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"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them."

~John F. Kennedy



Notes from the Field

By Seth Okumu

There has been a global paradigm shift on the best way to reduce disease and deaths caused by communicable diseases in communities with low resources and little access to hospitals and clinics. The household has been recognized as the first level to reach individuals and families in order to provide healthcare. Health experts acknowledge that for proper care to be given at any level, the service providers must be knowledgeable and also have a resource pool where they can update their information.

Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) provide basic but important information on health care for disease prevention and management and they help health agencies gather critical information for planning proper intervention. CHVs are a vital link to the community and they require frequent training on health issues.

Through a request by the county government of Migori, Partnering for Progress facilitated a successful five-day training of 26 CHVs from Kopanga and Giribe. The training combined three days of malaria training and two days' training on data management and reporting. The training ensures that the CHVs have enough information for malaria prevention and treatment as well demonstrating the importance of accurate data for disease management and prevention.

The enhanced knowledge of the CHVs will reach households in a step-down training system. This should result in reduction of malaria prevalence as well as proper reporting on health data. The World Health Organization recognizes this as a solid approach and is promoting it through government agencies around the world.

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Partnering for Progress, P.O. Box 28191, Spokane, WA 99228. Thank You!

Asante Sana!

This Swahili phrase for 'thank you very much' captures P4P's attitude this season. It is with gratitude that we look back on the Eighth Annual Into Africa Auction - our best ever. It is with gratitude that we move forward with bigger and better project plans to provide education, clean water, health care and economic opportunities. And it is with gratitude that we thank our generous donors and volunteers for making these dreams come true.



The last month brought many opportunities to serve each other and our partners in Kopanga. Individuals stepped up to the challenges and managed a myriad of details to bring this organization into a more secure future that has an identified clarity of purpose. We would love to have you join us in our continued progress, as we grow to serve one another and build a stronger community. Check out our website at www.partneringforprogress.org or call our office at (509) 720-8408. Without you, P4P cannot accomplish its goals and provide the care and services so needed in Kopanga and the surrounding communities. Please accept our deep thanks for your support of Partnering for Progress and our wish for a wonderful

holiday season for you and your loved ones throughout the world. Below are some 2015 accomplishments that have been fulfilled thanks to supporters like you.

2015 Successes:

- 22 children are in high school;
- 400 children have clean water at school;
- 35 babies have escaped malnourishment;
- 115 girls received Days for Girls reusable sanitary towel kits;
- 25 families own a goat;
- 10 farmers have planted crops and
- 26 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were trained in malaria prevention and health data collection services.



When Education is More Than Books

by Cameryn Flynn, P4P Education Committee Chair

Last month your children and grandchildren skipped off to school with new backpacks and high hopes for an exciting, fun year. If they had any worries at all, their concerns probably centered around friends, teachers and sports. They know they will have a warm, dry place to learn, the books they need, talented, caring teachers and lots of extracurricular activities to choose from.

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, the start of the school year is quite a different story, especially for girls. All of the usual stumbling blocks like the cost of tuition, transportation and family needs stand in their way, but girls face the devastating possibility of being married off at a young age, effectively stopping them in their educational tracks and preventing any hope of climbing out of poverty and virtual enslavement.

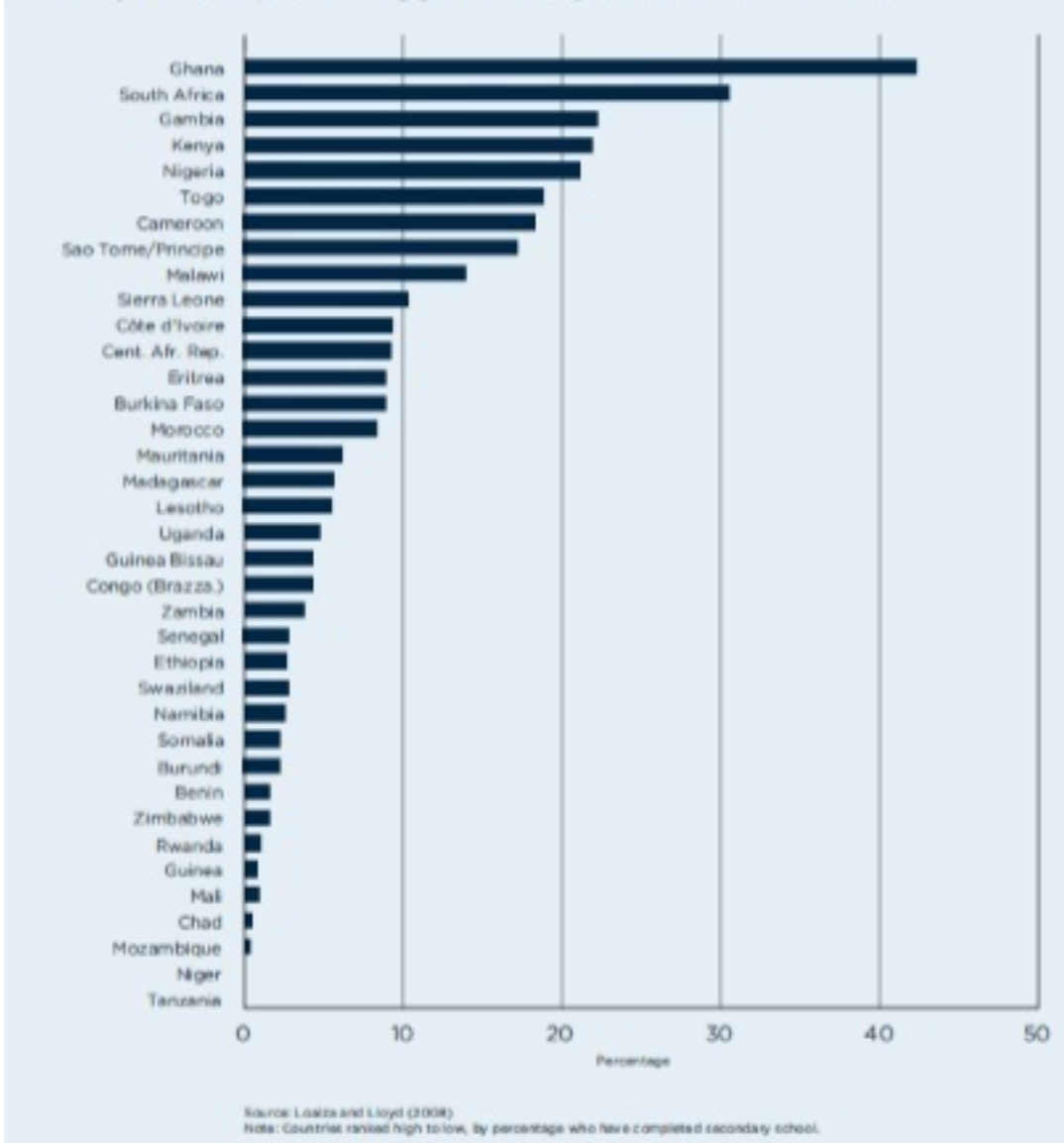
Throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, approximately one in ten girls are married before the age of 15. Girls in Central African Republic are 29 percent more likely to be forced into marriage by the age of 15 than are girls in Afghanistan, where 15 percent of girls are married in their early teens. More than a third of girls in Niger are married before they reach the age of 15.

Even though Kenya ranks fourth in school completion rates of girls, that number is only about 22 percent of all girls in Kenya. A recent CNN story demonstrated the dire predicament of Younis, a nine-year-old Kenyan girl from the Samburu clan who was forced to marry a 78-year-old man.

“He told me that I will be a wife, but I was just innocent. I wanted to come to school,” Younis said. “When I told him I will not be your wife, he caned me.” Younis was lucky, however. She was rescued from a very early marriage by Josephine Kulea of the Samburu Girls Foundation.

Secondary school completion rates of girls age 19, sub-Saharan Africa (percent)

Secondary school completion among girls is relatively rare in most African countries.



And something as natural as a girl's menstrual cycle can also stand in the way of an education. Without sanitary supplies girls resort to leaves, mattress stuffing, newspaper, corn husks, the list goes on. Worldwide, impoverished girls make the difficult decision not to attend school during their periods, missing as much as eight months of school in a three-year span. They fall behind in their studies and they put themselves at risk of being considered "eligible" for marriage.

Research has proven that secondary school training for girls in the developing world has a high return on investment. Partnering for Progress has seized on the issue of keeping girls in school and P4P's Education Committee accomplished the following:

- Provided secondary school scholarships to 14 girls and 8 boys;
- Adopted the mission of the Days for Girls Project International, to create dignified solutions to the monthly dilemma girls face by providing reusable feminine hygiene kits and
- Fostered community-based health leadership programs.

Through these efforts, the Education Committee provides Kopanga/Giribe students with the tools to help them gain workforce skills, directly combating the cycle of extreme poverty and preventing early marriage for girls.



Kenya Project Administrator, Seth Okumu, and P4P's 14 Scholarship Girls

What can you do?

A few hours a week can make a big difference! Help can come through:

- Sewing Days for Girls Hygiene Kits;
- Serving on the Education Committee, join by contacting P4Poffice@gmail.com;
- Sponsoring a student, even \$5-10 a month can make a difference and/or
- Traveling to Kopanga, Kenya, with one of our teams, applications are at <http://partneringforprogress.org/volunteer.html>.

Meet Gordon Jackson

Board Member and Education Committee Volunteer

A deep-seated love of Africa drew Gordon Jackson to Partnering for Progress. He and his wife, Sue, are both from South Africa and learned about P4P from friends who were on the Board.

Gordon majored in Social Anthropology and Sociology at the University of Cape Town and later did a Master's in Communication at Wheaton College in Illinois. He and Sue returned to South Africa where Gordon worked as a journalist on a news magazine for several years. Doctoral work in Bloomington, Indiana, followed, then the Jacksons moved to Spokane in 1983 when Gordon took a position as journalism professor at Whitworth University and Sue joined the faculty overseeing the study abroad program.



After 32 years at Whitworth, Gordon retired, and he felt P4P's Education Committee would be a perfect fit for his experience and passion.

"I greatly appreciate P4P's hands-on, results-oriented and realistic approach to addressing the needs in the small area in which it has chosen to focus its energies and resources," Gordon says.

"I also like the holistic approach it takes to community needs. Its work on clean water supply, for example, would have limited value unless it were linked with P4P's broader health program—which in turn is strengthened in the long term by an emphasis on K-12 education and economic development. Working with any one of these would be worthwhile, but there's a kind of a multiplier effect when P4P partners with the local community to attend to key pieces of the big picture simultaneously."

Retirement will be busy for Gordon. He's working on various writing projects and will lead the university's month-long study program to South Africa in January. He enjoys travel and reading and hopes to go Kenya with P4P in 2016.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

P4P's Benefit Performance

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Spokane Civic Theatre

Purchase tickets online beginning December 1, 2015 or preorder tickets by calling (509) 720-8408.

Wishing all our Partnering for Progress supporters, board, volunteers and staff a safe and joyous holiday!



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