

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Women's Global Education Project Launches \$1 Million
"Movement Maker Campaign" To Educate
20,000 Girls in Africa**

Oak Park, IL – The Women's Global Education Project (WGEP) has launched a campaign to raise \$1 million to ensure that 20,000 girls in remote areas of East and West Africa get access to education and stay in school.

Last fall WGEP was invited to be part of Michelle Obama's Girls Opportunity Alliance, an Obama Foundation initiative that seeks to empower adolescent girls around the world through education, allowing them to achieve their full potential and transform their families, communities, and countries. They encourage organizations around the world to take action to help adolescent girls and the grassroots leaders working to educate them.

Since the founding in 2004, WGEP has worked with grassroots leaders in Kenya and Senegal to co-design programs that have already impacted over 15,500 adolescent girls and women in 75 of the most impoverished communities.

Founder and Executive Director Amy Maglio says, "what makes our program unique is our close partnerships with local leaders and the range of services we are able to provide. The combination has resulted in more girls succeeding in school but also changes in community perception of gender roles and stereotypes."

WGEP is now seeing an exciting and unexpected impact from the programs. Working in Tharaka Nithi County in Kenya and the Fatik region in Senegal, team leaders Aniceta Kiriga and Mbathiou Diouf are witnessing the many ways in which communities are ending harmful social norms and completely changing the ways in which females are viewed.

Simply put, the deep impact of educating women and girls is creating more stable and just societies.

Aniceta says "we need to educate girls and keep them in school so that they can be empowered but also work with and train boys and men that women can do more. We need to change their perspective that women belong at home."

This profound change has spurred the team in Oak Park to develop a more concerted effort to track, measure and communicate these new developments to the larger field of international development

In order to measure these results effectively, WGEP has set an ambitious goal of reaching 20,000 girls by the spring of 2021. Working with their grassroots partners to identify what works, for whom and under what conditions, WGEP will combine the well-researched interventions with its experience and ethics, and community preferences and culture. This approach will ensure that the growing model will

have the most effective outcomes. It will also ensure that programs with proven success will be more widely disseminated and will benefit a greater number of people.

In the attempt to have this historic reach and establish an evidence-based model that will support the sector and women's educational models for decades to come, WGEP calls upon passionate donors and investors who are interested in investing in women's rights, education and human rights on a global scale.

WGEP is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal's #4 Quality Education and #5 Gender Equality. The SDGs are a collection of global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030.

An additional impetus for this campaign is the release of data from UNESCO that it may not hit the 2030 goals for education. WGEP wants to accelerate its efforts in Senegal and Kenya to build capacity so that we can stay on track to educate for every child by 2030.

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