



While Kenya did implement universal primary education so that eight years of schooling are provided free, additional costs of uniforms and books still prevent many from attending. Over 1.7 million children remain out of school - the majority of whom are street children living in slums or in marginalized pastoralist communities. Secondary schooling that properly equips children for the next level is extremely expensive and rarely accessible in underserved areas. At the root of the problem is a drastic decline in education funding and social services by the Kenyan government and international donors. The easily visible result is that a large percentage of Kenyan youth only have a basic level of education, few usable skills, and minimal employment opportunities. The poor education system and subsequent idleness of these adolescents creates a dangerous combination that frequently leads to drug abuse, early pregnancy, crime and other severe behaviors.

FSD partners with organizations that assist communities with affordable primary and secondary education, offer vocational skills training to adults, and contribute to social services for all. Extracurricular activities are also cultivated to mobilize children. FSD interns and volunteers have supported programs such as drama groups that use theatre to educate street kids about life skills; girl's soccer teams that act as a catalyst for empowerment; and youth leadership programs that train young people to act as peer educators and counselors. These sorts of activities are ways in which FSD can contribute to the education, care, and empowerment of vulnerable youth throughout Kakamega and Mombasa.

Internship/Volunteer opportunities in youth and education in Kenya include:

- Teach a variety of vocational subjects to children and adolescents, such as carpentry, masonry, tailoring, and basic construction.
- Work at a day care center for orphaned children (3-4 years of age) that provides nutrition and care, and recreational activities.
- Provide counseling, tutoring, and recreational activities to primary school children who've been orphaned, generally due to HIV/AIDS and are at severe risk of falling behind their peers.
- Teach core subjects in English to primary or secondary school students - subjects include Mathematics, Business Education, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Music, Art and Design, History and Civics, HIV /Aids Education and Geography.
- Organize recreational activities for students, such as soccer, netball, basketball, volleyball, music, dance, drama, choir, boy/girl scouts, field trips (forest, prisons, hospital), farming activities (gathering crops), and/or horticulture.
- Support a community youth center's initiatives aimed at providing families the information and tools they need to avoid and remove themselves from common poverty traps. Participate in educational theater productions, facilitate group discussions with peer educators, provide counseling, and support income-generating activities.

For more opportunities in youth and education in Kenya, visit our website or contact us directly.