

# A Day with Carolina for Kibera Africa



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2024 We One Action Network



In July 2024, I was honored to visit Carolina for Kibera Africa (CFKA) at their primary office in Kibera, located in the largest informal settlement in Kenya, where most households earn less than \$3/day. CFKA is one of the organizations that We One Action Network (WOAN) supported in 2024 through CFKA's Best School Initiative (BSI) project. This initiative seeks to establish fundamental practices that influence and encourage student retention and progression.

To achieve this goal, the project collaborates with 47 informal schools, with BSI having an end goal of youths completing their primary school education. Doing so opens employment opportunities in the informal or formal job sectors because they have learned employable skills in reading, writing, counting money, and accessing information that can provide pathways out of poverty. Those students who do not proceed to high school are still prepared to apply for basic job opportunities. After visiting two primary schools, I gathered how the BSI and teacher training had impacted their schools.

The BSI project has significantly and positively impacted the students and teachers at Chema Vision School, St. Stephens Primary School, and 40+ other schools. By providing nutritious meals and increasing book availability, the project has directly addressed critical barriers to learning. Consequently, there have been measurable improvements in student attendance, academic performance, and overall health. The 100% transition rate at Chema Vision School is a testament to the project's effectiveness in supporting students' educational journeys.

Also under BSI, WOAN alongside partner Dignitas, a leading Kenyan education development organization is also supporting teacher training interventions to improve the quality of instruction in informal schools. These workshops provide teachers with academic skills, including lesson planning, instructional strategies, and effective teaching methodologies. Other emphases include developing emotional intelligence, empathy, and self-awareness. These skills galvanize teacher-and- student-parent relationships because they increase student learning, class engagement, and attendance.

## Chema Vision School

Providing nutritious meals under BSI, enabling students to stay focused in the classroom.

- Bettered school attendance and increased school performance.
- Improved health, thereby reducing cases of illnesses caused by poor nutrition.
- 100% graduation rate to the next class (e.g., grade level) by the students.

## St. Stephens Primary School

Providing books under BSI to drastically improve academic performance.

- Reduced student to book ratio from 5:1 to 3:1.
- Increased soft skills by learning to share and working as a collective team.
- Teachers find it easier to interact with the students during their lessons.
- Parents can now sigh in relief since the school offers free books.



