

so they can

Quality Education in Remote Kenyan Primary Schools

GLOBAL GIVING



We're working towards...
THE GLOBAL GOALS

**Australian
Aid** 



**ACFID
MEMBER**

Marginalised remote communities in urgent need

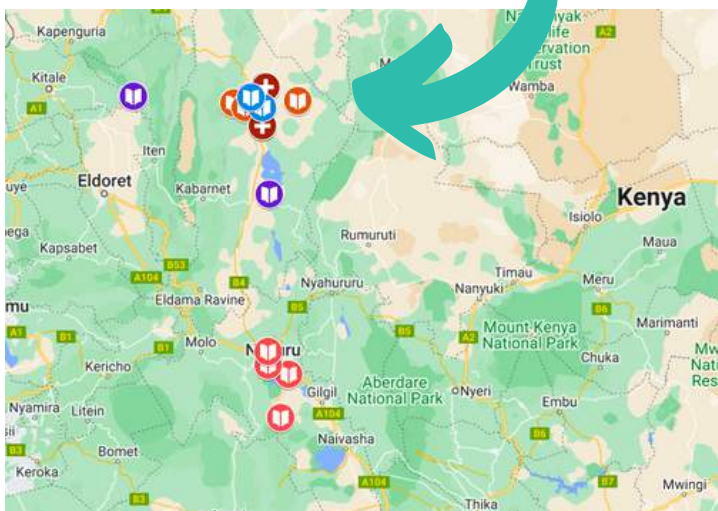
The situation in Baringo, Kenya

So They Can first started working in Baringo, Kenya in 2018, because of the dire levels of poverty. With a harsh, semi-arid climate, the region is one of the poorest in Kenya, and East Africa. Communities live remotely, and lack access to education, employment, infrastructure, community safety, and a social support system.

So They Can is one of the few NGOs based in Baringo. Our team on the ground work directly with the Baringo County Government, and So They Can's 10 partner Government primary schools. Our Education Program reaches over 4,000 vulnerable children (49% girls) every year.

Official Government data shows 59% of the Baringo population live in extreme poverty, but through our work on the ground, we know that in reality it is much higher. High poverty rates directly impact education. In Kenya the primary Net Enrolment Rate is 78%.

Click below for an interactive map of our Partner Schools in Kenya



At the root cause of poverty is a lack of education. So They Can partners with the most under-resourced schools to address the deficit in qualified teachers, lack of awareness on the importance of education, inadequate infrastructure and educational resources, limited access to water and food, and poor sanitation in school communities.

Our programming targets girls, who are at highest risk of child rights violations. FGC, child marriage, early pregnancy and forced child labour, is the harsh reality of girls in Baringo. Without So They Can's support, our team on the ground estimate 50% of Baringo girls are at risk.

So They Can's Education Program has made significant gains in education outcomes with improved enrolment, attendance, academic performance and child wellbeing.

Primary school enrolment has increased by 43% in Baringo through So They Can's Education Program.



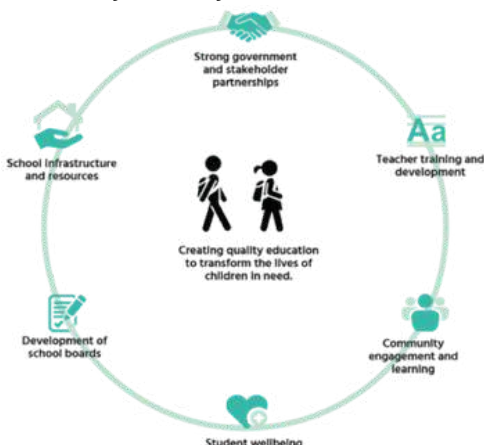
So They Can's Holistic Education Program

To realise sustainability in quality education

Our Holistic Approach to Education

We deliver interlinked projects:

- School Improvement provides safe, inclusive classrooms and toilets, a clean water source and storage, food security and education resources.
- Let's Learn develops early literacy and numeracy skills.
- Teacher Development ensures that teachers are adequately skilled and engaged.
- Keeping Girls in School raises community awareness about the importance of girls' rights, distributes reusable sanitary products, and sexual and reproductive health rights training.
- My Voice educates children and the community on the protection of children's rights.
- Our School Community engages parents and community leaders and creates a sustainable income stream for the delivery of quality education.
- Msomi Scholarships provides financial and mentorship support so that students from disadvantaged families can continue their secondary/tertiary education.



Our Sustainable Development Model

In every primary school partnership we apply our School Sustainable Development Model, [detailed information here](#). It ensures that all school community stakeholders understand from the outset, that So They Can's support is provided through a 3-phased approach. We build a school's capacity through the provision of infrastructure, resources, training and advocacy. Through the implementation of our projects, schools become equipped to independently sustain quality education, and we exit our financial support, so that we can go on to support more schools in need.

Full Accreditation by the Australian Government

In 2023, So They Can achieved a significant milestone that recognises the effectiveness of our organisation. The Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) awarded So They Can full accreditation - which less than 1% of Australia's 60,000 charities have been successful in receiving. Their rigorous assessment process, across So They Can's governance, programs, finance, partnerships and communications, confirms the effectiveness of our work in achieving quality education in East Africa.

It provides us with annual funding through their Australian Cooperation NGO Program (ACNP), to expand our reach. In 2023, we brought on 5 new partner primary schools - 3 in Baringo, and 2 in Nakuru, Kenya.

Meet Chemkal, a girl that you will support

Escaping child marriage to stay in school

Until she was 9, Chamkal could only dream of going to school. Instead, her childhood revolved around staying at home to help her mother with chores, fetching water and looking after her family's few goats.

Chamkal's parents separated when she was young, leaving her mother to care for Chamkal and her nine siblings alone. As her mother struggled to make ends meet, Chamkal's future was looking increasingly desperate. Against her mother's will, Chamkal's brothers were making arrangements for her to undergo female genital cutting and be married early, so that the family could earn money through her dowry.

In East Pokot, an area in Baringo where we work, So They Can's Education Program and cross-cutting community development ensures that Chamkal, and her peers, can continue their education and become productive members and leaders in their community.



'Now that I am in school I feel happy. I want to continue with school and become a doctor.'



Chamkal loves going to school. The support that So They Can provides to her school ensures that 730 girls all access their right to quality education.

Chamkal shares that:

"At school there are many other girls and boys learning so they can have a better life and help their families. My family is better off now because all of us children are in school. My mother can do other work to get some money and take care of us when we are home. The community is better with so many of the children going to school. Because of this, girls will not be married early and boys won't have to go and steal cows."

Budget

As detailed below, the cost of implementing our holistic Education Program in Baringo is \$366,800. So They Can has secured \$316,800 of grant funding for the program, from the Australian Government's DFAT's ACNP; and generous annual contributions from families and individuals.

Through the Global Giving community, and your support, we need to raise the remaining \$50,000, to ensure that every child can stay in primary school.

Baringo Education Program - Projects	Total in USD
Let's Learn	14,800
School Improvement	94,380
Our School Community	16,750
My Voice	7,900
Msomi Scholarships	27,855
Teacher Development	37,915
Keeping Girls in School	16,385
Feeding Program	33,000
Program Support	57,545
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	306,530
Indirect Costs (our 100% localised staff salaries)	60,270
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	366,800
Funding Secured	316,800
PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST VIA GLOBAL GIVING	50,000

About So They Can

Making quality education accessible for children living in poverty in East Africa

So They Can is an international non-profit organisation driven by the vision to change the future for children living in poverty through education.

Our CEO, Cassandra Treadwell, co-founded the organisation in Kenya in 2009 in response to the urgent need for support for the more than 600,000 Kenyans who were internally displaced as a result of the 2007 election violence, and forced to live in makeshift tents in Nakuru. It was the direct request from the community, 'we need a school for our children - an education is the only inheritance we can give them', that first began So They Can's mission to support primary education in East Africa.

In 2024, So They Can supports 51 government schools in Kenya and Tanzania, to empower 33,000 children and their families through our Education Program (see Education projects below), and an additional 15,000 community members through our Community Development Program.

This brief video showcases the work and impact of our organisation (duration: 4.19 mins).



Our School Community

to build relationships with the community and ensure the long-term sustainability of the projects.



School Improvement

to ensure students are in a safe and vibrant environment where they are kept healthy to optimise their learning.



Teacher Development

to improve teaching standards and support teachers in their ongoing pedagogical capability enhancement.



My Voice

to build confidence and empower students to speak up and take ownership of their education and to understand their rights.



Mamire Teachers' College

to create the next generation of quality teachers in East Africa who can inspire our students to reach their full potential



Let's Learn

to build interest and confidence in learning, early literacy and numeracy to pre-primary students



Shamba Letu

to educate the community on farming practices and provide food and income to the school.



Keeping Girls in School

to engage the whole community of the importance of girls education, including their human rights, health and wellbeing and their contribution to society.



Msomi Scholarships & Secondary Partnerships

to create clear pathways beyond primary school and support students to progress

Our Approach

So They Can is committed to implementing ethical, accountable and effective programs that support marginalised communities in East Africa. We place communities at the centre of everything we do, and as an accredited international non-government organisation our work is underpinned by best practices in international development.

Our approach is consistently guided by the following principles:

Locally-led



Meaningful local partnerships are at the core of our work. Our impact is a result of collective action sustained through a participatory approach. Students, parents, teachers, school leadership, local government and the broader community lead our development processes and as a result projects are responsive to the unique needs of each community. Our 100% local So They Can team in Kenya and Tanzanian are phenomenal.

Cross-cutting



We know that poverty is multifaceted and requires cross-cutting solutions to tackle its root causes. Our Community Development Program is delivered in parallel to our Education Program, to focus on improving the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of all. We improve the living standards of the whole community to break the cycle of poverty.

Inclusive and Rights-based



Undeterred by hard-to-reach locations, we prioritise the most vulnerable communities through our commitment to leave no one behind. Our work is guided by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and international protection frameworks. Every community member, regardless of their identity, is valued, and their rights are acknowledged, protected and promoted across our programs.

Scalable, Sustainable, Innovative



We work in a 6-8 year development cycle. School communities move through three phases of support - foundation, core, sustained - which advance their capacity until a level of development is reached that can be independently sustained, so that we can transition our support out and commence working in a new surrounding community that is in need. The lessons learnt and knowledge acquired from our experience of over more than a decade working within national education systems, enables us to be innovative and agile in our programming and respond to evolving needs.

Accountable



First and foremost we are accountable to the communities with whom we work. This responsibility also extends to the staff, supporters and partners of our organisation. Transparency ensures that we maintain our accountability to all of our stakeholders. Our operations are regulated through comprehensive policies and procedures; our impact is measured and assessed through robust monitoring and evaluation; and our fiscal health is overseen by an independent Board of Directors.

Progressing our work towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

So They Can's Education and Empowerment Programs are aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Our agenda intersects with many of the goals, with a primary focus on Education, as well as a strong focus through our Enhancement Programs on Health, Gender Equality and Partnerships. Here are the goals we're working towards...



so they can

By 2030, our goal is to provide education to 36,000 children who are living in poverty in East Africa every year.

Together we can be the difference.









Learn more and get in touch...

www.sotheycan.org

angela@sotheycan.org

Follow us on social...

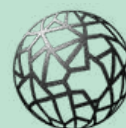
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