



Winter 2021 Edition

OUR HISTORY IS NOT THE PAST, IT IS THE FUTURE



WE ONE ACTION
NETWORK



We One Action Network

The World Poverty Clock estimates that **11 million** Kenyans are living below the poverty line, which is defined as less than \$1.90 per day. To provide additional financial support for their families, many Kenyan children forgo education. Of those who do attend school, many are eventually forced to drop out due to financial instability. It is estimated that only 40% of children make it through primary school and are enrolled in secondary school. Gender discrimination is one of the many factors affecting school attendance.

A Menstrual Health report found that “one in ten 15-year-old girls are having sex to get money to pay for sanitary ware,” and dropping out of school due to pregnancies or lack of sanitary supplies is common. Nutrition also impacts attendance. Many students don’t have access to food at home, let alone enough to bring to school for lunch.

Since our conception in 2017, We One Action Network (WOAN) have positioned ourselves as part of the solution by actively listening to what those gaps are and why. This slower approach leads to better collaborations with finding creative but effective ways for us to contribute. This also keeps WOAN standing on the front lines in the quest to assist disadvantaged students and educators. This year was an amazing and defining year for WOAN. From commemorating four international holidays, supporting five initiatives, adding two prominent roles to our team and offering six deserving student’s scholarships to continue their education.

This newsletter will illustrate a small glimpse of a bigger picture of WOAN’s strength but also showcase local organizations and leaders who are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with WOAN. Please know that your donations and contributions are very much appreciated and are never, ever taken for granted. I want to extend our sincerest Thank You and the highest gratitude of appreciation for your continued support.

Travis L. Rudd
Founder & Executive Director



Immaculate Kamau
Program Consultant-Kenya



Denis Juma
Volunteer-Kenya



Carolyn Chahilu
Operations Advisor-Kenya



Julie Poynter
Program Consultant-USA

Meet The Team

A great quote from legendary basketball coach, Dean E. Smith says that “talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships”; I am pleased to say that We One Action Network (WOAN) has a team built to win championships! Our team has the talent and character with the mindset of succeeding together. It is truly an honor to work with such incredible people that have a passion for helping others and for doing things “the right way”. Between full-time jobs, hobbies and families to support, time is made to support WOAN objectives and goals. We encourage you to visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > **our-team** to learn more about our leadership team! Their profiles will offer you a glimpse into their education, personality and relatable experience.



In Loving Memory
Cynthia Makokha (2004-2021)

Lets Focus Our Attention

Violence against girls and women is unfortunately not a new phenomenon and it is embedded in every country and in every society throughout the world. Whether sexual, gender based, emotional or physical; violence against women most often goes unreported. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one-third (27%) of women regardless of race, creed or culture between the age of 15-49 years have been in a relationship that they have been subjected to some form violence by their intimate partner. There are several factors for the reasons why. These range from lack of education, gender equality acceptance, alcoholism, harmful masculine behaviors and history of exposure as a child.

The most publicized examples of violence against women in 2021 are the brutal and senseless murders of Olympic-Medalist Agnes Jebet Tirop (Kenya) and Travel-Influencer Gabby Petito (USA).

We One Action Network (WOAN) events, projects or initiatives are inclusive to listening and educating young boys and girls on inappropriate actions and behavior. To learn more how to help mitigate violence against women or to get involved, please inquire through your local county, magistrate or social service office. We would also like to highlight the following organizations that are standing shoulder-to-shoulder to Stop Violence Against Women.

www.gender.go.ke | Kenya State Department of Gender
www.justice.gov/ovw | United States Department of Justice
www.peacewomen.org | Women's International League
www.unwomen.org/en | United Nation Women

School is Back... What's Next?

Kenyan students living in rural (i.e., village) areas and informal settlements such as Kibera, have endured difficult times since the global pandemic began. School closures that begin in 2020 interrupted learning for over 17 million children and increased their risk of violence, teen pregnancies, suicide, child labor and child marriage. It was very encouraging to see schools reopen in May 2021. One huge achievement has been from the subsequent exam results in which 893 candidates scored grade A, up from 627 in 2019.

However, for many students, the return to school has not meant a return to normalcy. There are still many students that have not returned to school and for those that have; there are levels of “learning loss” especially in younger students. Learning loss happens when information previously obtained goes into reverse or forgotten. In Kenya, measuring learning loss from school closures found nearly half of students showed sharp declines in math, literature and English.

What's next? We One Action Network (WOAN) will continue to partner with vetted organizations to primarily focus on learning i.e., classroom, life-skills, educational scholarships and key essentials to education like mentorship, food items, sanitary pads, emotional support and school supplies.



CAROLINA for KIBERA

Education is Key

The word education is defined as “an enlightening experience and the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university”. According to Kenya Demographic and Health Surveys, only 11% of Kenya’s poorest children will earn a secondary (i.e., high) school diploma.

In collaboration with Carolina For Kibera (CFK); We One Action Network (WOAN) offered six deserving students' scholarships to continue their secondary school education under CFKs Angaza Scholars Program. The six students selected offered their aspirations, background (i.e., upbringing) and their own unique element! To read the student profiles and their testimonials; please visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > **Our Programs**. Of course, they are also exceptional students in the classroom with all the intangibles to reach their dreams while becoming leaders in their own communities.

CFKs Angaza project supports vulnerable and disadvantaged students from across Kenya with the opportunity to complete their high school education through a mix of scholarships, leadership training and immersive field trips for exposure. To learn more about CFK Angaza Scholars Program; please visit www.carolinaforkibera.org



Maxwell Owino



Chacha Sheba Hope



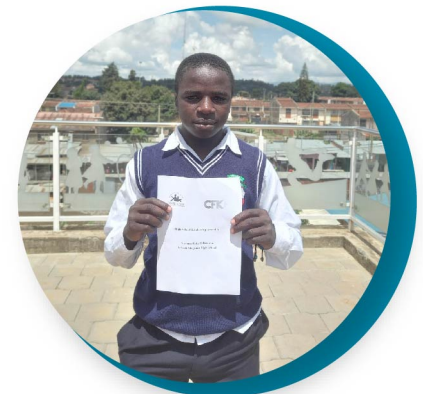
Otieno Benedeta Mrass



Purity Kerubo



Asisha Mohammed



Felix Odhiambo





International Day of Families

Kibera-Nairobi, Kenya

There is an African proverb that says, "A family is like a forest, when you are outside it is dense but when you are inside you see that each tree has its place".

Since the beginning of the global pandemic, families all over the world have been challenged with keeping their families and core values together. For what has been considered and coined as "the new-normal"; to practice social distancing, order food delivery, grab take-out, access to wi-fi devices for schoolwork and parent's ability to work from home. These new-normal areas for the average Kenyan has not been an option or even imaginable.

We One Action Network (WOAN) sponsored Kibera Food Drive (KFD) that offered 100 families food items to help keep them together. This event was in commemoration of International Day of Families in May 2021. Today, KFD is a superb group of youth organizations who've come together to provide food donations as most parents depend on casual work or menial jobs to provide for their families.

Asha Jaffar is the Founder and Executive Director for KFD. They work to ensure families in Kibera have enough food to sustain themselves. To see more; please visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > Our Events



Menstrual Health & Hygiene Day

Soweto-Nairobi, Kenya

An estimated 800 million women and girls menstruate every day. However, across the globe many face barriers to properly manage their periods because of the lack of access to menstrual hygiene products.

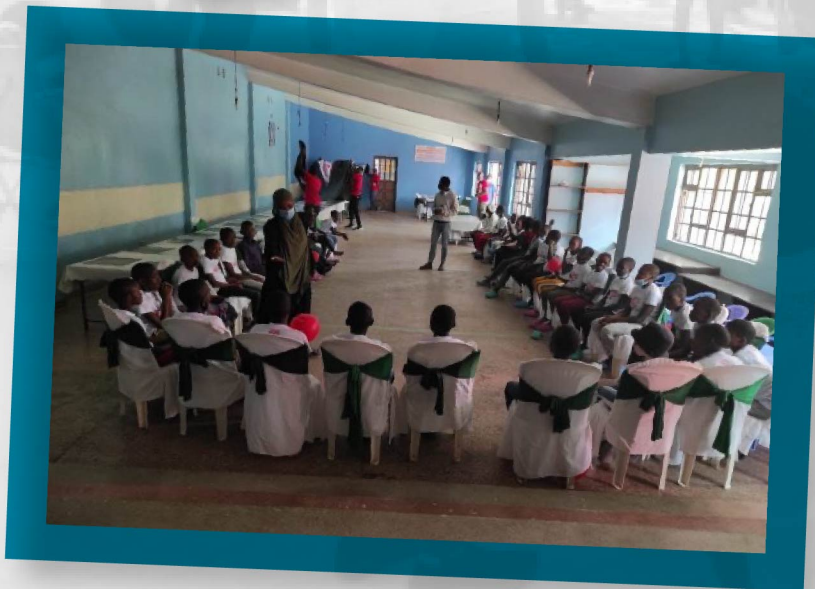
The social stigmas and taboos surrounding menstruation often prevent women and girls from reaching their goals because they cannot attend work and/or school while on their cycle. Other key gaps range from lack of sanitation infrastructure such as private toilets and hand washing facilities and unfortunately, male shaming.

Each year, May 28 is designated by nonprofits, government agencies and the private sector to join to commemorate Menstrual Hygiene & Hygiene Day and advocate for the importance of good menstrual hygiene health.

We One Action Network (WOAN) in partnership with ITEL partnered together to sponsor NivalishePad Initiative's (NPI) quest to host a mentorship event at the Imani Children's Home in Kayole, Nairobi.

Stellah Kaviti is the Founder and Executive Director of NPI. There goals are specific to women, and they target several key gaps that hinder adolescents including Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights, Mental Health Awareness and Research & Policy Advocacy.

To see more; please visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > Our Events



International Day of the African Child

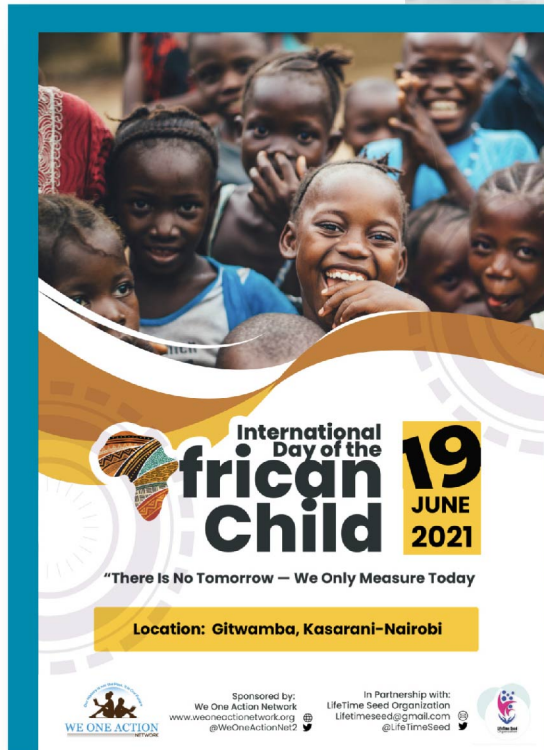
Kasarani Nairobi, Kenya

Too often those irreversible stigmas, social media biases and negative perceptions attempt to change the narrative of the true spirit of African children. We One Action Network (WOAN) sponsored LifeTime Seed Organization (LTS) to commemorate the International Day of the African Child. The quest was to offer their approach through creativity that illustrates their spirit and determination. This opportunity provided LTS a path to be the great example for the world but more importantly for all children to follow.

LTS is committed to educating and empowering the youth to be productive members of their communities. LTS provides a safe-space for amazing young individuals to hone and develop various skills such as; leadership, actively listening and teamwork. During discussions, LTS targets cultural reforms to promote health and equality.

Carolyn Chahilu is the Founder and Executive Director of LTS. They work to promote the health of adolescent girls and young women in the area of SRHR, HIV, Mental Health and GBV prevention and response. They advocate for gender equality and nondiscrimination in access to Adolescents Health Services and Education by challenging the societal barriers that hinder children from reaching their full potential.

To see more; please visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > Our Events





International Youth Day

Kibera-Nairobi, Kenya

Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years old, accounting for 16 percent of the global population. Teenagers and young adults can be a positive force for development when provided with opportunities they need to thrive. The theme of International Youth Day (IYD) 2021 was “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”. IYD focused on the difficulties that young people experience throughout the world especially in underdeveloped countries.

We One Action Network (WOAN) sponsored Nyandika Slums Humanitarian Support (NSHS) initiative to target and provide a platform for young people to continue the momentum. In Kibera, greater than half the children between the age of six and 13 lack basic reading and math skills while childhood poverty is still a prevalent problem.

Tyrus Stewart is the Founder and Executive Director of NSHS. They are a registered community-based organization in Kenya that supports vulnerable people through community involvement, food items and volunteering for different social projects.

To see more pictures; please visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > Our Events



2021 WOAN Supported Events



**Daughters of Kenya
International Womens Day**
www.daughtersofkenya.org



**Kibera Community Emergency Response Team
Community Fire, Rescue and Recovery**
[www.twitter.com @AdoptAFamily2](https://www.twitter.com/AdoptAFamily2)

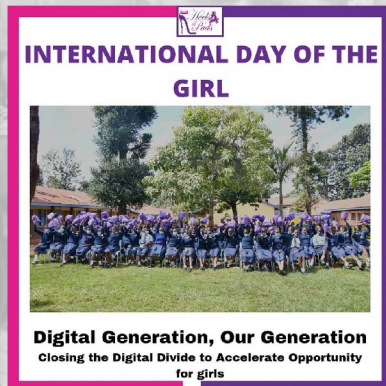


**TEAMEnvironment Kenya
Pads-4-Slums (Leave No Girl Behind)**
www.team-environment.org

2021 WOAN Supported Events



**Kibera Girls Soccer Academy
Commencement of New Dormitory**
www.kgsafoundation.org



**Sisters Speak Global | Heels4Pads
Coffee-n-Paint Fundraiser
International Day of the Girl**
www.sisterspeaksglobal.org

What's Coming Soon?

Earlier this year, We One Action Network (WOAN) applied and received our Federal Tax ID. We have begun the lengthy process with an accountant to register WOAN as a non-profit organization with tax deductible benefits that accompany the 501 (3)(c) status under the Internal Revenue Service. We anticipate this status between June and August 2022. The status will offer WOAN more visibility and flexibility but also many tax advantages to our donors.

Each year, WOAN reevaluates our stance with supporting efforts in Kenya to ensure we are addressing key areas within 85% of our annual budget with 15% contingency. The greatest example of pivoting to fill a gap was our global pandemic response in 2020 when WOAN deferred most of our initial plan to financially support grassroots organizations.

Partnerships in 2022:

WOAN will move forward with supporting **Tribeless Youth's** (www.tribelessyouth.org) vision of encouraging youth involvement. This include supporting their vision of a Youth Development Center in Nakuru, Kenya. This space will be designed to nurture youth expression, educational & life skills, self-awareness to alter their mindset to help them reach their individual goals while understanding their involvement in community leadership.

In collaboration with **Kibera Girls Soccer Academy** (www.kgsafoundation.org), WOAN will sponsor KGSAs vision for an alumnae pilot-program that will target 40 girls both university students and those pursuing employment. This program will offer awareness to family planning, gender-based violence as well as a diverse range of best practices such as writing resumes, job search and job interviewing. Other key aspects of the program will include guest speakers, career events and a sewing entrepreneurship project that will encompass business skills (i.e., marketing, managing sales, inventory).

Potential Partnerships in 2022:

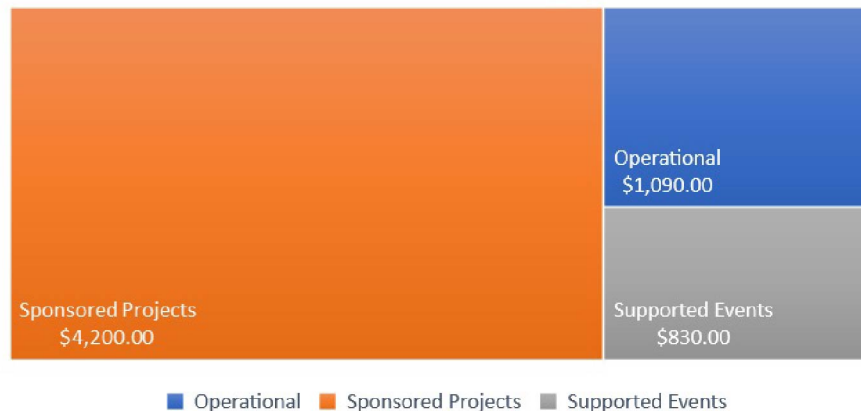
Cultivate International – Elaine Tymchak, Founder & Director | www.cultivatetraining.org
Through training; empowering community leaders working for social change.

Food-4-Education – Michelle Ngunjiri, Partnership Manager | www.food4education.org
Providing subsidized nutritious meals to primary school children.

NivalishePad Initiative – Stellah Kaviti, Founder & Director | www.twitter.com
Providing access to menstrual products and sexual reproductive health.

Shine Academy Kibera – Winnie Shikutwa, Director & Head Teacher | www.facebook.com
Providing to free primary school education to vulnerable students.

2021 Financial Snapshot



We cannot say Thank You enough for your continued support! 2021 was a tremendous year with over \$6,000 USD raised. One hundred percent of donations went directly to We One Action Network (WOAN) featured projects, initiatives and operational expenditures to maintain stability. Recipients of WOAN funds are thoroughly vetted to ensure they have a track record of proven and documented success. For a complete breakdown of cost and expenses; please visit www.weoneactionnetwork.org > **Our Support > Financial**



Ms. Tracy Phillips

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Tracy is originally from Winston-Salem, NC but now resides in Charlotte, NC. She is currently a Change Management Consultant within the energy sector. She recently decided to further her education beyond her Master's degree to pursue a career in Therapy and Counseling. In the future, Tracy's goal is to use therapist tools to empower the transformation of women, their families and their communities. She has been an active member of WOAN since 2018 but looks forward to offering more of her time to WOAN as she expands her ability to help those in need. Tracy has a beautiful daughter most say is her "little mini-me" :) In her spare time she enjoys reading, journaling and all things fitness!

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Thank you



Mr. Jeremy Jones

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Jeremy has been a proud donor to WOAN since 2018. Originally from Eden, NC, he now resides in Wilmington, NC where he works as an Operations Analyst within the energy sector. His passion include history, sports, movies and traveling. He is looking forward to celebrating his 20th wedding anniversary and has been blessed with something very rare; a teenager that causes him no real trouble :) He has always considered himself to be a lucky man. He is appreciative of WOANs efforts and the opportunity to contribute that betters, enriches and alters lives.

We One *Thank you*
Action Network



Dr. Yvette Bynum Wilson

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

A native of Burlington, NC, Dr. Wilson currently resides in Augusta, GA where she serves as a school counselor for Richmond County Schools. She also serves on the board of the Patricia Bynum Cancer Fund, her late mother. She is a Silver Star member of the AKA Sorority where she chairs the Chapters Founders Day Committee, Global Impact Initiative and the Fundraising Committee. Dr. Wilson earned a BA Degree in English/Communicative Arts, MBA in Community Counseling as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. Raised from a family of doers and givers, it is not only fitting, but an honor to support her first cousin's (Travis) vision for WOAN in transforming lives in Kenya. Aside from having two wonderful sons and a daughter-in-law, her greatest joy is being a grandmother of three!

We One *Thank you*
Action Network

Did You Know?



Did you know?

Born in East Africa, Leslie Scott grew up fluent in both English and Swahili. Jenga evolved from a stacking game her family played with simple wood blocks.

When she moved to England in the early 1980s, she began manufacturing the game with the trademarked name of “Jenga”, from the Swahili word Kujenga, which means “to build”.



Did you know?

The 2021 Summer Olympics brought out the best of the United States and Kenya!

For World nations, USA finished first in overall medals won (113) and first in gold medals awarded (39). Headline by Katie Ledecky's historic gold in the women's 1500m freestyle swim in a remarkable time of 15:37 minutes and 34 seconds.

For African nations, Kenya finished first in overall medals won (19) and first in gold medals awarded (4). Headline by Eliud Kipchoge's historic gold in the men's 26.2-mile marathon in an incredible time of 128:8 minutes and 38 seconds.



Did you know?

Hakuna matata roughly translates to “there are no troubles” in Swahili, the East African native language.

The phrase was popularized in English by the 1994 Disney movie The Lion King, where it's translated as “no worries.” It has a connotation of not worrying about things outside a person's control.



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Travis L. Rudd

Founder & Executive Director

PO Box 687

Stanley, NC 28164

WeOneActionNetwork.org

info@weoneactionnetwork.org

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Special thanks to the following individuals and their teams for breathing life into our 2021 Winter Newsletter. You are all amazing!!

Brian Obebo | Web Designer | www.smartwebkenya.com

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