

neema[♥]

RESTORE | EDUCATE | TRANSFORM



2023

IMPACT REPORT

**Empowering vulnerable young women
in rural Kenya through skills training,
counseling, and discipleship.**



Scan to read
more updates
from our program
in our full impact
report online!

Irine, Program Director, and Brenda at Graduation



Meet Sarah Class of 2024

Sarah is one of eight children, and while her father is a cobbler, her mother has passed away. She attended traditional school until 8th grade but had to drop out because extreme poverty left her unable to pay for school supplies. She says she is grateful to God for bringing her to Neema because she knows after she is done with school, she [can] give a helping hand to [her] father who does every thing single-handedly.

“For the first time, I was able to openly share my heart with my [father]. I never had such confidence but [am] grateful for what Neema has made me.”

Sarah
Class of 2024

8:1

The ratio of individuals (across 4 generations) directly benefiting when one student graduates from Neema.



Veronica, Dorcas, and Mercy (Class of 2024)



Scan the QR code to hear Faith (Class of 2025) share about how she thinks tailoring class will impact her future.

Your Generosity in Action



NEW CAMPUS

Jan: Groundbreaking
 Sept: Moving In
 Nov: Grand Opening Ceremony



COUNSELING

270+ Individual Sessions with Students
 400+ Counseling Sessions with Alumni
 & Guardians
 470+ Children from Local Schools
 Impacted by our Counselors



SKILLS TRAINING

100% of third-year students took the
 advanced level NITA exam
 Field Trip to a Fabric Manufacturer
 22 Livelihood Classes
 12 Catering Classes



DISCIPLESHIP

8 Students Gave their Life to Christ
 14 Chaplain Visits
 Alpha Discipleship Training
 Other Bible Studies



ALUMNI

59 Alumni Visits
 5 Alumni Events
 including a trip to
 a fashion festival



MEDICAL

375+ Needs addressed
 (medication, dispensary/
 hospital visit, etc.)
 3 Workshops by a nurse



COMMUNITY

25+ Guardians' Home Visits
 6 Guardians' Meetings
 470+ Children and Teachers
 from two local schools
 counseled



"We're so grateful for the immense impact we have seen in our daughter for [the] three years she's been at Neema. I have observed her grow emotionally, progress in her skills training, and above all, her spiritual growth—she has learned and is putting into practice forgiveness. She also displays maturity, and I'm full of joy as a mother since she is my firstborn daughter, and therefore, a role model to her daughter and her younger siblings."

- ANNE, MOTHER OF SHEILA,
2023 GRADUATE

PERMACULTURE

Relationship continued with The Earth Allies Restoration Network (EARN)



160+

Nutritious meals prepared daily for students, children, and staff

400

Plants and trees planted on our farm

1,036

Pounds of beans harvested from our farm



Scan to hear Wise, Class of 2024, share about how her relationship with her son Ali has changed since she came to Neema.



Meet Ann Class of 2025

"I feel confident and courageous. Before I joined Neema, I could not express myself because of too much fear. But I have been able to make friends, and I can now share freely during prayer time. I have learned to pray and read the Bible, and that is the first thing I want to teach my parents and siblings so that when they are in low spirits, they can pray and have hope. I [also] had lots of unforgiveness [in] my heart though I rarely shared about it. But I have been able to forgive some of my family members, and as I go home, I will I feel free to meet them so that we can reconcile."

Ann
Class of 2025

Our Community

35

Students and 14
children cared
for

32

Kenya and U.S.
staff & board
members

150

People from 12
countries joined
the Solidarity
Stomp

41

Grace Collective
members

1.4K

Individuals
supported by
our alumni

165

Alumni who've
graduated from
Neema since 2014

50

Grace Partners

4

Church Partners



Meet Sarah Class of 2025

"I used to feel worthless and unwanted. I lost self-esteem that even when I first came to Neema I had no confidence and feared trying out things. But from how I been accepted and treated at Neema, I no longer feel rejected because I feel genuinely loved. I have learned to share my opinion in classes with less fear, and I cannot wait to reach home so that I share with them my growth. I know my dad will be so proud of me. Neema is teaching me that suffering is not the end, but there is always hope."

Sarah
Class of 2025

Financials

In 2023, Neema led two major fundraising efforts: for the regular program and for the new campus through the *Securing Her Future* campaign (still ongoing).

\$671,722

IN TOTAL REVENUE

Neema Program: \$439,664
Capital Campaign: \$232,058



Neema students washing their clothes

"AMONG AGRICULTURE-DOMINANT HOUSEHOLDS, 93% OF SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN ARE STILL IN PRIMARY SCHOOL."¹

What is life like for girls growing up in rural Kenya?

- 1. Many families make less than \$2/day.** 38% of individuals in rural Kenya live in poverty.¹ Living in rural areas puts young women at a greater disadvantage because of fewer job opportunities. Many resort to casual labor, but this won't sufficiently provide for a family.
- 2. Most girls drop out of school by 8th grade.** Public school is technically free, but students are required to pay for various supplies, which is often too much for families. Less than 25% of women in rural Kenya who went to school completed high school, crushing their opportunities for a better future.²
- 3. A high rate of teen pregnancies.** 40% of women aged 15-19 who have no education have been pregnant, compared to 5% of women who have more than secondary education. Adolescent pregnancies are also more likely in poor areas.³ Teenage moms face a societal stigma threatening their chances of further education or career opportunities, making them even more vulnerable.
- 4. Families prioritize their sons' education.** When families have limited resources, boys are given educational priority since they are considered the future caregivers for the family.⁴ Girls also face barriers such as heavy domestic workloads, adolescent marriage and pregnancies, and are therefore, unable to develop advanced literacy skills or other skills that could lift them out of poverty.
- 5. Parents marry away their daughters to get a dowry.** 23% of married women age 20-24 were married before they were 18 (the legal age), 4% before they were 15.⁵ Parents perceive their daughters as an investment. While there is no standard process, the tribe's culture will dictate the terms of the dowry. It is generally equivalent to five years of the groom's salary, paid in monetary or in kind (livestock), often in installments.
- 6. Many women in rural Kenya experience violence.** 41% of women and girls age 15-49 in the county Neema is in have experienced physical violence since the age of 15.⁶ "Kenya continues to witness social tolerance for violence against women, with 42% of women and 36% of men believing a man can be justified for beating his wife under certain circumstances."⁷
- 7. Women aren't empowered to make their own choices.** Only 29% of women in Kenya are considered "empowered".⁸ This means a woman has viable options to choose—the ability to decide how she will live her life. Rural Kenya is a patriarchal society where cultural attitudes around gender roles and norms exacerbate gender inequalities. It's also twice as likely for women in urban areas to be empowered in comparison to those in rural Kenya.⁹



Scan to learn more about what life is like for girls growing up in rural Kenya.

¹Kenya Poverty Report (2021)

²KNBS

³UNFPA

⁴UNICEF

⁵Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

⁶KNBS

⁷Kenya Demographic and Health Survey

⁸UN Women and KNBS

⁹KNBS

In Gratitude...

Sustaining Members (8+ Years)

Jules and Revee Caho
Denise and Lawrence Delpino
Kathy Drew
Penny and David Gerrard
Nicole and Matt Honkala
Daisy and Joshua Isler
Deidre Jacob
Suzanne and Don Kelley
Carla and Gregory Lusby
Wendy and Emanuele Madanat
Alexis Maule
Lindsay and Brian McIntire
Jean and David McIntire
Theresa and Bob Newman
Joseph Puccino
Melinda and David Snow
Jessica and Tim Stehman
Allan Swanson
Beverly and Steve Tatios
Tina and Gary Veer
Megan and Alex Wagner
Devon and Paul Wisneski
Ruth and James Witmer
Keshet and Jim Witmer
Susan and Glenn Wittmann
Amy and Patrick Zook

Business Partners

Accounting Beyond Borders
American Computer Estimating
Berks Homes
Delta Point
Maridadi Couture
Meridian Bank
Star Printing
S&H Express
Tessa Marie Images
Vizionary Wealth Management
Witmer Public Safety Group

Church Partners

CHVRCH Newtown Square
Goshen Baptist Church
Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church
Providence Church



Forgiveness at a seminar for incoming students and guardians



Brenda (Class of 2024) with her son Jayden at the new campus



Bible reading during morning worship



Neema children at the new campus's children's building

Join our monthly virtual prayer gatherings!

We believe prayer is critical to the restoration of the young women at Neema. All are welcome to join us on Zoom to meet with our Program Director Irine, hear updates from Neema, and spend time with us in prayer. Scan the QR code to see our events page and access the link to our next prayer gathering.



Securing Her Future

Through its first-ever capital campaign, Neema built its new permanent campus to allow **twice as many young women to attend Neema!** It provides more optimal facilities and establishes Neema as a long-term partner in the local community.

Current Progress

Thanks to a generous donor's loan, construction completed a full year ahead of schedule, and our students moved in in September of 2023.

While this progress is possible because of the loan, we still have 23% of our \$550,000 goal left to raise to pay it back. We know that empowering these young women is important to you, so will you make a small donation today? You can transform the life of a young woman and her child by providing her with healing, hope, and a path out of poverty.

Visit neemaproject.org/shf

With the new campus, the future of twice as many women will be secured!



\$550K

\$500K

\$423K

\$400K

\$300K

\$200K

\$100K

RAISED/PLEDGED





A Timeline of Progress



RESEARCH & DESIGN

2019-2021

Neema conducted a needs assessment among the Kenyan staff and partnered with engineering students from Villanova University to sketch a potential campus and estimate costs.



PURCHASE LAND

2021-2022

Neema purchased two acres of land in the Waitaluk community.



DRILL BOREHOLE

2022

Neema drilled a borehole on the new property, providing reliable access to water for Neema and local families.



BUILD WATER TOWER

2022-2023

The borehole was equipped with a pump, solar panels, and tank so water is now being shared with the community.

Make a donation today.

Help us reach twice as many women and children in need! Go to neemaproject.org/shf for more information and to make your tax-deductible gift or pledge today.





Dec. 2022

A generous donor offers to lend funds to begin building the campus right away so that more young women can join Neema in 2024!



✓ COMPLETED

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY

Jan. 2023

Groundbreaking Ceremony for new campus with the community.



✓ COMPLETED

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

2022-2023

In February, the foundations were laid for new residences, classrooms, community room/chapel, kitchen, counseling and administrative building, and children's daycare building. Walls were constructed in April and roofs and windows were installed in May-June.

September, 2023

Students and staff move into the new campus!



✓ COMPLETED

GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Nov. 2023

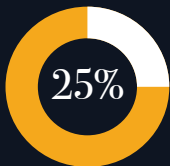
Grand opening celebrating Neema's new campus!



DESIRED DEADLINE TO PAY BACK THE LOAN

Dec. 2024

This fast progress has been made possible by a generous loan. However, as of Jan. 30, 2024, we still have 23% of the funds to raise to pay back the loan and are aiming to complete fundraising by Dec., 2024.



The need for girls in Kenya:

Less than 25% of women in rural Kenya who went to school completed high school, crushing their opportunities for a better future.



RESTORE | EDUCATE | TRANSFORM

Your generosity has the power to restore and educate vulnerable women and children.

Give today to provide for **twice as many** young women and children in need in rural Kenya. Their future is in your hands.



Neema children at the new campus

SCAN TO GIVE



Visit neemaproject.org to learn more about how you can empower vulnerable young women in rural Kenya.

@NEEMAPROJECT | INFO@NEEMAPROJECT.ORG



Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Special thanks to Star Printing for donating printing costs for this Impact Report.