

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Boarding supplies for safe and inclusive environment for nomadic children in Turkana



Figure 2: Girls at Kanamkemer primary school in their dormitory celebrating the support of boarding supplies provided by UNICEF

UNICEF supports the child friendly school initiative in low cost primary boarding schools by providing beds, mattresses, sheets and menstrual hygiene kits in order to improve the quality of education for the nomadic children. A total of 492 boarding supplies were provided to 34 low-cost boarding schools in order to ensure safety and an inclusive environment for nomadic children in Turkana. A total of 1,172 children (492 boys and 680 girls) are beneficiaries of the supplies and now have a safe and secure place to sleep. This has improved school enrolment and retention for nomadic children in Turkana, especially girls.

“My concentration in class has improved because I sleep better and I am protected from harmful cultural practices like early marriages and child abuse that make me vulnerable,” said Akai, a 15 year old girl in Class 8 at Kanamkemer primary school. Akai aspires to be a paediatrician when she completes her studies. *“Thank you for the beds in this dormitory which keeps the girls safe from crawling scorpions and spiders.”* Said Madam Naliaka the senior teacher at Kanamkemer primary.

Education is welcomed with joy: The nomadic community embraces education for better a future



Figure 3: Ekamais 55 years old, a village elder at Nakadukui village during enrolment drives, Turkana

“ It is good you came and educate us on the importance of education. For a long time we thought relying on livestock is sustainable but with time we have lost a lot of livestock to the scorching sun, diseases, the cattle wrestlers and we cannot help each other as Nakadukui Community. We have seen relatives and friends who took a child or two to school lead better lives than us who rely on livestock” narrates Ekamais a village elder at Nakadukui Community in Turkana Central during enrolment drives campaigns.

Elder Ekamais emphasized that families that had taken their children to school, live a better life currently. The educated children have jobs and are able to construct better houses for their parents and they are also in a better position to buy food and support their younger brothers and sisters in meeting the cost of education. He used a Turkana simile that, these families are a light in the community for they look upon and also respect them a lot.



Figure 4: The women in locher Emoiti village listening keenly to the education officers talking to them during the enrolment drive community mobilization meeting, Turkana, Kenya