

**Heshima Kenya**

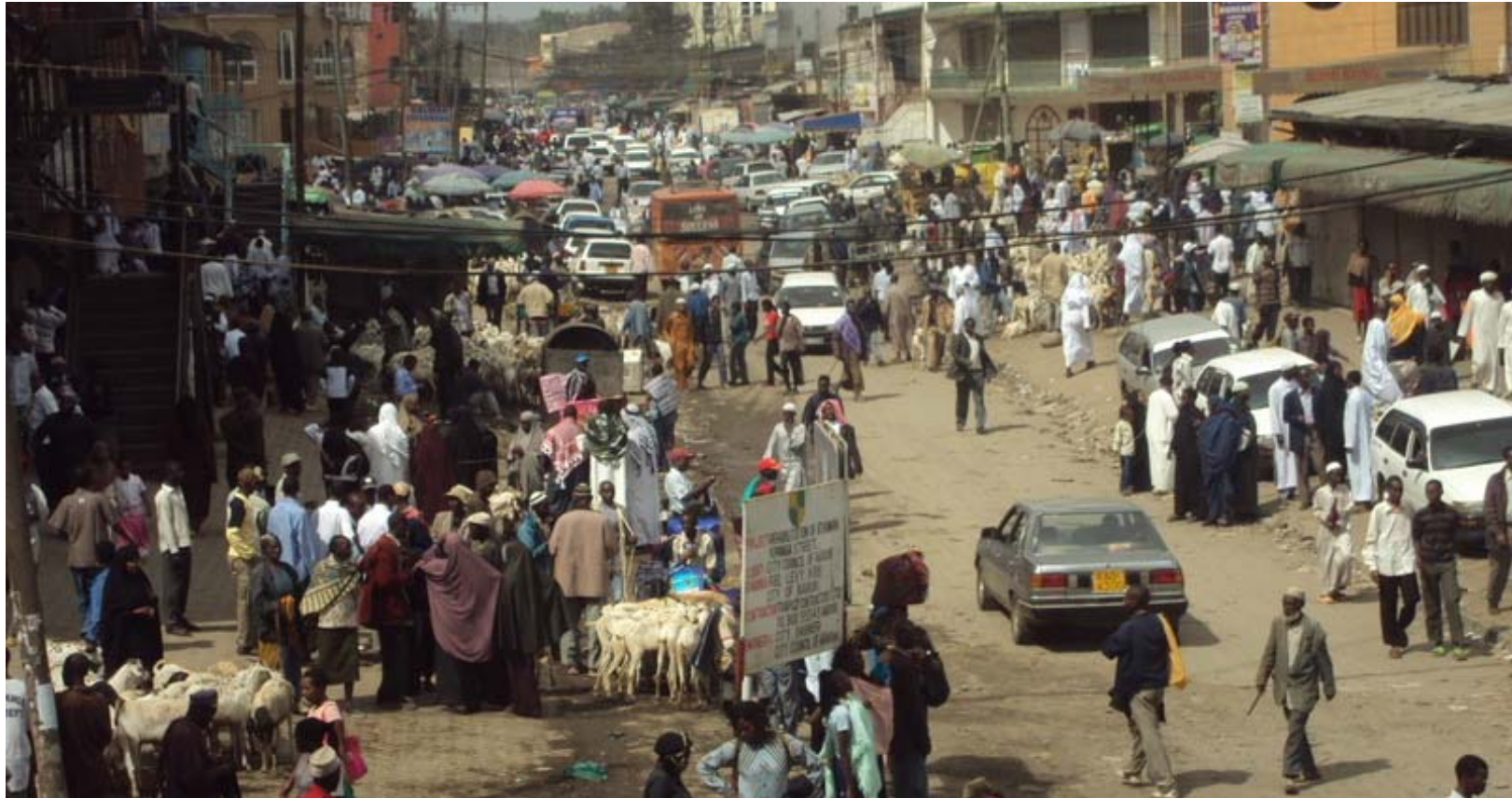
# Refugees in Kenya



Kenya has been host to a protracted refugee crisis since the early 1990's resulting in the current population of well over 600,000 refugees in Kenya's refugee camps

# Refugees in Nairobi

- Over 100,000 refugees reside in Nairobi, most of whom are not registered with the Government of Kenya or UNHCR.
- Among the worst affected by this crisis are unaccompanied, orphaned and separated refugee girls and single young women without family members.



# Unaccompanied Minors



- Orphaned and separated refugee children and youth are considered the most vulnerable and invisible population in the world, with refugee girls and young women facing the highest risks of exploitation, assault, forced marriage, and abuse, resulting in extreme barriers to education, medical care, and employment.
- There are no statistics detailing the number of unaccompanied refugee children in Nairobi, especially girls and young women just over 18 years of age, but Heshima Kenya and UNHCR believe this number to be over 25,000.



# Heshima Kenya

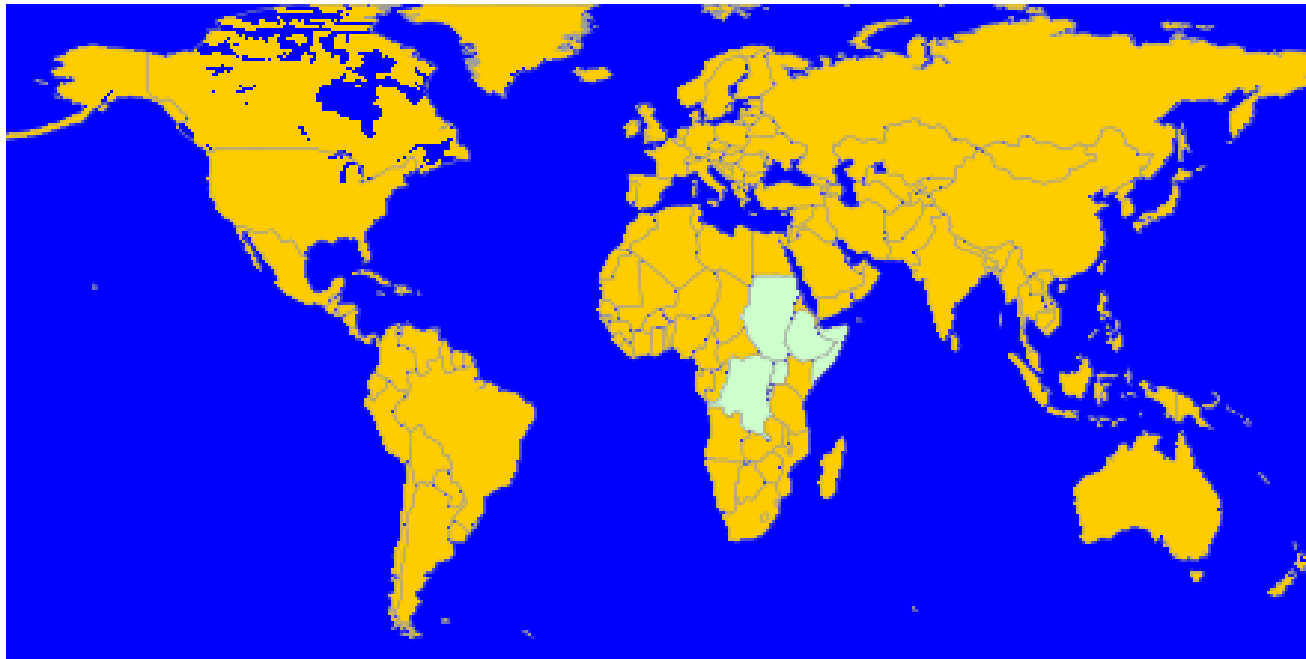




Co-founded in 2008, Heshima Kenya is the *first* organization in Nairobi dedicated to protecting and empowering *refugee* children and youth, especially adolescent girls, who have lost their families and been displaced by war.

Our holistic model has provided education, shelter, case management, and outreach services to more than **350** girls since 2008.

# Who we serve



Women and girls ages 13 to 23 years old from Somalia, Ethiopia, DR Congo, Sudan, Rwanda, and Burundi.



# What We Do

**Heshima Kenya:** specializes in identifying and protecting unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children living in Nairobi, Kenya. Our shelter, education and community outreach services, coupled with local resources and the refugee community, empower this population to live healthy lives. By providing resources for long-term support, these girls and young women become catalysts for strengthening networks creating sustainable change within the local and global communities.





## **Core Programming - The on-the-ground services we provide include:**

- Case Management, which includes an array of social services that provides healthcare and legal services for our young women.
- The Safe House Program, that provides secure shelter for girls and their children who are facing extreme protection risks.
- The Girl's Empowerment Project, which provides alternative education tailored to each girl's individual needs, including math, language, life skills and tailoring training. Graduates are invited to participate in The Maisha Collective, an entrepreneurship-training program where girls design, produce, and market a line of hand-dyed textiles, allowing them to begin to earn and save money.
- Community outreach through our Sexual and Gender-based Violence Prevention Initiative, which increases awareness about women's rights and available resources.

# Advocacy Program



- We are actively working from the ground up in order to advocate for stronger protection policies and programming efforts. Our advocacy focuses on refugee protection, child protection, and the rights of women and girls.



## **UN Millennium Development goals supported by Heshima Kenya:**

**Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality And  
Empower Women**

# Girls' Empowerment Project





# The Girls' Empowerment Program

- **Dining for Women** will support our Girl's Empowerment Project.
- Through the GEP, participants engage in four transitional program components: basic education, life-skills training and discussion, vocational training through our specialized tailoring program, and financial literacy training and income-generation through our Maisha Collective.
- The Maisha Collective is an innovative economic springboard that teaches saving concepts and helps facilitate self-sufficiency by engaging participants to create a line of unique hand-dyed scarves and other textiles.



# The Girls' Empowerment Program

- Through the GEP, young women will be empowered to access new information, skills, and economic opportunities.
- All of the GEP's efforts are designed to foster confidence in the girls and young women and build their capacity to respond to their experiences by beginning to heal, demanding their rights, and seeking a life of dignity.
- Through the GEP, these young refugee women and girls will not only become self-sufficient but will also be able to mobilize resources and advocate for other community members to overcome poverty and other barriers to success.



# GEP Goals

- The GEP will support 70 participants in 2013 and 80 participants over the course of 12 months in 2014.
- Through the GEP, young women will be empowered to access new information, skills, and economic opportunities. GEP participants will demonstrate increased self-confidence and capacity for decision-making, problem solving, and teamwork.
- Participants will also demonstrate increased knowledge of gender-based violence and sexual assault issues, HIV/ AIDS prevention, and community resources.



# Miriam's Story

- As an unaccompanied minor, Miriam was forced to live with abusive host families in the slums of Kawangware, located just outside of Nairobi. With these families, Miriam was subject to abuse and was forced to work long hours to complete all of the household chores, including caring for each family's many children.
- Fortunately, in 2009 Miriam found Heshima Kenya. She truly believes Heshima Kenya has changed her entire life, finally allowing her to access education, obtain shelter and food, and achieve a feeling of security and safety. She stresses that while living in the community she was constantly fearful, but is finally free of attacks – like rape and other assault.
- Miriam is currently working very hard in school, where her favorite subjects are Kiswahili, Science, Social Studies, English and Mathematics. She is grateful for the education, language, and income generating skills she is acquiring to help her achieve these goals. Down the road, Miriam aims to become a journalist but is also inspired by the work of Anne Sweeney and Talyn Good, the founders of Heshima Kenya. She, too, would like to assist orphans from war-torn countries.





Miriam helping out with a Heshima friend's baby.



# Other ways to support us

- Purchase a scarf -  
<http://www.etsy.com/shop/heshimakenya>
- Attend our Events – Yoga Challenge, Fashion Challenge.
- Sign up to volunteer and receive newsletters.
- Follow us on facebook and twitter.

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