BAERBEL JENNERT
FOUNDATION

EDUCATION &
SCHOLARSHIPS

UWENAMI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Program Report

LOCATION

Kisumu, Kenya

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Supporting education for children in financial need



Established in 2018, the Uwenami Scholarship Fund helps children and adolescents from financially disadvantaged families in Kenya continue their education. The fund is financed through donations from individuals and organisations, including private donors in Germany and Kenya.

Support is need-based.
Every child is screened by the Baerbel Jennert Foundation before support begins and most of the families we work with live on less than one dollar a day. For these families, school fees are often the reason a child misses lessons or leaves school early.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

What the fund covers and how students are chosen



School fees are at the centre of the support. Depending on each child's needs and the funds available, the programme also covers school uniforms, books, learning materials and meals.

Students are selected together with their schools, families and community representatives. The fund follows a four-year secondary-school model, with particular attention to girls' education.

OCTOBER 2019 – NOVEMBER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

16 students

14 secondary-school students on full scholarship + 2 primary pupils

What was documented

- Yearly school-fee contributions for all 16 students
- Uniforms, books and meals in individual cases
- Fewer interruptions to the students' schooling
- Teachers reported better classroom performance after fee support

MEET THE STUDENTS

The students

behind the program

Each scholarship supports a young person's opportunity to stay in school and pursue their ambitions.

- Mercy, a Form Two student at *Ombeyi Secondary School*, whose ambition is to become a **doctor**.
- Peter, a Form Two student at *Ombeyi Secondary School*, who hopes to pursue a career in **engineering**.
- Lucas, a Form Two student with aspirations to become an **engineer**.
- Margaret, a secondary-school student overcoming **financial and family challenges** that put her education at risk.

These examples show how support can address both school fees and the everyday costs that make education difficult to sustain.







FINDINGS

What families and teachers told us

A meeting with students, parents and teachers highlighted the need for suitable uniforms, shoes and learning materials. Students who had missed lessons requested textbooks to help them catch up and study independently. The discussions showed how these everyday needs can affect students' confidence and ability to participate fully in school, underscoring the importance of support beyond school fees.

Teachers explained that limited capacity makes it difficult to provide individual attention, particularly for students who have missed lessons. A shortage of textbooks also means pupils must share copies, limiting opportunities for independent study and revision.

These discussions highlighted the need for support beyond school fees, including learning materials, help with missed lessons and mentoring. They informed the proposals on the following page, which aim to help students participate more fully in school and build confidence in their education..



PROPOSED INITIATIVES

Four steps based on what we heard

1. School uniforms, to strengthen students' self-esteem.

2. Mentorship and life coaching, to build a positive attitude towards school and an awareness of future options.

3. Revision textbooks for English, Maths, Kiswahili and the sciences.

4. Poultry for families: 4 hens and 1 cock per family through the poultry programme, to help households earn an income.



MILESTONES

From 2018 to the next steps

Sustainability model

The aim is for families to build their own income through a savings and credit society and the poultry programme.

Planning figures, not results: 20 hens can repay KSh 30,000 (about €268) within a year. A 300-egg incubator is planned, and a first cohort of 12 beneficiaries would receive chicks, supported until they are three months old.

01 2018: Fund established

02 2019: First six students supported

03 Sept 2019: Meeting with families and teachers

04 2024: 16 students supported

05 2025: School-fee plan and next steps

LOOKING AHEAD

The Uwenami Scholarship Fund will keep helping children from low-income families stay in school. The next steps are mentoring, learning materials and support for families, so that progress lasts beyond the payment of school fees. To support the fund or learn more, please get in touch.

Note: This report is based on programme records from October 2019 to November 2024 and the school-fee plan for 2025.



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