

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES  
ONE GIRL AT A TIME

HESHIMA KENYA 2015 IMPACT REPORT



HESHIMA  
KENYA







## Heshima *n.* (Swahili) respect, honor, and dignity

### OUR MISSION

Heshima Kenya specializes in identifying and protecting orphaned, unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children living in Nairobi, Kenya.

### OUR VISION

The children and youth Heshima Kenya serves today become tomorrow's advocates, creating social change, both individually and collectively.

### OUR APPROACH

Heshima Kenya's integrated model provides holistic support, empowering refugee girls and young women to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and leaders in their own right.

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“Heshima gives us courage, we are empowered women.”

- Mignore, Age 17, Democratic Republic of Congo

Dear Friends,

The young women of Heshima Kenya inspire us everyday. Through their laughter, joy, tears and friendship, the girls of Heshima empower themselves and their peers to be agents of positive change in the world. These extraordinary young women come from all over East Africa, fleeing terrorism in Somalia, escaping violence in DRC, running from political turmoil in Ethiopia and seeking reprieve from persecution based on their sexuality in Uganda. Since our founding in 2008, Heshima Kenya has provided protection, education, and a healing community for young women and girls. Over the last year, we have seen that community grow beyond our imagination.

In 2015, the global refugee crisis reached an unprecedented level. Of the 50 million refugees globally, among the most vulnerable are refugee children who have lost their families. Referred to as “unaccompanied minors,” these refugee children have been forcibly separated from their families, homes, communities and countries. In Kenya alone there are 18,000 registered unaccompanied minor refugees and asylum seekers. Heshima Kenya is a safe haven and healing community for unaccompanied children from across East Africa. We are honored to be the first and only organization dedicated to meeting the needs of this vulnerable population.

2015 was a year of significant growth for us. In this report, you will learn about our new implementing partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). We became the UN’s official Child Protection Implementing Partner, with a mandate to protect and serve unaccompanied minors in Kenya. Through this partnership, we more than doubled our direct assistance to refugee children throughout Kenya. Over the past eight years, over 1,600 young women, girls and their children have received protection through Heshima Kenya’s award-winning holistic model that provides a full spectrum of care and support. In 2015, an additional 1,400 children received direct service through our UNHCR partnership. Finally, we are very proud to share Heshima girl, Ange’s, journey through out this report in three highlighted features.

Heshima Kenya’s growth would not have been possible without supporters like you. We look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Alisa Roadcup, Ann Laatsch, and Rosalind Raddatz.



Alisa Roadcup Executive Director



Ann Laatsch Chair, U.S. Board



Rosalind Raddatz Chair, Kenya Board



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*“I could not share my story, but now I can open my heart and tell you what I feel.”*



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Ange was 15 years old when she was forced to flee from her country, community, home and family.

In 2009, violence engulfed her village in the Democratic Republic of Congo and both her mother and father were captured. Unable to find her brothers and sister, Ange made the decision to run, fearing that she would also be captured. After hearing about a Congolese community in Nairobi, Kenya where she could find shelter in exchange for work, Ange began the harrowing journey to this foreign place.

Vulnerable and alone, Ange suffered from sexual violence during her escape from the Congo and became pregnant. When Ange finally arrived in Nairobi, a member of one of Heshima Kenya's Women Ambassadors Groups immediately referred her to Heshima Kenya. After meeting with our Case Management team for an initial assessment, Ange was brought to the Safe House for shelter and protection, given prenatal care and received trauma counseling.

One month later, Ange gave birth to a happy and healthy daughter. Filled with hope for the future, she named her daughter Esperance, which means "hope and expectation." With the support of the Heshima Kenya staff and the other residents of the Safe House, Ange began education courses at Heshima's Girls' Empowerment Project just two weeks after her 16th birthday.



# WHO WE SERVE

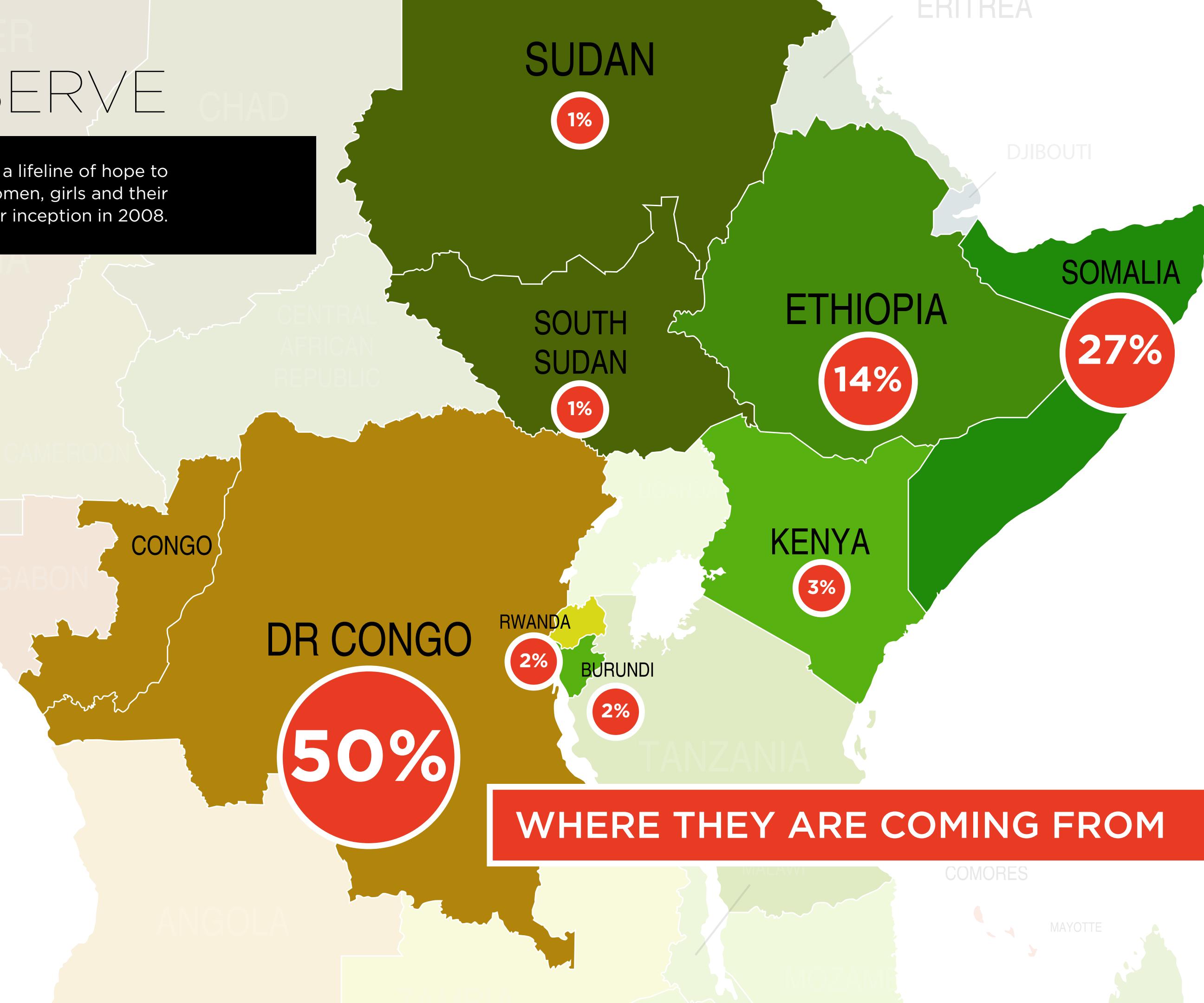
Heshima Kenya has provided a lifeline of hope to over 1,679 young refugee women, girls and their children since our inception in 2008.

## INCOMING HESHIMA GIRLS

- 70% were illiterate and received little to no formal education prior to arriving at Heshima Kenya.
- 60% traveled by truck to reach Nairobi, a means of travel that increases the likelihood of sexual assault by four times.
- 60% of beneficiaries reported incidents of sexual and gender-based violence; this percentage is believed to be closer to 80% as survivors are hesitant to disclose out of fear of incrimination.
- 33% of the young women in our programs has one child, sometimes two, often as a result of forced pregnancy or limited reproductive health alternatives.
- 33% of beneficiaries have experienced Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

## HOW THEY ARE REFERRED TO US

- 29% UNHCR and Heshima Kenya's Child Protection Team
- 29% Heshima Kenya's Community Outreach Initiatives
- 22% Community Partners such as Médecins Sans Frontières, International Organization for Migration, HIAS and various Embassies.
- 20% Word of mouth referral & references from other Heshima Kenya Girls



## WHERE THEY ARE COMING FROM



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# HESHIMA KENYA'S HOLISTIC MODEL

After nearly 25 years of protracted refugee crisis in Kenya, Heshima Kenya is proud to have redefined how models of protection best work for refugee girls and young women. Our award-winning holistic model provides opportunities for refugee girls to access their human rights, experience economic success and skill development and become leaders in their own communities.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The Maisha Collective is our social enterprise and a peer-driven initiative that fosters leadership and business management skills through the design and production of unique hand-dyed scarves and textiles. In managing and working in the Collective, members gain life-long business and marketing skills that develop their confidence and prepare them for future independence.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Heshima Kenya's outreach program enables refugees in Nairobi to access vital protection and services. Our Community Outreach staff facilitates trainings for refugees on human rights and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence prevention. We partner with other organizations to spread awareness of our programs to increase referrals from the community, provide small business loans and build capacity of community members.

## ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

Heshima Kenya's advocacy program delivers legal support such as: asylum and refugee documentation, birth certificates and resettlement. Beyond legal aid, we participate in various panels and policy roundtables to advance dialogue and solutions for urban refugees, advocate for the protection of unaccompanied refugee children and youth, and publish reports on current trends and best practices within the refugee advocacy sector.

## CASE MANAGEMENT

Our Case Management services provide intake needs assessments, counseling and emotional support, medical assistance, legal aid and support, community integration and resettlement.

## CHILD PROTECTION

In 2015, Heshima Kenya became the Implementing Partner for Child Protection with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our mandate was to provide protection for the largely invisible population of 18,000 unaccompanied minors residing in Kenya. In 2015, we provided direct services to 1,400 refugee children and indirect services to 8,500.

## THE SAFE HOUSE

The only shelter of its kind in Kenya, our Safe House provides a healing space for the most vulnerable refugees from throughout East Africa. Our shelter provides protection, counseling, coaching for new mothers and a community of support. We are a registered CCI (Children's Charitable Institution) under the Kenyan Children's Department.

## EDUCATION

The Girls' Empowerment Project (GEP) is our education program that allows participants to access education and livelihood opportunities, learn about their human rights and sexual reproductive health as well as cultivate leadership skills. Most participants come to Heshima unable to read and write.



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I feel free.”*



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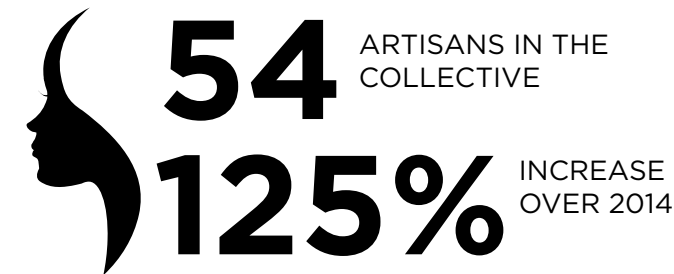
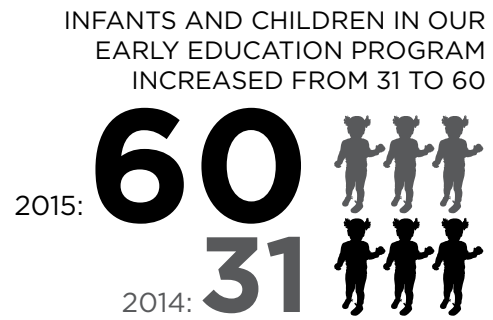
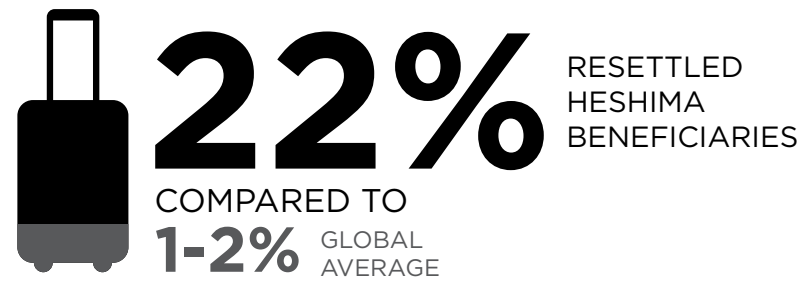
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# OUR IMPACT IN 2015

*"I have the confidence to use my voice so that other women are heard."*  
 - Asha, Age 20, Somalia



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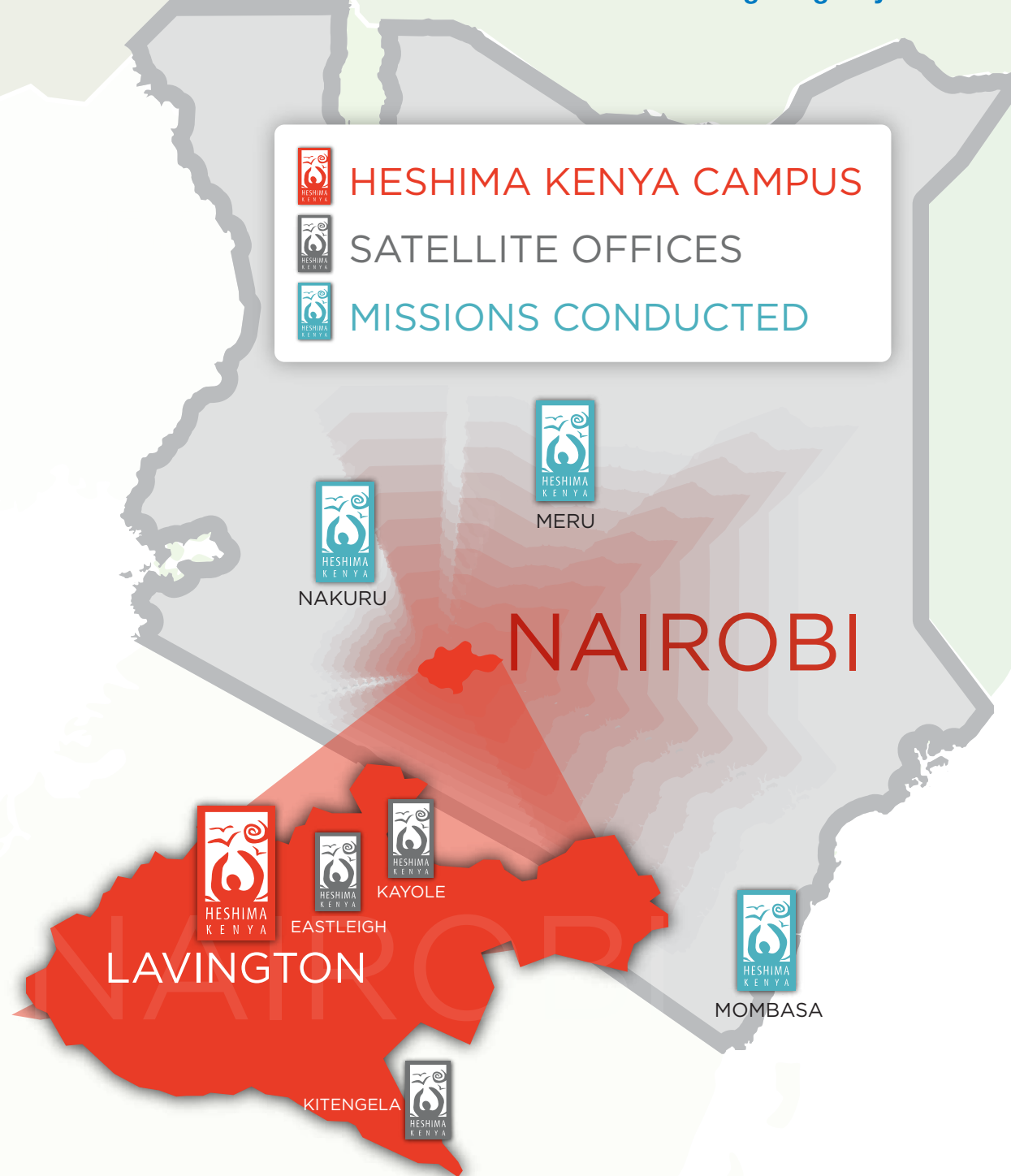
SOUTH SUDAN

ETHIOPIA

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



## UNHCR Child Protection



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## HESHIMA KENYA EXPANDS PROGRAMS AND NATIONAL REACH

In 2015, Heshima Kenya was named Child Protection Implementing Partner to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Our UNHCR partnership provides protection for approximately 18,000 unaccompanied refugee children. Heshima Kenya provided direct services to over 1,400 unaccompanied refugee children and indirect services to over 8,500 in 2015. In addition to our core programs at the Girls' Empowerment Project campus, we opened three satellite offices in Eastleigh, Kayole and Kitengela, and conducted missions to Meru, Mombasa and Nakuru.

### Heshima Kenya's service to the refugee community under UNHCR includes:

#### ENSURING PROTECTION

Heshima Kenya staff support refugee children in the formal process of assessing the child's best interests and ensuring necessary documentation to aid in identification and resettlement processes. This includes conducting Best Interest Determinations (BIDs), Best Interest Assessments (BIAs), family tracing, home visits and birth registration and certification.

#### PROVIDING CARE

Heshima Kenya facilitates foster care arrangements and provides for children's basic needs by providing food baskets, clothing, financial support and material goods. These programs ensure that refugee children are not only physically safe, but also emotionally supported. Our partnership with the Centre for Victims of Torture provides trauma counseling for the most vulnerable.

#### FOSTERING COMMUNITY

We are dedicated to establishing community-based support systems for refugee children throughout Kenya. This is achieved by creating community support and advocacy committees, as well as facilitating community outreach workshops and cultural sensitivity trainings with local government officials, tribal leaders and magistrates.





*“Heshima is my family. I grew here. My daughter grew up here.”*

Now, Ange is flourishing. Little Esperance is almost two years old and her favorite pastime is playing on the swings on Heshima’s playground. Last year, after completing the tailoring course, Ange was invited to join the Maisha Collective, where she contributes to the design and production of unique, hand-dyed scarves and textiles. Ange is now financially independent because of the monthly stipend she earns as a member of the Maisha Collective. She is able to pay rent and care for her daughter in the apartment she shares with her friends, Heshima girls Beatrice and Aline.

In November 2015, Ange sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam. She is planning to attend secondary school next fall and is training to launch her own business as a hairstylist to provide a bright future for herself and Esperance. Ange is now an empowered woman, entrepreneur, mother and leader within her community.



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# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



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Out of 600 idea submissions, Heshima Kenya was among 5 finalists to win the OpenIDEO & Amplify Refugee Challenge, a crowd-sourced competition that provided 50 refugee women with micro-loans to launch their own businesses.



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Each year, the Heshima Kenya Fashion Challenge Gala celebrates the Maisha Collective and the young women of Heshima Kenya. Our 2015 Gala raised over \$75,000 to support the Girls' Empowerment Project. Thank you, Chicago supporters!



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33 of the young women in our Girls' Empowerment Project sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam, a 70% increase in participation from 2014.



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Through our partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), we participated in events celebrating World Refugee Day, the Day of the African Child and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.



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In 2015, our staff doubled in size in both Kenya and US offices.



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The children and youth Heshima Kenya serves today become tomorrow's advocates, creating social change, both individually and collectively.

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Heshima Kenya's integrated model provides holistic support, empowering refugee girls and young women to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and leaders in their own right.

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[HeshimaKenya.org](http://HeshimaKenya.org)





Our Girls' Empowerment Project introduced three new flourishing extracurricular clubs, including a journalism club, language club and book club.



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Heshima Kenya girls participated in a multimedia visual storytelling workshop for urban refugee youth sponsored by the UNHCR.



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The Maisha Collective embarked on many new collaborations and partnerships, including our largest custom order to date of 1400 meters of fabric for Piece & Co.



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Catherine Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, presents Heshima Kenya's Executive Director, Alisa Roadcup, with an Artisan Enterprise Multimedia Competition Finalist Award at the US Department of State in Washington, D.C.



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Since 2010, the Maisha Collective has supported over 100 refugee artisans in building leadership and business management skills through the design and production of unique hand-dyed fabrics.



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Chicago designer Lagi Nadeau traveled to Nairobi in April to collaborate with the Maisha Collective on a one-of-a-kind jewelry line, Lagi Nadeau for Heshima Kenya.



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Heshima Kenya girls attended the East African Girls' Leadership Summit (EAGLS), hosted by our partner, Akili Dada.



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MAKE YOUR  
IMPACT TODAY!

**BUY A SCARF**

*Each scarf is hand-dyed by a Maisha Collective artisan.*

**SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST  
AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

**SHARE OUR STORY**

**HOST AN EVENT**

**MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!**

\$10,000

A gift at this level will support education and fully resource 5 classrooms completely outfitted with A/V and technology, desks and educational supplies.

\$5,000

A gift at this level will offer safe shelter for 30 girls and their babies. This gift will fully furnish 5 bedrooms at the Heshima Safe House.

\$2,500

A gift at this level will provide a lifetime of impact by enrolling one girl for one year into Heshima's Girls' Empowerment Project. She will attend classes, vocational training, receive counseling, medical aid, legal aid, psychosocial support and much more.

\$1,000

A gift at this level will provide holistic Safe Shelter services for two residents for one month, including rent, residential care costs, caregiver salary support, security and food.

\$500

A gift at this level will support 5 Heshima girls suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) with therapy sessions for one month.

\$250

A gift at this level covers the cost of three wholesome meals a day for one girl in the Safe House for one month.

\$100

A gift at this level provides full-time daycare services for 15 infants for one week, ensuring their mothers can attend class and vocational training.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

Heshima Kenya is grateful to the individual donors and foundations who supported our programs in 2015, including those who purchased scarves, attended our events, hosted scarf parties and donated in-kind materials, services and their generous time throughout the year.

**We couldn't serve the most vulnerable without you.**

## PARTNERS

The United States Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, Migration

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

NoVo Foundation

Pathy Family Foundation

Amplify: UK Aid

One Day's Wages

Zakat Foundation Of America

Arthur B. Schultz Foundation

Manaaki Foundation

Imago Dei Foundation

Hogsalt Hospitality

Bright Future International

Dining for Women

AJG Foundation

Denver Tech for All

Canadian High Commission to Kenya

Canadian Association of Kenya

Chicago North Shore Alumnae Kappa Alpha Theta

Christopher Family Foundation

Circle of Sisterhood

First Unitarian Church of Providence

Global Pathways to Literacy

IDP Foundation Inc.

Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Kruse Asset Management

Nathan Yip Foundation

Operation Kids

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Sunflower Foundation

Sweeney Family Foundation

The Frankel Family Foundation

The Halo Group

United Way Metro Chicago

Village Market

## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Arka Pana Consulting

Blueface Productions

Coronado Brewing Company

EcoTools

Fahrenheit674°

Hogsalt Hospitality

Jordan's Food of Distinction

Karen Hood Photography

Peatix Inc.

Room 1520

Stylisted

Technotrix

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Aatifa Sadiq

Abaigael Murray

Addie Guttag

Alfredo Septien

Amy Fahey

Amy Nortman

Angela Bowman

Ann Laatsch

Anne & Philip Tomforde

Anne Ream

Anneke & Saskia de Jonge

Arnold Kanter

Ashley Lavin

Basak Yavcan

Birgit Sweeney

Blaine, Kadien & Luke Dekovitch

Brendan Sodikoff

Carolyn Hilliker

Carolyn Nottestad

Catherine Daly

Catherine Taylor Cappel

Christina Purdy

Christopher Meyers

Christy Frisoni

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David & Tara Laatsch

David Mozersky

David Williamson

Donna Urick

Dorothea Gastevich

Edith Diaz

Ehsan Eftekhari

Elizabeth Futrell

Erica Goldman

Fran Hunter & William G. Laatsch

Gabrielle Murray

George Sofianos

Giancarlo Pitocco

Halli Mulei

Heather Grove

Ibrahim AlHusseini

Jane Humzy

Jane Robinson

Jenny Gillespie Mason

Jessica Mackinnon

Jill & Brent Rasmussen

John Lang

John Ratnaswamy

Judy Tate

Julia Bears

Julia Schmidt

Julie Christopher

Kathleen Steele

Katie Hnida

Kevin Knaul

Kristin Culbertson

Laura Budd

Lauren Wilkie

Lisa Read

Maaike Almeida

Marcus White

Margaret Powell

Marilyn King

Marti Konstant

Mary North

Michelle Comella

Mimi Frankel

Mollie O'Brien

Monette S. Malewski

Nancy Feldman

Nicole Allen

Noam Murray

Nora Brathol

Pam Simon

Paul Robert Gatchell

Peggy Rogers

Penny L Finkbeiner

Rosalind Raddatz

Sara Woll

Scott & Chris Gordon

Sheila King

Shermin & Stuart Kruse

Stanley E. Woell

Susan Dunphy

Susan Hague

Terese Connolly

Treyce Biancalana

Uma Rajan

Vicki Kruse

Walt Eckenhoff

Wendy Whelton

Zrinka Allen

*The Maisha Collective has grown its marketplace of stores and events in Kenya and the US. We thank these partners and all those who made purchases online, at events, at private parties and in our workshop in Nairobi. We also thank the ambassadors who brought together their networks to raise awareness about Heshima Kenya and bring attention to the work of our Maisha artisans.*

## US RETAILERS

Ten Thousand Villages, Glen Ellyn

Ten Thousand Villages, Champaign

Ten Thousand Villages, Evanston

Alapash Textiles, Chicago

Illinois Holocaust Museum Retail

Skirball Cultural Center, CA

Ash & Rose, MA

Sasa Designs by the Deaf, WA

Greatergood Kids, MN

Maiden Nation

TO THE MARKET

liftUplift

Jewel & Lotus

Lydali

## KENYA RETAILERS

Sankara Hotel

National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi

Spinners Web

International School of Kenya

BaoBab

African Heritage

Banana Box



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**53%** GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

**25%** SAFE HOUSE

**7%** CASE MANAGEMENT

**16%** COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**76%** PROGRAMS

**24%** FUNDRAISING AND ADMIN

*Our work would not be possible without the hard work and support of our incredible network of interns.*

**INTERNS**

- Ahlam Abisiye
- Allie Gardner
- Ariana Shockley
- Beauclarine Thomas
- Carly Hopps
- Caroline Wairimu
- Charles Kyarye
- Chloe Eastburn
- Christen Wamukoya
- Christine Veit
- Clifford Mucoki Njoroge
- Dorothy Malu
- Emily Levi-D'Ancona
- Emily Snider
- Emily Watterson
- Ghati Grace Chacha
- Godwins Kirima Nguku
- Goret Njeri Kagwima
- Grayson Keliehor
- Joseph Kiarie
- Mary Wangui Agnes
- Mercy Lorne
- Michell Small
- Pauline Awino Aduda
- Rahma Haij
- Symprose Akinyi Omondi
- Wilkister Awuor Otieno
- Winifred Kendi
- Yvonne Wanjiku Omondi
- Zean Dunbar



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## CONTACT US

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312.985.5667

### INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**Eric Schwartz**

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**Jill Rasmussen** - Secretary

**Scott Gordon** - Treasurer

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