



CAROLINA FOR KIBERA, INC.

Binti Pamoja (Daughters United) Center

FedEx Global Education Center, Third Floor
301 Pittsboro Street, Campus Box 5145
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-5145
Tel: (919) 843-6842
Fax: (919) 962-5375
<http://cfk.unc.edu>



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kibera, east Africa's largest slum, is a microcosm of many of the world's most vexing issues – poverty, poor healthcare, severe water shortage, the spread of HIV infection and lack of women's rights. More than 700,000 people live in a 630-acre area (about 2.5 square kilometers)¹ outside of Nairobi, Kenya. It is one of the **most densely** populated urban settlements in the world. The vast majority of Kibera's residents live in abject **poverty** with few government services. Kibera faces an exploding **youth** population, representing over half of the slum's entire population – a population that is largely unemployed and will continue to multiply. Much of our global population growth will occur in developing, **urban** settlements like Kibera. A myriad of Kenyan ethnic groups from various religious backgrounds call Kibera home, and the slum has a violent history of **ethnic clashes** between these groups. An estimated 12 to 15% of Kibera's population is infected with **HIV/AIDS**,² a situation exacerbated by the lack of basic **human rights** for girls and young women. Like billions of people in the world, even the most exceptional and promising youth in Kibera lack opportunities to get an **education**, live healthy lives, and lead others as agents of **social change**.

Established by college students in 2001, **Carolina for Kibera** (CFK) is doing something about it. With an innovative, holistic approach, CFK tackles some of Kibera's most desperate problems from the ground up. CFK bridges the gap between Kibera and concerned outsiders who want to help. In this regard, the organization is a model of effective **participatory development**. Kibera youth lead CFK, and the community drives the work on the ground. Meanwhile, CFK volunteers from the United States, Canada, and Europe help mobilize communities, network, advise and fundraise.

¹ <http://www.warmafrika.com/index/geo/8/cat/1/a/a/artid/541>

² Carolina for Kibera, Inc. <http://cfk.unc.edu>



It's working. TIME Magazine and the Gates Foundation recognized CFK as one of only ten **'Heroes of Global Health'** in 2005. In six short years, CFK's programs have grown to include 5,000 youth. Our healthcare services reach tens of thousands. CFK members from Kenya have traveled all over the world to share the CFK participatory **model** with other developing countries. Most recently, CFK alumna Fatuma Roba traveled to New York City where she formally addressed the **United Nations Assembly** about her life as a woman in Kibera and her experiences with CFK's women's reproductive health center.

So, in this world of plenty, we say: **we must do more.** Everyday CFK saves lives and creates opportunities in a place that outside observers often cast away as hopeless. CFK is shaping a **new generation** of African leadership – a generation that has risen above the unforgiving cauldron of poverty to inspire and lead others to do the same. **Join us. Tujiunge tuangaze. (Let's unite and shed light.)**

THE COMMUNITY: *Why Invest in Kibera*

Kibera – Community Size and Key Trends

A group of Nubians (Sudanese) first settled Kibera after fighting with the British army in World War I. Today, over 700,000 people, half of whom are under the age of 15, live in an area of Nairobi, Kenya that is the size of Manhattan's Central Park. Homes are generally one-story, one-room, 10 ft. x 10 ft. huts made of mud and corrugated tin roofing. On average, five people live in each room. There are an estimated





2,000 people living per hectare, according to a report by the Water and Sanitation Program.³ The same report estimates Kibera's population at over one-fourth of Nairobi's entire population.⁴

There is a severe shortage of basic government services, such as the provision of clean water, healthcare, education, and sewage disposal. Water runs through corroded, plastic pipes that, when cracked, are repaired with duct tape or remain open for contamination by waterborne diseases. The water pipes run alongside the exposed sewage trenches, carrying human waste and refuse to a river feeding the Nairobi Dam where people swim, bathe and wash clothes. Moreover, official estimates indicate that over 12 to 15% of the population is HIV positive.

Kibera has a violent history of ethnic and religious conflict. Five of Kenya's six largest ethnic groups (Kikuyu, Kisii, Luo, Luhya, and Kamba) call Kibera "home," and the Nubians, a Muslim group, claim land tenure rights to the slum. Kibera has experienced a handful of intense, bloody ethnic clashes. In each case of collective violence in Kibera, the combatants were predominately unemployed youth, aged 16-30 years. According to a 2003 study by Oxfam, 37% of school-going age children were not even in the educational system and 70% of the children attending school only have limited access to informal schools and community centers. Approximately 80% of all youth in Kibera lack formal employment,⁵ while the UN estimates that 35-45% of the entire slum population is unemployed or underemployed.⁶

Kibera is a microcosm of the rapid growth of slums worldwide. The UN projects the world's population to increase by over two billion the next 25 years. Nearly 90% of that growth will occur in developing urban areas across the globe.⁷

Community Analysis

Residents of Kibera perform basic market analyses of their environment every day. It is the only way in which they can survive on less than a dollar a day. Consider, for example,

³ "Understanding Small Scale Providers of Sanitation Services: A Case Study of Kibera." Water and Sanitation Program. (June 2005) p 2.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Carolina for Kibera, Inc., located at <http://cfk.unc.edu/kibera.html>

⁶ <http://statehousekenya.go.ke/oafla/speeches/f-lady/sept04/2004050901.htm>

⁷ <http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/sixbillion/sixbilpart1.pdf>



the late Tabitha Atieno Festo, a registered nurse and founder of CFK's Tabitha Medical Clinic. In 2000, Festo approached Barcott with a small business plan for which she needed financing. Festo had done some research and discovered that if she bought vegetables in Kibera and sold them in a wealthier Nairobi neighborhood, she could undercut her competition's prices and still make a profit. Barcott gave her US \$26. When Barcott returned to Kibera a year later to establish the youth sports league, Festo had turned a profit on the gift and opened a small medical clinic in her home where she had begun to treat patients. Kibera is bursting with social entrepreneurs like Festo. CFK attracts young leaders with Festo's spirit, ingenuity, and business acumen by offering the professional structure, networking and resources with which residents of Kibera develop ways to improve their community.

Binti Pamoja (Daughters United) Center



There is no shortage of youth groups in Kibera. However, only 1% of girls in Kibera have access to an all-girl program.⁸ Over 2/3 of the participants in youth programs are men over the age of 18.⁹ Adolescent girls are marginalized and more vulnerable than their male

counterparts. Young women aged 15-24 are contracting HIV at a rate five times that of their male counterparts.¹⁰ The Binti Pamoja Center creates a safe space for girls and young women to discuss reproductive health issues and to fight gender-based violence and discrimination. The Center uses art and photography as a means for expression and has established an HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention program.

The Binti Pamoja Center also trains its members in peer education and these educators offer outreach programs to CFK soccer players during tournaments. This program has expanded by over 200% in just three years, with more than 40 young women trained as peer educators. Binti Pamoja reaches out to the community through its youth newsletter, educational drama performances, community forums, and one-on-one counseling.

⁸ The Binti Pamoja Center. Unpublished data. "Mapping Safe Spaces Project." January 2006.

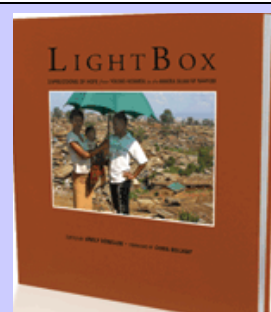
⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ http://www.kaisernet.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=40424



Additionally, after members graduate and become alumni of the program, they are supported to go back into the community and start their own girls groups. The Safe Spaces Program developed eight new groups, involving over 120 girls. Finally, while the Kenyan government has approved a law to offer free education through secondary school, currently only education through primary school is available. Thus, Binti Pamoja administers a scholarship program for girls to attend secondary school in Kibera. Twenty-eight young women are receiving high school education with CFK scholarships.

Perhaps most indicative of CFK's impact on young leaders in Kibera is the story of Fatuma Roba. When Fatuma, 20, joined the Binti Pamoja Center in 2002, she was quiet and soft-spoken around others. Through Binti Pamoja she was able to develop the life-skills necessary to pursue her dream of becoming a politician. "I am a young, upcoming woman and a leader of tomorrow," said Fatuma in 2004. Three years later Fatuma took a giant leap in her pursuit of becoming a political leader when she traveled to the United Nations in New York City as a representative of Binti Pamoja, CFK, Kenya, and women worldwide. She addressed the UN General Assembly regarding her life as a young woman in Kibera and her experiences in Binti Pamoja. She was invited by the UN Commission on the Status of Women.



Light Box

Published in 2006, *Light Box* is a coffee table book comprised of photographs taken and essays authored by Binti Pamoja members. With an introduction by Carol Bellamy, President and CEO of World Learning and former Executive Director of UNICEF, the book addresses broader issues of gender inequality and development in Kenya through the voices and eyes of young women who live there.

The Fledgling Fund covered publication costs, enabling 100 percent of the proceeds from sales to go to The Binti Pamoja Center Scholarship Fund. The Fund sponsors Binti Pamoja members to attend high school. CFK has sold 1,509 books to date, generating over \$69,537 in sales, which can support 463 one-year scholarships. After the remaining 1,291 books are sold, 840 one-year scholarships will be available.

The Binti Pamoja Center is also recognized as a global model for working with girls. Four members of Binti Pamoja participated in two international adolescent reproductive health conferences in Tanzania; and the Center's former Program Assistant, Esther Wangari, attended a ten-day sexuality training conference in Nigeria. Also, Binti Pamoja founder



Karen Austrian and CFK Deputy Director Caroline Sakwa partnered with the Global Financial Education Program (GFEP) to develop a financial literacy curriculum for adolescent girls in Kibera. The alumni of Binti Pamoja were trained to be facilitators of the curriculum. The Center now trains its own members on financial literacy, as well as other groups of girls in Kibera and will soon expand in Nairobi. Eighteen alumni completed a financial literacy “training of trainers” program and now provide guidance and mentorship to their younger peers. The curriculum will be adapted for global promotion by the Citigroup Foundation in the next year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Over 20,000 patients treated in the Tabitha Medical Clinic last year.
- CFK Executive Director Salim Mohamed selected as an Africa Fellow for the 2007 TED Global Conference in Tanzania.
- 40 girls trained on financial literacy
- 67 youth currently employed in Taka ni Pato; nearly 200 youth engaged since inception.
- 18 youth employed through Base of the Pyramid self-initiated businesses.
- 250 girls reached by Safe Spaces program.
- 28 girls' secondary school scholarships provided last year.
- Sponsored by the Ford Foundation, CFK Executive Director Salim Mohamed presented at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in 2003.
- One of only a few medical clinics in Kibera that provide full-time medical doctors in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The only grassroots organization invited to participate in the 2006 Brookings-Blum Roundtable on “Poverty and Insecurity” at the Aspen Institute.
- Sales of Light Box (see p. 17) have raised \$69,537 in girls' scholarship funds.
- Over 5,000 youth engaged through the CFK Youth Sports Program since its inception.
- 42 American, Canadian, and European college-students have volunteered with CFK on the ground in Kibera.
- One of ten organizations worldwide named a TIME Magazine and Gates Foundation ‘Hero of Global Health’ at the 2005 Global Health Summit in NYC.
- Over 2,000 tons of trash cleared from Kibera by Taka Ni Pato in 2006.
- CFK featured on the cover of TIME for Kids Magazine, March 30, 2007, “A Higher Goal: Soccer is Helping Kenyan Kids Get Set for the Future.”
- Binti Pamoja alumna and Kibera resident Fatuma Roba addressed the United Nations Assembly and attended the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2007 in New York City.
- 85 current members and 18 alumni of the Binti Pamoja Center.
- One of seven programs worldwide identified as an example “of innovation and...effective work” in HIV Prevention with Especially Vulnerable Young People, a book published by the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the University of London.
- Founder Rye Barcott named an ABC World News Person of the Year for 2006.



- Binti Pamoja founder Karen Austrian and program coordinator Caroline Sakwa developed a financial literacy curriculum for poor girls, which will be distributed globally by the Global Financial Education Program (funded by The Citigroup Foundation).
- CFK's Board member Sammy Gitau received a full scholarship to attend the University of Manchester to study for a Masters in Social Development, despite the fact he never completed high school.
- CFK's Salim Mohamed featured in Somali hip hop artist K'Naan's video "4REAL Kenya"
- 31 youth trained in computer literacy skills.
- Recognized and visited on the ground by leaders such as Graca Machel (wife of Nelson Mandela), Barack Obama, Melinda Gates and Pamela Omidyar.
- Global media recognition: BBC The World, ABC World News, The Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, TIME Magazine, Reuters, Associated Press, Financial Times, Sarah McLachlan's "World On Fire" music video.
- Raised over \$1,000,000 in private donations and grants from individuals and major foundations, such as the Ford Foundation, Reuters Foundation, William R. Kenan Charitable Trust, Nike Foundation, American Jewish World Services, and the Omidyar Network.

LEADERSHIP: Our Team

CAROLINE SAKWA, Deputy Director, has been with CFK since 2003. She has an extensive background in community based development and peer education. Caroline is trained as a peer youth counselor and in dramatic performance. Also a peer trainer for reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS advocacy, she was a volunteer facilitator with the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) HIV/AIDS project. Caroline also held key leadership roles with the Nairobi Youth Counseling Centre, National Youth HIV/AIDS Theatre Outreach Program (NYATOP), and the Kenya Voluntary Development Association (KVDA). In 2002, she worked with Save the Children (UK) to train youth from the Mukuru Kwa Rueben slums in peer education and HIV/AIDS. Also, Caroline was a youth representative for a study tour in Eritrea with the UNFPA Kenya office and represented the organization again in a conference on peace, conflict resolution and reconstruction in Harare, Zimbabwe. Caroline has a BA in Social Sciences and Human Praxis from the Catholic University for East Africa.

KAREN AUSTRIAN, Vice President and Co-Founder of Binti Pamoja Center, graduated from Columbia University with an MPH and BA in Women's and Gender Studies. In NYC, Karen coordinated an advocacy organization for the low income and homeless and worked as a case manager for the Partnership for the Homeless Family Resource Center, a program for single mothers transitioning out of shelters and into public housing. Karen spent spring 2001 as a student in the School for International Training's "Kenya-Culture and Development" semester, where she did research and community outreach with a family planning clinic and interned at FEMNET, an African women's rights NGO. In 2002, she was awarded the Henry Evans Traveling Fellowship by Columbia University, and, together with Emily Verellen, returned to Kenya to implement phase one of the Binti Pamoja Girls Center.

EMILY VERELLEN, Program Officer and Co-Founder of Binti Pamoja Center, graduated in May 2002 from American University with a BA in International Development, Anthropology and Communications. Emily was a student of the School for International Training's "Kenya-Culture and Development" semester in 2001, where she conducted an independent research project with street children in Nairobi. In 2002, she returned to Kenya to implement and facilitate Phase One of The Binti Pamoja Center. Emily is currently an MA candidate at the London School of Economics.