

*Women's Global Education Project*

**SHARING  
STORIES,**

**SHAPING  
FUTURES**

*Annual Report 2014*



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## ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Text by  
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Photos by  
Laura Grier, Aniceta Kiriga,  
Amy Maglio, Lily Messih, Adji Senghor

Design by  
Sandbox Studio, Chicago



WGEP Senegal scholars gather to socialize after school.

## Dear Friends,

This past year has been truly memorable for Women's Global Education Project as we continue to make and share the remarkable stories of young girls and boys on their journey to shaping a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities. WGEP is so fortunate to stand by YOU—our friends, family, supporters and sponsors who have helped make our mission of building brighter futures a reality.

In the past year, WGEP has seen tremendous progress in our programs from increasing girls' access to education to building foundational reading skills for early readers. I continue to be humbled and inspired by the passion and drive I see in the students we serve as they continue their education despite the many challenges they face.

Our programs are making a difference in the lives of thousands of girls, boys and their families. Through scholarships, community engagement meetings, health education workshops, adult literacy activities and our alternative rite of passage program to combat FGM, we are not only getting more girls in school but helping them stay there. We maintain a 90% retention rate and work hand in hand with the community, creating the environment for girls to truly thrive in school and out.

I am especially pleased to announce the success of Our Sisters Read, a partnership between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and WGEP. Our Sisters Read is helping students in rural Senegal access books and technology, building reading skills to create a lifelong love of learning. Over the past year, 3,500 students have taken part in our program. It has been encouraging to see the lines of students outside our local office waiting to check out books. For most of these students, it is the first time they have ever checked out a book from a library!

Your continued support and passion has made it possible for WGEP to help over 1,000 girls go to school and thousands of students engage in reading activities while cultivating a community that supports and nurtures education. I am honored to be part of such an impactful initiative and to work with you to achieve these results.

Thank you for all your amazing generosity this past year. Because of your partnership, we can continue sharing stories of transformation as we shape the future of one girl, one family and one community at a time.

Yours,

Amy Maglio  
*Founder*  
& *Executive Director*

**Amy Maglio**  
**Founder**  
& **Executive Director**



# THE WGEP MODEL

Our Model has reached a high level of success:

- Over 90% retention rate since 2009
- 1 in 3 WGEP scholars rank in the top 10% of their class
- 40% drop in FGM in Tharaka region of Kenya

GIRLS' EDUCATION



GRASSROOTS PARTNERSHIPS



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION



LASTING CHANGE



## WGEP IMPACT

980  
PEOPLE

3,521  
PEOPLE

7,800  
PEOPLE

### ACCESS

980 Scholarships

### SUCCESS

488 Tutoring participants

500 Mentoring participants

550 Health Education Workshop participants

600 After School Club members

1,383 ARP Graduates

### OUTREACH

750 Adult Literacy Training participants

1,050 Parent Workshop participants

6,000 Community Meeting members

WGEP WORKS IN 45 SCHOOLS + 65 VILLAGES IN RURAL SENEGAL + KENYA



After graduating from the ARP program, girls can go forward with knowledge and confidence

ARP Trainer



## ENGAGING YOUNG MEN TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Begun in 2013, the Safe Male Circumcision program advocates for the eradication of FGM while providing young men with a safe transition into adulthood. Young men are educated on health and gender issues throughout the year and publicly support their sisters, cousins and friends in standing up against FGM. WGEP and our partner TWWP understand that young men's participation and support is vital to the success of gender equality and to generating lasting change.

### Safe Male Circumcision

- 58 boys took part in the program, up from 32 participants in 2013
- 1,957 community members instructed on safer methods for boys' circumcision and on the harms of FGM

### Leading the Fight Against FGM

- WGEP partner and TWWP Director Aniceta Kiriga recognized for her leadership efforts to eradicate FGM with a Kenya Presidential Award from the National Gender and Equality Commission
- TWWP Program Assistant Rael Wanja recognized as a 2014 Girl Child Crusader for Tharaka Nithi County and as a 2013 Human Rights Crusader
- This recognition is evidence of the positive and lasting change our programs and partners are making in the region as well as of the wider support we are generating for girls' rights and education.

### Lasting Change

- More young men now find it acceptable to marry an uncut young woman
- WGEP and TWWP sought out for guidance on general family matters, health concerns and counseling for survivors of abuse



# OUR SISTERS READ

Women's Global Education Project believes that literacy is the basis for all educational opportunities. Children who have a strong foundation of literacy skills are more likely to succeed throughout their education, break the cycle of poverty and be better equipped to realize their full potential. However, the statistics on literacy are disheartening: 40% of young people in Sub-Saharan Africa are illiterate and 38% of African adults are illiterate, two-thirds of which are women (Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2013 and UNESCO).

To address these challenges, WGEP is partnering with USAID to improve literacy in Senegal's rural Fatik region through the Our Sisters Read program. This 4-year program will increase students' access to books and technology through libraries, computer labs and mobile libraries. With its innovative model for engaging students in reading and learning, Our Sisters Read has already reached 3,500 students through reading competitions, games, and working with tablets.

The program will ultimately engage 7,000 Senegalese students from 52 schools in the Fatik region, providing fun and engaging literacy activities that encourage students and instill in them a lifelong love of reading and learning.



“**Good quality education, provided by trained and supported teachers, is the right of all children, youth and adults, not the privilege of the few**”

UNESCO  
World Education Forum  
2015



## READING COMPETITIONS HIGHLIGHT LITERACY SKILLS

In order to raise awareness of and increase enthusiasm for literacy, reading and writing competitions are held regularly at a community center in Sokone. At a recent award ceremony, 12-year-old Fallou, an *Our Sisters Read* scholar who was illiterate at the beginning of the school year won first prize! Fallou received literacy tutoring all year through the USAID-funded *Our Sisters Read* literacy program and now has the skills needed to reach his fullest potential in school and beyond.

Over 650 people attended the awards ceremony, including local dignitaries, a delegation from USAID, parents, students and school directors. The popularity of this event demonstrates the immense and far-reaching impact our program is having on the communities in the Fatik region of Senegal. We could not do this vital work without your support! On behalf of Fallou and all our *Sisters to School* and *Our Sisters Read* scholars, we thank you!

# SENEGAL



*Aminata helps Our Sisters Read scholars with their "Personal Calendar" activity*

**Aminata:** I was born and raised in a rural fishing town on Senegal's eastern coast. My parents were illiterate subsistence farmers and lacked the means to provide me with school supplies, fees and any extra academic support. I had a hard time doing my homework and doing well on tests. I felt that I was working so hard and fighting everyday just to fail. But then Sisters to School came along and provided me with what I greatly needed: tutoring. With the tutoring provided through the program, I was able to pass key exams and move my education forward.

I became the first person in my family to receive a formal education and graduate high school! I was fortunate again because WGEP and partner Femmes Plus made me an outreach officer for the Our Sisters Read program. I am very happy to be working with the program because I am passionate about literacy and education. I love working with students and seeing their budding love for reading.

My favorite book is "So Long a Letter" by Mariama Ba because it speaks of the realities of Senegalese society, but also because the author is a true female fighter and my idol. She sacrificed her entire life to succeed and help her family. For me, education is the essence of all of human life and reading is the gateway to wisdom.

**Kambe:** Kambe has been a WGEP Sisters to School scholar for three years and is currently in her final year of high school in Sokone. She lives with one of her older sisters so that she can attend high school there; her parents' village where she grew up is too far from her school.

Kambe was surprised at what a huge difference the scholarship has made in her life. Prior to receiving the scholarship, her family lived in very difficult conditions. They would go out into the fields after the millet harvest and collect whatever was left so they could sell it in the local market to have enough money to purchase school supplies. Kambe is the fourth of five children and only her and her youngest sister attend school. One of her older sisters went to Dakar to work as a maid in order to make money to send home to her family. All of Kambe's other siblings, except for the youngest, have married and dropped out of school.

Kambe's mother is very supportive of her daughters' education and herself takes adult literacy classes through Sisters to School in order to learn to read and support her daughters in school.

Kambe wants to continue her studies after she passes her final high school exam. Her favorite subjects are English and French. Her favorite activities include reading and helping to prepare tea for her family and guests. After years of toiling in the fields, Kambe would like to work in an office as a manager upon receiving her college degree.



# KENYA



**Mercy Sammy:** I thank you so much for the support you have given to me. I am sure if it were not for you, I could not have gone this far. I promise to work hard so as to help other needy people. Thank you so much.

Yours faithfully,  
Mercy Sammy  
Turima Twery  
Day School



**Faith Kagendo:** My name is Faith Kagendo and I am 17 years old. I began primary school when I was 7, but I had to drop out after two years since my parents were unable to pay for my school fees. Thankfully, I was selected as a Sisters to School scholar; my school fees were paid for and I received tutoring to help me catch up. In 2011, I sat for the final primary school exam and did very well. I am now continuing my education, hoping to fulfill my ambition of becoming a nurse. Thank you for your support. I especially appreciate the health seminars because the advice I gain really helps me to solve the problems I face as a girl. I hope to benefit my family and the entire society and even more so to change the life of another girl in need.

Yours,  
Faith Kagendo  
Ikawa Secondary School

**Purity Nkatha:** I am Purity Nkatha and I am glad to share my life history and experience with you up to now. I was born in 1996, attended my primary education in the year 2001 and completed in the year 2009.

I began secondary school in 2010 and was selected as a beneficiary of the Sisters to School program in 2011. I was selected because my parents could not meet all of my needs. I sincerely say that I am greatly indebted to the organization for the support you offered to me; it helped me to have a comfortable and easy time in school.

Also, I must add that the counseling and mentoring provided really helped me to cope with my academic life and my personal life, especially when I took my exam in 2013.

After graduating and passing my final exam, I now have a job! I am working at Gatue Secondary School as the secretary, working toward my mission of being an accountant.

Thank you again. You have changed my life so that I can now fulfill my dreams.

Yours,  
Mutiria Purity Nkatha



# STATEMENT OF REVENUE + EXPENDITURES

January–December 2014

## Revenue

USAID	269,578
Foundations & Corporations	120,930
Individuals	67,244
Events	61,651
In-Kind	29,681

**Total Revenue \$549,083**

## Expenditures

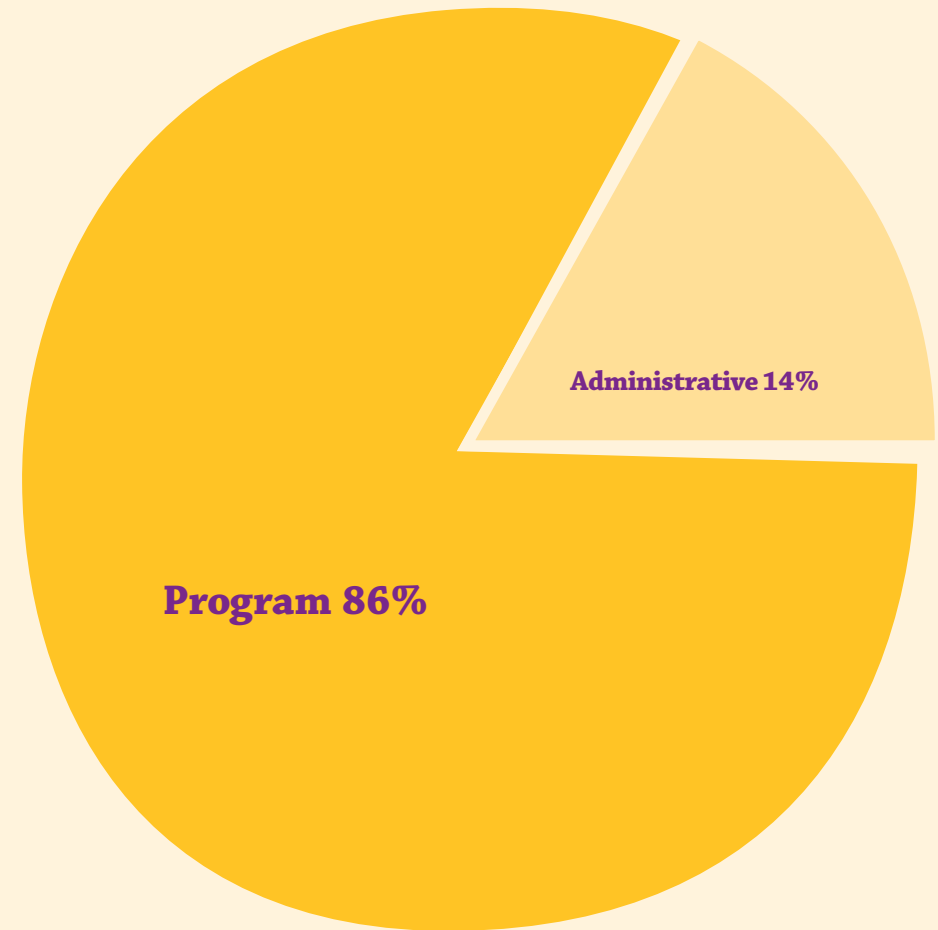
Sisters Read Senegal	276,201
Sisters to School Senegal & Kenya	193,659
General & Administrative	38,263
Fundraising	40,286

**Total Expenditures \$548,409**

**Net assets, end of year = \$79,856**

2014	\$540,589
2013	\$289,147
2012	\$205,845
2011	\$175,960
2010	\$246,712
2009	\$105,860
2008	\$46,406
2007	\$98,886
2006	\$60,632
2005	\$23,925

# BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURES





# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT 2014

# Thank you

## GOVERNMENT AWARDS

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

## CORPORATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Grants & Contributions \$20,000 & Above

Chicago Community Trust, Donor Advised Fund  
Holthues Trust  
Thanksgiving Fund  
The Stone Family Foundation

### \$3,000-\$9,999

Earth and Its People Foundation  
Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest  
Rubens Family Foundation

### \$1,000-\$2,999

Leinenweber, Baroni & Daffada, LLC

### \$300-\$999

Community Bank of Oak Park-River Forest  
Larry Koff & Associates  
Nova Catholic Community

Gail L. Mathews & Associates, LLC

### \$299 & Under

Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council  
Matthew O'Shea Consulting, Inc.  
Professional Coin Galleries  
VMware Foundation

### In Kind Gifts

Adler Planetarium  
Bank of Africa  
Beggars Pizza  
Buzz Cafe  
Chalet Nursery  
Chicago Bears  
Chicago Botanic Garden  
Chicago Council on Global Affairs  
Chicago Pizza Tours  
Comedy Sportz  
Eli's Cheesecake  
Entertainment Cruises Chicago  
Fairmont Hotel  
Femmes Plus  
French Pastry School  
Girl and The Goat  
Goodman Theatre  
Hahn Family Wines  
Hotel Palomar Chicago

Hotel Sofitel  
Intelligentsia Coffee  
Lou Malnatis  
MK Restaurant  
Moto Restaurant  
Music Box Theatre  
North Pond Restaurant  
Perennial Virant  
Sandbox Studio, Chicago  
Sarofsky Corp.  
Skokey Valley Beverage Company  
Steppenwolf Theatre  
Surly Brewing Co.  
Women and Children First Bookstore

### Matching Gifts

Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
BMO Harris Bank  
Global Giving  
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Jerome McDonnell  
Gustavo Mendoza  
Deanna Nord  
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**Women's Global  
Education Project**

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