

»» Project Information

Implemented by:



Primary and secondary education - Kenya

Promotion of primary and secondary education in poor urban areas

Financial Cooperation (FC) has been involved in Kenyan education since 2004. New primary and secondary schools have been built and already existing schools have been expanded and re-stored in different cities. The focus lies on creating a child-oriented, learning-friendly infrastructure, and with it improvements to teaching conditions for around 25.000 schoolchildren. In the context of promoting education for secondary levels of education, it is also becoming increasingly important to consider funding instruments aimed directly at the target group. For this reason, KfW Development Bank supports the “Wings to Fly” scholarship programme of the “Equity Group Foundation” (EGF), which enables gifted children from low-income households to gain secondary education qualifications. The long-term objective is to promote social advancement through education.

qualifications even after completing their studies. The existing schools are often in a desolate state with massively overcrowded classrooms and a lack of teaching materials. Furthermore, social advancement through education often fails due to the relatively high direct and indirect costs of further education. Even outstanding academic achievements are not enough, since indigent families often cannot afford the cost of secondary education for their children. Instead of going to school,

Project name	Primary and secondary school education in poor urban areas in Kenya
Commissioned by	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/Region	Kenya, including the cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru
Lead executing agency	Government of the Republic of Kenya Equity Group Foundation

Context

Kenya is East Africa's largest and most powerful economy. By 2030 the country seeks to develop into an advanced economy that can provide a reasonable standard of living to its citizens. Despite the economic success of recent years, Kenyan society is still characterised by inequality and low social mobility. By abolishing tuition fees for primary schools and partly secondary schools, Kenya has taken an important step in the right direction. Nevertheless, many children from low-income households are neither able to attend school, nor do they continue their studies beyond primary school. Moreover, they often find themselves in learning environments that leave them with insufficient



many children must help out at home, work in the fields or work as unqualified labour in the informal sector. As a consequence, many talented students leave the education system early, who could otherwise have made an



Education gives you wings: The “Wings to Fly” scholarship programme. Source: KfW photoarchive, photographer: Lena Hoefling

important contribution to the future development of their country.

Project approach

On behalf of the Federal German Government, KfW Development Bank has been supporting the construction and rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools in urban and suburban impoverished areas (slums) since 2004. Around EUR 44 million have been allocated to this purpose since then. KfW Development Bank has thereby not only invested in educational infrastructure, but also promoted the concept of fully functional schools. In addition to basic classroom equipment, staff rooms and administration facilities, large sports grounds and play areas, a water supply and separate sanitary facilities for girls and boys as well as barrier-free access have been essential in the construction of schools. The use of school premises and facilities by the community, as well as the integration of shops adjacent to the school grounds are likewise included in the concept. This concept allows schools to generate revenue which can be used for maintenance. The projects are implemented in cooperation with the Kenyan Government. The Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Education and the respective districts act as project-executing agencies.

In addition to the provision of child-friendly educational infrastructure, the German FC is supporting the nationwide scholarship programme “Wings to Fly”, which is implemented by a Kenyan trust, the “Equity Group Foundation” (EGF). Through scholarships, talented yet disadvantaged pupils are sponsored in order to enable them to attend secondary schools. On behalf of the BMZ, KfW Development Bank is currently financing 960 scholarships throughout Kenya. Those who are award-

ed a scholarship are individually mentored until their graduation. Moreover, they are brought into contact with fellow Kenyans from the worlds of business, politics and culture. This accompanying programme aims to strengthen the social responsibility of the scholarship recipients and to prepare them for future occupations in management positions. This in turn should reinforce the attachment to their homeland and, in the medium term, form a new and responsible elite. To encourage girls in particular, the scholarships funded by KfW Development Bank are primarily awarded to girls in a ratio of 60 to 40.

Impact

So far 15 primary schools have opened as part of the programme, and a further 10 schools will be added within the next three years. According to current estimates, classrooms will be built for up to 25.000 students. Concerning the construction of educational infrastructure, FC operates in the area of primary as well as secondary education and has created a learning-friendly infrastructure of an exemplary nature. In addition to improved barrier-free access, this is also designed to contribute towards improving the educational achievements of the pupils.

FC funding in favour of the “Wings to Fly” scholarship programme has so far supported 960 young people, including 578 girls and 382 boys, with outstanding achievements in impoverished urban areas in the cities of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru. This should reduce inequalities in educational opportunities and contribute towards the long-term economic and social development of the country.



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