

CAROLINA FOR KIBERA



Location: Nairobi, Kenya

Partner: Global Fund for Children

Issue Areas: Gender Equality, Environmental Sustainability, Gender Equality, Maternal Health

Points of Interest: Art for Social Change, Videos and photos taken of the project participants in Kenya

The Organization

Carolina for Kibera (CFK) was established in 2001 to promote youth leadership and ethnic and gender cooperation through sports, young women's empowerment, and community development. CFK also works to improve basic healthcare, sanitation, and education in Kibera. All of its programs are grounded in the theory and practice of participatory development. CFK operates four main projects to meet the vast needs of Kibera's young residents: a youth sports program, which supports multiethnic soccer teams for boys and girls, community cleanups, and leadership training; the Tabitha Medical Clinic, which provides primary healthcare for Kibera residents on a sliding-fee scale; the Taka Ni Pato (Trash is Cash) initiative, which manages environmentally friendly profitable, community-run solid waste management systems within the slums; and Binti Pamoja center which addresses the issues of reproductive health and other issues facing girls in Kibera. Center for Kibera was recognized as a Global Health Hero in November 2005 by Time magazine.

Why the Need?

Nairobi is the bustling, cosmopolitan capital of Kenya and a regional hub in East Africa. Within this city of many contrasts, where lavish villas and skyscrapers mix with shantytowns, is the urban slum of Kibera. Kibera has the dubious distinction of being the largest slum in East Africa, with 600,000 people, half of whom are under the age of 15, living in an area the size of Manhattan's Central Park. There is a severe shortage of basic government services, such as the provision of clean water, healthcare, education, and sewage disposal. Home to five of Kenya's six largest ethnic groups, who all claim land rights to the slum, Kibera has a history of ethnic tension. These tensions played a critical role in fueling the post-election instability that engulfed the country in early 2008; urban slums like Kibera were particularly affected by the violence. Approximately 80 percent of all youth in Kibera are unemployed, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over 20 percent of the population is HIV-positive. Women, particularly young women, in Kibera are treated as second-class citizens and have unique needs that are not met and are rarely recognized, such as protection from sexual violence and from HIV infection.

How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

Funds teams raise will support CFK's program, Binti Pamoja. A survey of Kibera found a limited number of safe places for teenage girls to go within the community to meet their distinct needs and to support their empowerment and ambitions. In order to address these needs, CFK launched Binti Pamoja (Daughters United), a reproductive health and women's rights program for 13-to-18 year-old girls. The Binti Pamoja center uses a variety of creative mechanisms—including photography, drama, debate, and a community newsletter – to explore the issues facing young women in Kibera. The center has held exhibitions of the girl's photos at several local venues within Kibera, as well as at the National Museum of Kenya and the French Cultural Center of Nairobi. Binti Pamoja is committed to having its members be active leaders and shapers of the center. Following a two-year program membership, members become alumni and take on leadership and mentorship roles in the center's activities.

The Partner

The Global Fund for Children (GFC) is a leading institution on the rights of children. GFC advances the education and dignity of young people around the world. They envision a world where children grow up to be productive, caring citizens of our global society. GFC supports over 150 small, community-based groups that improve education for children who would otherwise be left behind.

NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Carolina for Kibera.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

Carolina for Kibera takes a multi-faceted approach to youth leadership and ethnic and gender cooperation. CFK creates programs to meet the needs of the Kibera community. The organization engages its participants to become active members of their community at a young age, which will lead to a healthier community in the future.

Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://www.globalfundforchildren.org>

Project Website: <http://cfk.unc.edu>

CIA World Factbook (Kenya): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html>

Embassy of Kenya: <http://www.kenyaembassy.com>

Related News: <http://www.necn.com/Boston/World/Rye-Barcott-Carolina-for-Kibera/1200451781.html>

See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.