Seed of Hope

"I am a young girl with my own business so people respect me. I provide for my family and take care of my parents’ needs." (Sylvia, 2012 graduate)

Getting a good education can be difficult for young people in Kenya who face inequality, discrimination and poverty. The net attendance ratio for secondary education in Kenya is only 44%, forcing many young people to seek informal employment at a young age. Those fortunate enough to attend secondary school are not always well equipped to secure employment with a decent wage. "I completed my secondary education but had no skills to get work so I was idle at home." is a story we often hear. The situation is worse for girls who are often blocked from education when families favour investing in school fees for their sons while daughters are sent out to work or be married.

Young people who are unemployed are often exposed to high-risk situations including early marriage, prostitution, criminal activity and extreme poverty.

Vision Africa’s Seed of Hope programme works with disadvantaged young people from rural areas and urban slums in Kenya to access vocational education and training for self-reliance. Over a period of one to two years, students receive training in life skills, enterprise skills and vocational skills including mechanical engineering, homecare management, fashion design and hair and beauty therapy. Students also pursue personal development courses to build their confidence, self-esteem and help them face the realities of the harsh circumstances which have led them to join Seed of Hope.

Dinah left school at a young age and joined Seed of Hope following five years of farm work which left her deeply unhappy.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity given to me as a student of Seed of Hope. My life had lost meaning being out of school for that long without skills but now my life has turned to a different direction as am being empowered through skills to become an industrious and independent woman.

Thank you to all who came up with this great and noble idea for the young people”

Seed of Hope’s holistic approach includes offering graduates support to open their own small business through “Roots” and “Dhamira” (our business start-up resource and incubation hub). These initiatives offer partial funding, consultation and support for young people setting up new businesses. During the latter half of their training, students are encouraged to generate some start-up capital using the skills they have learnt. This encourages them to take responsibility for their future and for the success of their businesses.
We recently surveyed 183 Seed of Hope students and 209 graduates to measure the impact of the programme. The results showed:

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**More stories about Seed of Hope**

Seed of Hope has impacted my life - https://www.vision-africa.org/blog/2018/seed-of-hope-has-impacted-my-life/