



2023 NEF MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

Introduction

In this Mid-Year Impact Report, I'm happy to share with you how we have been utilizing your donations to increase access and opportunities to promising students in Kenya. I feel extremely grateful to have your support, as well as amazing staff and partners to help carry out this work. Here are the highlights from the first half of the year.

- We awarded scholarships to eight new high school students – 4 girls and 4 boys. They each received a new uniform, shoes, and a solar lantern. Some very needy students also received a mattress and bedding to ensure they can get a good night sleep.
- We launched the NEF scholarship program at a second public high school in Kenya – called Bujwang'a Secondary School, with a student population of 1,245 students.
- We provided an orientation for the newly formed School Advisory Committee for the NEF program at Bujwang'a Secondary School.
- We purchased and delivered revision books, ranging from economics and history to English and mathematics for the school libraries at both schools.
- We held a strategic plan validation workshop with members of the community and local education sector who represent the needs of NEF's most important stakeholders, the students. Following this meeting we finalized and adopted the NEF strategic plan 2023-2028.
- We successfully provided two health workshops, reaching approximately 1,700 students.
- Beatrice Ogana, a NEF beneficiary at Bumbe Technical Training Institute, successfully completed her craft certificate program in catering and hospitality.
- Harriet Akinyi, another NEF beneficiary, completed a 3-month teaching externship. She will graduate with a B.A. degree in Education from Rongo University in October 2023.

On a sad note, we said good-bye to Dr. Hannington Odame, the Executive Director of the Centre for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), who helped launch NEF in 2012. He passed away unexpectedly on June 20th in Nairobi. Hannington was my friend and mentor. He was the first person I knew in Kenya, and truly everything I have done in Kenya has stemmed from being introduced to him by my advisor at the University of Amsterdam. Hannington helped me set up my research in Kenya, welcoming me into his home, his family and his community, and then he and his organization, CABE, helped lay the groundwork for NEF. Hannington dedicated his career to innovations in agriculture, such as seed improvements, promoting small scale farmers, and engaging youth in agri-business.

NEF staff and students attended Hannington's funeral and Edmond Ogombe delivered a special eulogy on behalf of NEF to honor the special role that Hannington played in our lives and in NEF's journey. I draw comfort in knowing that Hannington will live on in our hearts and through each student who is awarded a scholarship from NEF. Hannington and I envisioned creating a community center for inter-generational learning, knowledge sharing, mentorship and innovation. I would love to make that happen in his memory. In the immediate term, we will continue to improve on the organization that Hannington helped us build. **The real testament of our progress and impact comes from the students and members of the community. I encourage you to read what they have to say in the following pages.**

With gratitude,

NEF Co-Founder & Project Director

Meet NEF's New Scholarship Beneficiaries and Partnering School!

We are excited to announce the 2023 NEF scholarship recipients! Among the new beneficiaries are four young men, the first time since NEF was launched that we've awarded scholarships to male students. In addition, NEF is now partnering with a second community school near Lake Victoria, called St. Stephen's Bujwang'a Mixed Day Secondary School.

Bujwang'a Secondary School Profile:

Bujwang'a Secondary School was established in February 2007 by three volunteer teachers as a community-initiated school with an enrollment of 25 students who comprised of 8 girls and 12 boys. The community contributed money to cater for their meals and other administrative costs. As of 2022, the school has an enrollment of 1,245 students, of which 634 are boys and 611 are girls. Bujwang'a Secondary School is also near Lake Victoria and about 4 km away from Busijo Secondary School where NEF has been operating in the Republic of Kenya since 2012.

The Beneficiaries:

The following students are all in Form 2/Sophomore Year and they were chosen from an applicant pool of more than 55 students across both schools. To be eligible for support the student must display significant financial need; be disciplined and dedicated to their studies; hold a C or higher; display leadership qualities; and have commitment from their parents/guardians.

BUSIJO SECONDARY SCHOOL



New scholarship recipients (from L to R) at Busijo Secondary School: Silas, Shalet, Pioneer, and Spencer with their parents, NEF Program Manager, and members of the School Advisory Committee. (Photo courtesy of Anne Truphosa, NEF, 2023)

BUJWANG'A SECONDARY SCHOOL



New scholarship recipients (from L to R) at Bujwang'a Secondary School, Mercy, Moses, Shalvine, and Cliff with their parents, NEF Program Manager, and members of the School Advisory Committee. (Photo courtesy of Anne Truphosa, NEF, 2023)



"By awarding me this scholarship, you have more than alleviated and lightened the financial burden that a high school education would have placed on my family. Without having to worry about the financial strain that comes with attending school,

I can now direct all my focus and time on succeeding in my studies at high school. Thank you again for your generosity and support. I hope to give back to my community just as you have generously given to me."

- Silas Okumu, Busijo NEF Beneficiary



"I believe that this scholarship will be very transformative because it has allowed me to access an outstanding education, surrounded by highly motivated teachers and a healthy learning environment. All these will allow

me to achieve my goal to become a cardiologist."

- Mercy Achola, Bujwang'a NEF Beneficiary

NEF's New Strategic Plan, 2023-2028

In July of last year, NEF developed a new five year (2023-2028) Strategic Plan with input from a wide array of stakeholders, including the school administrators, school advisory committee, the students both sponsored and not sponsored, retired Deputy Principal and former chairperson of the school advisory committee and the Sub-County Education Officer. Our

2023-2028 Strategic Plan captures the intentions and expectations that were refined during the planning process and the ideas and feedback from the stakeholders in the community we serve, while also distilling core learning from recent experiences, revisiting our vision, mission and values statements and aligning organizational strengths and developmental needs with the important work that need to be done.



“I feel very proud to be able to contribute to the great purpose we share at NEF. I firmly believe that quality education transforms lives, not only for those who receive it but also for their entire environment, as it generates a multiplier

effect. Through education and knowledge, our students transcend, empowering them to achieve significant change and generating a positive impact on their communities. This positive impact elevates societal standards and inspires innovation, paving the way for a brighter future. It is a good experience. NEF scholarship has brought an invaluable opportunity for our school community; allowing each of us to open our minds to different realities thereby developing a sense of solidarity and empathy. NEF has given the youths the chance to work on being the best version of themselves.”

- Mrs. Deputy Principal and School Advisory Committee Member, Busijo Secondary School

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

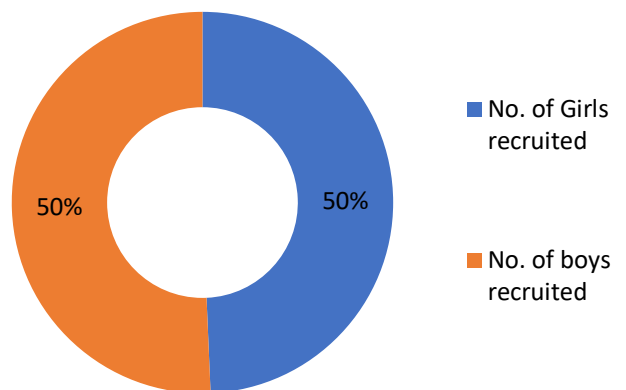
One of the focal areas in the NEF Strategic Plan 2023-2028 is expanding our reach to provide scholarships for boys as well as girls, and to create gender-sensitive programming, including mentorship and monitoring, that addresses the particular needs of all students. We live in a society with structural inequalities that affect the lives and well-being of individuals and communities. We know that organizations likely mirror the society we are part of, unless we take clear action to be inclusive. This is our commitment at NEF. It is only through diversity that we can sow the seeds of solidarity and honor the equal value of all human beings. To truly be a community-driven program, we need to listen and work

hand-in-hand with our primary constituents. We want to help achieve the [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 4.1](#) to provide “equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes” for all boys and girls by 2030, and set an example for other organizations/agencies providing educational support.

As stated in UNICEF’s 2021 report [Gender Transformative Education](#), “Boys and men are affected by gender norms too, restricted by harmful norms of masculinity. (...) When it comes to teaching and learning positive gender norms, if we leave boys behind, then the problem becomes greater,” to the detriment of girls too. “Education can reinforce existing norms or challenge and transform them, not just for children, but for their parents, communities, and nations.” We need education systems that are inclusive and equitable and provide quality education to all students regardless of their gender or identity.

NEF remains dedicated to empowering girls and women through access to education by breaking down the barriers that prevent them from going to school and staying in school. We believe we will be better able to do this by bringing boys and men along as advocates and full partners. We want to contribute to the movement towards gender transformative education and create an open, welcoming, supportive environment where the students can uplift each other and have healthy competition.

Gender Identity, NEF High School Beneficiaries 2023



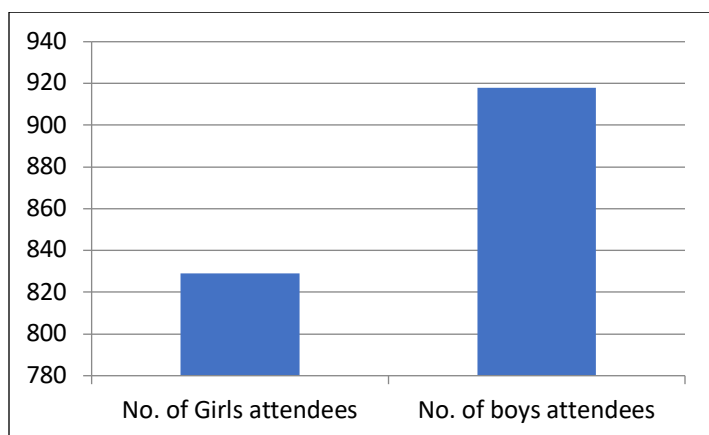
School Workshops

In July 2023, NEF sponsored and helped organize two health workshops to the high school students of Busijo and Bujwang`a secondary schools. The health workshops provide the adolescents with information and tools on key preventive health and well-being topics that positively influence the youths` immediate and long-term health outcomes, such as reducing risky behavior that can lead to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, unintended pregnancy, and drugs/substance abuse, while also improving self-esteem and academic performance.



Bujwang`a secondary students listening to the facilitator during the workshop. (Photo courtesy of Anne Truphosa, NEF, 2023)

The workshops are facilitated by local professionals with experience in community health, education and youth empowerment. Over 1,700 students in total attended from the two schools, as well school administrators, teachers and NEF staff. The break down by girls and boys is provided in the graph below. NEF will gather feedback and measure the initial impacts of the workshop through a student survey that we will administer in early September 2023.



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you so much for supporting the students and programs of the [Nasirumbi Education Fund](https://www.nasirumbi.org). You are making a life changing difference to those who receive a scholarship. Your support allows them to not only have the opportunity to study, but to thrive and grow as individuals. With your support, we are fully committed to ensuring that a student`s background and lived experiences are not barriers to accessing education.

Together, with your continued support, we can advance the journey of these young women and men by giving them the opportunity to further explore their goals and contribute to a more joyful, peaceful and fair world. Thank you for sharing in this vision with us – you are truly making a difference!

Learn more about the students you are supporting on the NEF website – www.nasirumbi.org. Soon we will also post information about our Giving Tuesday and end-of-year fundraising activities. We hope you`ll join us and help spread the word. Thank you again for your support!



The NEF beneficiaries from both Busijo & Bujwang`a Secondary School at Dr. Hannington Odame`s funeral on July 12, 2023.

NEF is a fiscally sponsored project of the Zawadisha Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Under the umbrella of Zawadisha, all donations to NEF are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

[DONATE TODAY](#)



“The support you give is absolutely essential. Without it, people such as myself have no footing or even beginning. Your contributions allowed us to create our own futures and be significantly more equal to our peers. I felt great sense of pride on receiving my scholarship, as I knew someone wanted to reach out and support me. Your kindness, wonderful and selfless support is very much appreciated. I feel immensely proud to have been a scholarship recipient of the Nasirumbi Education Fund. How I wish I met my scholarship donors to express my gratitude in person. Donors continue to be part of NEF long after my graduation. Thank you so much!”

- Harriet Akinyi, former student (BS in Education) at Rongo University, Kenya
