# The Giver



A publication of the KenGen Foundation

**April 2020** 



Fight Against COVID-19.

Schools Green Initiative Challenge Breaks Ground in Turkwel Top GIC Phase IV Schools Feted during launch of Phase VI

Honours Graduate
Grateful for KenGen
Scholarship



## The Giver

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Cover image: KenGen M.D. & CEO, and KenGen Foundation Chairperson Mrs. Rebecca Miano with Ms. Jane Kuruka, Chairperson Kenya COVID-19 Emergency Fund during the Company's contibuion towards fighting the spread od COVID-19. Photography/ Layout & Design: Ernest Nyamasyo

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#### Table of Contents



## Corporate

- 5 KenGen PLC donates Sh. 20M In Fight Against COVID-19
- 6 New Appointment at KenGen Foundation



#### Environment

- Schools Green Inititive Challenge Breaks Ground in Turkwel
- 10) Tree Planting Competition Takes Root in Turkwel
- Top GIC IV Schools Feted in Tree Growing Competition
- 16) 100 New Schools for Tree Growing Competition



#### Education

18) Honours Graduate Grateful for KenGen Scholarship



### Giver Initiative

19

Hope for Koguta Forest as Givers Plant 10,000 Trees

#### Word from the Editor



KenGen PLC's Director for Strategy & Business Performance Mr. David Muthike with Eastern Region Operations Manager Eng. Julius Odumbe during the launch of the Schools Green Inititive Challenge Phase VI at Ielanthi Primary School, Machakos County. - story on pg. 10.

#### Dear Reader,

elcome to the April issue of the Giver magazine.
We hope you are well and safe during this difficult period.

This issue comes out at a very sombre time when the whole world is grappling with the COVID-19 virus.

This is a very difficult time, with a lot of uncertainties and anxieties. The pandemic has affected our daily lives including the Foundation's operations and programmes.

With the government announcing measures to curb the spread of the deadly virus, most of us are either on leave or working from home as we anticipate the best outcome. We hope that together as a society we shall over come this scourge and continue adding value to the communities we serve.

In this issue, we showcase our continuing work in addressing sustainable environmental management within schools in arid

and semi arid areas. The Schools Green Initiative Challenge continues to change lives and landscapes as it expands its reach in Kenya.

Also, the Foundation hopes that through its capacity building sessions with school heads and "green" teachers, the skills and knowledge exchange will translate to better environmental management outside the schools compounds.

To the new KenGen Givers, we say: thank you. We will do everything we can to keep your trust.

We wish you and your family safety and good health in the weeks ahead.

Enjoy the read.

Ernest Nyamasyo, Editor.

# **KenGen PLC and KenGen Foundation donate Sh. 20M In Fight Against COVID-19.**

KenGen joins hands with the Government and other stakeholders in offering support to the vulnerable.

en Gen PLC and the KenGen Foundation joined the Government of Kenya in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus through a donation of Sh20million to the Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund set up recently to gather resources for fighting the spread and impact of the virus.

Presenting the check at the Emergency Respond Fund offices at the K.I.C.C on 28 April, KenGen PLC's Managing Director and CEO Mrs. Rebecca Miano said KenGen had joined hands with the Government and other stakeholders in offering economic and social support to the vulnerable community members across the country who have been impacted by COVID-19.

"As KenGen, we take this opportunity to thank the Government for establishing the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, which has been instrumental in mobilizing resources towards containing the spread, effect and impact of Coronavirus disease," said Mrs. Miano.

The company, she added, had set aside an additional Ksh.10 million towards supporting WHO recommended hygiene efforts among community members living near its installations across the country. The additional cash goes towards purchase of hand sanitizers, liquid soaps and water tanks.

Mrs. Miano pointed out that the COVID-19 situation was challenging to many companies and individuals including KenGen, which she said had been forced to suspend a number of initiatives, but encouraged all organizations both public and private to make sacrifices especially at this time to help stop the spread of the disease.

"We must now stand out and reach out to those in need in a show of unity,



KenGen MD & CEO Mrs. Rebecca Miano sigining the cheque presented to the Kenya COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. With her is Ms. Jane Karuku, Chairperson of the fund.



We must now stand out and reach out to those in need in a show of unity, patriotism and empathy as a nation and give generously."
-KenGen M.D. & CEO and Foundation Chairperson Mrs. Rebecca Miano.

patriotism and empathy as a nation and give generously, you can donate your time, we have seen others donate resources, others their expertise, and others moral support including counseling," said Mrs. Miano.

In Kenya, the extent of devastation that the coronavirus can unleash on the economy

is just beginning to take shape. One by one, the corporate world is lining up to join hands in the fight against the novel coronavirus disease. Already, hundreds of millions of shillings has been pledged directly or indirectly to fight the scourge. Pointedly, the main focus now is on containing and mitigating the virus itself.

KenGen's contribution is part of the support in response to the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19.

"It is our prayer that many more organizations and individuals will come forward and contribute towards this noble cause," Mrs. Miano further said.

Receiving the donation, the Chairperson of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Emergency Response Fund, Ms. Jane Karuku thanked KenGen for the support and said that through partnerships, they have already raised nearly Shs1.3billion in cash and in kind.

"As we continue to fundraise, we welcome Kenyans and corporates of good will, and also international donors to support us through this crisis. Our major priorities lie in supporting the medical staff and livelihoods of the affected", she added.

Mrs. Miano was accompanied by KenGen Foundation's Board Member Shadrack Munyalo, and the Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha, who called on Kenyans especially those in arid and semi-arid areas to take advantage of the ongoing rains and plant trees while observing the

laid out measures of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Mr. Igecha further encouraged students, especially this year's secondary school and university candidates, to take advantage of the quarantine and study hard for their end on year exams.

Over the years, KenGen PLC has positively impacted lives of individuals and communities.

The company's primary business is

to provide affordable and dependable electric energy for the country in an environmentally friendly and sustainable manner while creating value for its stakeholders.

The company's CSI efforts have expanded significantly since the establishment of The KenGen Foundation in 2013, purposely established to serve as the vehicle for implementing the Company's CSR programmes.









#### New Appointment at KenGen Foundation

Managing
Trustee of
the KenGen
Foundation,
Mr.
Anthony
Igecha, is
delighted to
announce

the appointments of Mr. Ambrose Njagi

as the new Senior Fundraising Officer.

Mr. Ambrose Njagi (CFRE, NUFFIC fellow) is a Development Finance Practitioner with more than fifteen years' experience in the area of environmental conservation and sustainable development in Kenya.

Ambrose is a holder of a BSc (Hons.) degree in Natural Resource Management; and nearing completion of a MSc. in Plant Ecology from Kenyatta University. Additionally, he holds a Post-

Graduate certificates in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and Landscape Governance from Wageningen University - Netherlands as a beneficiary of NUFFIC fellowship and the University of Bern - Switzerland respectively.

We are very much looking forward to the ideas, experience and energy that Ambrose will bring to the KenGen Foundation.

Welcome to the team Ambrose.

## **Se**pools Green Initiative Challenge Tree **Material Project Breaks Ground in Turkwel.**

KenGen Foundation in partnership with KenGen PLC and Tullow Oil launched the Schools Green Initiative Challenge tree growing competition at Turkwel Gorge Primary School, West Pokot County on 11 March 2020.

During the ceremony, the guest of honour, KenGen's Chairman Mr. Joshua Choge lauded the efforts of the partnership saying, "As we celebrate the expansion of the tree growing project, I would like to commend the KenGen Foundation for scaling up this unique partnership with Tullow

Oil to extend to Turkana and West Pokot Counties to positively impact the schools and neighboring communities".

The event, attended by KenGen Western Region Manager Eng. Alfred Abiero, KenGen Foundation's Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha included their counter part from Tullow Oil's Local Content Manager Ms. Susan Munyiri. Other distinguished guests present were Mr. Charles Ewoi, Turkana County CEC Tourism representing the county's governor, Ms. Roselin Lokorkilim from W. Pokot representing the area governor and the recently trained "green" teachers who will lead the afforestation project in the two counties.

14 registered schools from the two counties will compete in growing and nurturing selected tree species in the twoyear pilot project that aims at increasing the areas forest cover while encouraging sustainable natural resource management through the planting of trees within school compounds.

The Schools Green Initiative Challenge (GIC) is a programme that targets schools in arid and semi-arid areas to raise environmental awareness and create an involvement of schools and students in



KenGen Chairman Mr Joshua Choge is joined by Tullow Oil Local Content Manager Susan Munyiri during the handover of beds at Turkwel.

As we celebrate the expansion of the commitment to sustainable tree growing project, I would like to environmental management at its areas of operation, focusing its corporate for scaling up this unique partnership social responsibility to the with Tullow Oil to extend to Turkana communities living around its and West Pokot Counties to positively the partnership. impact the schools and neighboring The ceremony also saw Mr. communities".

improving their environment through a participatory and rewarding initiative.

The project is designed as a challenge to participating schools, mainly due to the dry weather conditions in the areas, with prizes awarded based on the highest survival rate of seedlings and use of innovation with the best performing schools standing to benefit from education scholarships, infrastructural development, water tanks and rainwaterharvesting, and cash awards, among others. This encourages school children and communities to sustainably manage the woodlots, which provides the schools with renewable sources of wood fuel, reducing pressure on surrounding vegetation and forest resources.

Mr. KenGen's Choge reiterated

Choge hand over a donation of 47 double decker beds to Turkwel Gorge Secondary School and Lorogon Primary School along with mattresses and blankets to provide a conducive learning environment for Turkana and West Pokot students.

Implemented by Kengen Foundation, KenGen PLC and Tullow, the GIC Turkwel project is a 2-year pilot that will involve over 500 students and 'green' teachers and school principals in planting selected tree species within their school compounds.

The project partners provide seedlings and technical advice. The programme also includes 2 capacity building sessions per year for all participating schools and continuous Monitoring and Evaluation sessions.

Pictorial on pg. 6

## GIC Turkwel Launch 2020

















## GIC Turkwel Launch 2020

















The Giver

8 schools from the semi-arid counties of Turkana and West Pokot are the pioneers of the KenGen Foundation's Schools Green Initiative Challenge tree growing competition in Turkwel following a two-day training and sensitization workshop held at the respective counties, 3rd – 5thMarch.

The 14 registered schools from Turkana County and 14 schools West Pokot will compete in growing and nurturing selected tree species in the two-year pilot project implemented by the KenGen Foundation in partnership with KenGen PLC and Tullow Oil PLC. The project aims at increasing the areas forest cover while encouraging sustainable natural resource management through the planting of trees within school compounds.

Addressing the schools environmental patrons and head teachers, KenGen's Chief Environmental Scientist, Western Region, Philip Barasa welcomed

the project in Turkwel and said that the company's environmental department is not only obligated mitigate the effects of climate change, but also charged with promoting tree growing in its areas of operations. "An aerial view of the two counties can reveal the devastating effects of environmental degradation, and this project is long overdue in the area", he said.

"As a department, our mandate extends



Turkana County "Green Teachers" during the Schools Green Inititive Challenge Capacity Building.

# Tree Planting Competition Takes Root in Turkwell

beyond planting trees to ensuring that the future generation will be able to enjoy the fruits of nature, he added.

The two counties neighbor KenGen PLC's Turkwel hydro-power station that generates approximately 106 MW from the Turwel Gorge Dam. The area is prone to erratic rainfall patterns and perennial drought that can be attributed to the effects of global warming.

Present during the training was Turkana South TSC Director Mr. Bernard Orwasa who lauded the project and pledged the commission's commitment in minoring the trees planted as part of its mandate in encouraging sustainable environmental activities within schools. The 'green' teachers were instructed on best practices in tree nursery management including weeding, seed propagation, pest and

disease control, and best practices in sustainable water harvesting. Participants were encouraged to transfer the knowledge and skills gained from the training to the students and their communities. The GIC Turkwel tree growing competition is part KenGen's commitment to sustainable environmental management and an extension of the successful 10-year GIC project currently ongoing at Embu, Kitui and Machakos counties with over 600 schools.

The GIC Turkwel project targets the involvements of over 500 students; both in primary and secondary schools who will in turn act as the areas environment ambassadors during and after their education.



KenGen Chief Environmental Scientist Philip Barasa with KenGen Foundation's Ms. Dorcas Arama during the green teachers training.

## GIC Turkwel Capacity Building 2020

















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Mrs. Reginalda Wanyonyi presents Ielanthi Primary School with a cheque for emerging the winner in Phase IV of the Schools Green Inititive Challenge. With her is the Machakos County Senator Mr. Boniface Kabaka and Mary Mueni representing Bamburi Cement Ltd..

elanthi, Kakunike and Ndelekeni Primary Schools were recognized as the top three schools that excelled in Phase IV of the Green Initiative Challenge (GIC) schools greening programme during the awarding ceremony held at Ielanthi Primary School, Machakos County 28th February. Ielanthi Primary School, emerged top while Kakunike Primary School, Kitui County came second. At position three was Ndelekeni Primary School from Machakos County.

Present was Machakos County Senator Mr. Boniface Kabaka who congratulated the winning schools while reaffirming the commitment of the senate in allocating over Kshs. 100 million for conserving the country's water towers.

The Schools Green Initiative Challenge (GIC) is a programme that targets schools around the 7-Forks power stations in Embu, Kitui and Machakos counties, to raise environmental awareness and create an involvement of schools and students in improving their environment through a participatory and rewarding initiative.

In his speech during the award ceremony held at Ielanthi Primary School, KenGen PLC's Director of Strategy and Business Performance Mr. Muthike representing the company's CEO lauded the efforts of the winning schools saying, "As we celebrate our achievements in GIC it is important to note that positive environmental actions serve to renew our commitment as KenGen, and our goodwill towards sound environmental management at all levels".

The project is designed as a challenge to participating schools, mainly due to the dry weather conditions in the areas, with prizes awarded based on the highest survival rate of seedlings and use of innovation with the best performing schools standing to benefit from education scholarships, infrastructural development, water tanks and rainwater-harvesting, and cash awards, among others.

Implemented by Kengen Foundation, Better Globe Forestry and Bamburi Cement, GIC is a 10 year program that



As we celebrate our achievements in GIC it is important to note that positive environment all actions serve to renew our commitment as KenGen, and our goodwill towards sound environmental management at all levels".

targets to enrol 1,000 schools and greening a total of 460 acres with 324,300 tree seedlings as well as 113,956 fruit seedlings (passion and pawpaw). The programme also includes 2 capacity building sessions per year for all participating schools and continuous Monitoring and Evaluation sessions per year.



Ielanthi Primary School staff celebrate with their "green teacher" when the school was announced as the winners of GIC IV.

The Phase IV Awards are a culmination of activities that began in 2018, with the enrollment of 100 schools from the three counties.

Guest of honour Mrs. Reginalda Wanyonyi, KenGen Director speaking on behalf of the company's chairman the Chairman emphasised the energy producer's commitment to environmental conservation through afforestation.

"KenGen as a company is committed to environmental conservation and has put substantial resources to sustainably safeguard the environment it shares with other communities at around areas of operations and the country at large.

It is with this in mind that the company continues to invest in long-term programs such as the GIC, which is dedicated to environmental conservation by promoting a tree planting culture with particular emphasis to the school children, who are indeed, the transformational agents for a better environment."

During the Award Ceremony, the partners also announced the launch of GIC Phase VI, which brings on board 100 schools from Kitui, Machakos and Embu Counties.

This addition brings to 600 the number of schools participating in the project since its launch in 2015. As part of the Phase VI activities, 100 "Green Teachers" and 100 Headmasters from the 100 recruited schools underwent a capacity building training on managing and nurturing their woodlots in various centres across the

"As we launch Phase IV today, we remain committed to working with the communities through such collaborations with like-minded organizations, to jointly reverse the climate change effects in Arid and Semi Arid Areas in Kenya", added Ms. Mary Mueni, Country Head of Marketing

three counties.



Phase IV

committed working

through

climate

the communities

collaborations with like-minded organizations, to jointly reverse the

Semi

launch

today.

with

such

change

Arid

The ultimate goal of the GIC is to raise

with other partners. "



Ielanthi Primary School students celebrate for emerging as as the winners of GIC Phase IV.

and Corporate Affairs - Bamburi Cement Ltd.

Participating schools plant drought multi-purpose resistant Senna siamea(Muveshi), Melia volkensii (Mukau) and Terminalia brownii(Muuku) tree seedlings on their specially designated 0.5 to 1 acre plots. Once maintained, the trees accord the schools an opportunity to diversify their income through sale of timber as well as non-timber products.

The KenGen Foundation Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha congratulated the winning schools saying, "The GIC is just

the awareness and participation of school children in environmental conservation and ultimately increase the country's forest cover from the current 7% to 10% that is recommended by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

The project will also contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases through carbon sequestration, and the control soil erosion by increasing topsoil infiltration and reducing run-off.

Pictorial on the next page.

## GIC IV Awards 2020

















## GIC IV Awards 2020

















The Giver



00 schools from the semi-arid counties of Embu, Kitui and Machakos are set to be the new rivals in growing drought resistant tree species in Phase VI of the Schools' Green Initiative Challenge following the 1stcapacity building that concluded on 7th February.

200 'green' teachers, including school principals, from 100 schools in the semi-arid counties of Embu, Kitui, and Machakos, benefited from the three-day capacity building workshop held at various institutions from February 4 as Phase VI of the ten-year tree planting competition kicks off in earnest.

The KenGen Foundation team comprising of Ernest Nyamasyo, Dorcas Arama, and Esther Kamaara prioritised the first capacity building workshop at the beginning of each GIC project phase as crucial in laying the foundation for the successful setting up of the school woodlots.

"The overwhelming enthusiasm shown by the new teachers during the capacity building sessions is an indicator that schools participating in Phase VI of the challenge should brace themselves for stiff competition in ensuring the maximum number of seedlings survive and grow into mature trees after two years", says Ernest Nyamasyo, the GIC project and Foundation's Communications Officer. The ten-year afforestation project, now in its fifth year, has so far seen the greening of over 500 schools in the three counties. GIC Phase VI has 34 schools from Kitui County, 33 from Embu, and 33 from Machakos counties.

The team's sentiments were echoed by their counterpart from Kenya Forest Service, Embu County Ms. Ruth Njeru who reiterated the need for sound environmental management, pledging technical support throughout the new phase for the new schools.

The 100 new GIC schools will compete in nurturing drought resistant Terminalia brownie, Senna siamea and Melia volkensi tree species in 0.5 acre plots at their institutions. The project aims at greening over 500 acres of the three semi-arid counties.

The workshop coordinator Ms. Dorcas Arama from KenGen Foundation urged the participants to take advantage of the oncoming rainy season to establish their woodlots.

"It is crucial that we apply the tree growing and nurturing lesson in the participating schools to ensure the success of the project after the two year period", said Ms. Arama.

The training, facilitated by the sponsors KenGen Foundation, Better Globe Forestry and Bamburi Cement, empowered the new 'green' teachers with technical knowledge on good tree nursery management, planting methods and seedling nurturing practices. They will in turn transfer the skills to the students involved in the afforestation competition.

The Foundation's team was joined by their counterparts from KenGen PLC Eastern Region Senior Environment Officer Hussein Somow and Better Globe Forestry Daniel Ndolo, Stephen Kariuki and January Muthoka to deliver a series of lectures and presentations on the dynamics of the afforestation competition, and the contributions the project makes in the overall fight against climate change through sustainable tree growing.

Apart from gaining in-depth knowledge of the characteristics of the GIC tree and fruit species, participants also learnt various nursery management practices including weeding, seed propagation, pest and disease control, and best practices in sustainable water harvesting.

The GIC is the Foundation's flagship environment project, managed and implemented in collaboration with Bamburi Cement Ltd., and Better Globe Forestry.

Pictorial on the next page.

## GIC VI Capacity Building 2020

















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fter days filled with uncertainties and anxiety, David Wanjohi finally received the life changing phone call late one January afternoon in 2014.

It took him a couple of seconds to respond that it was he on the phone, mumbling his name and identification number. The rest of the conversation flowed as if he was in a trance, the afternoon Embu heat oblivious to the miracle in the moment. Five years later, David couldn't wait to return the phone call back to the KenGen Foundation.

Unlike the first conservation that confirmed him as a beneficiary of the KenGen Education Scholarship program, the latest call was to proudly inform his sponsors that he had graduated with First Class honors after pursuing a degree in Bachelor of Education, Science – mathematics and chemistry.

## Honours Graduate Grateful for Scholarship Opportunity

The fourth born in a family of five, David comes from a humble background.

"My father, a watchman, really struggled to ensure that I completed my KCSE", David recalls.

"Together with my mother, who works as a casual labourer, they we're both exhilarated and apprehensive when I scored a B+ and the top student at Makima Division, Embu County", he adds.

Grateful for the opportunity to further his education on a KenGen scholarship, David has the following to say:

"KenGen has and always will remain in my heart for the support you accorded to me. I would like to say my dream of joining Kenyatta University would not have been fulfilled were it not for you. Once again I say thank you for your support.

A big thank you to the KenGen fraternity, and also special thanks to the Foundation for ensuring our stipend and fees were sent on time. It's through your support that I managed to score a first class honours degree, thank you".

The KenGen Education Scholarship program has, since 2005, helped more than 600 bright but needy students from marginalized areas achieve their dream in education. Many have gone on to prominence.

The programmes beneficiaries have made – and continue to make – their marks and achieve excellence in a variety of fields such as engineering, business, arts, and the government.

Our prominent alumni are a diverse group of individuals who cover the whole country, innovating, changing lives, and making history.

Congratulations David Wanjohi. 📒



ore than 30 Sondu Power
Station staff Givers joined
hands with the Kenya
Forest Service to plant
10,000 indigenous tree seedlings at
Koguta Forest, Nyakach Sub-county on
5th November 2019 as part of the ongoing exercise of increasing the country's
forest cover.

Led by the Deputy Governor, Kisumu County Dr. Mathews Owili, the Givers were joined by their counterparts from the East Africa Breweries Limited, the Lake Basin Development Authority, Kenya Power and Lighting Company, Kenya Forest Service and KIWASCO.

"We are grateful for this exercise that aims to increase Kisumu County's forest cover, and hope that tree planting activities will be an annual exercise at the beginning of the rainy seasons", said Dr. Owili

"I urge the Koguta community to ensure

the survival of the seedlings planted today", he added.

During the event, the KenGen's Western Region manager Eng. Alfred Abiero said that the company is focused in tree planting efforts especially at the Mau catchment area as hydro power stations rely on water to generate electricity.

Present during the tree planting exercise were KIWASCO Managing Director Thomas Odongo, LBDA Managing Director Raymond Omollo and EABL Group Corporate Relations Director Eric Kiniti, and the KenGen Foundation's Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha.

"Today's tree planting exercise reflects one of the Foundation's key pillars of environmental conservation", said Anthony.

"The exercise also represents the power of partnerships in Corporate Social Investment activities and links directly with the global Sustainable Development Goal 17", he added.

A recent survey puts Kisumu County's forest cover at approximately 0.45 percent. The 446 hectares Koguta forest is one of two forests that are under threat due to encroachment and wanton deforestation due to illegal charcoal burning and livestock grazing.

KenGen PLC donated 10,000 tree seedlings and pledged to add another 20,000, while LBDA promised to supply 20,000 and EABL 50,000. The target is to plant 100,000 trees within a period of one year.

Managing Trustee Anthony Igecha thanked the Givers for showing up for the exercised and assured them of continued engagement in other projects touching on the Foundation's three pillars of Environment, Education, Water and Sanitation.









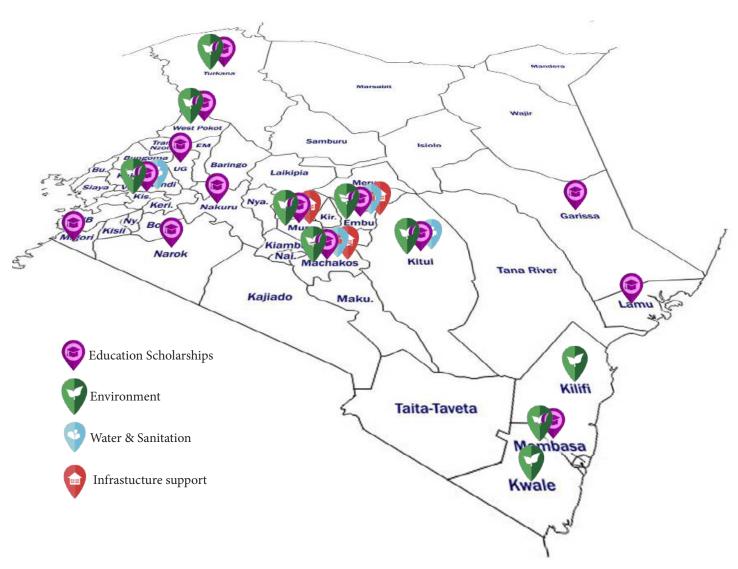








# Our journey so far...





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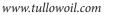
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