

ISSUE 28 • SEPTEMBER 2022 (JUL-AUG)

TRANSFORM NEWSLETTER

Spur Afrika in Kibera and Kisumu communities

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Transform Newsletter (September Issue). We are excited to update you on our work and activities.

The last two months have been full of action. We are so grateful to all of you for supporting our work and praying for our success.

We pray that you will continue to support us in every way you can because it is in this support that we get the strength to keep going.



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SPONSORED CHILDREN
(ELIMISHA)

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ELIMISHA STUDENTS' SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Our sponsored children are doing well despite the recent disruption of schools because of this year's national elections

Meiden Graduation!

We are proud to share that Elvis, one of our very first sponsored children at Spur Afrika, graduated in July after taking a degree course in Communications and Languages at Laikipia University. He joined Spur Afrika in grade six and so we have walked with him through all his schooling, and as an establishment, we are proud of what he has achieved.

Elvis is one of our most visible and tangible successes in the child sponsorship program after we supported and nurtured him for the last ten years.



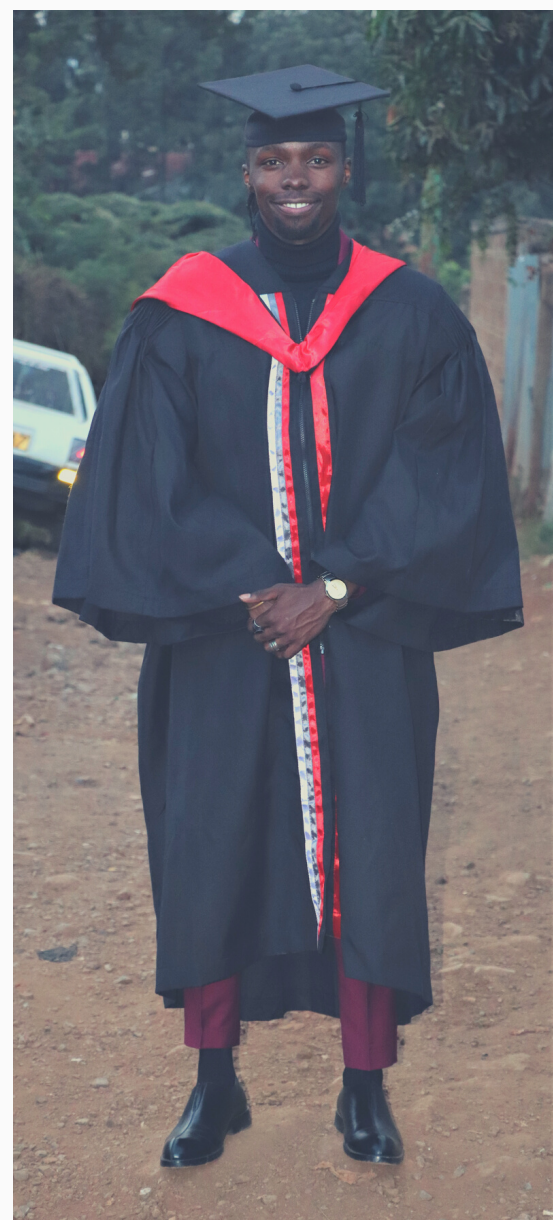
Speaking to our team during a Thanksgiving dinner, he expressed how grateful he is for the support, mentorship, and growth that Spur Afrika has given to him when his light appeared so dim.

He also promised that he will continue nurturing the excellent work that Spur Afrika started in him and that he will also extend kindness to other people that need his help.

in line with Elvis, five of our sponsored children who finished high school earlier this year also graduated from a six-month post-high school transitional program.

The program is run by a partner Organization (Endless Frontiers) and it is meant to prepare students for university.

This group is now set to join universities in September.





Schools and Home Visits

Our team has done a series of school and home visits in the last two months to check on our sponsored children and their families. These regular and random school and home visits are meant to find out if there's anything that our sponsored children need for their holistic growth.

Some of the issues noted during the above visits were relatable to current affairs and hard economic times. One issue that seemed common across the households visited is the fact that some of our sponsored children's families were going through financial difficulties due to current inflations of basic commodities hence most of them can only afford a meal a day.



Thus, Spur Afrika gave out an emergency food supply to the families to reduce on the financial burden.

The team also went to check on sponsored children in their various schools. Most of them were doing well, especially those who are under Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). The competency-Based Curriculum educational system was introduced in 2017 and is set to replace the current 8-4-4 system.

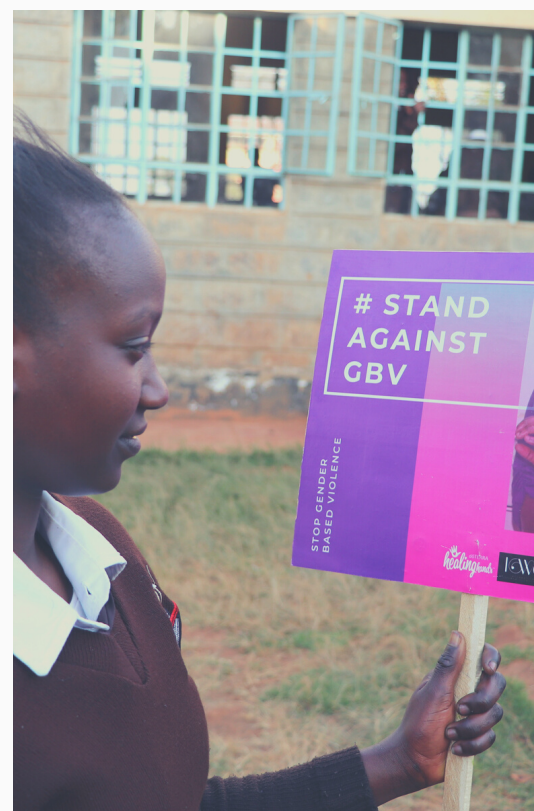
The group is expected to transition to junior high schools in the next few months. Initially, our sponsored children showed a little struggle when the government commenced the CBC system however updates from school visits showed they are catching up.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In June, we started an awareness campaign against gender-based violence which has been on the rise for the last two years. So far, we have reached out to about 1,500 high school students and twenty of our parents.

This August we concluded the campaign by giving out undergarments to all the children that went through the GBV sessions, as a motivation to continue with the campaign in their small circles.

We shall, however, continue with the conversations around GBV until we achieve a complete circle by involving both the victims and the perpetrators in creating awareness and maybe hopefully reduce the rate of GBV.





BINGWA GIRLS

Project Period

We had a one-week menstrual workshop with the Bingwa Girls (the menstrual and hygiene) program courtesy of our partnership with a group of young ladies from Project Period in the UK. Project Period group has been campaigning for the use of menstrual cups as a long-term solution to menstrual problems.

The workshop happened in two divisions: a five-day session with our Bingwa girls at St. Juliet primary school and a one-day session with twenty of our sponsored teenage girls.



Aside from games, dances, and snacks, the girls were discussed the following:

- Ovulation and menstrual Cycle.
- Pre-menstrual symptoms and remedies.
- Using menstrual cups
- Facts and Myths surrounding menstrual cups
- Confidence and self-esteem

This workshop benefited a total of about 130 teenage girls (110 at St. Juliet and twenty under the sponsorship program). Each girl received one menstrual cup and its washing pot. The group also donated a water harvester that is meant to help girls at St. Juliet access clean water. Our hope is that the girls will embrace this new idea that could eventually be a long-term solution.

MENTORSHIP

Our volunteer mentors continue to show dedication in guiding our sponsored children through physical and online catch-up sessions. In the last two months, we have had fifteen one on one mentorship sessions and two group mentorship meetings.

We also had a mentors' hike and time building with 30 mentors in July as a way of bringing all the mentors together. We also welcomed one member into the mentors' family. We, however, hope to get more volunteer mentors to help us close the current mentorship gap.

We have about 53 committed mentors compared to our 115 sponsored children.





SPUR AFRIKA KISUMU PROJECT

The Spur Afrika Kisumu project saw several activities in the last two months. After the recruitment, the Spur Afrika Kisumu children's sponsorship program now has twenty children. These sponsored children also received school shoes in August.



Spur Afrika Kinda Girls

Kinda Girls program is a Spur Afrika initiative to help teenage mothers overcome shame and a sense of worthlessness after giving birth in their adolescent years. Our hope is that they will rise above their setback. We are counseling, mentoring, and life skills training a group of 16 young mothers. This program is designed to be 12 weeks long. After the stipulated time we hope that the young mothers will have entrepreneurial skills that can help them earn a living.

Kisumu program seeks to help teenage mothers return to their feet. The team enrolled another group of girls that are expected to undergo an eight-week vocational training. A follow-up on the graduates of this program showed that ex-cans are using the skills learned to better their lives and those of their children.



Oral Hygiene

The Kisumu team also did an oral hygiene activity where children were gifted each a toothpaste and toothbrush.

Many children reported in an earlier interview that they opt for using salt or ash as a substitute for toothpaste and sticks as toothbrushes to brush their teeth rather than spend money on oral hygiene products.

Spur Afrika aims to sensitize 5000 children within the area by the end of 2023, to improve dental health in this area through the Oral Hygiene program.

