

Kenyan Schools of Hope/Ewuaso Osiligi Center 2022 Annual Report

We praise God for how He has continued to bless the ministry of Ewuaso Osiligi Center and School (EOC) and Kenyan Schools of Hope (KSOH) throughout 2022. The EOC provided safety, hope, education, and care for 49 girls fleeing female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced early marriage (FEM), an increase of six girls from the previous year. An additional two girls who had lived at the rescue center were safely reintegrated into their families.

A growing number of people gathered each Sunday for worship services at the center. At the end of 2022, approximately 30 children from the community and six families, including the local chief, were worshipping with the girls on a regular basis. Following instruction by Deacon Joseph, 11 rescued girls were baptized and then joined eight others in confirming their faith. Over the past two years, 14 girls have been baptized and, together with 19 others, professed faith in their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Two boards oversee the EOC/KSOH ministry, one based in Kenya and the other in the United States. Both expanded in 2022 and added new board members to provide additional skills and capacity for the various aspects of ministry. In addition, the boards worked together to finalize a strategic plan to guide the work in Kenya.

Ewuaso Osiligi School

Currently, 53 students attend Ewuaso Osiligi School, of which 30 are rescued girls, 23 are local students, and one is a boarding student. An additional 19 rescued girls attend various high schools and return to the rescue center during school breaks. Last spring, 16 8th-graders not only passed the national exam, but Osiligi School had the highest scores in the region. This accomplishment is particularly impressive given that the Kenyan government condensed almost three years of school into one year to make up for all the time missed during the pandemic.

Through a generous grant from the Mission Board of Trinity Lutheran Church (Klein, TX), the contributions from the Kenyan Schools of Hope fundraiser, and the donations in Kenya, the EOC Board was able to purchase a new school bus to support the rescued girls and the school. The community gathered to celebrate and dedicate the school bus in November. This bus will



provide a safe way for local children to get to school, even when a resident elephant herd is nearby. We anticipate increased enrollment of local day students at the school and additional opportunities to share the Gospel.

Implementation of Kenya's nationwide education reforms continue with the establishment of junior secondary schools (7th-9th grade). Previously, primary schools provided education through 8th grade, and then those who passed the national exam went on to high school for 9th grade. As part of the new requirements, schools must have a separate campus or building to house the junior secondary school. The KSOH and EOC Boards are preparing for these new requirements that go into effect in 2023 and are praying that this may be an opportunity to keep the girls at the rescue center for an extra year before high school, which is now 10th through 12th grade. In addition, if the Kenyan government approves Ewuaso Osiligi School as a junior secondary school, we anticipate an increase in enrollment as families look for approved schools to send their children for junior secondary school. While these changes have created challenges for the EOC, they may also allow us to provide excellent education to more students, share the Gospel with more children and families, and make the ministry more self-sustaining through additional school fees and boarding students staying on campus.

Construction of Staff Quarters

The fundraiser in late 2021 raised funds for the construction of staff housing to help the school recruit and retain highly qualified teachers. As of the end of 2022, construction was nearly complete. This facility will provide housing for up to nine teachers and their families.



Other improvements

During one of the semester breaks, the 4th graders constructed a chicken coop and hen house with the help of Deacon Joseph and Guard Joseph. The girls will have the opportunity to eat eggs, learn life skills caring for the chickens, and potentially sell eggs to support the rescue center.



In 2022, the girls expanded their garden on campus to provide more vegetables for their meals, and the EOC Board leased five acres to grow corn in an effort to provide a more economic source of food for the girls. Unfortunately, the leased acreage did not receive enough rain. The EOC Board intends to look for a better location in 2023 that receives more rain. In addition, they learned of another strain of corn that should do better in that part of Kenya.

Finances & Administration

In 2022, more than 98% of all donations went directly to providing a safe home, hope, and education for girls at risk of FGM and FEM. Less than 2% was spent on administrative costs, such as wire transfer and credit card fees.

God blessed KSOH and EOC immensely during the 2022 fall fundraiser. We received donations and pledges totaling more than \$500,000, exceeding our goal of \$450,000. Funds will be used to build a large, multi-purpose building that will include classrooms for the junior secondary school; a kitchen (currently a temporary shack); and a large space for gathering, eating meals (the girls currently eat outside on the rocks), conducting recreational and educational activities, and holding worship services for the girls and an increasing number of local families.



The EOC and KSOH boards strategically established several subcommittees to promote collaboration and communication and to help accomplish work and make recommendations to the boards. Subcommittees included:

- Christian Outreach
- Education
- Finance
- Projects
- Operations and Maintenance (meets as needed)
- Strategic Planning (meets as needed)

Boards of Directors

Ewaso Osiligi Center (Kenya)

Catherine Wangari, Chair
 Isaac Ngala, Secretary
 Alison Achieng
 Maureen Maya
 Barbara Njenga
 Edward Mureithi
 Alice Mwaringa

Kenyan Schools of Hope (U.S.)

Ray Tacquard, Chair
 Jeanne Carmichael, Treasurer
 Luis Sanabria, Secretary
 Kelly Borchelt
 Rosemary Freeman
 Karen Frerking
 Doug Grove

Richard Lynch
 Pamela Rice
 Gloria Sauck
 Rev. Chris Singer
 Flora Tacquard
 Eric Mason Walker

Parting but Never Truly Parted

On January 14, 2023, the KSOH and EOC Boards of Directors passed a joint resolution acknowledging the selfless dedication of retiring KSOH Chairman Ray Tacquard and Board Member Karen Frerking. We thank and praise our Gracious God and Heavenly Father that He has and continues to answer our prayers to “send out laborers into his harvest” like Ray and Karen, for “the harvest is plentiful.” The joint resolution read in part:

In light of their selfless dedication to the expansion of God’s kingdom specifically through the Kenya Schools of Hope, the Ewaso Osiligi Rescue Center, and Trinity Ablaze Kenya/Vision for Africa, the honorable Ray Tacquard and the honorable Karen Frerking are hereby granted emeritus status with all the rights and privileges attached thereto.

The KSOH Board elected Richard Lynch to serve as the new Chair and Pamela Rice as the new Vice Chair beginning in 2023.

Going into 2023

We invite you to pray with us that God would continue to bless this ministry in 2023 and that we would be able to provide a safe place for girls at risk of FEM and FGM and other children to learn and grow.

Please also pray for:

- God to guide the EOC and KSOH boards as they make decisions for the ministry,
- The school and rescue center and that they would be a beacon of hope for the students and the surrounding communities,
- God to give the board members, architect, and builder wisdom as they design the new multi-purpose building/Junior Secondary School so that it meets the needs of the school and rescue center for many years, and for safety during construction,
- Sustainability for the ministry, including funding and reliable food, water, and electricity, and
- Rain to return to Kenya to end the severe drought.

Finally, praise God that Ewuaso Osiligi School was approved as a Junior Secondary School early in 2023!

To learn more about KSOH and the EOC or to donate, visit <http://kenyanschoolsofhope.com/> or <https://www.ewuaso-osiligi.com/>.