Kesho-Kenya is a Kenyan Non-Governmental Organisation that provides support and education for underprivileged students from the coast of Kenya. Our support is centered around providing financial, life skills and emotional support to children and young people in need. We help to secure their access to education through sponsorships, encourage them to have ambitious dreams for their futures and foster in them a sense of “paying forward” the support they have received to their communities or others in need.

Kesho has been providing this means of support in Kilifi for more than a decade, and over 590 students have benefitted directly from sponsorship while more than 7500 children have benefitted from our Child-Protection work.

This is yet another end to a very exciting and truly fulfilling year that has brought with it a lot of progress and growth in Kesho’s programming and activities.
In July, Kesho Board Chair and the Executive Director and the project lead were invited to receive an award for excellence in Institutional Capacity Strengthening after a 3 year technical support from Shiriki project funded by USAID.

In attendance were 11 other CSO’s who also participated in the project.

Kesho emerged the best across several performance parameters and was awarded the ultimate Gold certificate for it’s achievement by USAID and project representatives.

2017 Student Recruitment

After weeks of preparation working with local partners, schools and community members, the scholarship application process closed at the end of January 2017.

With over 509 applications and 74 interviews, the process was tougher than ever. Nevertheless, we are happy to announce that 51 students from different parts of Kilifi were selected to be part of the 2017 cohort of Kesho high school students. All the 51 students will participate in enrichment and training camps hosted by Kesho where they will receive preparation support and a wide spectrum of training.

We have started the application process for the 2018 cohort of new students for our scholarship programme. Kesho will invest in 45 new students who exhibit a high degree of academic and leadership potential and support them through out their academic journey.

2018 will also mark the first time that students from Kwale will be joining our sponsorship programme, an exciting development and a further step in our commitment to expanding the programme every year.

The 2018 application for Kesho sponsorship programme is currently open. To apply or find further details about the programme and eligibility, please visit our website and social media pages.
Kesho-Kenya 2017

Education Programme

“Knowledge is power, Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” Kofi Annan

Secondary Programme

27 of the 36 students who sat the 2016 National exams have joined public colleges and universities while the rest are waiting to join in early January 2018.

18 training and enrichment activities were undertaken during the 3 school holidays in 2017 for the secondary school students ranging from reproductive health training, peer education, leadership, IT training amongst others.

During the year (22) students have sat for their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education and we are very optimistic that they will get good enough grades to secure government scholarships in Universities.

The programme looks forward to welcome 45 new students into it’s fold in 2018 to expand the number of children being given an opportunity and placed on a path to prosperity.

Primary Programme:

The primary programme has seen a lot of exciting improvements and additions including the expansion of our literacy support program to 10 more primary schools within Kilifi county with financial support from USAID’s Tusome project.

During the year, 13 pupils sat their Kenya certificate of primary education and we are glad to note that all of them will be transitioning to secondary education.

521 pupils in 6 primary schools in Kilifi have benefited from our literacy support programme that aims to accelerate the literacy and numeracy ability of children who have learning gaps.

Kesho is part of a consortium implementing a Girls Education Challenge project dubbed “Wasichana Wetu Wafaalul”(Let our girls succeed) that aims to support 72,000 girls in eight counties of Kenya to have better educational outcomes providing them with pathways to transit from basic education to either secondary education or vocational training giving them hope for a better future.

What they say

“I don’t know what my two grandchildren would have done with their lives after they became orphaned at a tender age, they have just graduated from primary school and performed very well in their national exams thanks to the support from Kesho, the sky is the limit for them now as they are very excited to be going to secondary school next year” Zainab Munga, grandmother to 2 Kesho sponsored children
CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME

School Safeguarding Policy: Kesho implemented its schools safeguarding policy in 9 schools within Kilifi county on a pilot basis with the aim of creating safe spaces for children within school communities. This project supported by Leger Foundation and DKA Austria was quite instrumental in entrenching safeguarding measures within public primary schools and the learning’s from the implementation of the pilot project was very encouraging. We intend to scale this project to 18 more schools in the coming year.

The programme under the community child protection project is also continuously sensitizing parents on the various aspects of Child Safeguarding and ways to create safe spaces for children in their communities. In order to achieve this we have undertaken 22 capacity building and training activities on child safeguarding in the Kilifi Community.

Our street business school (SBS) training for women clusters has also gained considerable momentum with 161 having gone through the training in 2017. The training is a tested and effective entrepreneurial training program designed and highly customized to meet the needs of women living in poverty. In addition, women receive one-on-one coaching, which provides both customized business advice, and meaningful encouragement so that each participant builds confidence and belief in her own ability to succeed. 64 new businesses have been started from these trainings.

“We are now better prepared to handle matters of non-disciplinary nature amongst our students and the whole school community is aware about their roles and responsibilities to ensure children have safe spaces to learn, play and thrive. The schools safeguarding policy has given us clarity on how to handle child abuse cases and the different referral pathways available to help support the children under their care” Head-teacher, Dida Primary school.

“I thought I had to get a loan from a bank to start my green grocery business, little did I know that I was sitting on my capital in my house in form of unused items. After the SBS class on “finding capital”, I sold an old radio and some chairs which was enough to start off my business. Now, I am able to take care of my family needs and I am a mentor to other women.” Elizabeth Mweni, SBS participant. 
Youth Development Programme

Our youth programme is growing by leaps and bounds with an increasing array of activities.

7 trainings and enrichment activities were undertaken during the year that included; Peer education, IT, Entrepreneurship, Sensitization on sexual reproduction and mentorship training.

The year also saw the launch of our 4 tier mentorship model that seeks support our upper primary, secondary and tertiary students to help them grow into productive citizens and all round leaders.

Kesho currently supports 93 students in Colleges and Universities spread across the country and we are proud to be supporting the next generation of the much needed workforce to build our country.

The Kesho alumni family is continuing to grow with a current population of 194 (78 female and 116 male) former Kesho sponsored students. They have sought to register themselves as a separate Community Based Organization so as to leverage on their skills and networks to give back to their communities. The group is also contributing to our education fund that sponsors students who do not have specific sponsors.

Part of their activities include providing resources for mentorship in local schools and using art as a means to addresses social issues and poverty affecting youth in Kilifi County.

Are you a youth interested in being part of our dynamic youth programme? Send a shout to us through....

https://www.facebook.com/KESHOEdutainment-Project KE-1780838948816532/?fref=ts

Youth Speak

1. “When I reflect back where I started my academic journey, the name Kesho Organization cannot go unnoticed. I was enrolled as a beneficiary of the secondary sponsorship in my second year at Lenana school- a prestigious school that I was about to miss the chance to enroll at. With time and many reflections, I became self-conscious and my mantra changed to ‘revolutionizing the youth in Kilifi’. Throughout my high school I kept promising myself that once I am done with my KCSE I would devote some ample time to make that dream true. I want to positively influence a mass of young people in my community into changing the status quo of the society. And with the kind of support I get, I am sure its going to happen.” Lister Mwamuye, University Student.

2. “I have always been scared to talk before people, but after the leadership training offered by Kesho, I feel more confident to lead myself and lead others”. Anderson Kenga

3. “Since I was young, I have always wanted to be an actress, through Kesho’s edutainment group, I have found my place and am glad that I now have a platform to build my career in the arts” Yvonne Zawadi
Want to support?

This is how!

- **Donate to a specific child or to our Education Fund.**
  Introduce your friends.... And help us fundraise
  As little as £7 or $10 or Kes1000 a month will send a child to school.

- **Ipads, Laptops and 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

- **Volunteer or Intern at Kesho**

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A hearty thank you from the Kesho Family to all our supporters, donors, friends and Family, all this would not have been possible without your support. You Rock!

Wishing you all

Happy Holidays