeru (20), Olemoncho (30), Aitong (50), Ilbaan (57) & Olkimitare (25). and Molibany (37) primary schools. We recommend that each partner school commits to holding monthly Bonga discussions to ensure that challenges surrounding adolescence are addressed early enough. The discussion forums often range depending on the school's approach. Some schools include girls only and others have both boys & girls in the program.

The major aim of **mother-daughter Forums** is to equip mothers with skills to handle adolescent challenges in the 21st century and teenagers with skills that help them to understand their parents and society at large. Therefore, three mother-daughter sessions were facilitated in four partner primary schools with 350 parents/mothers attending the sessions. This has strengthened parenting in the community with the understanding of teenagers, their challenges and ways of handling teenagers to reduce teenage pregnancies



Figure 7: Purity Taek oversees a “Mother-daughter” Forum - Olesere Primary



Figure 8: Olesere Bonga for schools' patron in session

Key Highlights of the BONGA Program Results:



Grade 1-3 Enrollment 2022
primary schools



Partner primary schools
and 19 ECD pre-primary schools.



ECD pupils benefiting.

2
Baba and 4 mama
sessions
Conducted.

343
parents attending
Baba/Mama session
in Rehero, Olemon-
cho, oloigero, olesere
& ilbaan schools.



Pupils participating in the "Bonga
for Schools"

11
Partner primary schools
Embracing the "Bonga for
Schools".



ECD teachers' capacity training.



Handwashing Stations distributed

c. Bonga program - Adolescent girls' empowerment program

BongaThe Bonga Adolescent girls' program targets out-of-school girls and young mothers of ages 13 – 21years.It is a program that aims to provide informal education to young women who did/do not have a chance to attend school or had to drop out due to poverty, retrospective

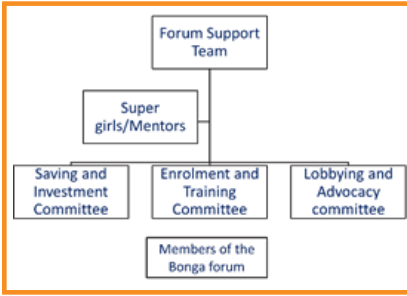


Figure 9: Bonga program structure



Figure 10: Bonga graduation in Olesere

cultural practices like FGM or teenage pregnancies.

Bonga is a Swahili slung word meaning *“let’s talk”*.

The informal sessions are conducted at a *“bonga center”*, which could be a community social hall, a church or classroom in a nearby school. Most centers are made up of 20 – 30 young women, under the instruction of a trained instructor known as an *‘Animator’* and a group of community volunteers known as the *“Bonga support group”*. Target membership of the BST’s is usually both men and women with influence at the community level. One could be a local government leader like the chief, village elder, church leader or a teacher. The program is implemented through animation and other teaching methods. Animation is mainly used due to the low literacy levels of the entrants.

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The program is 6 months’ informal learning sessions, designed to equip the young women with basic life-skills that enable them take care of their families and contribute to related issues in society. The sessions are carried out in an environment that closely resembles the communities cultural set up. This is the reason why a basic Bonga center does not have standard classroom furniture, but will most likely have a mat spread on the floor as the sitting area. It is not uncommon to find sessions being conducted under a tree shade due to the hot environment. Actually, open spaces were highly encouraged for social gatherings post-pandemic.

Upon completion of the life-skills classes, the graduates are encouraged to join the *Bonga alumni association*, *“Bonga forums”* which is the programs sustainability vessel. The forums are setup as peer learning groups, who are encouraged to embrace the MSG approach of saving and where possible collective investments. These forums are further registered as self-help groups with the local authorities, and can seek funding from various youth and women empowerment organizations/ programs. With the support of the BST’s the forum leaders can conduct life-skills sessions for other young women willing to learn the content of the program.



Figure 11: BoOlkimitare Bonga forum girls meeting

Key Highlights of the BONGA Program Results:



7

Bonga Centers operational.
In 2018 we had 10 centers



7

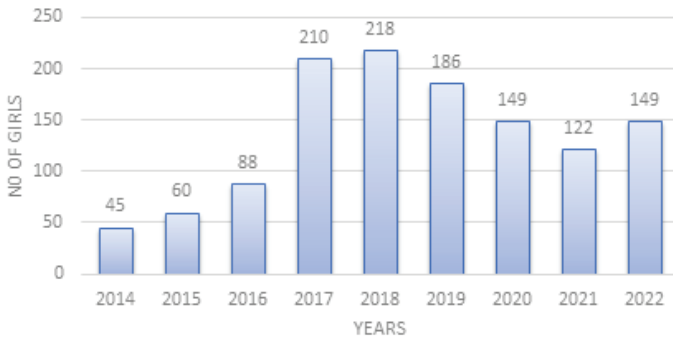
Bonga Alumni Forums
In six villages



1,339

Girls, have been enrolled in the program 2014 - 2022

Bonga Annual Enrollment



143

Individual businesses
From Bonga Alumni



7

Forum / group businesses
From Bonga Alumni



353

Girls Acquired Vocational skills
2015 - 2017

The Bonga forums are bearing fruit. The Olkimitare forum now shares a milk collection & cooling facility with the CMSG cluster group in their village. The equipment was a grant from a private sector company Brookside, to boost the dairy business. The same Olkimitare forum received grant equipment (Incubator) from NARIGP (National Agricultural & Rural Inclusive Growth Project) to support their poultry keeping initiative. This type of initiative has gone a

long way in boosting the women's' economic independence.

As part of program interdependence and collaboration between programs, 2 Bonga Alumni continue with their employment with NCDO (Nkoilale community development organization), under the sewing project. These women had received their vocational training under BCFK when the budget could allow us to support the initiative. NCD is also one of the CBO formed by BCFK under our Civil society program.

The forums have also able to create collective and individual kitchen gardens to supplement their families' diet and any excess intended as an income generator in some villages; Olare-Orok, oloosokon and individual gardens in olesere village.

d. Community Managed Saving Groups

CCMSG is a program that champions the creation of *village-based* savings groups, made up of members drawn together by a common desire to achieve economic independence. Most groups are made up of 15-30 individuals, who then select officials from amongst themselves to coordinate the group's activities. The groups' main focus is to pool funds through systematic periodic savings, to build a capital base from which members can borrow at minimal interest rates to address their short-term financial needs. Most loans are used as investment in small sized business ventures, social obligations and emergencies. The regular contributions and uptake of loans determine the rate and size of the collective fund.



Figure 12: Rekeru Cluster meeting

CMSG uses Community based facilitators, who work directly with the grass-root groups by providing supervision, capacity training and generally ensuring the methodology is implemented correctly. Once the village-based groups are deemed to have reached stability, they are then linked into larger groups called *clusters*, that comprise several smaller groups.

Key Highlights of the CMSG Program Results:



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Each group is represented at the cluster level by selected /seconded officials who coordinate the clusters operations. Each group belonging to a cluster contributes a portion of their savings to the cluster, which then is able to provide longer-term loans to the groups.

The clusters are at the top tier linked together under one registered umbrella organization referred to as the federation. In our case the registered federation is called "**Naretoo federation of Community Managed Savings Group**".

Total number of members actively saving **reduced from 1,881 members in 2021 to 1,498 members in 2022**. This comprised of **1,467 women and 31 men**. We saw an **increase of men** willing to join the savings groups by 8 men. **One additional cluster** was also formed and **55 groups graduated in December 2022**. Total clusters increased from 6 to 7 i.e. Olkimitare- 1 cluster, Aitong – 1 cluster, Rehero- 2 clusters, Nkoilae- 1 cluster, Olesere- 1 cluster & Olemoncho- 1 cluster.

Social franchising is a pilot project under CMSG has successfully grown its sales to 103 home solar, 13 sun bells and 23 clean cooking stoves. We currently have 12 water filters in our stores with 2 water filters given out to agents as samples for showcasing to the community. This leads to both economic empowerment of CMSG groups and improves quality of life through clean energy provision. The 21 solar agents were maintained & benefitted from continuous sales of products with an agreed commission payable to them by end of every month.



Figure 13: CMSG cluster meeting at Nkoilae

e. CIVIL SOCIETY - Community Institutions & Leadership



Figure 13: Stephen Turanta – BCFK civil society officer speaks at Rekeru evaluative olup

The Civil society - Community institution program, aims at promoting sustainable development concepts in all the villages we work in. Its focus is to capacity build communities so as to take control of the development agenda at the grass roots.

Using the green village & Eco-storm (Olpul) approaches, BCFK helps the community in identifying social needs, and equip them with the knowledge on how to demand / champion for their rights from the government, and where possible come up with home-based solutions to their problems.



Figure 14: Nelson NCDO Manager takes other visiting CDO members through a CDOs Peer learning initiative at Nkoilale CDO Craft Centre

A model green village should ideally have *easy access to clean drinking water, health facilities, basic education, clean sustainable energy sources and food security.* The Talek Green Centre is a community education and empowerment centre that demonstrates sustainable development concepts.

These concepts include educational facilities, Rainwater harvesting system, solar energy solutions, Bamboo specie that can thrive in the mara

and used as an energy source or raw material for micro -small businesses and innovations.



Figure 15: An elder addressing the community in olpul eco storm at Rekeru village

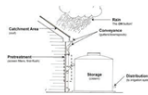
Key Highlights of the CIVIL SOCIETY Program Results:

5



CDOs' Formed

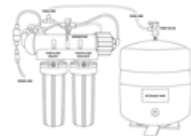
5



Rainwater Harvesting Systems

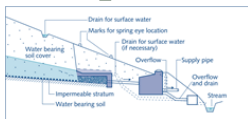
MGLS, Rekeru, Olare Orok

1



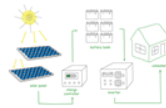
RO-Reverse Osmosis system at Talek Primary

1



Spring catchment
At Olemoncho Village

4



Institutions benefiting from solar energy
MGLS, Rekeru, Olemoncho spring, Talek Boarding

It is through this program that BCFK has over the years championed the, set up of community-based organizations CDOs' that champion resource mobilization, planning & development in the various villages, construction of rainwater harvesting systems in schools and communities, use of solar energy, access to energy saving jikos, sustainable waste management, Improvement of school infrastructure, Health outreach and water management committees.

The Olpul approach (traditional eco-storm) is the cultural social organization that sets aside special sites in the communal spaces where elders would meet for ceremonial purposes and/ or to deliberate on important communal issues. The traditional setup excluded women and youth from the process, but the *BCFKs' version* is all inclusive so as to encourage & empower women and youth to participate in the community's leadership and development.

04. OUR SUCCESS STORIES

a. CMSG - Josephine muntere's story

Josephine is from Olkimitare village. She is 25 years of age and married to Jackson Mutere in the year 2013. Josephine is a mother of 4 children, 1 boy and 3 girls. She was forcefully married off by her parents in the year 2013 after she dropped out of school due to early pregnancy. She joined Olkimitare Bonga in 2017 and graduated the same year.

Being a young family they were forcefully evicted from the land they were living in the year 2016. The land belonged to their relative. She also faced quarrels from her husband to a point of being abused.

After joining Bonga in 2017 she learnt on how to manage family disputes amicably and at the end result was that they stopped quarreling. They lived right with her family though they were faced with the problem of being landless and less fortunate.

Josephine started to wash other people's clothes and fetch water for other women to earn herself a living. Fortunately, the skill of saving a little and used the rest to feed her family helped her in the business expansion.



After saving for a whole, they were evicted again from where they lived. This time round they sold the only 3 cows they had and combined with her savings to buy a 3-acre land. This brought a relief where they settled in their own land but were again starting from scratch.

Olkimitare bonga was linked to NGAAF which supplied 4 sewing machines where



MGLS girls welcome the Agder Energi Vice President Mr Atia.



Strategic advisor of Stromme Norway (Olaf) plants a tree as the girls look on.



BCFK Board Chair (Judith Kepher-Gona plants tree with MGLS teacher Kennedy Odhiambo as the Projects Driver (Silanke) looks on.



Girls demonstrate the use of the dialogue corner (An Area setup to encourages dispute resolution through dialogue)



Baba session



Art therapy class in session



STEM training



Girls entertain SF Secretary General (Erik Lunde), SF International Director (Titus Tenga) SFEA Regional Director (Patrick Wajero) as BCFK Founding Trustee (Dr Lars) and BCFK Chair (Judith-Kepher Gona) look-on



Head teacher Mouline celebrates with parents after 2021KCPCE results



Dr Lars- Founding Trustee elaborates BCFK strategy at the Tripartite workshop

Josephine was lucky to receive one sewing machine and started sewing from her home. She used the knowledge she learnt from Bonga vocational skills training. This boosted her economic status where she can now afford to educate her own kids by herself. With the money from sewing, she bought a donkey cart to supply water in the whole village.

With the donkey cart she fetched water 4 trips in a day which amounts to 2,000 Kenya shillings.

The sewing job earned her up to 3,000 Kenya shillings during school holidays when she does the repairs. She started a home banking where she saved half of her earnings to help her develop her home. She started buying cows and sheep and she named the first cow she bought as Bonga. She started her kitchen garden and advised the husband to buy a motorbike.

Josephine is now working on building her permanent house using her savings. She bought the materials one by one until all the materials are paid for. Her husband only help her transport from Aitong shopping center to her home.

Josephine husband started discussing and consulting on critical family issue with her. She can now make decisions about her family. She also became an inspiration to the ladies in the area. She sighted an example of her employed friend coming to her to seek advice on family matters.

Josephine said, 'a positive footprint was left in her after a transformational training in Bonga life skills and vocational knowledge by BCFK'.

b. CMSG – Meliyio's Story

With Basecamp Foundation's interventions, all the trainings and facilitations have helped various families start businesses, provide for their families, which have improved their lives significantly.

Meliyio is from Nkoilale Village. A 55 years old single parent, with seven children- 3 boys and 4 girls, a member of reto saving group that started at the year 2017.

During the discussion she started by appreciating Basecamp Foundation. "I am very grateful for the program as it has made us women to recognize that we are more capable. Earlier, we had no chance of learning, saving and development, but this is surely what this project has informed to the community and more to me", Meliyio said.



Meliyio narrating her savings culture in a leaders

She anticipates that other women have all embraced and adopted the culture of saving in all the groups in our CMSG clustered groups.

"I use to believe that being a house wife was a role I am meant to play for the rest of my life as it has been the norm from my mothers and entire maasai community, being illiterate and with no knowledge of much made it easy for me to feel timid and perform housewife duties only". She narrates.

"I will certainly not forget the time I joined a savings group and went through several trainings. Joining this group changed my life. In the beginning it was a bit challenging for me to save any money, because I didn't have any income activity except depending on live stocks. Nonetheless, I started with small ratios and I saved from the money I got after selling milk. Before long I

could borrow at least KES 3,000 from the group to buy 2 bales of maize flour and sell at home. In 2019, the group allowed me to take a loan of KES 12,000 at 5% interest and I immediately bought few items sold in all-purpose shops and started selling it in my village. Just half a year later I had built a small iron sheet shop to sell with instead of my house” Meliyio says.

During the pandemic season Meliyio explained how her business was affected that she almost closed. She decided to start up a bead work business which is doing very well because of the readily available market both locally and tourists. She was so demonstrative when explaining her story to the women during the CMSG group’s leaders training. This encouraged most of the group leaders to strengthen their groups.

c. CMSG – Karsis’ Story

Community managed saving groups trained and supervised by Basecamp Foundation Kenya addresses the business knowledge and skills gaps among members of saving groups aiming to improve the existence of very low and poor economic activities in the community. As a program of participants, many individual women have benefited from the program. Just to mention an individual, Karsis Nampaso is a chairlady of Namunyak saving group and a member of Nadupoi savings group in Olkimitare village. Karsis runs two shops at her home; a food general shop and a clothes shop. The village she lives in is a bit far from the nearing shopping centre making her business accessible to members of the community living far from the centre.



Figure 18: *Karsis nampaso at her home garden*

She started a large home garden of maize, beans and vegetables that she also sells at home and takes to the market, on designated market days.

Encouraged by the project saving groups trainings that she participated in; she started saving in Nadupoi saving group in 2008 with an aim to start her own business hoping it would help boost her family’s income and secure better living conditions. She was just a housewife unable to help her then husband who is now deceased in taking care of their 6 children (2 boys & 4 Girls) and their family needs. After paying attention to all groups saving methodologies and income generating activities training sessions organized by basecamp foundation Kenya, she applied techniques that she learned and saw immediate results after planting and harvesting her first garden of vegetables which she then expanded for maize and beans.



Karsis garden

Her land yielded produce that brought her profits and greater opportunities that led to establishment of her two shops. Karsis is one of thousands of women who have benefited from trainings supported by community managed saving groups project facilitated by Basecamp foundation Kenya to teach and encourage financial independence. In addition to its support to develop saving and investment habit among members, the project also helps build capacity of members to manage their lives socially and economically through trainings.

Karsis is also a member of olkimitare cluster that is newly formed and has already received a milk coolant from a conservancy where she supplies milk as part of her business. she is a hardworking lady putting all the efforts and taking up every opportunity to learn and make her

family`s living condition better.

Her goal is to path her businesses and make enough profits to build a big supply store at Olkimitare village and drill water to use in her garden to enable expansion and higher success. She owes all these growth and unending opportunities to basecamp foundation for its unending support and knowledge.

d. Bonga Forums - Empowerment for sustainable livelihood takes meaning in Olare Orok

There is hope and excitement in Maasai Mara -Kenya as BCFK expands in the region.

Mara is a region in the west of Narok county Kenya, that supports Kenya`s economy in west of the country, along the Great Rift Valley. The village was named Olare-orok after salt lick points available in the area.

It is a home to the Great Wildebeest Migration which is one of the “Seven New Wonders of the World”. BCFK started the journey of leaving a positive footprint through Bonga programe, a project that empowers young school dropout girls in the community.

Through Bonga life skills and forum trainings BCFK has expanded its footprints in Olare-orok village in the maasai mara. Melua Naurori is one of the Bonga graduates in their village. In the community hails a hardworking lady-Melua Naurori who is excited to be part of Bonga

program, which is one of the programs implemented to eradicate poverty through women empowerment, to transformation livelihoods, after being introduced to Bonga by the center animator who is their coordinator she began life skills training, and in the community she spearheaded the training in the village.

She was among the 20 graduate from bonga classes together with her coming from the same community, they went ahead and formed a Bonga forum. They meet once a month because of the ongoing drought for saving and IGAs training and thereafter begin their economic empowerment meeting through which they save and borrow money.

The group has a savings plan which currently has Kshs 30,000 in circulation and they intend to increase their savings through recruitment of other women in the group. Through the leaders they have seen change in the group and they hope and pray that BCFK will continue training and walking with them to realize all-inclusive change in their community.

Through Melua it is evident that success is not just what you accomplish in your life but also what you inspire others to do. Melua is a married lady with four children. She was married as a second wife. Through several family disputes, Melua was neglected by the husband but she did not abandon the family. She lived as a strong and hardworking woman for her children and her rights.



Through the Bonga forum, her savings improved after joining a savings group. She saved Ksh 30,000 which she borrowed and started a business. Melua is passionate and foresighted, she said that in the next 1 year her business will expand through her daily access to the market because the business center is still growing with a minimal competition. She thanked BCFK for the positive footprint set in life and family through bonga life skill and the forum.

e. Bonga Forum - Empowerment takes meaning in Olkimitare

There is hope and excitement in Maasai Mara -Kenya as BCFK expands in the region.

Mara is a region in the west of Narok county Kenya that supports Kenya's economy in the west of the country, along the Great Rift Valley. The village was named Olkimitare meaning a village that the ground holds no water. It is a home to the Great Wildebeest Migration which is one of the "Seven New Wonders of the World". BCFK started the journey of leaving a positive footprint through Bonga program, a project that empowers young school dropout girls in the community.



Olkimitare Bonga Centre animator showcasing the forums poultry farm

Through Bonga life skills and forum trainings BCFK has expanded its footprints in Olkimitare village in the maasai mara. Olkimitare Bonga forum is one of the Bonga established as a continuation of Bonga forum in the area. In the community hails a hardworking team-forum of women who are excited to be part of Bonga program, which is one of the programs implemented to eradicate poverty through women empowerment, to transforming livelihoods, after being introduced to Bonga by the center animator who is their coordinator she began life skills training, and in the community, she spearheaded the training in the village.

The 15 graduates from bonga classes together they came together from the community went ahead and formed a Bonga forum. They meet once a month because of the ongoing drought for saving, community outreach activities and IGAs training and thereafter begin their economic empowerment meeting through which they save and borrow money.

The group has a savings plan which currently has Kshs 25,000 in rotation and they anticipate to increase their savings through recruitment of other women in the group. Through the leaders they have seen change in the group and they hope and pray that BCFK will continue training and walking with them to realize all-inclusive change in their community.

Through this Bonga forum, it is evident that achievement is not just what you accomplish in your life but also what you inspire others to do as a group. All the group members are married women with children. They have different families' basic needs to meet. They lived as a strong

and hardworking woman for their families, children and their rights.

Through Bonga forum, group savings have improved after joining a savings group. They have also identified the need to help girls in the nearby primary school by donating sanitary towels and pay school fees for 1 needy child once in a term as a group. Also, in their community outreach activities the group was able to clean the community borehole once in a month.

f. MGLS Performance in the National Examinations

In 2021, 16 girls sat for KCPE with a remarkably high mean of 393 out of 500 marks, an A grade. The school was ranked 1st in the sub county and 2nd in the county.

The top girl scored 412 marks and the lowest mark was 365 marks. 11 girls joined top National schools, 3 extra county schools, 2 private schools.

2021 KCPE RESULTS

NO.	PUPILS NAME	MARKS OUT OF 500	HIGH SCHOOL	CATEGORY
1	LEAH NAABALAH	412	MARY HILLS	NATIONAL
2	NASERIAN MEINGATI	409	KISUMU GIRLS	NATIONAL
3	RESIAN RINKA	408	MOI GIRLS ELDORET	NATIONAL
4	NAKOYIAN SOLOL	405	LORETO HIGH SCHOOL	NATIONAL
5	JANET SOILA	404	ALLIANCE GIRLS	NATIONAL
6	NELLY SANANKA	401	SIRONGA GIRLS	NATIONAL
7	GLADYS LEPORE	401	KISUMU GIRLS	NATIONAL
8	PRUDENCE KEIWUA	401	BUNYORE GIRLS	NATIONAL
9	STELLAH LOINYO	397	KAPLONG GIRLS	NATIONAL
10	SELINA MAITAI	393	NJONJO GIRLS	NATIONAL
11	TOIYAN LEMEIN	390	OLETIPIS GIRLS	NATIONAL
12	MARY SISIAN	388	TENGECHA GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY
13	SOILA RISANCHO	382	MOI SIONGORI GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY
14	LEPERES NAIYANOI	372	ANESTAR GIRLS	PRIVATE
15	SIRINTAI MULI	366	ANESTAR GIRLS	PRIVATE
16	JACKLINE YIANKERE	365	MAASAI GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY

In 2022 the school presented another group of 15 girls, among them 7 girls joined National schools while the rest 7 joined extra county schools and 1 private school.

Mara Girls was ranked 1st in the Sub-County with a remarkable mean score of 372 out of 500, an A grade.

2022 KCPE RESULTS

NO.	NAME	ENG	KIS	MAT	SCI	SSTRE	TOT	HIGH SCHOOL	CATEGORY
1	MERCY KUDATE	76	82	85	80	81	404	ALLIANCE GIRLS	NATIONAL
2	LIARAM SANAU	72	77	79	81	81	390	LIMURU GIRLS	NATIONAL
3	KARKAR SILOLE	72	77	83	75	77	384	NJONJO GIRLS	NATIONAL
4	ESTHER SOMPET	75	73	79	75	81	383	NJONJO GIRLS	NATIONAL

5	NKURUMWA ELIZABETH	71	74	85	76	76	382	TENGECHA GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY
6	SAITLOK AGNES	79	79	77	75	72	382	KAPLONG GIRLS	NATIONAL
7	MARY MPUSIA	74	73	75	75	82	379	SIRONGA GIRLS	NATIONAL
8	NAURORI SITEYIA	71	73	79	76	75	374	MARA CHRISTIAN	PRIVATE
9	LEPORE JOSEPHINE	70	68	83	75	78	374	TENGECHA GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY
10	SANDRA KORIATA	78	72	76	73	75	374	MOI SIONGIROI	EXTRA COUNTY
11	KISEMEI RESIATO	72	72	79	64	75	362	OLE TIPIS GIRLS	NATIONAL
12	NAPIDUKIA LINET	70	78	69	73	70	360	MAASAI GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY
13	SISIAN MERERU	61	68	69	81	71	350	NAMUNYAK GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY
14	NABAALA TOPISIA	67	65	68	68	81	349	JOMO KENYATTA	EXTRA COUNTY
15	SOPIA PENINA	70	69	66	72	68	345	WANJOHI GIRLS	EXTRA COUNTY

g. An overview of some of the MGLS Alumni in High School

Mara Girls Leadership school, do not engage learners on academics only. We train leadership among other skills.

Meet the following girls who are excelling at their national schools:

1. Leah Nabaala- Top girl 2021

- ◇ At Mara Girls, Leah was the President.
- ◇ An "A" student
- ◇ She scored 412 Marks out of the maximum 500 Marks.
- ◇ Was admitted at Mary Hills High school a top National School in the country.
- ◇ She is among the few Maasai Girls in her school.
- ◇ Currently in form 2.
- ◇ She is active in sports from form one.
- ◇ Already looking forward to become a student leader in her current school.



Leah Nabalaa

2. Janet Soila Lepore- Form 2 Alliance Girls

- ◇ Janet was a Dormitory prefect at Mara girls.
- ◇ She has extended her leadership skills to Alliance Girls High school.
- ◇ Her leadership abilities can be seen in the following:
- ◇ She is the football captain.
- ◇ She is the Chairlady Mentorship program
- ◇ She is the Christian Union representative in her class.
- ◇ She is among the few Maasai Girls at Alliance Girls



Janet Soila Lepore

3. Tabitha Meingati- Kisumu Girls- Form 2

- ◇ At Mara Girls Tabitha was a volleyball player and the games captain.
- ◇ She continues to explore her leadership abilities at Kisumu girls in the following:
- ◇ She is the assistant volleyball captain and in the school team.
- ◇ She is in charge of guidance and counselling in her class.
- ◇ Tabitha is the third girl admitted from MGLS at this particular national school.



Tabitha Meingati

h. MGLS - Alumni Association Launch



The Alumni attentively listen to discussions at the launch: Front Row 2022 Candidates ,2nd, 3rd and 4th Rows Class of 2021, Class of 2020 and Class of 2019 Respectively.

The MGLS Alumni association is an Informal organization of former pupils of Mara Girls Leadership School who have completed their Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) / Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA).

The Association is meant to be an avenue through which MGLS management can continue nurturing the graduates beyond their primary school education. It shall promote a meaningful



2022 Cohort with Class Teacher Sarah Siranka



Some of the Alumni pose with Tr Sarah

dialogue and exchange of ideas between the school and its alumni. And, through the diverse programs of volunteer services, Advocacy and capacity building, the Association is committed to strengthening alumni relations in support of the school's mission.

The Inaugural meeting of the alumni started on the evening of 30th November 2022, which culminated into the official launch on 1st December 2022 at the Schools Grounds.

PRE -THE LAUNCH

The three cohorts of 2019,2020 & 2021 were invited to spend the night on the evening of 30th November 2022 at the school complex. They participated in pre-launch discussions and attended the 2022 leavers party on the same evening, as invited guests.

The key activities included:

- ◇ Registration of attendance & check in
- ◇ Alumni Meeting in the MPH (Before Dinner / Leavers party)
 - ◇ Overview of the Alumni Associations, mission, goals, objectives and proposed programs/activities.
 - ◇ Discussions on the Draft Articles of Association.
 - ◇ Pre-launch resolutions
 - ◇ Campaigns for the Inaugural Executive Committee.
- ◇ 2022 leavers Party – Opportunity for all Cohorts to bond and share experiences.

Pre-launch resolutions

1. Reunion - To be meeting annually to strengthen Alumni cohesion.
2. Membership & Registration - To have a registration fee of ksh. 200 so as to promote sense of ownership.
3. Commitment to Alma mater - To up hold Mara Girls reputation wherever they are.
4. Mentorship & Role modeling - To offer peer mentorship and act as role models to other learners at MGLS and other Basecamp partner schools.
5. Communication – Commitment to publishing an annual newsletter.
6. Give-back - To participate in community development and participate in fund raising activities , or even sponsoring girls in future.
7. Unity of purpose - To join the whatsApp group so that they are able to continue networking

The Launch

The actual Launch was done on 1st December 2022 in the presence of the girls' parents as invited guests.

Special branded merchandise generously donated by our funding partners Skagerak Energi were issued to the Alumni. This included;

- Alumni T-shirts
- Mobile Phones – Samsung Galaxy A03
- Solar power banks – Branded Skagerak

- Agder Branded Neck Gaiter

In Attendance:

A total of 61 girls out of the possible 64 were present at the alumni launch.

COHORT	MARKS OUT OF 500
CLASS OF 2019	14
CLASS OF 2020	16
CLASS OF 2021	16
CLASS OF 2022	15
TOTAL	61 GIRLS

We encouraged the former pupils to join the Alumni for the reasons below:

- Networking opportunities. One of the main purposes of alumni associations is to support a network of former pupils who will, in turn, help to raise the profile of the school. The alumni associations aim to bring together like-minded young women who can benefit each other through networks they would have formed beyond MGLS.
- Career building tools. ... These can be anything from capacity building workshops, learning visits, linkage to potential educational partners.



Introduction of Executive Committee members: From left (Back row) Jane Mereru MEMBER Class of 2020- Kisumu Girls, Front Row- Janet Soila TREASURER Class of 2021 - Alliance Girls, Jackeline Noosaron JOINT SECRETARY Class of 2019- State House Girls, Sophy Kumum SECRETARY Class of 2020 - Moi Girls Eldoret, Elizabeth Sampo VICE PRESIDENT Class of 2022 -Just cleared Class 8, Gladys Sayialel PRESIDENT Class of 2019 Alumni - St Mary's Girls Bomet.

- Peer Support group to handle common adolescent and young adulthood challenges through the “Big Sister” initiative and digital platform on WhatsApp.
- Promote Learning - Access to general educational materials at the MGLS library.
- Give back - The Alumni is great resource for MGLS incoming pupils/ students. The members shall play a role in the mentorship of potential younger members and possibly participate in the BCFK community programs especially those under the Education Pillar.

Executive Committee Members & Office Bearers:

A total of 61 girls out of the possible 64 were present at the alumni launch.

NO	NAME	OFFICE / RESPONSIBILITY	YEAR OF COMPLETION
1	Sharon Sengeny		2019
2	Gladys Saiyalel	PRESIDENT	2019
3	Esther Nantei		2019
4	Jackeline Noosoran	JOINT SECRETARY	2019
5	Jane Mereru		2020
6	Sophy Kumum	SECRETARY	2020
7	Mary Kisaika		2021
8	Janet Lepore	TREASURER	2021
9	Elizabeth Sampo	VICE PRESIDENT	2022



Class of 2019 Alumni Jackline Noosaron (State House Girls) Receives phone from Dickson Taek -Chairman MGLS-Talek working Group as Deputy Teacher Sarah Siranka looks on.

a. Sessions on Art therapy from a “friend of BCFK” and volunteer.

The girls had an opportunity to engage with Ms. Malin Dahlberg in a two days art Therapy class. Some of the lessons learnt were that art therapy;

- Relieves pressure or stress.
- Enhances concentration in class.
- Improves creativity.
- Enhances neatness.
- Disciplines the mind.
- Girls also acquired some artistic drawing skills.

Head teacher Mouline inspects the girls' drawings



Ms. Malin Dahlberg takes the girls through an “Art Therapy” class – October 2022

b. STEM Training – Teachers training for developing countries

In November a team of engineers from Norway took all the teachers and the learners through a week -long STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) training for teachers in developing countries using the scientist Factory pedagogy and Engineers without Borders (EWB-Norway) as teachers. Teachers from other public schools supported by BCFK were invited and participated in the training. This included representatives, Talek Boarding primary school, Molibany Primary, Irbaan Primary and oloigero primary teachers and learners to join in the training.

The training aimed at making STEM education practical, inspiring and engaging for both teachers and students.

STEM is seen as a major pathway to solving global problems relating to climate change, poverty, food security and prevention of communicable diseases. It is deemed important that in order to groom competent future scientist, the instructors at schools and colleges (Teachers) need to be well equipped and well versed in the proper teaching methodology.

Immediate results from the training were;

- The training was an eye opener to ways of triggering learners' curiosity in different topics.
- The teachers also acquired skills of simplifying complex topics.
- They were also able to learn ways of making lessons fun for the learners.
- All participants expressed interest to participate in further training in the same area.



Learners from Irbaan primary School.



Learners from Irbaan primary School.

ABBREVIATIONS

BCFK – Basecamp Foundation Kenya
BoM – Board of Management
BST's – Bonga Support Teams
CBEI – Community Based Education Initiative
CBO's - Community Based Organizations
CBF's – Community Based Facilitators
CDO's – Community Development Organizations
CMSG – Community Managed Saving Group
ECCE – Early Childhood Care & Education
F&P – Friends & Partners
KCB – Kenya Commercial Bank
MGLS – Mara Girls Leadership School
MMWCA – Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancy Association
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
NARIGP – National Agricultural & Rural Inclusive Growth Project
NCDO – Nkoilale Community Development Organization.
NGAAF- National Government Affirmative Action Fund
SF – Stromme Foundation
SFN – Stromme Foundation Norway
SFEA – Stromme Foundation East Africa
T-o-T – Training of Trainers







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... leave a positive footprint

