

Sponsorship news



TERM THREE 2024

Alison's Story: U.S. Venture Kenya Visit Provides New Perspective on Poverty—and Hope



"I didn't appreciate what life was like in Kenya until I arrived. Nor what extreme poverty really looks like," reflects Alison VanBellinger, director of integrated marketing at U.S. Venture (USV).

VanBellinger traveled to Kenya as part of a USV Global Citizen Team

this fall—a journey the company sponsors every two years to engage on the ground in the work USV and its associates help power through VICODEC and Kenya Works.

"Seeing the work and *impact* the organizations make firsthand really put the pieces together for me," she explained. "The staff are so passionate. They bring hope to so many children—hope that shines throughout the community."

Some of her favorite and most eye-opening moments were: hugging her family's sponsored students, touring the Kenya Works Child Protection Center and learning about the impact the school feeding programs have on children's education. And, playing with the kids at VICODEC and at the Child Protection Center!

"The light they have in their eyes and the happiness that emanates from everyone there is evident the second you step into a room."

VanBellinger noted that being able to slow down—"Kenya time is *real*," she laughs—and be present in the moment allowed her to immerse herself into the culture. Through singing, dancing, playing games together and listening to people's stories, the experience left a deep impression and perspective she hopes to always remember.

"I don't think I've cried, laughed, high-fived and hugged as much as I did that week," she said. "I feel so blessed to have been part of this trip—and to be a champion for these efforts USV is so deeply connected with in Kenya. I hope to bring my family someday to meet all of my new friends."

Kenya Works Opens Community Library —Creates an Educational Oasis in "Library Desert"—

In January 2024, Kenya Works opened its new campus, a transformative addition to our community services.

The new campus is home to our Child Protection Center, Miale ya Tumaini, and also serves as a community resources center serving sponsored students and the wider community.

This fall, Kenya Works opened a Community Library which houses

a rich collection of culturally appropriate books for all ages, as well as a vast digital collection offered through a partnership with the Kenya National Library Service.

The library is equipped with a modern computer lab, thanks to US Venture's donation of computers. Access to technology builds opportunity through digital literacy—skills needed to succeed in the modern world. The library is now open to the public.



Situated between the Kware and Gataka informal settlements in Rongai, the Kenya Works Community Center is a much-needed educational oasis in a so-called "library desert." There are no public libraries in this community of nearly 200K people.

VICODEC and Kenya Works Feeding Programs

Providing Daily Meals to Over 9,000 Vulnerable Students

Both VICODEC and Kenya Works provide school lunches to partner schools, addressing the critical issue of famine in highly vulnerable communities. The schools we partner with have populations where children previously spent entire school days without food.

When schools provide free lunch, proven outcomes include increased school enrollment and attendance, improved health and enhanced academic performance.

In 2024, VICODEC enrolled three new primary schools into its satellite feeding initiative, benefiting an additional 590 students—now reaching a total of 4,590 learners with a daily nutritious meal.

Kenya Works supports school lunch programs at four partner schools and two community feeding sites, ensuring a daily meal for 4,545.

Poverty is a complex issue that requires comprehensive,



interconnected solutions, such as nutrition and education. Together with our donors, we are helping children shine and thrive.

School Calendar (tentative)	
2025	
Term 1	Jan 6 - April 4
Holiday	April 5 - May 5
Term 2	May 6 - Aug 1
Holiday	Aug 2 - Aug 31
Term 3	Sept 1 - Oct 15
KCSE Testing	Oct 20 - Nov 14

Kenya's New Competency-Based Curriculum: Shaping the Future of Education

This year, Kenya continued the significant shift from the long-standing 8-4-4 education system to the new Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).

The final cohort of Form One students (equivalent to 9th grade in the U.S.) under the 8-4-4 system was enrolled, ending the system that consisted of eight years of primary education, four years of secondary school, and a minimum of four years for post-secondary education.


The new CBC system, structured as 2-6-3-3-3, includes two years of pre-primary, six years of primary school, three years of junior secondary, three years of senior secondary and three years of higher education. This curriculum focuses on developing critical thinking, practical skills, and entrepreneurship, moving towards a more student-centered approach that



prepares learners with skills for life beyond the classroom.

However, the implementation of the CBC requires additional resources and teacher training, leading to higher costs for families.

As a result, sponsorship fees will be increasing for 2025. Sponsorship for students in Grade 10 and above will increase to \$600 and Grade 9 and below will increase to \$375.

	Sponsored Students: 881 (as of Oct. 15, 2024)
Case Management by:	
VICODEC Primary Students	192
Kenya Works Secondary Students & 1 Primary Student	371
KW Shelter Primary Students & Secondary Students	258
Kenya Works Post-Secondary	60



Your support is changing lives!

Renew or increase your sponsorship today to ensure more children receive the education and nourishment they need to thrive!

www.kenyaworks.org/sponsor



VICODEC

VICODEC is a registered Kenyan Charitable Trust located in Ongata Rongai. The campus offers primary, junior secondary and vocational education as well as medical, social and nutritional community services.

United

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Kenya Works is a U.S. 501(c)(3) and a registered Kenyan Charitable Trust dedicated to empowering children and families to overcome poverty and advocate for human rights in Kenya.