Our mission is to increase school enrollment and create economic opportunity by providing the world’s most vulnerable children with locally made school uniforms.
Milestones & Highlights

2023 was our most impactful year yet! We provided more children with school uniforms than ever before, hired Gloria Omuya as our Project Director in Kenya, and had our most successful fundraising year!

School uniforms and the crucial interventions being implemented by our partners have led to an increase in student enrollment, attendance, and academic outcomes.

Students with Lesotho partner, Kick4Life, saw an average increase of more than 20% in exam grades after receiving school uniforms. Two of the students were recognized as top achievers nationally!

The Flying Kites network schools in Njabini, Kenya reported that an average 97% student attendance rate was achieved during all three terms in the 2023 academic year.

In a survey conducted at 12 primary schools in Nairobi, Kenya before and after uniform provision, partner Dignitas found:

- A 31% increase in learners who strongly agreed that they felt they were a person of worth
- A 16% increase in learners who indicated a positive attitude toward themselves
2023: Impact by the Numbers

- $997,035 Raised
- 14 Projects funded with 14 partners in 8 countries
- 91 Cents on the dollar went to uniforms
- 27,270 Uniforms provided to children attending over 155 schools
- 400+ Tailors and support staff employed
Global Impact

Uniform Provision by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>15,345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>4,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>1,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>1,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>1,297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Investment by Country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>$659,573</td>
<td>66.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>$94,385</td>
<td>9.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>$80,230</td>
<td>8.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>$48,151</td>
<td>4.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>$38,475</td>
<td>3.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>$25,456</td>
<td>2.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>$20,878</td>
<td>2.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>$20,752</td>
<td>2.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financials

Income $997,035

Expenses $1,078,974

Uniforms* $983,712

General Administration $95,262

* This includes materials, labor and distribution costs.
Program Impacts

More Children in School
We believe every child deserves an education, regardless of where they were born or their family’s income and a uniform should not stand in their way. Through education we can end the cycle of poverty.

Sense of Agency
Uniforms instill or increase student confidence, pride, self esteem and self worth. Class participation increases and improves when students feel comfortable and at ease.

Safety
When a child is in school, exposure to risks such as gang recruitment, kidnapping, child labor and trafficking are reduced.

Economic Opportunity
All of our uniforms are made by local tailors who earn fair wages, thereby contributing to the local economy and fostering economic growth.

Better and Safer Schools
Parents who can afford it pay $1-$2 into a Parent Contribution Fund. Parents and school administrators then decide how to allocate it. This allows parents to have ownership in their child’s education and schools become safer, cleaner and more technologically up to date.

Community Engagement
Increased economic opportunity from locally made uniforms and school improvements from the Parent Contribution Fund create strong and stable communities.
Uniform Extras

When doing measurements, tailors noted many students had no underwear. Additionally, many of our partners have begun implementing menstrual hygiene programs but those were not helpful if the girls didn’t have underwear to attach the sanitary napkins to. We now provide underwear to all our students.

Partners noted that adolescent girls were shy and quiet because some boys made fun of them for not having a bra. We now provide sports bras to girls beginning in middle school.

Student Molly said “I had plastic shoes which were burning me when the weather was hot.” We provide leather Toughes because they are durable and outlast the rainy and mud seasons.

Donors in Action

Your creative fundraising ideas and tremendous generosity paved the way for our success!

- You had your high school golf team play 100 holes
- You donated your birthdays
- You purchased Super Bowl squares
- You donated your allowance
- You joined our March Madness Tournament
- You had your companies match over $70,000 in donations
- Members of our Honor Roll provided 239 uniforms

Jeff St. George
raised over $25,000 running the Boston Marathon! His efforts were matched by another generous donor so Jeff’s 26.2 miles provided 1,400 children with school uniforms!

Dela McCaghren
donated a week of her summer as well as her creative talents! Dela came to Kenya with us and worked with a local film company, visiting numerous schools and tailors to create powerful marketing videos for TFE!
STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Gloria Omuya
Project Director
Nairobi, Kenya

Gloria grew up in Nairobi, Kenya with parents who had a strong emphasis on education and all the possibilities that can come from it. We met Gloria over a decade ago when she was working on our uniform project with our partner, Dignitas. Aside from having previous experience with our unique program, Gloria is passionate about development in Africa and investing in local communities. We are thrilled to have her as part of our team!

You have experienced first hand the impact of a uniform. What does it mean?
Externally you might just see one uniform to one child but what this translates to is pride and confidence. Those moments when a child is raising their hand in class or walking to the board—those moments matter—and children deserve the opportunity to be present and engaged in their learning.

How do you hope to enrich the work and expand TFE's impact?
I'm excited to use storytelling to amplify the work of our partners, teachers, tailors, and students.

I want to drive growth as a team, not just in terms of increasing our numbers but also strengthening our processes and advancing the work we do with our partners.

What are you looking forward to?
Working with our partners and community of supporters who make our work possible. I love the collective impact we make.

I'm excited to be in the field, visiting the schools and interacting with the students, teachers and parents. There is so much joy being with the children, seeing the hope and confidence that this opportunity brings to them and their families.
Student Spotlights

Samuel says it’s important to have friends to support your studies, and he has not one best friend, but five! Samuel’s dream is to be an archeologist!

Bilha would like to be an engineer. “In our family, I am the only hope that my parents have. Now I can concentrate in class and achieve my goals and dreams since I have a full school uniform.”

Maurine lost crucial school hours due to being sent home because she lacked uniforms and shoes in the past. She is very grateful for her new school uniforms and shared that she has gained confidence to walk around.

Mysterious was previously wearing a secondhand uniform borrowed from a friend, which made him uncomfortable at school. “Now I am comfortable when learning and achieving my goals.”
StUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Bravin

Genesis Joy School
Nairobi, Kenya

The story of Bravin and his five siblings is both heartwarming and captivating. From a keen observation after a distribution, we noticed a tall boy who was seemingly overexcited about their new uniforms and shoes. Bravin's expression of excitement and gratitude for receiving his first ever new and full uniform, draws our attention.

His reflection underscores the significance of such basic necessities for all children. The uniforms go beyond meeting a practical need and symbolizes a positive source of hope for Bravin and his siblings.

Sharing his experience and living situation in Mathare, one gets a glimpse of real challenges observable and facing many families living in similar situations. It’s a reminder that uniforms not only contribute to immediate wellbeing but are also an important tool in breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering positive change in their lives.

“We are a family of six, five boys and one girl, we live in Mathare together with our parents, a step mother and our father who does menial jobs. My biggest hope is to become successful in life so that I can support my family and change my community. I don’t like the life we live here because it’s difficult due to lack of clean water and bad houses. My siblings have never been this smart all wearing new uniforms and shoes. We say a big blessing to the donors for these gifts and are excited to reach home for our parents to see us looking this smart. They will be so happy.”
She’s Empowered Africa Initiative

Grace Bahati, founder of SEAI, is working hard to provide equitable access to education in her hometown of Kyeleni, Kenya. Kyeleni has a student population of about 10,000 including both primary and secondary schools. Key challenges preventing children from attending school include child labor, early marriages, lack of food and lack of the resources required to stay in school.

“My team and I conducted school and home visits to interact with mothers, caregivers, and families. The story was the same. A lot of need and desperation for children to access quality education. Once I got in touch with TFE and I knew it was a go, the biggest challenge was how to identify the most needy schools. The need is overwhelming. One of the saddest things I encountered was children waiting in line to use pit latrines which are not very hygienic. They were barefoot, waiting to borrow slippers from the child inside in an attempt to stay clean.
Once we identified the two most resource-poor schools, I found local tailors to work with. This was a new chapter for the community and a big leap for most local tailors, carrying out an order of this size. There were gaps (for instance, slow manual machines) and learning curves but I was excited to help them get there.

Upon distribution, there was overwhelming joy in the whole region. A parent said that for the first time, the children of the rich and the poor were equal in school. Confidence has been boosted. Attendance has increased. Enrollment too, with students moving to these schools because this was happening. We delivered 1,301 uniforms and upon arrival, found 197 NEW (but unaccounted for) students, all eager for this same opportunity.

This has been the wildest dream since I started producing uniforms. The need appears overwhelming, but the impact is undeniable. I suffered from colds as a student in the same schools because of my lack of proper, warm uniforms. I know the need personally and I am so grateful that together we are able to make a difference. I look forward for many more impacts in the different communities as we make a difference in the education sector and most importantly, a child’s life!”

“For the first time, the children of the rich and the poor were equal in school.”
Although he is a math teacher, the praises Mr. Otenga receives from his students are not limited to numerical skills. Students enjoy his language skills, his kindness, and his patience with them in class. Paul’s dream was to become a lawyer, and this shows in his eloquence. He stumbled into teaching and once he started, he really connected with the kids and realized that he had a knack for it.

He believes that this was God connecting him to his purpose where he would be able to give back to the community. Having grown up in a similar background to most of his students, Paul’s motivation is to be a symbol of hope for the students. He wants them to believe that they can succeed in life despite the setbacks they may face. He sees himself in the students and that gives him the drive to keep going in his role and offer the best.

Paul has been teaching for only one and a half years, yet he has had a tremendous impact on the students’ education and wellbeing. Teachers play a pivotal role in ensuring that children succeed in their education. Having supportive and attentive teachers who proactively respond to the needs of the students makes all the difference. Teachers are able to create safe learning spaces for children, and improve learning outcomes.

When we shared all the positive feedback from the students, Paul was overwhelmed with joy! Knowing that his students felt supported was a great reward for Paul. We celebrate all the amazing teachers like Paul who are making education accessible to children in their communities.
Vincent Ochieng has been a tailor in Kisumu, Kenya for 24 years and during the pandemic was hired for the first time to make uniforms for Tailored for Education. From almost having to shut down during COVID, making school uniforms for TFE has turned things around. Vincent has expanded his business to work with two other tailors, and he is in the process of setting up a second shop at the local market. This new shop will focus solely on selling ready-made uniforms for locals to offer quality uniforms, closer to the community and at an affordable cost for the locals.

Vincent has five children and his eyes light up when he describes everything he has been able to do as a result of the project and the financial stability that has come with it. We are able to achieve our goals thanks to the hard work and dedication of tailors like Vincent who partner with us to make our vision a reality.

“This project has changed my life. It expands our income and helps us help our community at the same time.”
Peris

Peris is a happy parent from Intelligent Quotient School in Dandora. She is a mother of two and she also doubled as tailor who took part in production of uniforms for the entire school alongside Hellen who is the business owner that made all the uniforms. Her joys both as a parent and tailor underscores the very essence of this approach taken by Dignitas of leveraging local talent and resources.

“My two children have received their uniforms and shoes and are extremely happy. I believe this will act as a big motivator for them to work hard and succeed in life.”
Morakane

Morakane, born and raised in Lesotho and a graduate from our longtime partner Kick4Life’s program, is currently a freshman on a student-athlete scholarship at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina. Morakane is playing soccer as well as pursuing a degree in Business Management.

Off the soccer field, Morakane was a life-skills coach for Kick4Life, helping to deliver community programmes for children and young people in the local community which cover gender rights, life-skills development and health education.

“I am where I am today because of my love for soccer and because of the confidence I have. The schools I went to are a part of my success today.”
Our Parent Contribution Funds allow families to be key stakeholders and have a financial role in their children’s education. Families who are able, contribute a nominal fee ($1 to $3) and these funds are pooled at each school. With oversight from school administration and our partner organization, the parents and caregivers vote on how to allocate. This unique program not only fosters collaboration between all parties but also enables families to be responsible for and proud of the improvements that make their schools safer, cleaner and more technologically up to date.

Often children are crammed together on wooden benches but the excited students seen here are sitting on their brand new desk chairs, purchased with funds raised by their school’s Parent Contribution Fund.

**Projects funded this year through PCFs include:**

- Electricity installation
- Roofing and floor repairs
- New desks and chairs
- New computer, printer, bookshelves and textbooks
- Gutters, water pump, water tank and piping
- Sewer system repairs
- Professional development teaching materials
Thank You

Thank you for continuing to believe in us, in our work and in the children we support. Education is the path out of poverty and for our students it starts with their school uniform.

Your dedication to our mission allowed 27,270 children to take steps toward a brighter future in 2023. It offered hope to their families and left our team energized and enthusiastic for the year ahead.

We are all familiar with the saying “it takes a village”, but it truly does and we are forever grateful to have you as part of ours.

Forever grateful,

Megan and Jessica
Donate today to ensure a lasting impact on our children, tailors, and communities!

Tailored for Education
P.O. Box 171236
Boston, MA 02117

tailoredforeducation.org