

Kenya
Connect

Children
with options





Our Mission (Short)

Children with options.

Our Mission (Full)

To ensure rural children leave education with options, by developing the skills, values and pathways to thrive.

Theory of Change, how do we create children with options?

Our Vision

An empowered rural community that learns, grows and thrives together.

Learns

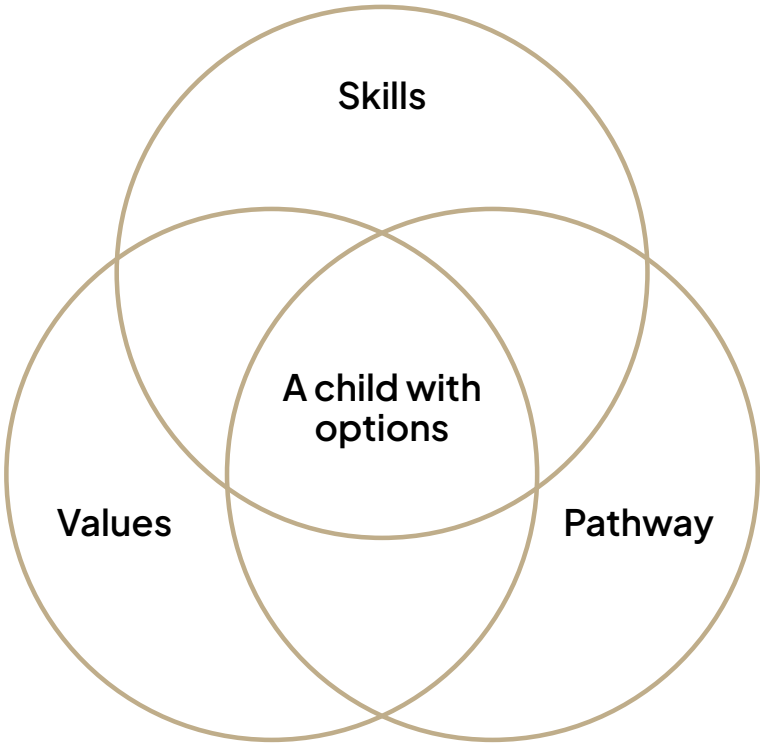
A community that is engaged and using the power of education. Linking to skills in our mission.

Grows

A community that is changing, evolving and growing. Linking to values in our mission.

Thrives

A community that takes specific steps to progress. Linking to pathways in our mission.



The right kind of person, with the right set of skills, on the right path to thrive.



In-School

Improving attendance and getting every child ready to learn.

Why this focus area?

We truly believe that a child in-school has a chance to develop a much wider range of pathways as they learn. When we have a child in school, we also have the best chance to reach them and work with them.

Current Situation

Currently there are number of reasons why children may not be attending school. This could be through sickness, lack of understanding on the importance of education or insufficiency of school fees. So this focus area explores; how do we remove any barriers for a child, how do we educate the community on the importance of being in school and how do we support schools to keep their students healthy and in school. Once they are in school, how do we ensure that they are in the best state to learn. They'll need to be healthy, able to see the board, hear the lessons and be ready to learn.

Our Goals:

- Breaking barriers so children attend school
- Every school age child joining a school
- Provide girls with sanitary pads which allow them to stay in school
- Work with parents to promote the importance of education
- Reduce the number of sick days and absences
- Encourage the community to support children going to school

We believe

- A child in school knows the importance and benefits of education for their future success and personal growth
- A child in school will discover who they are and what they want for their future
- A child needs to be healthy in order to get the most out of their time in school
- The school is the discovery ground for future careers
- A child in school has the best chance to succeed in career
- A healthy mind resides in a healthy body

Our In-School Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we get more children in-school, healthy and ready to learn. Below are some highlights:



Water Tanks & Hand washing

Clean drinking water at the schools and hand washing stations help keep students healthy.



WingsPoa

WingsPoa provides sanitary pads to all girls at school ensuring they don't miss school during their period.



Parent Income Generation

Many households struggle to pay their school fees. We support parents with skills they can use to raise funds.



Solar Lights

Getting ready for school and reading at night are both helped by access to sustainable solar lights.



Eye Glasses

Being in school is a great start but many children struggle to see the board and learn. We test and provide eye glasses.



Parent Activation

Having parents and the community involved is essential to all we do.

A reason to celebrate

So far in 2024
we have provided

1,001

WingsPoa
Pad Kits



Quality Education

Equipping teachers to ensure every child receives a quality education.

Why this focus area?

In order for a child to discover their pathways and truly have options, we will need the very best education and teachers. This focus area looks at how we can support our partner schools to provide a quality education.

Current Situation

There is a variety and inconsistency to the quality of teaching in schools, as well as a lack of teacher professional development. This means teachers may be ill-equipped to provide the very best education to their learners. This focus area considers how do we ensure that every child receives a quality education? How do we develop inspiring and motivated teachers? How do we monitor and track our partner schools and ensure they are improving? How do we promote the attitudes of a truly inspiring Teacher?

Our Goals:

- Deliver Teacher Professional Development at each partner school once per year
- Focus on equipping teachers of all levels with technology skills
- Develop our own Foundation Teacher Professional Development Program
- Develop TPD on emerging skills and contemporary issues

We believe

- *Teaching makes 3x more impact than any other factor in schools." - **World Bank 2018**
- Every teacher has a chance to inspire a child
- A quality education gives a firm foundation for all skills
- Teachers are lifelong learners

Our Quality Education Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we ensure schools and teacher have all they need to deliver a quality education. Below are some highlights:



Teacher Professional Development

With each partner school, we deliver a foundational teacher training course.



Teacher Awards

Teacher awards each year help promote the importance of continued professional development.



Technology Training

We offer specific teacher training around technology providing both skills and equipment.



Dyslexia Training

Specific training for teachers on how they can identify and support students with dyslexia.



Parent Learning Community

Learning opportunities for parents about early learning, communication with your child and early literacy.



Pre-Primary

In partnership with Peeple and Wolf Trap, we offer parent and teacher training to improve learning at home before their child reaches school.

A reason to celebrate

In 2024 we trained

26

Teachers in a brand new Dyslexia workshop



Literacy

Children finishing school able to read, write and communicate.

Why this focus area?

Literacy acts as a foundation for success across all other curriculum areas as well as expands the horizons introducing new ideas to all children. That's why we focus on shifting mindsets around reading through providing books and working alongside schools to improve their delivery of literacy education.

Current Situation

Many schools and children simply lack access to books. Often schools have no library or libraries that are under-stocked or out-dated. Equally there is a lack of training and support for the teaching of literacy. This focus area looks at what we can do to increase access to books, promote reading and ensure schools have the training, motivation and resources to better work with their students and improve literacy.

Our Goals:

- Ensure every child in our partner school has access to books.
- Nurture the love of reading among children.
- Improve communication skills among students.
- Improved reading stamina among younger learners.
- Ensure students read at least 25 books and above in the reading challenge.
- Promote reading to parents and the community

We believe

- Reading is a foundation for success across other curriculum areas.
- A person who can read, write and communicate has the confidence in the world.
- Reading connects people.
- Reading can take you places.
- Reading expands the mind.
- Books change lives.

Our Literacy Programs

We have a wide range of programs that improve literacy in the community. Below are some highlights:



Library Cards

Our dedicated library team provide library cards that give 24/7 access to our Kenya Connect library. We've provided over 10,000 cards already.



Remote Libraries

With our mobile library bus, we travel to over 43 schools allowing children to borrow and read books.



Saturday Storytime

Each Saturday we run a community read along with children to help promote reading.



Reading Challenge

We conduct dedicated reading challenges in the community trying to have children read as many books as they can!



Radio Read Aloud

Radio is still super popular in Kenya. That's why we host a read along every week on the local radio station.



LitClubs / Lit Moms

This program looks to involve mothers with reading in partnership with LitWorld.

A reason to celebrate

Across all partner schools we have issued

8,748

library cards



Technology

Children equipped with 21st-century technology skills.

Why this focus area?

Technology can unlock a whole host of options for a rural child. Not only does technology support a child's education, allowing research and continued learning but a number of job options and careers all require technology skills.

Current Situation

Technology has become a key part of the national curriculum but most schools have not been supported to deliver it. Schools massively lack access to technology and equipment in which to deliver the curriculum and most teachers have little to no training on the curriculum or how best to deliver it. There are also challenges around power infrastructure especially in the rural context.

Our Goals:

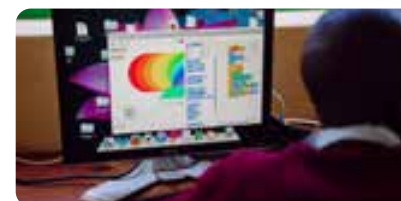
- Children successfully completing the school curriculum
- Higher uptake in STEM at University level
- Schools with improved access to the technology they need
- Introduce innovative technology to schools (coding, robotics, 3D printing)
- Helping teachers integrate technology in teaching and learning
- Using technology to expose students to diverse cultures, issues affecting the world and encouraging global citizenship

We believe

- The future of work will be based on technology
- A child with technology skills has unlimited opportunities to succeed
- The illiterate of the future are those lacking technology skills
- Technology opens the world and removes barriers to education

Our Technology Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we improve access and education of technology. Below are some highlights:



Coding Clubs

Working alongside Raspberry Pi, our dedicated Coding Clubs introduce new ideas and tech to children.



Robotics Clubs

In addition we also offer robotics classes covering the basics of robotics and engineering.



Technology Provision

Our mobile technology library moves around schools bringing the technology needed to conduct technology lessons.



STEM Bootcamps

School break bootcamps with students to spark interest and educate around STEM fields.



Computer Classes in School

Bringing our trained Kenya Connect staff into our partner schools to deliver series of technology lessons.



Technology TPD

Teacher professional development aimed specifically at technology education.

A reason to celebrate

We have champions amongst us,
our Mbaikini girls won

1st Place

at the World Robotics Olympiad in Nairobi and will be representing Kenya in Turkey at the International World Robotics Olympiad this November.



Empowerment

Children that know themselves and have the confidence to make choices.

Why this focus area?

We know that for a child to succeed, they need to have the values and belief in what they want to do. So this focus area is about how we can empower students to know themselves, their bodies, their wants for the future and help give them the confidence needed to succeed.

Current Situation

Children lack self esteem, have challenges expressing themselves and are often overlooked when considering decisions for their futures. There are a number of topics around mental health, sexual health and substance abuse that are not spoken about at home, in school or in the community. Often children's futures can be derailed by teen pregnancies and a culture of looking the other way when pregnancies occur.

Our Goals:

- Eliminate Gender-based violence
- Reduce Teen Pregnancy
- Develop confident students
- Develop critical thinking skills among children.
- Family engagement in education
- Reduce economic poverty
- Nurture future leaders

We believe

- Our work is more than just skills, it's attitudes that will help give a child the best opportunity to succeed
- A child who understands and believes in themselves will make good decisions.
- An informed parent will raise children in a way that empowers them to make their own decisions.
- Economically empowered parents will support their children in school and at home.
- Educated parents will understand the importance and the value of educating their children.

Our Empowerment Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we empower students, parents and the community. Below are some highlights:



Girl/Boy Empowerment

This program teaches students about their rights and boundaries and promotes positive sexual health.



Parent Courses

Dedicated course for Parents talking about difficult topics within the community.



PenPals

Helping students reach out to a wider world and communicate with children around the globe.



Expanding Horizons

Sessions where we enrich students with life skills, communication, leadership, integrity, conflict resolution, empathy, and critical and creative thinking.



LitMoms Program

Supporting mothers and grandmothers with income generation and encouraging them to read.



Parent Income Generation

Parents who can fund their children's lives will be better placed to help support their dreams.

A reason to celebrate

486

students have taken part in the Girl/Boy Empowerment Program.

(This program started in 2022)



Pathways

Ensuring children leave school with clearly defined pathways.

Why this focus area?

We truly believe that more work is needed to encourage and support children in finding and acting upon their own pathways. A student who is told from an early age that they have options and who is supported in shaping and working towards a specific goal, is much more likely to thrive. That's why we have a focus area dedicated to helping students with their pathways ensuring our work has a tangible end result.

Current Situation

The current education system does very little to support children in choosing their own paths and lacks resources to help support them along the way. This leads to a culture with many children choosing traditional careers and leaves out opportunities for a child to choose and form a plan for their own life.

Our Goals:

- More children going onto further education
- More children finding meaningful work
- Children's confidence and hopes to improve
- Children being able to adapt to changing job market
- Children pursuing the right careers and succeeding in the job market
- Children who are problem solvers with ideas of generating income

We believe

- It is crucial to our work that we send children out into the world with a clear pathway to follow
- Children need help to see all options available to them
- Children with career guidance and defined steps are more likely to succeed.
- It is crucial for students to have transferable skills.
- Children who are innovative, creative and have problem solving skills are likely to succeed

Our Pathways Programs

We have a wide range of programs looking at how we develop and support a pathway for every child. Below are some highlights:



The School Fund

This partnership helps connect donors to specific students looking to go onto University of higher education.



Workforce Development

In partnership with Nairobits we offer training on digital literacy, graphic design, online working and marketing.



Hershot

A program designed to open the world of professional photography to girls.



Science Extravaganza

Each year we host a science competition to get children thinking of science solutions to local problems and spark interest in new pathways.



Expanding Horizons

Sessions where we enrich students with life skills, communication, leadership, integrity, conflict resolution, empathy, and critical and creative thinking.



Field Trips

Opportunities to take children out into different industries and experience different job opportunities.

A reason to celebrate

The School Fund has funded

112

students to attend secondary school.