Our Sisters

Elevating Education

ABECU ZA CHU

2022 Annual Report



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Dear WGEP community,

2022 was a year of growth, connection, and achievement for Women's Global Education Project (WGEP): we hired new team members across three countries (page 13), began our program expansion to serve more women and girls (page 6), and *got together* in-person for our annual fundraising benefit in Chicago for the first time since before the pandemic began (page 11). Above all, we are proud to share that **99.9%** (**927 of our 928 scholars)** completed the 2022 school year! This year's report, *Our Sisters Elevating Education*, is a celebration of these ambitious, clever, and community-minded girls and young women, who are defying gender stereotypes in the regions that we serve and raising the bar with their phenomenal achievements.

The data is clear: educating a girl creates a multiplier effect that positively affects earning potential, health and future opportunities - not just for herself, but for her entire family, village and community. Despite this, 130 million girls around the world continue to be denied the right to an education, and less than 2% of charitable funding in the U.S. goes to organizations focused on women and girls. We are grateful to every person reading this for your commitment to our mission, and for recognizing the importance of investing in proven models to help more girls succeed in school and beyond.

As we grow both the depth (through expansion of our holistic services with existing partners) and breadth of our programming (through partnerships with new grassroots organizations), we are committed to doubling down on what makes our model so successful: investing in dynamic, local leaders, acting responsively to girls' needs, and mobilizing entire communities in support of gender equality. This has been the core of our model since Amy founded WGEP in 2004, and will continue to guide us through our next phase of growth, especially to combat the rising threat of climate change in the remote, rural regions that we serve.

With gratitude,



Amy Maglio Founder & Executive Director, Women's Global Education Project



Aniceta Kiriga Program Director, Tharaka Women's Welfare Program



Yvette Penda Senghor Program Director, WGEP Senegal

OUR MISSION

Women's Global Education Project's *mission* is to empower women and girls in rural Africa through education, to build better lives and foster more equitable communities. In remote regions where as few as 15% of girls graduate high school, we partner with local leaders and partner organizations to help girls thrive in school and beyond.

Our program offices are located in Fatick, Senegal and in Tharaka, Kenya where we partner with communitybased organization Tharaka Women's Welfare Program (TWWP). Our U.S. office is located in Oak Park, Illinois. WGEP was first established in 2004, and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax-ID number 32-0082340.





OUR PROGRAMS



SISTERS TO SCHOOL

Sisters to School provides comprehensive scholarships for girls from primary school through university, health education workshops on reproductive health, personal hygiene, violence prevention, after-school clubs for boys and girls promoting gender equality, and regular parent support and community engagement meetings.

OUR SISTERS READ (OSR)

OSR builds foundational reading skills and promotes a lifelong love of learning among rural primary school students through access to reading resources, digital literacy, adult literacy classes, and teacher trainings increase community ownership.





OUR SISTERS LEAD (OSL)

OSL cultivates and promotes the leadership skills of high school girls through workshops on public speaking, conflict resolution, and advocacy. The program provides resources for students to design community programs on the issues that matter most to them.



ALTERNATIVE RITE OF PASSAGE (ARP)

ARP keeps girls safe and prevents them from dropping out of school. Girls who attend ARP celebrate their transition into adolescence with a week of empowering workshops, singing, and dancing, and education for families and community members about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM/C).

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

WGEP works together with girls, women, their families and communities to enrich girls' knowledge, confidence, leadership, and inspire a love of learning, so girls are better able to make their own life decisions and lead healthier, happier lives. *Our model works across the six impact areas included below:*





Literacy

Access to Education







Supportive Environments



OUR PARTNERS

We are grateful to our team of institutional partners who donate, support, and amplify our work. Our full list of 2022 supporters, including individuals, foundations, and corporations, is included on pages 16-18.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

New partnership with USAID:

In December 2022, WGEP signed a 5-year, \$2M contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to expand *Our Sisters Read* literacy program in Tharaka, Kenya with a focus on early-grade reading interventions.

Island expansion in Senegal:

In the rural Fatick region of Senegal, WGEP expanded our *Sisters to School* scholarship programming to the remote, island communities along the Sine-Saloum Delta, into villages where girls' school enrollment rates are the lowest in Senegal.

Welcoming university scholars:

Though we have supported university scholars in Kenya for several years, we welcomed 31 young women as university scholars for the first time in Senegal! Students live together in WGEP-sponsored apartments while studying at the University of Dakar.

Record # of ARP graduates:

We hosted Alternative Rite of Passage seminars during school breaks in both March and December 2022, allowing 647 girls to say "No!" to FGM/c and gain the knowledge and confidence to stand up for their rights and remain in school.

Climate change resilience:

To respond to the climate crisis, we are growing our climate-related programs, including supporting women in building more fuel-efficient cookstoves and training high school leaders in clean-up and mangrove restoration.



MEASURING OUR IMPACT, BY THE NUMBERS

928 gi co sc

girls with comprehensive school scholarships



6070



girls said "No!" to FGM/c through our Alternative Rite of Passage program



high school students trained in leadership skills



women in adult

literacy classes



1,278

books distributed to underresourced schools



people took part in community mobilization activities



MEASURING OUR IMPACT, BY THE DATA

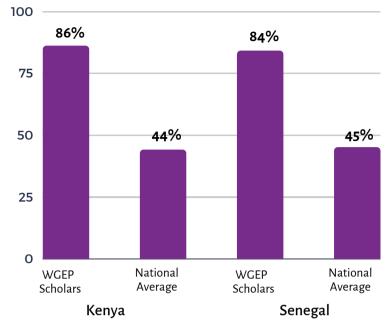
QUALIFYING FOR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

In Kenya, 86% of WGEP scholars qualified for college or university on their KCSE exam, compared to the national average of 44%. Similarly, in Senegal, WGEP program participants achieved an outstanding 84% exam passing rate, surpassing the national average of 45%.

Sources: Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) Senegal Ministry of Education



of scholars completed the 2022 school year



PROGRAM RETENTION RATE

For the first time since before the pandemic, we recorded an 100% retention rate among our scholars in Kenya, and a 99.8% retention rate in Senegal, with one scholar forced to drop out due to an ongoing health issue. Our nearly-perfect retention rate highlights the effectiveness of WGEP's program model.





Meet KENYA PROGRAM ALUMNA Shallon "I THANK WGEP FOR HELPING ME ACHIEVE MY DREAMS!"

Shallon participated in our *Sisters to School* program from 2012-2020. She graduated with honors from Karatina University. Recognizing the transformative impact education had on her life, Shallon decided to give back to the program that empowered her.

After completing an internship with WGEP partner organization Tharaka Women's Welfare Program, Shallon embarked on her professional journey as a full-time teacher at a public high school, realizing her dream of giving back to her community through education.

Within two months of joining her school, she was promoted to the positions of Curriculum Director and ICT Teacher. In these roles, Shallon contributes to shaping the academic landscape and provides guidance to students, ensuring they have the tools they need to succeed.

As a proud alumni of WGEP, Shallon educates her community about women's rights and advocates against female genital mutilation (FGM). She mentors young girls, empowering them to fight for their rights and encourages resilience in the face of adversity.



SENEGAL SCHOLAR Meet Amy "I FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE AND SECURITY IN BEING PART OF THE PROGRAM."

"I joined the Sisters to School program when I was 12 years old. If I was not in school, I would be in Dakar working as a domestic helper to support my family. I want to go to school to fulfill my dream of helping my parents and relatives.

Through the *Sisters to School* program, my grades have improved, I had the opportunity to go on a field trip outside of my home community and discovered more about the world around me, and the health education workshops taught me about my body and important topics like STIs. I feel a sense of pride and security in being part of the program.

After graduating from high school, I want to go to college to become a doctor."

MOVEMENT MAKER CAMPAIGN: \$1M RAISED

We are thrilled to announce the successful completion of our \$1 million dollar Movement Maker growth campaign! Thanks to the generous contributions of 36 individuals, foundations, and corporations, we exceeded our fundraising target, allowing WGEP to grow our programs and fiscal health. The campaign supported 3 primary goals:





NDAJEE, IN-PERSON FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2019

\$200,427 raised for girls' education!

In May 2022, we hosted our annual Ndajee benefit inperson for the first time since before the pandemic. Ndajee (en-DAH-jee) means "get together," in Wolof, and hundreds of WGEP supporters *got together* at Salvage One in Chicago to celebrate our programs' growth.

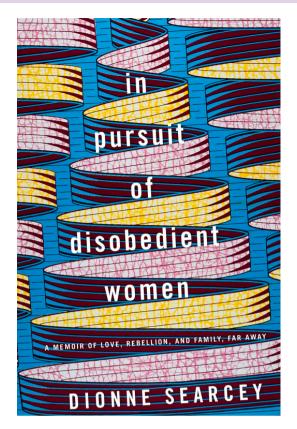
We were honored to bestow our **2022 Impact Award** to **Lucy Ascoli**, whose deep passion for our cause has been evident for decades. Her active involvement and dedication to WGEP's Ambassadors' Circle have made her an invaluable member of our community. We were joined by NAJWA Dance Corps, who shared their talents in African drum and dance.







SECOND ANNUAL VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB



In June 2022, we had the privilege of hosting our second annual virtual book club, featuring **Dionne Searcey**, a renowned New York Times journalist and author of "**In Pursuit of Disobedient Women**."

Searcey's memoir sheds light on the extraordinary courage of rural teenage girls who escaped from Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria. Drawing from her experience as the West Africa Bureau Chief for The New York Times from 2015 to 2019, she shared the powerful narratives of women who challenge gender norms to champion gender equity. The conversation was moderated by longtime WGEP advocate Dr. Sonya Anderson via Zoom.



VOTED "BEST NGO ON GENDER EQUALITY"



In March 2022, we were awarded "Best NGO on Gender Equality" at the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR) Awards in Nairobi, Kenya! Board Director Damaris Kyuu and former Program Manager Lindsay Bingaman accepted the award on WGEP's behalf.

This esteemed accolade reflects our unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality and promoting inclusivity in all our programs and initiatives. We are honored to be acknowledged for our dedication to creating a more equitable world.

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GLOBAL TEAM



Lynda Achieng Kenya Program Manager



Khadidiatou Faye Senegal Program Assistant





Purity Gatwiri Program & Procurement Assistant, TWWP



Onesmus Kiminza Kenya Program Director



Casimir Coly Senegal Program Coordinator



Sarah Karegi **Outreach Officer**, TWWP



Dorcas Kinyua Outreach Officer, TWWP



Chérif Diatta Senegal Finance Manager



Assenath Karimi HR & Admin Officer, TWWP



Aniceta Kiriga Program Director, TWWP



Mbathiou Diouf Senegal Program Coordinator



Elosy Kiende Program & Finance Assistant, TWWP



Jessica Loesel Accounting Assistant



Joseph Kimathi

Kenya MEL Manager

Juniour Macharia Finance Manager, TWWP



Fridah Makena Program & MEL Assistant,



Lily Messih Senegal Program Manager





Khady Ndong Senegal Program Assistant



Harriet Spears Strategic Partnership Manager



Amy Maglio Executive Director



Moussa Mbaye Senegal Program Assistant



Karamo Sarr Senegal Technical Coordinator



Kathryn Werntz MEL Specialist



Gefferson Mbeere Kenya Grants & Finance Manager



Yvette Penda Senghor Senegal Program Director







Milton Njeru Driver, TWWP



Rael Wanja

Field Officer, TWWP

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Bonnie Harp Director



John latonna Director

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John Kulczycki Director



Damaris Kyuu Director



Aimee Mills President



Tria Raimundo Director

Goodwill Ambassador



Abi Daré Author of The Girl with the Louding Voice

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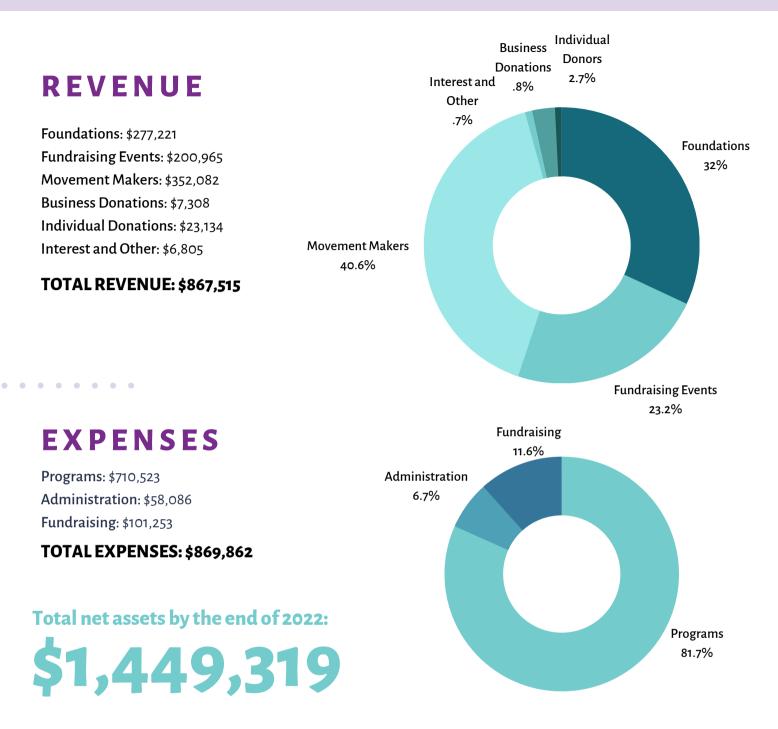
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Cassia McPhilliamy | Lindsay Lees

REVENUE & EXPENSES



Over 81% of our revenue went directly to supporting our programs on the ground in Senegal and Kenya in 2022!

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

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> Thank you to our global community for making our ^{Work} possible!

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It costs Roughly \$350 to support each scholar for one year; your support means the world!

Vicki Jackson Marsha Lynn & Jed Jacobson Karen Jahimiak Kay Jenkins Lauri & Scott Jenkins Michael Angelo Johnson Veronica Johnston Laura & Eric Jordahl Nancy Juda & Jens Brasch K&L Gates LLP Paula Kahn Barry Kanne Suzanne & Daniel Kanter Frances Karulas Gibby Katigbak Kelly & Michael Kavanau Victoria Kavanau & Anthony Catanzaro Jennifer Kenoian Juliana Kerr Helen Kessler Pascale & Tom Kichler Anna Kilgas Darlene Kitterman Michael Klein William Kling Kate Knepper Laurie Kohli Stanley Korwin Vicki Koshliek Kathleen Kuczma Glory Kulczycki & Arthur Hopkins Jane Kulczycki John Kulczycki Aimée Laberge Virginia Lane Lauren Lang Joan & Gary Laser Bart Lazar Leinenweber Baroni & Daffada LLC Catherine Kallal & Maurice Lemon Judith & Theodore Lewis Carleen & Jan Lorys Jennifer Lovegreen Sophia Lyman Elida Lvnch Donna Cook & Matt Maciejewski

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We sincerely appreciate your belief in the power of girls' education!



FGM

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NO

to FGM

136 N. Marion St Suite 201 Oak Park, IL 60301

womensglobal.org