

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

KEY

Knowledge
Empowering
Youth

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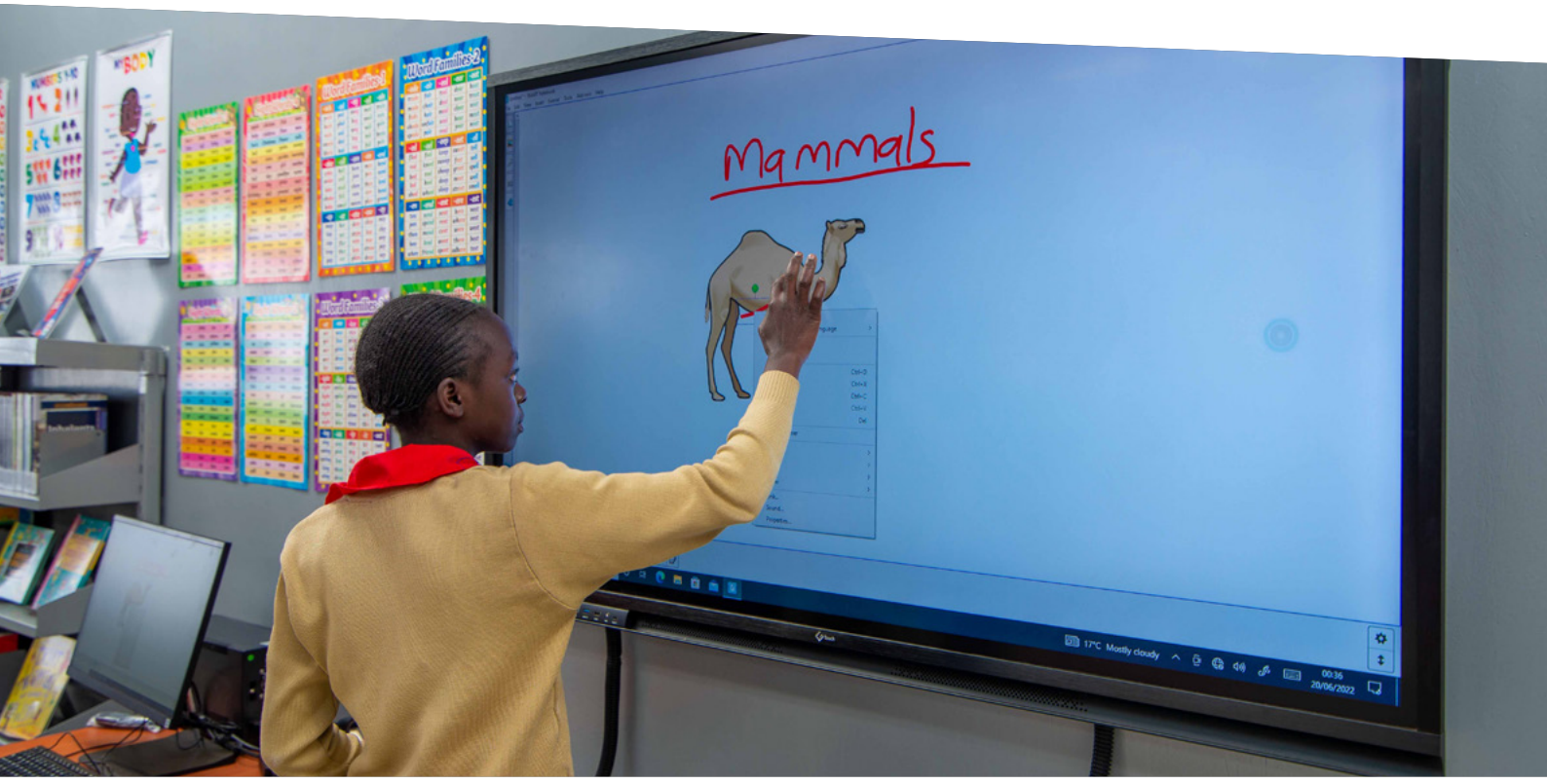
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022, the program saw a strong resurgence, with new or renovated libraries established in Elgeyo Marakwet, Narok, Kakamega, and Nandi counties. These efforts reached 8,709 learners 6,178 boys and 2,531 girls greatly enhancing access to quality reading materials and educational support. Strategic clustering of schools enabled more effective impact assessment and laid the groundwork for scalable models in future initiatives.

The year also featured meaningful engagement at both national and global levels through professional conferences and strengthened partnerships. Investments in librarian training, technology integration, and the promotion of a reading culture further underscored KEY's commitment to transforming school libraries into vibrant, student-centered learning hubs. This progress establishes a strong foundation for continued growth, innovation, and collaboration.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

If you were to step into one of our libraries today, whether in the heart of Lamu or the hills of Kakamega, you'd likely find a quiet hum of possibility. A student leans over a keyboard, exploring questions his textbooks never quite answered. A teacher no longer has to borrow books from colleagues in the next town. A girl finds a novel that makes her feel seen. A boy builds with robotics and begins to dream bigger.

In these ordinary yet extraordinary moments, I'm reminded of the deeper purpose behind every effort. It's here that curiosity takes root, access expands, and learning begins to transform lives.

In 2022, KEY Libraries reached over 12,000 learners across five counties in Kenya. We built and revitalized 12 school libraries, distributed nearly 23,000 books, and introduced technology – interactive whiteboards, 95 computers, and digital catalogues – that turned static spaces into dynamic hubs of exploration.

We don't simply build libraries. We seed imagination. We nurture critical thinking. And we do it in partnership with donors, librarians, educators, parents, and all who believe that books can be catalysts for lasting change.

This past year, our work carried us beyond Kenya, from rural classrooms to the global stage at the IFLA Congress in Dublin, where we joined the international call for equitable education.

The impact is real. But the horizon is broader still. As we look to 2023 and beyond, we hold fast to a simple truth: knowledge, placed in the hands of youth, can reimagine entire futures.

Thank you for turning the page with us.

With gratitude,



RITA FIELD-MARSHAM
CEO and Founder,
Knowledge Empowering
Youth (KEY)



ABOUT KNOWLEDGE EMPOWERING YOUTH



WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that **knowledge transforms destinies** – children's, communities', countries'.

OUR MISSION

We work to ensure school-aged children–regardless of background or location–have **access to a rich library of current, captivating, and impactful resources,** because only through knowledge and access to worlds beyond their own can children imagine what is possible and choose the future they want.

HOW WE DO IT

Guided by **our values – knowledge, excellence, openness, respect, and self-leadership** – we create inclusive, high quality learning spaces that meet international standards, empower children, and strengthen communities.

OUR VALUES

KNOWLEDGE
EXCELLENCE
OPENNESS
RESPECT
SELF-LEADERSHIP

WHAT WE DO

WE PROVIDE
turnkey school libraries that empower youth.

WE ENHANCE
language and technology proficiency.

WE STRENGTHEN
educational curriculum and vision.

WE FOSTER
active and engaged citizens.

WE PROMOTE
national culture and pride.

REACH OF KEY LIBRARIES
IN 2022

47,783
STUDENTS REACHED



19,093
BOYS REACHED

28,690
GIRLS REACHED

2:3
RATIO - BOYS : GIRLS

11
COUNTIES REACHED

OUR TRUSTEES



RITA FIELD-MARSHAM
CEO and Founder,
Key Libraries



CHARLES FIELD-MARSHAM
Trustee



WANDIA GICHURU
Trustee

OUR TEAM



NYAKUNDI NYAMBANE
Key Head Librarian,
Key Libraries



GLADYS KERICH, PMP
Programs Manager,
Key Libraries



CHRISTINE SIMANI
Project Coordinator,
Key Libraries

GOALS & RESULTS
FOR 2022

Goals	KEY Results
Expand Library Access in Under-Resourced Schools Across Multiple Counties	• 5 new and 7 renovated libraries in Elgeyo Marakwet County, Nandi County, Kakamega County and Narok County.
Integrate Technology in Library Services	• Installed computers and interactive boards in the library to support teaching and learning and promote digital literacy.
Train School Librarians in Library Management and Student Engagement	• Trained librarians and teacher librarians on library management system (track the book collection, usage, generate reports, note the overdue books, add and remove patron form the system).
Engage in National and Global Conferences and Knowledge-Sharing Platforms	• Participation in IFLA (Dublin) and KLA (Machakos) conferences. • Contributed to dialogue and future planning.
KEY Impact Highlights	• New Build Libraries: 5 • Renovated Libraries: 7 • Learners Reached: 12,464 • Books Distributed: 22,766 • Computers Distributed: 95 • Interactive boards Distributed: 12

LIBRARY PROJECTS

KEIYO SCHOOLS, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY

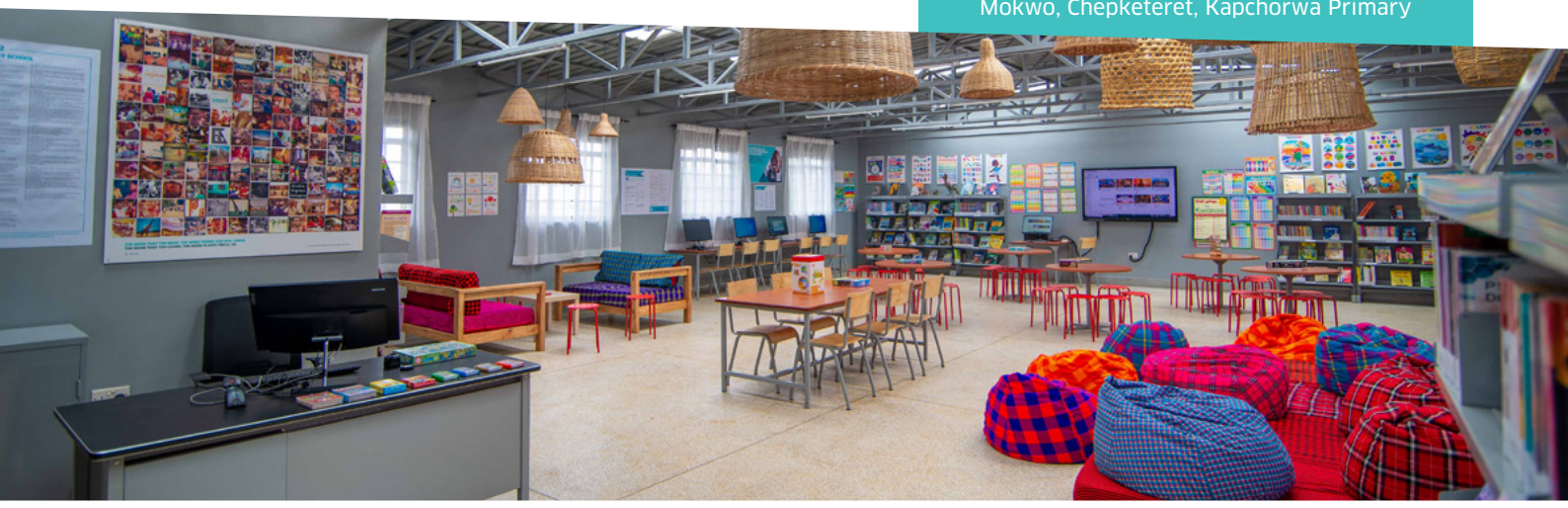
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SCHOOLS INCLUDED IN COMPREHENSIVE FIELD ASSESSMENT

In 2021-2022, Knowledge Empowering Youth (KEY) conducted a comprehensive field assessment of 19 schools across Keiyo South, Elgeyo Marakwet County, to identify those most in need of library support. Based on criteria such as lack of library infrastructure, leadership readiness, and potential for community impact, seven schools were selected. These include four primary schools– St. Joan Academy (Chepkorio Ward), Kapchorwa Primary (Metkei Ward), Chepketeret Primary (Kabiemit Ward), and Mokwo Primary (Kaptarakwa Ward) as well as three secondary schools: Kimwarer Boys Secondary (Soy South Ward), Chepsigot Mixed Day Secondary (Soy North Ward), and Kapkitony Girls Secondary (Kabiemit Ward).

To better understand and measure the impact of these libraries, KEY strategically selected a diverse cluster of schools across different wards. This approach will show how improved access to learning resources influences student performance, reading culture, and community engagement in varied settings. The selected clusters also serve as learning models that can guide future library projects across the region, ensuring KEY efforts are both sustainable and impactful.

Completed New Primary Schools Library– Mokwo, Chepketeret, Kapchorwa Primary



KEIYO SCHOOLS, ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY LIBRARY UPGRADES

Mid-Renovation at St. Joan Academy



Kimwarer Secondary Library Before Renovations



Mid-Construction of New Library for Chepsigot Secondary and Kapkitony Girls





St. Joan Academy– Renovated and Furnished



Kimwarer Secondary Library After Renovations



Completed Library for Kapkitony Girls and Chepsigot Mixed Day Secondary School

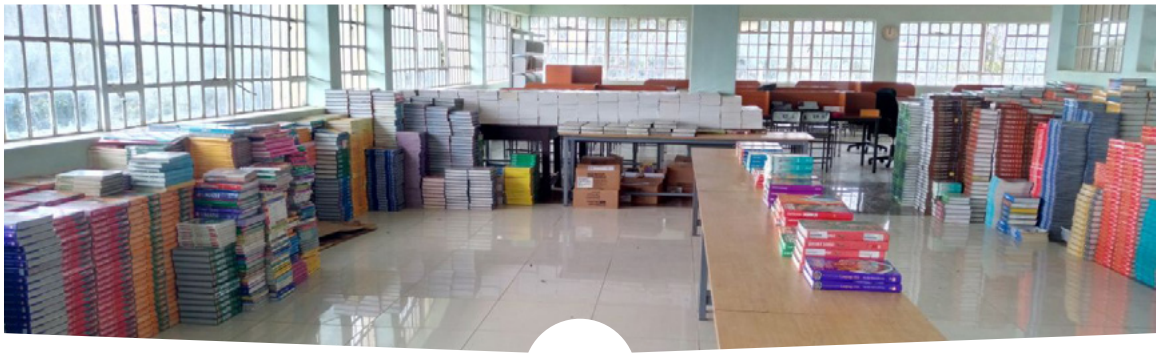
NANDI COUNTY SCHOOL

The library at Kapsabet Boys High School stands out as a model learning environment, combining modern design with a great ambiance that inspires focus and academic excellence.

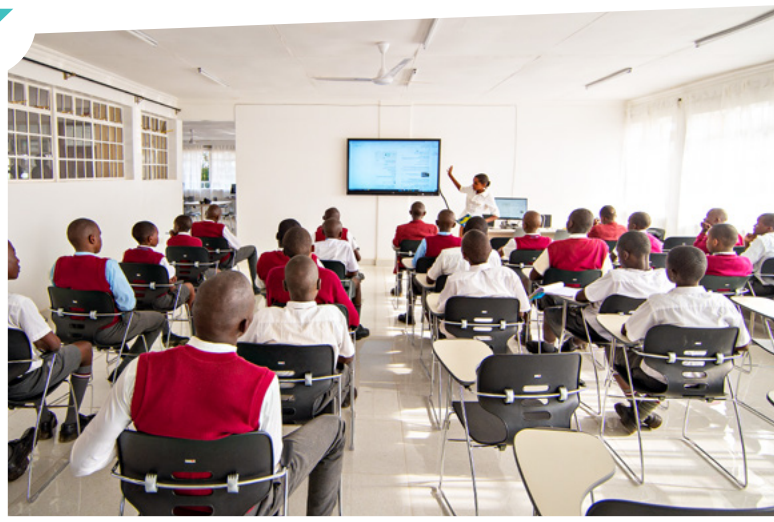
The space is well-lit, comfortably furnished, and equipped with digital tools that support research and independent learning. Beyond its inviting atmosphere, the library offers a diverse collection of books, ranging from reference materials to literature, biographies, and career development resources.

With access to technology and a wide variety of reading options, students are better able to explore, discover, and engage with knowledge in ways that go beyond the classroom.

Kapsabet Boys Before Renovation and Furnishing







Kapsabet Boys After Renovation and Furnishing

LIBRARY PROJECTS

NANDI COUNTY SCHOOL (KAPSABET BOYS HIGH SCHOOL) AFTER RENOVATION AND FURNISHING



LIBRARY PROJECTS

NANDI COUNTY SCHOOL (KAPSABET BOYS HIGH SCHOOL) AFTER RENOVATION AND FURNISHING



KAKAMEGA COUNTY SCHOOLS

In Khwisero village, Kakamega County, KEY Libraries established modern libraries at Mulwanda Primary and St. Stephen's Mulwanda Secondary School in 2022. These two libraries serve as the only benchmark school libraries in the Western Kenya region, where access to educational infrastructure remains limited. The spaces were designed to be more than just book repositories they offer a structured environment for academic support, digital literacy, and independent learning.

Teachers use the spaces for group reading sessions and research-based learning, while students now have access to a quiet, well-equipped environment to study, revise, and explore new ideas. The initiative has also opened doors for digital learning, bridging the gap between rural schools and the resources necessary for 21st-century education.

Before at Mulwada Primary



Before at St. Stephen Mulwada





After at Mulwada Primary



After at St. Stephen Mulwada

LIBRARY PROJECTS

KAKAMEGA COUNTY SCHOOLS



NAROK COUNTY SCHOOLS

In 2022, KEY renovated the library at Iltolish Primary School with the goal of creating a culturally relevant and inclusive learning space for both students and the surrounding Maasai community. The book collection was carefully curated to reflect local interests, language needs, and cultural heritage, ensuring that learners could connect with the materials in meaningful ways.

The library also introduced an open-door policy that allows parents and community members to access reading materials, turning the space into a shared educational hub. Since its renovation, the library has become a vital resource for students, supporting daily learning activities, improving literacy levels, and encouraging independent reading and exploration.



A student enjoying a book from the library.

LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT



Books are old and torn.



Books kept in a staff room in Iltolish Mara Primary School.



LIBRARY PROJECTS

NAROK COUNTY SCHOOLS



LIBRARY PROJECTS

NAROK COUNTY SCHOOLS



LAMU COUNTY

The school library at Shella Primary School, located on an island in Lamu County, was first launched in 2012. A decade later, in 2022, the school constructed a new library building to better serve its growing needs. KEY Libraries furnished the new space, enhancing it with age-appropriate books, child-friendly furniture, and colorful educational posters tailored for primary school learners.

Students demonstrated a strong interest in digital tools especially the interactive board and computers emphasizing the importance of incorporating digital literacy into the library experience.



Students using the interactive board at Shella Primary.

Upgraded Library at Shella Primary



LIBRARY PROJECTS

LAMU COUNTY (SHELLA PRIMARY SCHOOL)



CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

IFLA WLIC IRELAND

In July 2022, KEY Libraries participated in the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Dublin, joining over 2,400 participants from 96 countries. The event explored the evolving role of libraries in areas such as digital inclusion, community support, and post-pandemic adaptation. KEY engaged in sessions on leadership, youth services, and project management, while also building connections with global partners. Outcomes included commitments to align with the updated IFLA School Library Manifesto, strengthen librarian training, and enhance strategic planning and digital outreach.

2,400
PARTICIPANTS

96
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



IFLA Continuous Development and Workplace Learning Members

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

KEY Libraries partnered with Van Woustraat Limited to support library development in Keiyo schools. This collaboration provided critical funding for infrastructure, resources, and learning materials, significantly enhancing access to quality education in the region. The partnership reflects KEY's commitment to building strong, values-aligned relationships that drive sustainable impact in under-served communities.

VAN WOUSTRAAT TRUST

Van Woustraat Trust

St. Joan Academy Library



FUTURE KEY PLANS
FOR 2023

- Establish and strengthen 3 libraries in different region.
- Host the inaugural KEY School Librarians Workshop, bringing together over 45 librarians from across the country (and beyond) for training, mentorship, and professional development. The workshop will foster best practices in school librarianship and promote collaboration across institutions.
- Pilot robotics and digital learning programs: Introduce the program to two schools.
- Present KEY to international Platform—American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference.
- Participate in the national library conference.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with organizations such as Kenya National Library Service (KNLS), Goethe-Institut and Kenya Library Association (KLA) to enhance the sustainability and impact of KEY's Libraries.



Chepketeret Mixed Day & Boarding Primary School before our library.



Chepketeret Mixed Day & Boarding Primary School after our library.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The financial statements of Knowledge Empowering Youth Trust comprising of the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, statement of income and expenditure and accumulated funds, statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies have been audited by an independent auditor – BDO East Africa Kenya. An unqualified opinion was issued. The financial statements are available upon request.





Knowledge
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