



BASECAMP FOUNDATION KENYA



**PROGRAMS
REPORT**

2023



... leave a positive footprint



ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

BCFK – Basecamp Foundation Kenya

BoM – Board of Management

BST's – Bonga Support Teams

CBC – Competency based Curriculum

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

ECD – Early childhood Development

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 /Strømmestiftelsen

SFN – Stromme Foundation Norway

SFEA – Stromme Foundation East Africa

T-o-T – Training of Trainers

8-4-4 – Old government curriculum (8 years in Primary school education, 4 years of secondary school education & 4 years of university).

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 center', talek township, Koyaki Location, Narok South sub-county.

02. Programs overview

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 had three single stream classes 6, 7 & 8, of 16 pupils each, bringing the total enrollment to 48 girls of ages 12- 14 years since 2017. The school had been implementing the Kenya national curriculum (8-4-4), which has now transitioned to the new CBC system as a Junior Secondary school (JSS). 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.

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 sustainability approach for the program, to ensure 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. 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.

03. Program Overview

a. Mara Girls Leadership School (MGLS)

Basecamp has continued to champion innovative programs to promote access to quality education in line with SDG 4, through its flagship program Mara Girls leadership school, a center of excellence for talented maasai girls since January 2017. As we usher out the final 2023 candidate's class of the 8-4-4 curriculum, the school has also transitioned to a Junior Secondary School (JSS) for talented maasai girls of ages 12 – 14 years under the CBC (2-6-3-3-4) Curriculum. This is the only year we shall host a **hybrid system** of 16 girls – **8-4-4** and the inaugural **CBC** class of 24 students. 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 school not only focuses on academic excellence, but also seeks to nurture talent while equipping the young learners with key life skills through the “Bonga for schools” program and ball games like volleyball and soccer / football. The girls also participate in joint exams to



Figure 1: Inaugural Grade 7 girls



Figure 2 : Grade 7 selection interviews January 2023



Figure 3 : MGLS volleyball team qualifies for Regionals to be held in Kitale from 30th July to 6th August. Representing Narok County!

create benchmarking opportunities for both learners and teachers

The Alumni association that was launched late last year has gained traction and has managed to meet during each school holiday to acquire skills through short term workshops from volunteers who have given the girls in other areas like Art therapy, information technology and a reading program that promotes literacy by virtue of the well-equipped school library. 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 Energi as the back donors) and Five Private Swedish & Norwegian Family trusts (Nordtug, Sällström, Lanner, Hans Lundström, Anita Lundström). BCFK Board and Management are actively 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.



Figure 4: Alumni meeting April 2023



Figure 5 : Bonga session at MGLS lead by Deputy Head- Sarah



Figure 6 : Headteacher MS. Moulina Otieno speaks to the girls at the Alumni meeting of April 2023

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



Figure 7: Rekeru boys' dormitory

Both the CBEI and ECCE programs promotes 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 – 8years. 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.

ECD centers are not stand-alone facilities, but are part of the primary school facilities. It is however not uncommon to find stand-a lone 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. We now have **15 schools** using the approach to address teenage and adolescent issues like teenage



Figure 9 : Bonga session at MGLS

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 11 - 14 : Display of solar lanterns on the movable stands that work as charging stations at both Rekeru and Olesere primary schools



Figure 15 : Olesere primary pupils Listen to, BCFK team representatives - Steve, Mouline and Susan.

The **Solar Libraries projects** seeks to boost learning and improvement in academic performance for off-grid rural schools. Most of this school have no access or limited access to lighting to promote learning before or after school hours. Through this project we have issued personal solar lanterns to the candidate's class of 2023 in Rekeru and Olesere primary schools to boost their personal remedial studies.

Key Highlights of the CBEI/ECCE Program Results:



3,950

Grade 1-3 Enrollment 2023 primary schools



20

Partner primary schools and 19 ECD pre-primary schools.



1,628

ECD pupils benefiting.

2

Baba and 4 mama sessions Conducted.

343

parents attending Baba/Mama session in Rekeru, Olemoncho, oloigero, olesere & Ilbaan schools.



730

Pupils participating in the "Bonga for Schools"

15

Partner primary schools Embracing the "Bonga for Schools".



1

Follow up on ECD teachers' capacity training.

Upcoming Award of certificates to

343

parents



30

Handwashing Stations distributed

c. Bonga program – Adolescent girls' empowerment program

The 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 cultural practices like FGM or teenage pregnancies.

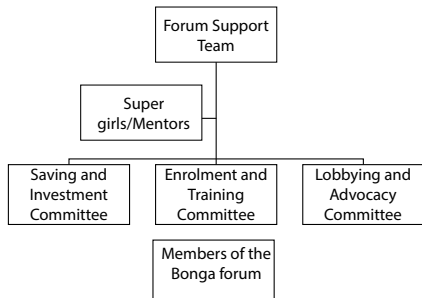


Figure 16 : Bonga program structure

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.

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.



Figure 17 : Olare-orok Bonga forum working on their beadwork



Figure 18: Fund raiser for the Olkimitare Bonga forum



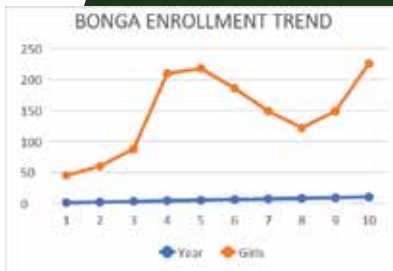
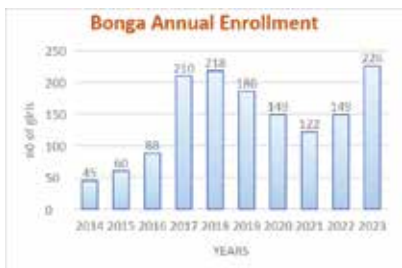
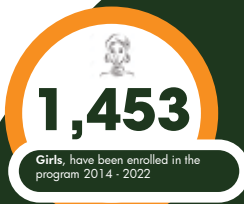
Figure 19 : Animators quarterly meeting at Biotisho

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 CMSG 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.

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 members continue with their collaboration 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. The forums have also able to create collective and individual kitchen gardens to supplement their families' diet and

Key Highlights of the BONGA Program Results:



any excess intended as an income generator in some villages; Olare-Orok, oloosokon and individual gardens in olesere village.



Figure 20 : Stakeholders update meeting

d. Community Managed Saving Groups

CMSG is a program that championed 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.

To date all the 95 **CMSG groups** are deemed mature and independent as at **31st December 2022**. Currently, most of the groups are now affiliated to other micro financing entities and development organizations like Joyful women and maa trust.



Figure 21 : Women craft centre land acquisition meeting



Figure 22: Rekeru CMSG Cluster meeting

The CMSG model has been **successfully replicated** by other organizations within the mara and beyond. This year we had an organization in Kajiado county, which is also predominantly of the maasai community reach out and confirm that they had indeed borrowed tips on women's groups saving models through our social media platforms.

Since all the CMSG groups are now mature our focus is on strengthening the registered federation "**Naretoo federation of Community Managed Savings Group**". It is



Figure 23: Nkoilale CDO Women crafts center

for this reason that we are in the process of **establishing a women's Craft center in Aitong township**. This would be one of the two centers we plan to establish as women economic hubs. The Aitong area is a good tourism corridor and with collaboration from nearby camps, visitors can be brought to the center to boost the sale of the crafts.

The long-term plan is to acquire community land for the construction of the two centers. In the short-term we are pursuing re-allocation of land previously used by Mara Discovery Centre in Aitong. The land belongs to the Aitong Community clinic, which had been allocated to Mara discovery center by the Aitong group ranch leaders. We are in the process of gaining occupation rights as we pursue the acquisition of the land. We have planned a community participation meeting in the coming quarter to ensure we address all community concerns and have a clear Memorandum of understanding on the location and operations of the project.

Key Highlights of the CMSG Program Results:





Adult literacy classes

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



Rekero CDO Evaluation



A maasal elders prepares the medicinal brew at the Rekero CDO Olpul



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



Tripartite field visit



2MGLS Alumni meeting April 2023



MGLS & BCFK staff take a break after marking the 2023 entry exam papers



CMSG Rehero cluster entertain guests at the tripartite visit



Olesere CDO oplul traditional meal

We are also hoping that the federation benefits from a planned government action to distribute a free donation of beads to women groups within the mara.

e. CIVIL SOCIETY - Community Institutions & Leadership

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.

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.



Figure 24: Stephen Turanta – BCFK civil society officer at the Endoinyo Erinka water committee meeting



Figure 25: Olare-Orok CDO meeting

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.

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.

Key Highlights of the CIVIL SOCIETY

TY Program Results:

5



CDOs' Formed

Nkoilale, Olesere, Olare Orok, Rekeru, Endoinyo -Erinka

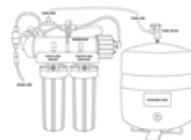
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Rainwater Harvesting Systems

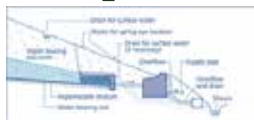
MGLS, Rekeru, Olare Orok, Olesere, Olemoncho.

1



RO-Reverse Osmosis system at Talek Primary formed

1



Spring catchment At Olemoncho Village

4



Institutions benefiting from solar energy

MGLS, Rekeru, Olemoncho spring, Talek Boarding

f. Climate Resilience

In response to SDG 13 that “calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” , BCFK has been at the fore front in championing innovative approaches for mitigation, management and adaptability of climate smart approaches to development. Through funding support of the Lennox Foundation USA and other partners, the organisation has been a major player in climate issues since 2016. From 2022 we have been implimenting the “Bamboo-4-Kenya”, a project that has integrated community empowerment intervention targeting the grassroots community adjacent to the Aberdares water tower in upper Tana – Athi watershed within Murang’a County.

The bamboo pilot in maasai mara has also been showing promising results as it is now clear that we have the right bamboo variety for that eco-system. Bamboo for the arid and semi-arid landscape will go a long way in the protection of riparian lands.

The bamboo nursery in Muranga now has 7 varieties of bamboo;

1. Oxytenanthera abbyssinical (lowland Bamboo, semi-solid bamboo)
2. Dendrocalamus membranaceus CV grandis (Waya bamboo)
3. Dendrocalamus giganteus (Giant bamboo or rough bamboo)
4. Dendrocalamus Asper – Big asper.
5. Dendrocalamus
6. Bambusa vulgaris (yellow-green bamboo, common bamboo, painted bamboo or vittata)
7. Bambusa blumeana (spiny bamboo, thorny bamboo)

Bamboo plays a bid role in climate change mitigation in that it can be used to; support to prime agricultural areas, hydropower output, supplies of national water, as a refuge to endemic flora and fauna and indigenous biodiversity.

Apart from bamboo the nursery also natures other tree varieties especially fruit trees like Grafted Hass Avocado, Macadamia, Mangoes, Pixie oranges, Tangerine, Moringa, Aloe vera and other indigenous trees.



Figure 26: Bamboo- *Dendrocalamus asper*



Figure 27: Hass Avocado



Figure 28: Bamboo green house in Muranga



Figure 29: Muranga CBO member waters Well Nurtured, *Dendrocalamus asper* bamboo seedlings



Figure 30: Macadamia

04. Progress towards Strategic Exit

As we come to the end of another 5 year journey of partnership with Stromme Foundation Norway, through its East African regional office in Kampala-Uganda, in the implementation of various projects within the maasai mara, we have ensured that the in-built sustainability structures in each project have been rolled out.

Most of these projects were greatly influenced by the Stromme methodology which relies on the waterfall approach to project implementation, in which projects involved a linear flow of events that would lead to project maturity or completion. Well, inline with the inbuilt sustainability models the projects are now at maturity . We have been preparing the beneficiaries for the **phase-over**, **phase-out** and **phasing down** depending on the nature of the project. The sustainability structures within each project are now functional , even though there is need for continued capacity training in some areas.

Sustainability structures are governance bodies, programs and tools set up by in close collaboration with the beneficiaries to spearhead the continued administration and/or implementation of projects that will be eventually phased -over to the community.This include CDO's (community development organisations) , Water management committees, Bonga Support Teams, BONGA forums for bonga alumni and CBO's, CMSG's Naretoo Federation, CMSG's Women crafts centre, School Boards of Management, Infrastructure maintenance Fund (GGF), Bonga for schools program and MGLS Community trust.



Figure 31: CDO's water management committees training



Figure 32: CDO Stakeholder meeting



Figure 33: Olkimitare Bonga Forum meeting

05. 2023 SUCCESS STORIES

a. MGLS SUCCESS STORIES

1. National Examinations

2022 the school presented another group of 15 girls, who managed **a mean score of 372 Marks out of 500, a mean grade of B+.** **7 girls** joined National schools, **7 girls** joined Extra- County schools and **1girl** opted for **private school.**

Mara Girls Leadership was ranked **1st in the Narok West Sub-County** with a remarkable mean score of 372 out of 500, an A grade. Only **15 girls** took the National exams. Unfortunately, **1 girl** dropped out, opting for early marriage despite parental and teachers counselling and other interventions.

2022 KCPE RESULTS & SCHOOL PLACEMENT

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	SAITOLOK 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

2. Extra-Curricular Activities (Ball games)

The girls participated in ball games at the Sub zonal, zonal, sub county, county and excelled in all areas in volleyball and football, and were successful to proceed to the Regional Championships. The Volleyball team completed at position 9 out of 14 schools at the regional level.



Figure 34: Volleyball team at the County competitions

Two MGLS girls from the football team were invited to join the “North-Rift Select team “ that competed at the Nationals levels.



Figure 35: 3Representatives from the Football team



Figure 36: Volleyball Team poses besides St Columban's school bus in Kitale

3. MGLS- Junior Secondary Technical Classes

The learners are picking up well in the new curriculum. Earlier in the year they took part in the national home science practical's, in which they all excelled. They were required to prepare a meal, serve it, clear and clean their working area. This is one of the subject areas intended to equip the girls with basic life skills.

Figure 37: Home science practical in session



4. BCFK Adult Literacy Classes at MGLS

We are strong believers in “charity begins at home”. It is for this reason that we rolled out adult literacy classes specifically for BCFK and MGLS support staff. Most of our lower cadre employees come from the surrounding community, most of whom were not privileged to receive formal education.

We believe that this project will empowerment them in their personal lives and even improve service delivery as they interact with the learners and other staff members. It will also help them to better understand and apply organization policies and act as able ambassadors of what we do.

Elizabeth Sairowua- Assistant Cook, is married with four children. Her first born is in college, second child is in high school and the last 2 are in primary school. Elizabeth is now able to write and pronounce some English and Kiswahili words. She is now capable of carrying out simple tasks that

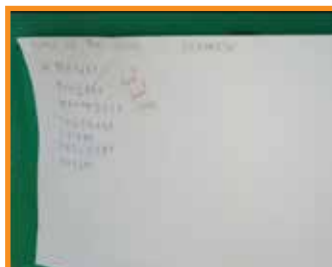


Figure 38: Elizabeth, the Assistant cook , is now able to list the Days of the week chronologically.

require basic literacy like purchase of a few shopping items using a prepared listing from her superior. She has worked at BCFK from 2017.

Figure 39: Elizabeth Sairowua (right) and Lucy Naeku show casing the days assignment



b. BONGA SUCCESS STORIES

1. Empowerment takes meaning through BONGA forums training



Figure 40: BONGA forum mentors training

There is hope and enthusiasm in Maasai Mara -Kenya as BCFK expands in the region. Mara is a region in the west of Narok County Kenya, which supports Kenya's economy in the west of the country, along the Great Rift Valley. The region Maasai Mara, which is home to the Great Wildebeest Migration is one of the "Seven New Wonders of the World". BCFK started the journey of leaving a positive footprint

through the BONGA programme, a project that empowers young school dropouts and uneducated girls in the community.

Through BONGA life skills and forum training BCFK has expanded its footprints in 7 villages in the Maasai Mara. The major aim of the BONGA Forum is to safeguard the achievement of the



Figure 41: backyard kitchen gardens at olesere



Figure 42: Forum weekly meeting

BONGA programme obtained during the previous years among the girls and also within the community. The sustainability of the BONGA program and its achievements entirely depends on the BONGA forum. The community has a hardworking BONGA forum group that is excited to be part of the BONGA program, which is one of the programs implemented to eradicate poverty through women empowerment and transformation of livelihoods. After being introduced to BONGA by the centre animator who is their coordinator they

began life skills training and spearheaded the training in the village.

The girls who graduated from BONGA classes together coming from the community went ahead and formed a BONGA forum. They meet once a month because of the ongoing drought. They meet for savings and IGAs training and thereafter begin their economic empowerment sessions through which they save and borrow money.

Ntipilikwani BONGA group has a savings plan that currently has Kshs 30,000 in circulation they intend to increase their savings through the recruitment of other women in the group. Through the leaders, they have seen a positive change in the group they hope and pray that BCFK will continue training and walking with them to realize all-inclusive change in their community. Through savings 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 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 one year, her business will expand through her daily access to the market because the business Centre is still growing with minimal competition.

2. Empowerment 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, which supports Kenya's economy in the west of the country, along the Great Rift Valley. The village was named Olare-Orok meaning a village where the the ground holds no water. It is 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 the BONGA program, a project that empowers young school dropout girls in the community.



Figure 43: Nalepo forum meetings in session



Figure 44: Beadwork in session

Through BONGA life skills and forum training BCFK has expanded its footprints in Olare-Orok village in the Maasai Mara. Olare-Orok BONGA forum is one of the BONGA sustainability structures established as a continuation of the BONGA program in the area. The community has a hardworking team of forum women who are excited to be part of the BONGA program, which is one of the programs implemented to eradicate poverty through women empowerment and transformation of livelihoods. After being introduced to BONGA by the center animator Silvia Kenta who is their coordinator they began life skills training and spearheaded the training in the village.

The 17 graduates from the BONGA class of 2021 went ahead and formed a BONGA forum. They meet once a month because of their home busy schedule, 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 Ksh 50,000 in rotation. They are anticipating to increase their savings through recruitment of other women in the group. In addition they have purchased 6 bulls and 22 sheep to fatten. Ntetia narrates that, through the leaders, they

have seen the transformation in the group and that they hope and pray that BCFK will continue training and walking with them to realize the all-inclusive change in their community.

Through this BONGA forum, it is obvious that realization is not just what you achieve 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 the 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 peer-to-peer learning for school girls as they advocate for girl child education. Also, in their community outreach activities, the group was able to stand with their membership in any difficult times whether in sickness, death, or any other hard times.



Figure 45: Forum members at the meeting session

3. Naretoi BONGA Forum

This story reflects the impact of a success training of forum members to invest in available Income generating activities as facilitated by the Basecamp Foundation Kenya over the years. income generating activities help women in savings groups to get a source savings and finances to help improve their living standards and the village at large. This micro enterprises help them to sustain and develop their sources of revenues. Statistics show that the greater the income controlled by women in communities and families the greater the help that goes directly to basic needs in homes especially education. Income generating activities raise women status in communities.

Naretoi means helping each other. The forum is situated in Narok county, Narok west sub-county, Mara ward, Olkimitare village. BCFK started the journey of leaving a positive footprint through BONGA program, a project that empowers young school dropout girls in the community.

Through BONGA life skills and forum trainings BCFK has expanded its footprints in Olkimitare village in the maasai mara. Naretoi BONGA forum is one of the BONGA established as a continuation of BONGA forum in the area. Naretoi 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 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.



Figure 46: Mary the animator holding the grass cutting machine

Naretoi BONGA forum comprises of 15 girls who are graduates of 2022 BONGA program. They meet thrice 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. They practice social funds account and savings account. They use social funds to help each other in times of need and disburse loans. Naretoi is linked to other financial institutions. One of them being women enterprise fund which takes them through a 3 days training on loans procedures and issued them with a loan as a forum.

Naretoi BONGA forum practice poultry farming. The poultry farm is at Mary home who is the animator and the leader of the forum. Mary narrates that they had an uphill task while starting the poultry farming. At first they had no experience and never knew risks associated but as they progress they learnt all that and can now practice poultry with ease. They have started realizing profits as they can sell eggs from their poultry farm which is enough to feed the chicken.

Mary advises new BONGA girls to join the classes and attend IGA trainings conducted by BCFK for successful IGAs. Naretoi forum have also started a grass project where they planted grass for sale. They already bought a grass cutting machine. The forum also have stated future plans of saving to buy event tents.

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 identify the need to help girls in the nearby primary school by donating sanitary towels and pay school fees for 1 need 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.

c. CMSG Success Story

1. Rekeru CMSG Cluster progress

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



Figure 46: Rekeru cluster meeting



Figure 47: 4Groups showcasing the cluster success during the tripartiate visit

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 Rekeru. Surrounded by the famous Pardamat conservancy hill. It is 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 the CMSG program, a project that empowers rural women through savings

and Income generating activities for sustainable livelihoods.

Rekeru CMSG groups- cluster is one of the clusters established as part of the transitioning exit strategy. In the community hails a hardworking team forum of women who are excited to be part of the CMSG program, which is one of the programs implemented to eradicate poverty through women's empowerment, to transform livelihoods, after being introduced to savings by the center comm community-based facilitator is their coordinator she began CMSG methodologies' training, and in the community, she spearheaded the training in the village.

The 12 savings groups were formed which graduated into Mature savings groups. The mature groups were later transitioned into Cluster. They meet once a month for savings, community outreach activities, and IGAs training and thereafter begin their economic empowerment meeting through which they save and borrow money from the financial institutions.

The group has a savings plan which currently has Kshs 25,000 in rotation and they anticipate increasing their savings in the individual groups saving which will improve the cluster vision of having a collective business together. Through the leaders, they have seen a change in the group and they hope and pray that BCFK will continue training and walking with them to realize the all-inclusive difference in their community.

Through CMSG groups, 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 strong and hardworking women for their families, children, and rights.



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