

Samburu Youth  
**Education Fund**

# ANNUAL REPORT

## FISCAL YEAR 2019





# 2019 REVIEW

With the ongoing uncertainty and constant need for change associated with COVID-19, 2019 seems like it was an eternity ago. Nonetheless, here is our 2019 annual report!

The year started with our annual celebration of recent graduates (12) and welcoming our new students (13), an event that celebrates education, achievement and the promise of youth to bring the process of change to their community.

Throughout the year we continued with our life skills programming for students in their first year of high school, leadership and social change programming (SAWA) for our second and third year students, and workshops about life after secondary school for our fourth year students. In addition, our students participated in a number of service projects throughout the year.

We were fortunate to have a volunteer, Alex, complete a thorough evaluation in 2019 with our alumni over several months. She completed 47 individual interviews with alumni, tabulating their current circumstances (jobs, further education, family) and facilitating their reflection about how SYEF involvement affected their lives. It's the most thorough evaluation we've ever done!

Overall, 2019 was another solid year for SYEF, one in which we mostly built on our prior successes and lessons learned to continue adapting and fine-tuning our programs. In 2020, we celebrate 10 years, and will launch a new entrepreneurship program, along with our usual training in life skills, leadership and social change, once it's safe and smart to ramp up our programming again!





# SCHOLARSHIPS

The core of our activity continues to be financial support of secondary school for our students. In 2019, we supported 100% of the tuition, room and board for 47 youth, in addition to other educational expenses that come up related to uniforms, transportation and similar costs. Including the cohort that finished high school in November 2019, 71 youth have completed secondary school with SYEF support.

Girls have long endured great challenges when pursuing formal education in Kenya, and we know that is true for our girls as well. When we become aware of such adversity in the lives of our girls, we do our best to provide them with the needed care and guidance. The stresses and barriers to success are persistent in these girls' lives, and to provide support that is predictable and focused solely on her well-being is imperative.

Educational expenses increased in 2019, as they do every year to keep up with inflation and other normal cost increases. Fortunately, our donations have kept pace, and our commitment to covering 100% of school fees has remained steadfast.





# TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS

We made a few minor adjustments in 2019, and settled into a program schedule that we anticipate will remain consistent for at least the foreseeable future. Our first year students participated in a series of life skills training focused on success in secondary school; our second and third year students participated in SAWA, our leadership and social change program, and; our fourth year students served as mentors for our new students, and also learned how to plan and prepare for life after secondary school.

SAWA is our program with the greatest visibility, as our students undertake projects that address a need in their community. Working in groups throughout the year, they select an issue, examine its root causes, deliberate why past approaches have succeeded or failed, and design and implement new ideas and solutions. This past year our students addressed issues including youth idleness, well-being of orphans and improvement of facilities at a local school.

We were fortunate in 2019 to have the time and skills of Alex, an SYEF volunteer, who helped each SAWA group create a short video of their project. [Check out an example here!](#)





# EVALUATING OUR WORK

In 2019, SYEF completed an evaluation to better understand the impact of our programs and scholarships on alumni, a group of nearly 60 individuals at the time it was undertaken. The process started with conducting interviews with almost every one of our alumni, compiling those stories into narratives, and consulting with SYEF Samburu-based board members along the way for guidance and insight.

The alumni stories are inspirational; they show the impact of education on an individual and illustrate how our graduates plan to give back to their community. From the evaluation we learned just how important our scholarships are to our youth and their families, the empowerment it brings the students and the stress it relieves their parents and guardians. We also learned that two-thirds continue their education, into a variety of post-secondary vocational and degree programs. Further, one-third of our alumni were in positions to financially supported other family members' education.

The evaluation also showed us that SYEF support helps our students gain confidence to pursue their goals, and provides experiences which broaden their mindsets and lead them to recognize the value of individuals from different backgrounds and ways of life.

We encourage you to [read the stories of our alumni](#), and see how SYEF support helps facilitate meaningful change in the lives of our students, their families and communities:

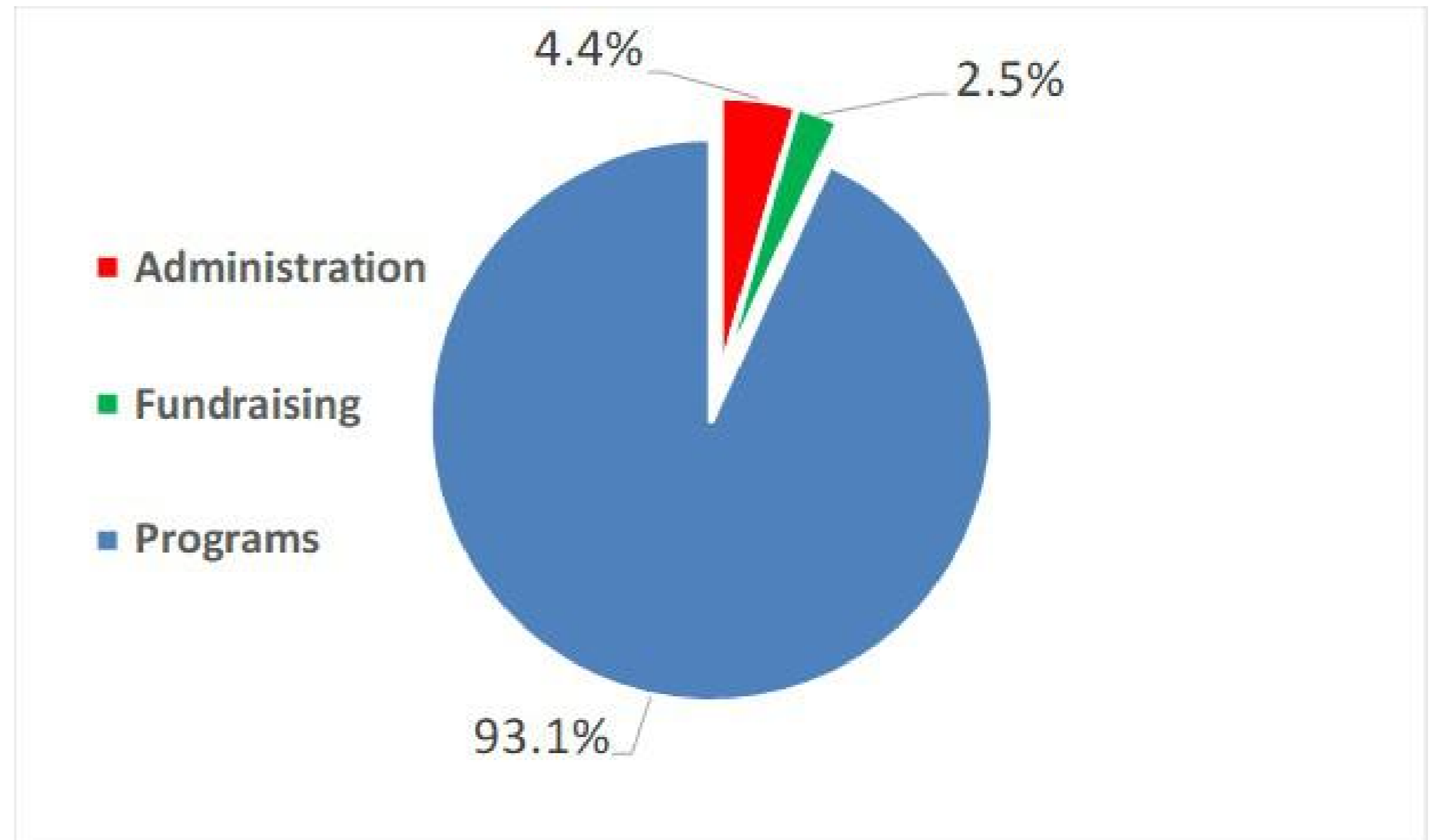
We also have a [video highlighting six of our alumni's stories](#). Have a look!





## 2019 FINANCIALS

Since we started, smart and strategic spending has been a driving ethic of our financial decision-making. Every proposed expenditure is measured against our mission and goals. We continue to have program spending near or above 90% of all expenditures.



# SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT SYEF TODAY



## Register your Supermarket Loyalty Card

If you are a member of a shopper loyalty program at any Kroger-owned supermarket (including King Soopers and City Market), take a few minutes to register your loyalty number on-line and designate SYEF as the beneficiary. We receive a donation based on percentage of sales. Click on the logo to the left to start the process, and use code UE404 when asked to name an organization.



## Enroll in an Automatic Donation

We would love to reallocate more of our time and money away from fundraising and toward direct program support. Enrollment in an automatic donation -- annually or monthly -- helps reduce the resources needed to raise money. To help us maximize direct program impact, please enroll! [www.samburuyouth.org/donate](http://www.samburuyouth.org/donate)



## Shop for Samburu Merchandise

In addition to education, investing in women is another strategy that is proven to lead to positive outcomes in the developing world. You can support women artisans from Samburu through purchase of their beadwork, and proceeds support the artisan as well as SYEF programs. Click on the Etsy logo to the left to browse the merchandise!



## Go to Smile.Amazon when you Shop Amazon

We know Amazon has become among the worlds' biggest retail companies. If you shop at Amazon, start at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) instead of their standard site, designate SYEF as your beneficiary organization, and then shop as usual. We receive a donation based on a percentage of sales.





# Thank you 2019 donors!

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