

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,

2022 was a landmark year for The Thorn Tree Project...we turned 20 years! This significant milestone speaks volumes of our commitment to the project and it's sustainability.

We would never had reached this momentous anniversary without your support, we send you a hearty thank you and congratulations for being part of our journey.

We celebrated with a gala dinner and announced our latest initiative ...the expansion into local High Schools. This is a very exciting time to be part of The Thorn Tree Project and we look forward to updating you in our quarterly newsletter "Dispatch from Kenya".

Ache Oleng!
The Thorn Tree Project
Board of Directors

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OUR MISSION

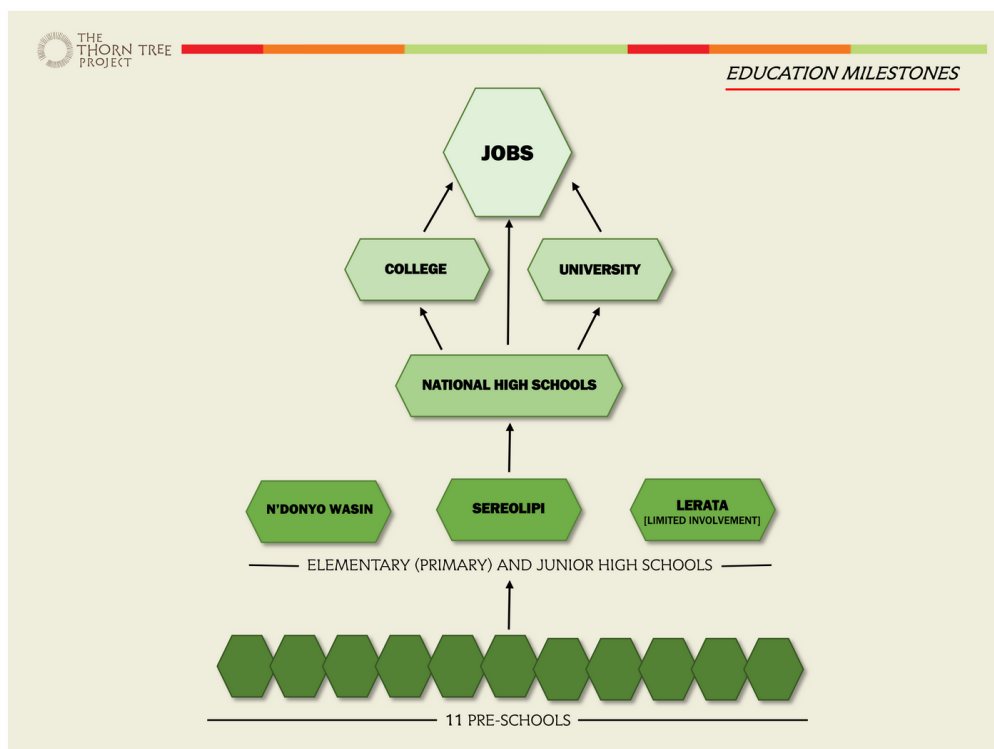
OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE AND FOCUSED: TO HELP EDUCATE THE CHILDREN OF NOMADIC FAMILIES IN NORTHEASTERN SAMBURU

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 SeNEF, 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:



2022 HIGHLIGHTS



140 scholarship students enrolled in higher education continued their studies through 2022

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

20 students graduated from college. 6 Bachelor degrees, 11 diploma degrees, 3 certificate degrees.

16 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

325 SeNEF preschools students

1,199 SeNEF primary school students

21 SeNEF high school students qualified for college or university scholarships

20 students graduated from college in 2022, with 6 Bachelor degrees, 11 diploma degrees and 3 certificate degrees.

286 SeNEF primary school students took Kenya Certificate of Primary Education Exam

20 students qualified for SeNEF Samburu Scholarships to attend high school in 2023



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.

YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

In 2022 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 2022, we had 9 individual sponsors who contributed a total of \$63,000.

YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDED

In 2022 we operated 11 preschools in the outlying areas of Sereolipi and Ndonyo Wasin which were attended by 157 girls and 168 boys. The children are taught numbers and letters and given a lunch. These preschools feed into local elementary schools also supported by SENET.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term 3 (from 2021) 1/3/22-4/3/22
KCPE and KCSE (2021) March/April 2022
Term 1 4/21/22-07/01/22
Term 2 7/11/22-9/16/22
Term 3 9/26/22-11/25/22
KCPE and KCSE (2022)
November/December 2022

YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

There were 1,199 students in three elementary schools, out of which 561 were girls. Close to 22% of the annual budget was used to provide food, uniforms, textbooks, library books and dormitory supplies. Additionally, SENET financed the salaries of 16 elementary school teachers as well as 12 support staff (matrons, cooks, night guards).

YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDED

The Kenyan Government does not supply an 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 a 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 2022 KCPE (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) and KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education) exams were held twice, as the school calendar was still affected by the COVID 19 pandemic.

New criteria for SENET HS scholarship were implemented - besides the score of 300 and above, students had to submit an application and undergo an interview conducted by SENET mentors, SENET board members and community representatives. All those accepted in the scholarship program in April 2022 had KCPE scores in the top 25% of the country. Five of the new high school students were sponsored by our partner, The Samburu Project.

There were:

44 college students

96 HS students in the scholarship program.

10 new college students in 2022.

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.

YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

21 students from the three elementary schools qualified for the SeNEF 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 SeNEF 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 SENET scholarships.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

FRANK LESAMPOUWA

We are bursting our buttons with pride. Frank Lesampouwa is from a manyatta (settlement) in the bush called Pareau and when he was a toddler, he suffered an accident at an open fire. He survived and his family recognizing his innate intelligence decided to send him to school as a way for him to rise above the accident's trauma. At N'Donyo Wasin he was a serious and thoughtful student, and he caught the attention of an American visitor John Fraley and his wife Adelaide. They were struck by

Frank's intelligence plus his quiet but strong character and decided they would sponsor Frank through high school. Frank blew everyone away by gaining a place at Alliance the top ranked high school in Kenya. Despite many challenges Frank did well at Alliance and went on to attend and graduate from Kenyatta University in Nairobi with a bachelor's in education. He is now teaching in Samburu at Wamba Secondary School. His family, community, The Thorn Tree Project and his sponsor could not be prouder.



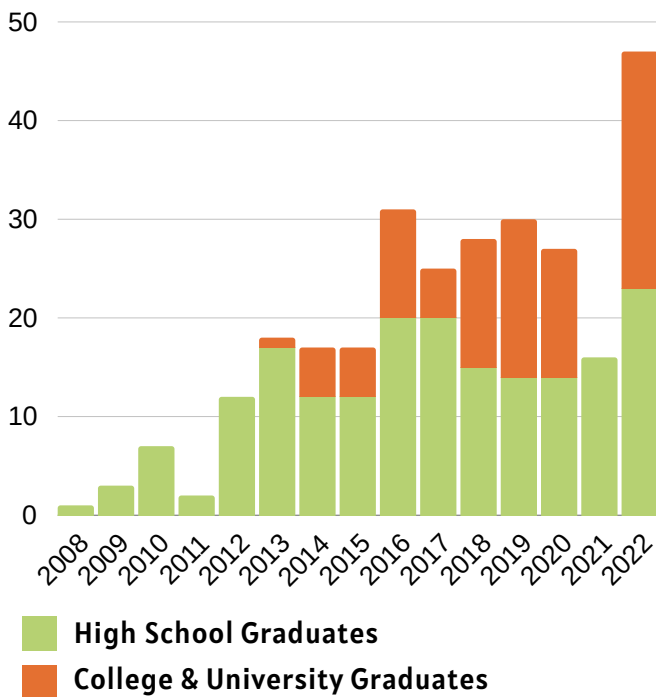
Teacher Vincent, Frank, age 12 with sponsor, John Fraley



Frank's parents, Frank and John on a recent visit.

BY THE NUMBERS

GRADUATES 2008 - 2022 SECONDARY SCHOOL, COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY



KCPE TESTS

In 2022 KCPE (Kenya Certificate for Primary Education) tests were taken by 125 students in March 2022 and 161 students in November 2022. Criteria for a HS scholarship - score of 300 and above, application and interview conducted by SENET mentors, SENET board members and community representatives. All those accepted had KCPE scores in the top 25% of the country. The 2022 KCSE (Kenya Certificate for Secondary Education) results were impressive

16 HS students took KCSE in March. Three of them scored in the top 10% in the country.

23 HS students took KCSE in December. The results of this exam will be out in 2023.



GIRL POWER PROGRAM

GIRL RISING

In February 2020, SeNEF 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.

YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS

In 2022, we spent about \$2,100 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

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

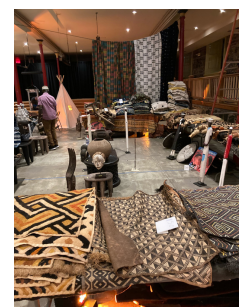
\$7,000

College scholarship for a four-year program

THE THORN TREE PROJECT TURNS 20!

It was marked with a gala dinner at The Time Warner Building on Columbus Circle in New York City, where we honored some of our most dedicated past and current sponsors. The gala was an opportunity to introduce a new phase for The Thorn Tree Project - our "Secondary School Initiative". This initiative aims to bring two recently built government-run secondary high schools in the settlements of Sereolipi and N'Donyo Wasin to the standards of The TTP.

The long-term plan is to build much needed chemistry and computer labs, dormitories, and employ additional teaching staff. In 2022, we started by providing additional food and school supplies. As of the end of 2021, when we conducted the need assessments, the total enrollment in these two schools, was around 145.



2022 PROJECTS



LERATA WATER PROJECT COMPLETED

In January 2022 Lerata Primary School finally had their own supply of fresh water. TSP dug the well to the standard depth (50m) while the TTP funded the additional digging as the water table in the area is very low, TTP also provided for a solar-powered pump, 2.5 miles of pipe, and a water tower with a 10,000-liter capacity tank.



SECONDARY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

This initiative aims to bring two recently built government-run schools in the villages of Sereolipi and Ndonyo Wasin, up to the standards of the Thorn Tree Project standards. In 2022 we started simply, providing additional food and school supplies. The total enrollment in these two schools is around 145 students.



SENET BOARD FORMED

The first SENET Board meeting held on November 23, 2022.

- Chief Georges Lemer keto, Founder and Chairman, community and government connection
- Headmaster Ambrose Lekoitip, Vice-Chairman with focus on all things academic
- Josephine Young, Treasurer with special focus on 'pillar 4', HR
- Angela Ng'ang'a, Secretary, legal issues
- Gerard Govaerts, Operations, NY Board Liaison



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



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

Maja Serdarevic

Clodagh

David Ashen

Gerard Govaerts

Lori Lum

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 BOARD MEMBERS

Chief Georges Lemer keto

Founder and Chairman

Ambrose Lekoitip

Vice-Chairman

Josephine Young

Treasurer

Angela Ng'ang'a

Secretary

Gerard Govaerts

NY Board Liaison

SEREOLIPI NOMADIC EDUCATION TRUST STAFF

Catherine Vandewalle

Operations Director

Micah Rayrus

Education Manager

Morris Mwema

Scholarship Manager & Mentor

Simon Lesamaja

Scholarship Mentor

Monicah Kimani

Scholarship Officer & Female Mentor

Gadaffi Lenkiremishoi

Logistics Manager

Dorothy Mmbarizi

Finance Manager

Geoffrey Ng'ang'a

Driver