

# ANNUAL REPORT

**Sereolipi Nomadic Education Foundation, Inc (SeNEF)**  
New York, NY, USA  
**Sereolipi Nomadic Education Trust (SeNET)**  
Sereolipi, Kenya



# MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD

Dear Thorn Tree Project Sponsors and Friends,

We would like to thank you for your generous support and to share with you our success stories of 2021. The year was busy with girl power programming, water projects and more. Thanks to you, The Thorn Tree Project was able to prioritize the return to a normal learning routine and to focus once again on delivering high quality education to our Samburu students.

Sincerely,  
The Thorn Tree Project  
Board of Directors

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# OUR MISSION

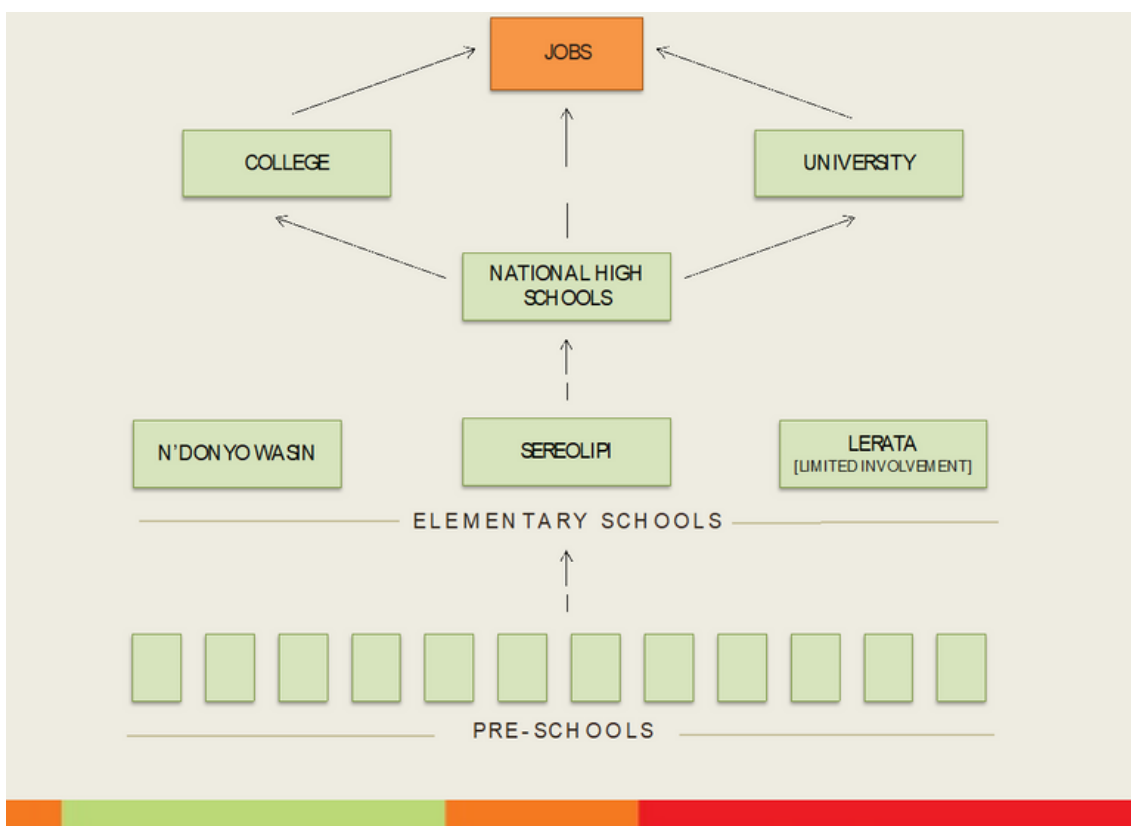
## OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE AND FOCUSED: TO HELP EDUCATE THE CHILDREN OF NOMADIC FAMILIES IN NORTHEASTERN SAMBURU

Sereolipi Nomadic Education Foundation, Inc. was started in 2002 as The Thorn Tree Project. It was incorporated as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2006. Our organization is based on a commitment to being goal-oriented, accountable, and highly effective. We establish clear objectives, put measurements in place to monitor them, and take corrective action immediately to ensure we always remain on track.

Our mission comes from the Samburu people themselves. It is a privilege to be invited into the Samburu tribe, and we make sure that everything we do is in tune with their culture and aligned with their goals. We aim to have the smallest possible footprint in Samburu, maintaining our focus on education.

Our final goal is to enable the Samburu to be self-sufficient – i.e. those educated through the Thorn Tree Project, with jobs outside of the traditional herding, will be able to give back to the community by supporting their younger siblings in getting proper education. As the family and community ties among the Samburu are very strong, this is a realistic expectation. Also, having jobs outside of the traditional herding will lessen their dependency on climate and the devastating droughts, which in turn will benefit the environment and the peace in the area.

Our program is best illustrated in the chart below:



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

## GOFUNDME CAMPAIGN FOR WATER

We managed our first highly successful GoFundMe campaign, as well as established a new partnership with The Samburu Project. Together we drilled a new borehole, solar pump and 2.5-mile pipeline to provide clean drinking water to Lerata Primary School.



**133** scholarship students enrolled in higher education continued their studies through 2021

**21** primary school students' KCPE\* scores qualified them for the Samburu Scholarship Program

**12** students completed tertiary education with degrees in accounting, psychology, social work, human resources + more

**9** Samburu Scholarship students achieved high KCSE\* scores and qualified for college or university

\*KCPE stands for Kenya Certificate of Primary Education

\*KCSE stands for Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education





# PROGRAM IMPACT

316 TTP preschools students

29 preschool students promoted to TTP primary schools 2021 grade one classes

1,176 TTP primary school students

122 TTP primary school students took Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Exam

21 students qualified for TTP Samburu Scholarships to attend high school in 2021

9 TTP highschool students qualified for college or university scholarships

Learata Primary School receives recognition for 24% increase on the KCPE exam from 2020 to 2021

12 TTP students completed their tertiary education in 2021

133 Samburu Scholarship students enrolled in higher education — 86 in high school and 47 in college or university

Degrees ranging from accounting, psychology, social work, and human resources

# NOMADIC PRESCHOOLS

Early childhood education lays the foundation for health, behavior, and learning for years to come. Far too many children start school already behind their peers making it so much harder for them to catch up and keep up.



*A student in LENTASIM PRESCHOOL showing off his work.*

## YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

In 2021 we spent about \$173,000 on our preschool and elementary school programs.

For each elementary school classroom we try to find an individual sponsor. The classes that do not have individual sponsors are supported through general donations and fund raisers.

In 2021, we had 9 individual sponsors who contributed a total of \$63,000.

In 2021 SENEFF operated 11 preschools, with a total of 316 (January through July) and 351 (August through December) students, in the communities of Nesesiai, Nkusosroni, Kimaning, Nkii, Meuwa, Ilakweny(NDW), Sarara, Leitemu, Lekiji, Sera Rongai and Lentasim (SLP). These preschools feed into Ndongyo Wasin and Sereolipi elementary schools.

Ten of the preschools had individual sponsors, each of them contributing \$1,000. This donation covers teaching materials, salaries for an ECD teacher and a cook. All preschool children are given free lunch, which is provided by the government or by SENEFF.

In August of 2021, twenty nine students who graduated from our preschools joined grades I in the elementary schools of Sereolipi and Ndongyo Wasin.



# ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

## 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The 9-months long disruption of the education in 2020 had a large impact on the school calendar in Kenya. In Kenya the academic year for elementary and secondary schools normally runs from January through mid November and is divided in three terms.

In order to make up for the time lost in 2020 the government made adjustments to the academic calendar and in 2021 the academic year had four instead of usual three terms. The academic year that started in January of 2020 ended on July 16, 2021. The following academic year started on July 26, 2021, with the third term scheduled for 2022.



## YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

In 2021 there was a total of 1,133 (January through July) and 1,176 (August through December) students enrolled in three elementary schools in the villages of Ndonyo Wasin, Sereolipi and Learata.

All of these students get their school uniforms through SENEf, as many would not be able to attend school just because of the price of the uniform. Almost half of the primary school students are boarders, with the largest number of boarders being in the village of Ndonyo Wasin, where about 80% of the students come from nomadic families. The government is obliged to supply school lunches for all of the students, while SENEf provides breakfast and dinner for all of its boarders as well as for the students living far from the school. In 2021 we spent a total of about \$56,000 on food only.

## YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDED

The Kenyan Government does not supply adequate number of teachers (only 1 per 50 students). Therefore, in order to provide quality education to our youth, SENEf engaged 18 additional teachers in 2021.

All SENEf teachers are required to teach minimum of 20 hours a week and to devote an additional 1.5 hour every afternoon to our library reading program. The library reading program, which consists of additional reading, writing and comprehension work for each student six days a week, takes place in one of the three libraries that were built by SENEf.

# SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FURTHER EDUCATION

The Samburu Scholarship program began in 2008 to help "first in family to ever attend school" students continue their journey through education.

In 2021, there were 86 high school scholarship recipients. Every year grade eight students in Kenya sit for a standardized test known as the Kenya Certificate of Elementary Education (KCPE). In order to qualify for the SENEAF scholarship program the student must fulfill the following criteria:

- Attend one of the Thorn Tree Project's preschools
- Attend one of the three Thorn Tree Project sponsored elementary schools
- Score 300 or more on KCPE

**86 high school scholarship recipients; 47 college or university scholarship recipients**

**36 elementary school students awarded full scholarships, with 2 students obtaining Mpesa Academy scholarships**

**13 enrolled in college**

**12 graduated from college**

We are incredibly grateful to our high school and college student sponsors, without whose generosity most of these students would not be able to get access to higher education.



*A high school student during the school break studying at the SENEAF Learning Center in Sereolipi*

## YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

**21** students from the three elementary schools qualified for the SENEAF high school scholarship program. Their KCPE scores ranged from 302 to 438.

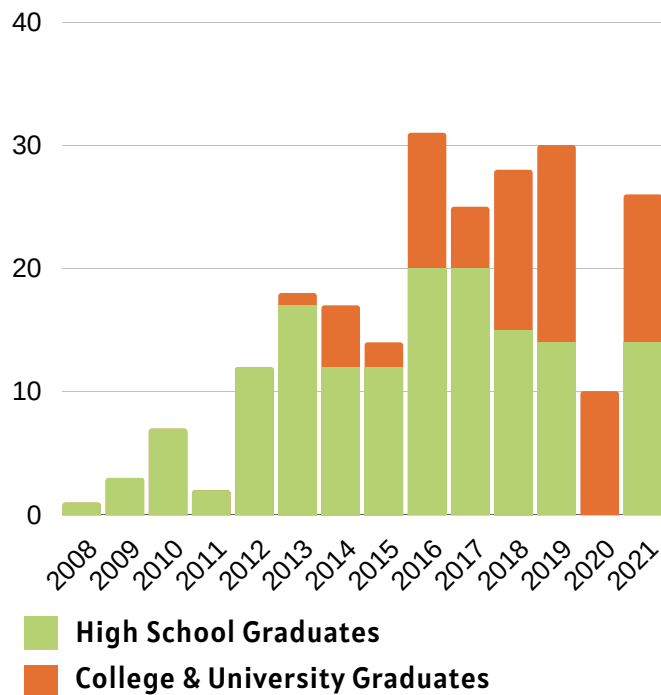
With the help of one of our recent college graduates, Simon Lesamaja, an intern, we started an initiative to assist all of our elementary school graduates to apply for the outside scholarships. The scholarship applicants were able to obtain assistance and Simon was able to add this internship to his CV. Two of our high scoring students were successful in obtaining the Mpesa academy scholarships.

**13** SENEAF high school scholarship recipients who scored above C on their 2020/21 KCSE tests, five girls and seven boys, were all able to continue their education by receiving SENEAF scholarships.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## GRADUATES 2008 - 2021 SECONDARY SCHOOL, COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY



*\*There were no high school graduates in 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic*

## THE RESULTS

The 2021 KCPE (Kenya Certificate for Primary Education) results were impressive. Out of 122 SENEK students who sat for the exam:

**36 scored above 300**  
**8 scored above 350**  
**1 scored a top score of 372**

*The average score across Kenya is 250 out of a possible 500.*

The 2021 KCSE (Kenya Certificate for Secondary Education) results were impressive. Out of 14 SENEK students who sat for the exam:

**13 scored a C or above**



# GIRL POWER PROGRAM

## GIRL RISING

In February 2020, The Thorn Tree Project began a partnership with Girl Rising. Girl Rising is a non-profit organization whose mission is: To ensure that girls around the world are educated and empowered. When every girl is free to reach her full potential, our work will be done. Girl Rising uses story telling as a catalyst for impact and long-term social change, via film, television, social media videos, and more. It is through their powerful films about young girls around the world, that they've developed a curriculum for us to share with our girls and boys.

In 2021, we actively engaged our girls and boys in this new curriculum. Our hope is that through this additional exposure, it will allow both our girls and boys to increase their awareness and power to control their own lives and circumstances. Helping to prepare them for their future success!

### YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

In 2021, we spent about \$2,500 on our Girl Power Program.

### YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDED

Additional Tutoring  
Sanitary Pads  
Pregnancy Kits  
Underwear  
Buckets & Soap  
Girl Rising Discussion Groups  
Girl Exchange Programs



# FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



THE THORN TREE PROJECT  
POP UP SHOP  
**SOKO**  
SOHO  
SHOP & SUPPORT  
SAMBURU STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS  
June 18th - 20th  
Friday thru Sunday  
10:00am - 7:00pm  
109 THOMPSON STREET NYC  
btw PRINCE & SPRING  
PURCHASE NEW, VINTAGE & PRELOVED  
DESIGNER FASHION,  
ACCESSORIES, HANDBAGS & JEWELRY  
HOME DECOR  
ART  
GIFTS & BASKETS  
100% of Sales Support Scholarships [www.thorntreeproject.org](http://www.thorntreeproject.org)  
• Baccarat • Carolina Herrera • Dolce & Gabbana • Etro • Henrend •  
• Hermes • Kosta Boda • McQueen • Manfredi • Mary McFadden •  
• Michael Kors • Morgane LeFay • Paul Smith • Prada • Pucci • Sandro • Zac Posen •

## BECOME A SPONSOR

Our ability to serve Samburu students is based on support from donors like you. Consider becoming a scholarship sponsor for a high school or college student:

**\$5,000**

High School scholarship that includes tuition, transportation, textbooks and mentorship for four years

**\$7,000**

College scholarship for a four-year program

In 2021 we organized four fundraising events. The first one, held in June, was a pop-up store "Soho Soko", where high end donated, new and gently used designer items were for sale.

The second event, held at a gallery in Kingstown, NY, was sale of Dog Custom Portraits by artist Manuel Santelices who generously donated his work and time.

In November 2021 we held our traditional Art Sale at Clodagh Studio in New York City.

In order to collect funds for one of the special projects – water supply for Lerata elementary school – we organized a highly successful GoFundMe campaign.



THE THORN TREE PROJECT  
PLEASE JOIN US!  
THURSDAY 11.18.21 6 to 9PM  
BENEFIT Art Sale  
rsvp: [events.thorntreeproject.org](http://events.thorntreeproject.org)  
Please bring your vaccination card  
COME FOR AN EVENING OF PHILANTHROPY, ART, BITES & SUN-DOWNERS. WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO SUPPORT OUR HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENTS IN KENYA.  
CLODAGH DESIGN STUDIO  
115 E. 23rd St., 12th Fl.  
(btwn Park Ave So & Lexington Ave)  
Participating artists as of November 1st:  
ALEX PALOMBO ANDRIANNA DIMARIS BETSY INERSHEN BELIND CLODAGH DAMIAN DELA DANIEL ABBY DAVID LINK DOUGLAS SWAN ELEANOR BUCKING EAGLE GLENN PALMER SMITH HANS NELEMAN JAMES THOMAS LISA WOOD LOUISE GRANDELL TYLEE GREENE MICHAEL CUREY MIKE ELIAS MARIANA CRIC PEGGY O'DRILL PETER O'KENNEDY RACHEL NEWMAN ROLAND ROSE HARTMAN SARAH VON DRELE STEFAN DELICHOFF TERRIGOLD TERENCE HAN OREN HAZAN GALLERY CUSP NYC GALLERY DEBON BY STEPHEN BUREK ROSEN RICE GALLERY THE KANZI ANDRE GOLF

# 2021 PROJECTS



## LERATA WATER

Our special project in 2021 was the construction of the water supply for Lerata Elementary school. Lerata is situated in an extremely dry area, hardly suitable for neither people nor livestock.



The water has been a major problem for years. The original borehole went dry and we were forced to truck in the water. Fortunately, in partnership with The Samburu Water Project, we were able to construct a new borehole for the school.



Then through our successful GoFundMe Campaign, TTP managed to provide a solar-powered pump, a 2.5-mile piping and a water tower with a 10,000-liter capacity tank. Finally, our students in Lerata have a reliable source of clean drinking water!

**A big thank you to all of our donors who participated in our Lerata Water Project GoFundMe campaign!**

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



TheSamburuProject



# OUR TEAM

The Thorn Tree Project is run and managed by a dedicated community of volunteers based in New York City and paid education experts in northern Kenya in close partnership with Chief George and the Samburu tribe.

## OUR TEAM IN THE US

### *SEREOLIPI NOMADIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION INC. BOARD MEMBERS*

Jane Newman, Founder  
Linda Pagan, President  
Maja Serdarevic, Treasurer  
David Ashen  
Clodagh  
Gerard Govaerts  
Lori Lum  
Dede McMahan  
Tucker Robbins  
Ellen Sweeney

### *EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD*

Ali Nagle  
Rob Cousin

### *ADVISORY BOARD*

Ann Miles  
Tracy Nixon

## OUR TEAM IN KENYA

### *SEREOLIPI NOMADIC EDUCATION TRUST STAFF*

Chief George Lemer keto  
President  
Catherine Vandewalle  
Operations Director  
Micah Rayrus  
Education Manager  
Morris Mwema  
Scholarship Manager & Mentor  
Monicah Kimani  
Scholarship Officer & Female Mentor  
Gadaffi Lenkiremishoi  
Logistics Manager  
Dorothy Mmbarizi  
Finance Manager  
Geoffrey Ng'ang'a  
Driver

### *SEREOLIPI NOMADIC EDUCATION TRUST VOLUNTEER*

Angela Ng'ang'a  
Volunteer