We continue to offer support and seek innovative solutions to persistent social problems in the Kilifi community particularly on matters of education, child protection and youth empowerment. With 314 children sponsored in schools in 2015, over 2000 of their siblings and peers directly benefitting from our other services and 160 parents benefitting from our adult literacy and economic empowerment programmes, we are continually providing a better life, one that tells a story of substance and rooted in a just society.

This year, we have collaborated with innovative businesses, friends of Kesho, civil society, government and funders to provide access to a wide range of social services to the most vulnerable population. While getting better at it everyday, we are striving to create and test models and 2016 will provide an opportunity to scale those models to benefit even more children.
Literacy is an integral part of any human development. UNESCO, (2010) defines literacy as the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts. Literacy involves a continuum of learning in enabling individuals to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate fully in their community and wider society.

Primary education is designed to provide children with basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills along with an elementary understanding of other subjects. However, access to quality education especially in Kilifi has been hampered by various factors, such as student: teacher ratio, use of teaching methodologies that don't promote literacy, poor learning conditions and high rate of school drop out.

Our “Tusome Tufahamu” project aims to promote literacy levels and inculcate a passion for reading, for children in class 1 to 4 in 6 schools that we are already engaged with by designing a tailor made literacy and numeracy support programme that focuses on building of vocabulary, developing communication skills, helping children make sense of words, symbols, shapes and numbers, peer support and lastly fast-track their reading and comprehension ability to correspond to their ages.

With 80% of our parents especially mothers having lacked an opportunity to either enroll or complete primary school, we have introduced free adult literacy classes in partnership with the Ministry of Education. This will help them gain basic literacy skills to easily monitor their children’s school progress and help them engage in community development.
Why the school Safeguarding policy?

- 249 Cases of defilement were reported in Kilifi in 2015, this only represents a third of all cases as many go unreported.
- 75% of defilement survivors seeking services at the GBV center at the County hospital are infected with STI's.
- In 2014, over 6000 cases of violations against children (3414 girls & 2652 boys) were recorded by the Department of Children Services in Kwale & Kilifi.
- Girls & boys indicated that they would most likely report to teachers (87%), chief (80%), village elder (79%), or police (78%), if they or one of their friends was threatened or hurt.

Schools Safeguarding Policy: Creating safe spaces in schools.

Despite strong economic growth in recent years, 46% of Kenyans still live below the poverty line. Poverty, poor law enforcement and a lack of services for children mean that children in Kenya are vulnerable to a wide range of child rights violations which include neglect, abandonment, physical and humiliating punishment, sexual abuse, child labour, early marriages and trafficking (Save the Children).

The Safeguarding Policy for schools, purposes to provide clarity for handling child abuse incidences in schools with dignity, professionalism and with the best interest of the child. Thanks to the very committed and dedicated technical working group, the first draft is complete and ready for piloting in 2016 in 4 schools within the county.

As a means of strengthening our community child protection mechanism, we have supported the formation of community cluster groups. These are safe spaces that act as access points to learning, sharing and participating in child protection amongst community members. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to integrate other topics such as entrepreneurship, hygiene, nutrition, domestic violence, family planning and health.
Walking the Talk with our Youth

Leaving secondary school is a challenging period for young adults who are still vulnerable and prone to radicalization as it is a real issue in the coastal region. Kesho acknowledges the looming dangers and recognize the need to support the youth during this time of uncertainty and transition. With the emphasis being soft skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century, the youth have been receiving information and experiences on a wide range of life-skills (Sexual reproductive health, communication, critical thinking, initiative and creativity, problem solving, social interaction and collaborative work, responsible citizenship and self-care) with intent of ensuring they can take up gainful employment or self employment opportunities.

With our give back initiative, we have seen more and more youths coming up with innovative ideas on how they can support their communities. With that motivation, Kesho has developed an innovation hub within the resource center to support the incubation of social entrepreneurship ideas from just being ideas to reality. Two of those have been rolled out within the community with tremendous results.

What they Say

1. “I never new I could gain such invaluable knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health from sharing experiences with my peers through facilitation by Kesho. I am now more aware of myself and my rights” (Said Gona, student at Nakuru Boys high school)

2. “I had an idea but didn’t know how to conceptualise it into an actionable reality. At the Kesho Innovation hub, I got technical support to make my idea a reality. Today 48 University students and 112 Primary school children are benefiting from that spark of an idea” (Lister Mwamuye, Kesho Alumni and Student at University of Nairobi).

3. “Being the first to join University in my village, I find it necessary to support other girls from my community to also reach their full potentials apart from being a role model, I have started an organization together with others to mentor girls in my community and provide them with a platform to explore their capabilities” (Christine Kahindi, Kesho Alumni and Student at USIU)
What has been achieved in 2015 at A glance

**Access to Education**

- 160 Children in Nursery and Primary
- 101 Children in Secondary Schools distributed across the country.
- 76 Youth in tertiary educational Institutions.
- 99% retention rate

**Literacy & Academic Support**

- Literacy Support Programme in 4 Schools.
- Average grade improvement from C- to C+ for Kesho students in the literacy programme.
- School candidates are developing their own vision boards to encourage them to visualize their dreams and successes.
- Adult literacy classes began with support from the Ministry of education.
- 2 Spelling Bee competitions
- 1 Mother/Daughter-Father/Son reading session

**Training & Enrichment**

- 102 youth trained on Peer education and reproductive health.
- 38 Students undertook IT training organised by DOT Kenya and Kesho.
- Annual crafts day for all primary school children.
- Prize giving day with 290 people attending.
- 20 ECD Teacher’s trained on high frequency and sight words

**Institutional Strengthening**

- 2 New staff recruited (Youth programme officer and Child Protection assistant)
- 1 Programme Advisor engaged from Comundo, Switzerland.
- Institutional Capacity Assessment done through USAID funded Shiriki project.

**Child Protection**

- Development of the County Child-Protection Coordination guidelines for actions and actors.
- Development of a Schools safeguarding policy.
- 4 Child Protection Cluster groups formed with a total of 56 members.
- 60 Kesho Children trained on child Protection.
How can you support us in 2016?

- **Donate to a specific child or to our Education Fund**
  - Introduce your friends... and help us fundraise. As little as £5/m / Ksh7000 a year will send a child to school.

- **Ipads, Laptops & tablets**
  - Ready to trade in your tablet or computer for a newer version? There are some great digital literacy apps these days that can really help a child in need – it saves buying all the books are interactive and we are saving the environment too. So, when you’re ready to upgrade your ipad – think of us.

- **Become a Kesho Ambassador**
  - Start your own Fundraising Campaign
  - Host a Dinner or Cocktail Party
  - Ask your employer for a Matching Gift
  - Get Active: Run, Walk, Cycle, Swim etc. for Kesho
  - Donate in-kind items or services
  - We will be there every step of the way to help you plan

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The Staff who made it happen...>>>>>>>

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