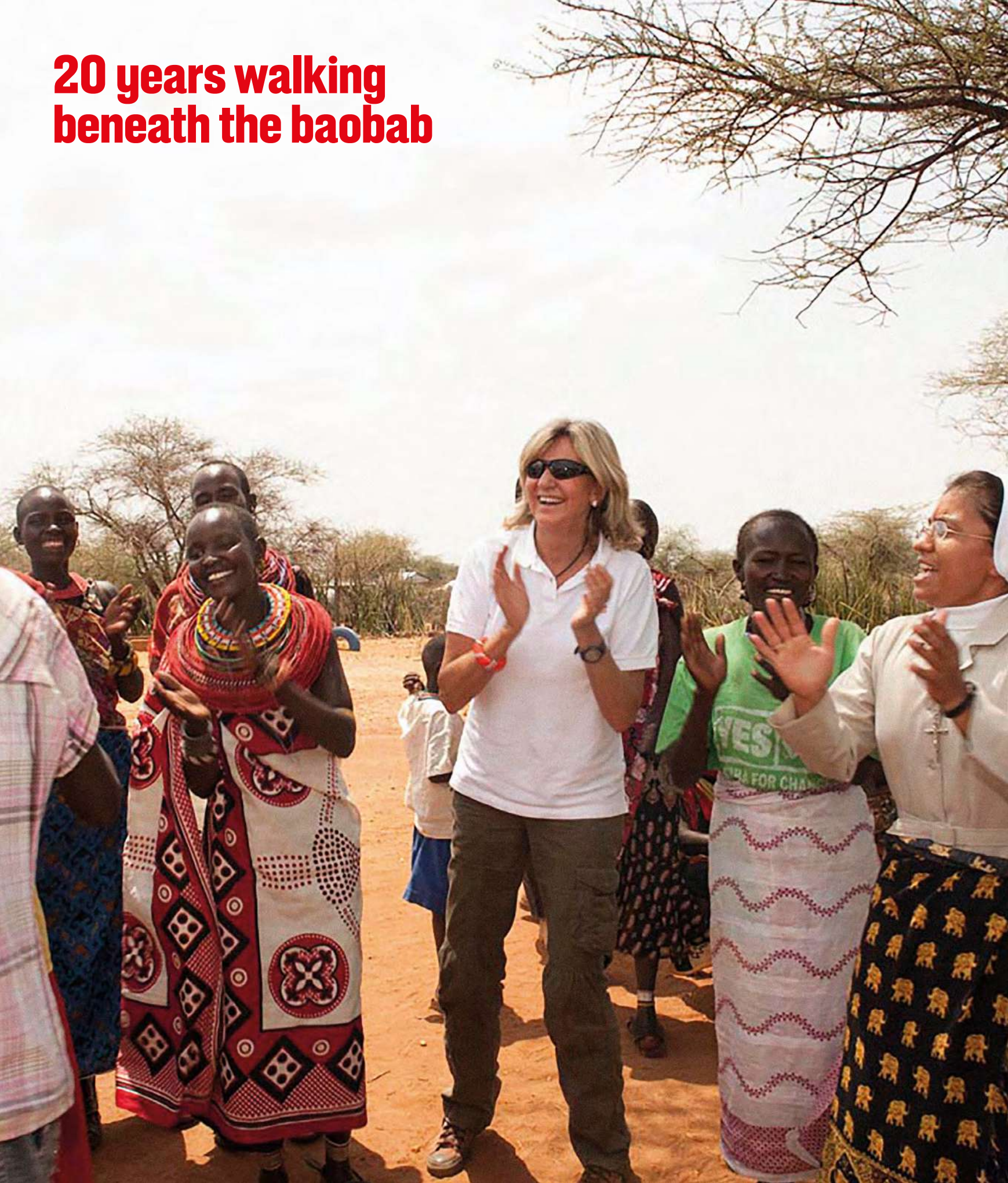




**AFRICA
DIGNA**
20 YEARS



20 years walking beneath the baobab



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Dear friends of Africa Digna,

I present to you our report commemorating an extraordinary milestone in our history: 20 years of dedication and tireless service in Africa. As we reflect on this journey, we remember our fundamental mission, to contribute to improving the living conditions of those with less resources.

Our beginning was a brave leap into the unknown, when we embraced the idea of spanning several countries, thinking we could do it all. Over time, we learned that our approach needed to be more specific and focused, so we concentrated on Kenya and Rwanda.

In these 20 years, we have learned a critical lesson: dignity is nurtured by working closely with people who share a similar vision to ours and who live at the heart of the rural communities we wish to serve.

Our commitment has revolved around three main pillars: health, education and community transformation. We recognize that a sick country cannot thrive, and a healthy but illiterate country cannot either. It is in the convergence of a strong, healthy, and educated population that we find the promise of a future full of opportunity.

We are very proud to inform you that we have registered the organization in Kenya, incorporating Kenyan trustees. My dear friend, whom I have known for almost 20 years, Catherine Kuria, will hold the position of Chair of the Foundation in Kenya. She is an exceptional woman, now retired, who has managed Kenya's ports and airports. She was also a schoolmate and friend of Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, whom I had the honor of meeting thanks to her. Our board of trustees in Kenya, in addition to representing us, helps us select and mentor the different candidates for the scholarship program, which is growing every day with more students.

On behalf of the entire Africa Digna team, I want to thank each of you for being part of this extraordinary journey that we have shared under the shade of the baobab tree during these 20 years. Without your support, none of what we have achieved would have been possible.

Dr. Mercedes Barceló
Founder and CEO



MISSION

Driving sustainable development in **rural communities** in Kenya through key initiatives in **education, healthcare, and community transformation.**



PRESENT

We have experienced a year of significant changes and transformations for the Africa Digna Foundation, marked by the farewell of our director, Alejandro Lucena, who, after eight years of tireless dedication, decided to embark on a new stage. We express our sincere gratitude to him and wish him the best in his future projects. We enthusiastically welcome a new team that will strengthen our commitment in Kenya. Beatriz Visa joins as the head of the Barcelona office, while in Kenya, Faver Legarda takes on the role of project coordinator. We are excited about this new stage that presents itself with an expanded team and the valuable guidance of our advisors from Kirooto, Quico Germain, and Edu Cortés, experts in public-private grants and on-the-ground training.



FUTURE

Sustainability remains our obsession. Every individual or community we support must achieve self-sufficiency in the medium term. We have also focused our assistance on Kenya, particularly in the semi-nomadic Samburu and Masai communities, which already account for 54% of our budget. Over these 20 years, we have witnessed the transformation of a territory once completely isolated, seeing it enter the modern world with its own personality. In Barsaloi, clean running water has arrived at the “manyattas”, along with solar-powered lighting, quality healthcare and education, organic agriculture, and an experimental fish farm. These milestones reflect the lasting impact of our work and motivate us to continue tirelessly.

Total accumulated investment in projects in Africa







Dear friends of Africa Digna,

I vividly remember the moment I met Dr. Mercedes Barceló in 2007. It was thanks to my son, Kimani, who at that time was a member of the Embassy of Kenya in Spain and had met Dr. Barceló at an event of a prestigious magazine in Madrid.

Dr. Barceló possesses an innate philanthropic spirit and a genuine love for Africa, which captivated me from the very first moment. In our first encounter, she expressed her desire to learn more about the fascinating land of Kenya and, particularly, to meet the distinguished Professor Wangari Maathai, the first black African woman Nobel Peace Prize laureate, a close friend of mine and a schoolmate.

From this initial meeting, a great friendship emerged, allowing us to establish a collaborative link between the Foundation and Loreto Limuru High School, where Wangari Maathai and I studied. However, sadness overshadowed this noble endeavour when the health of the Nobel laureate began to falter, and unfortunately, she left us.

This sad event did not deter us from continuing our collaboration. From that moment on, our scholarship program began and aimed at strengthening the potential of young people in Kenya. Africa Digna started with just a few candidates, but now it counts with more than 220 scholars.


To ensure the effectiveness and transparency of our work, Africa Digna has been registered in Kenya under a board of trustees comprised of prestigious kenyans, some of whom are former Africa Digna scholars who volunteer their time for this wonderful cause.

Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Mercedes Barceló, the tireless dedication of the Africa Digna Foundation, and the generosity of its benefactors, we have achieved significant progress in Kenya. It is an honor for all of us to be part of this noble purpose and to contribute to a more promising future for the younger generations.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Catherine Kuria
Chair of the board
of directors in Kenya

SAMBUURU



In 2005, Africa Digna reached Barsaloi, a remote location in Samburu County, 350 kilometers from Nairobi. The connection between the name of the village and our founder, Mercedes Barceló, was pure coincidence, but soon it became the beginning of a love story.

In Barsaloi, there is a group of religious missionaries, the Missionaries of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Missionaries of Yarumal, who work hand in hand to offer hope to the villages in the area, a population of over 10,000 people.

The Samburu are a semi-nomadic tribe that relies heavily on livestock, not only as a source of livelihood but also as a symbol of status and wealth. They live in traditional huts called “manyattas,” constructed with cow dung, branches, and leaves, in an extremely arid landscape and vast plains. Over these twenty years, Africa Digna has focused on ensuring that the Samburu living in different villages have access to healthcare and education services.

SAMBURU

One million euros in 32 projects for education, health, and economic development

BARSALOI

Population
348.298

Area
21.065 km²

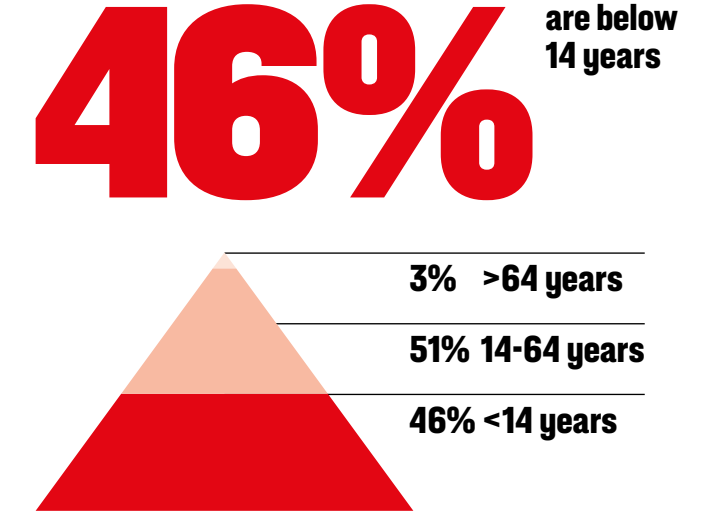
Density
16,5 pax/km²

Population growth
↑ 3%

*Data from 2023.

Meet the Samburu

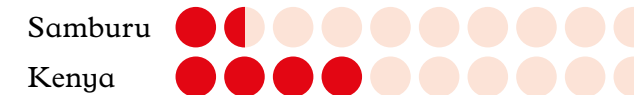
This community is characterized by having poverty rates much higher than the national average.



Access to drinking water



Access to sanitation services



Illiterate



Live in precarious huts constructed with mud, made with cow dung."



Live off livestock, and only 10% have a salary.



Use firewood as a source of lighting, and only 6% use electricity.

In response to this reality, Africa Digna works to promote educational projects that break the cycle of poverty and generate self-sufficiency, as well as health projects to improve the quality of life of the Samburu community.

Source: KNBS and SID.

**Africa Digna promotes
access to quality
education as a
fundamental right**



WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN SAMBURU?

For us, Barsaloi is the epicentre of our operations and the heart of our actions, serving as the living representation of the commitment that the Africa Digna Foundation has maintained with Kenya throughout all these years.

Medical care and education for the Samburu community



Educational Program for Samburu young shepherds "Lchekuty" 144.950 €

We support the night educational program aimed at shepherds children aged 6 to 12, who spend their days caring for livestock and thus lack access to formal education. This project provides basic education to these children, offering them not only fundamental knowledge but also an environment where they can enjoy their childhood. Our goal is to ensure that these children, who have been working from such a young age, do not fall behind in their education. Currently, 330 boys and girls actively participate in our night-time schools.



Academic scholarships for young Samburu individuals 126.601 €

Each year, we select around 10 young people to be awarded scholarships for primary, secondary, and university education. These are candidates who stand out for their leadership skills and academic excellence. We strive to secure places for them in the most prestigious institutions, aiming to break the vicious cycle that exists in Samburu, where few students manage to obtain decent employment. Currently, we have 25 students, and we have awarded a total of 50 scholarships. This program has experienced exponential growth in recent years thanks to the excellent results achieved.



Baby class (nursery) 100.357 €

In Samburu, women face an additional burden as they have to carry out domestic chores and take care of their children. In 2013, there arose the need to establish the first nursery in Barsaloi to provide a safe place, proper nutrition, and medical care for children while their mothers work, especially after they stop breastfeeding, a time when many babies face malnutrition and abandonment. Since then, the program has been assisting 30 boys and girls aged 2 to 4 years old each year.



New public primary school in Barsaloi
87.153 €

The tremendous generosity of our private donors, combined with the close collaboration and project supervision by the Yarumal Missionaries residing in Barsaloi, has allowed a remodel and transformation of the public primary school, turning it into a space with a dignified and high-quality educational environment. The objective of this project is to elevate the educational standard in the area through attractive facilities that serve as a magnet to attract highly qualified teachers and, at the same time, provide an optimal environment for all students, both those residing internally and those coming from their homes. Additionally, with this renovation, the Foundation has reached an agreement with the Kenyan Government for it to assume the long-term operating and maintenance costs.



Barsaloi Dispensary
92.444 €

We have completely renovated and equipped the Barsaloi Dispensary, managed entirely by the Missionaries of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus. In addition to offering primary care, maternity services, and childbirth assistance, this dispensary also provides medications and pharmaceutical products. With a special focus on preventive care and community education to promote healthy practices and prevent diseases. The dispensary is benefiting more than 3,000 people.



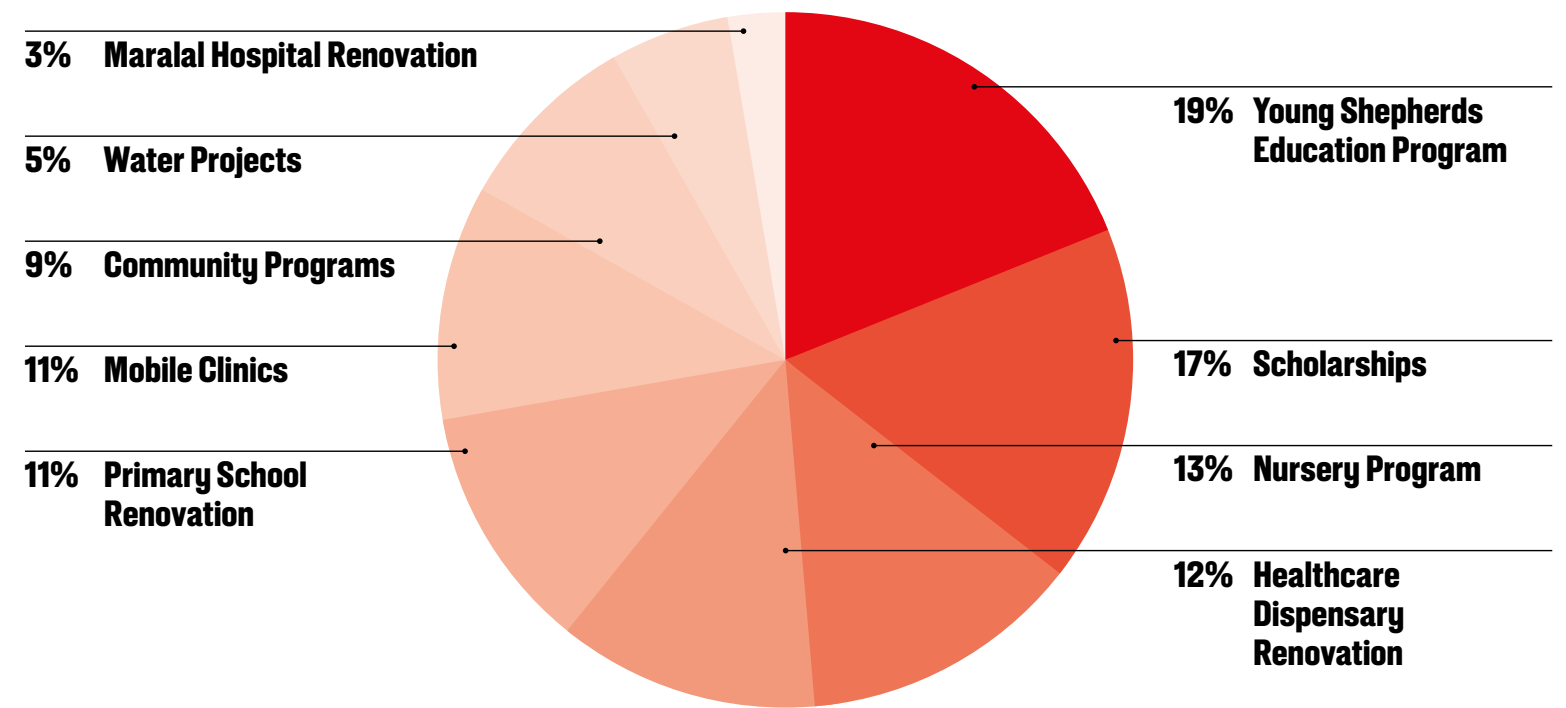
Mobile Clinics for Samburu Villages
83.145 €

Every year, Africa Digna supports the annual program of primary care, vaccination, and health education through a mobile ambulance, which is staffed by two nurses. These professionals travel to provide care to members of various Samburu villages scattered throughout the region. Access to healthcare services in Samburu is very limited due to the lack of permanent infrastructure. Thanks to their adaptability, the mobile clinics can move to different areas according to emergencies, vaccination campaigns, disease outbreaks, or specific needs, providing medical care to more than 3,500 people annually.



Maternal and Child Health Unit in Maralal
21.000 €

With the aim of reducing the high mortality rate in the region and improving medical care for pregnant women and their children, the construction of a maternal and child health unit has been carried out at the Maralal Hospital, the capital of Samburu County. This initiative addresses the concerning reality that many women give birth in precarious conditions inside their huts, due to the remoteness of health centers and the lack of medical personnel. The construction of this unit seeks to provide a safe and specialized environment for prenatal and postnatal healthcare and is the result of a public-private collaboration among various organizations, where Africa Digna has invested €21,000.



Source: original creation.

AFRICA DIGNA SCHOLARSHIPS

Africa Digna Scholarships is a program that identifies and selects children from rural and vulnerable families to access scholarships for primary, secondary, vocational training, and university education.

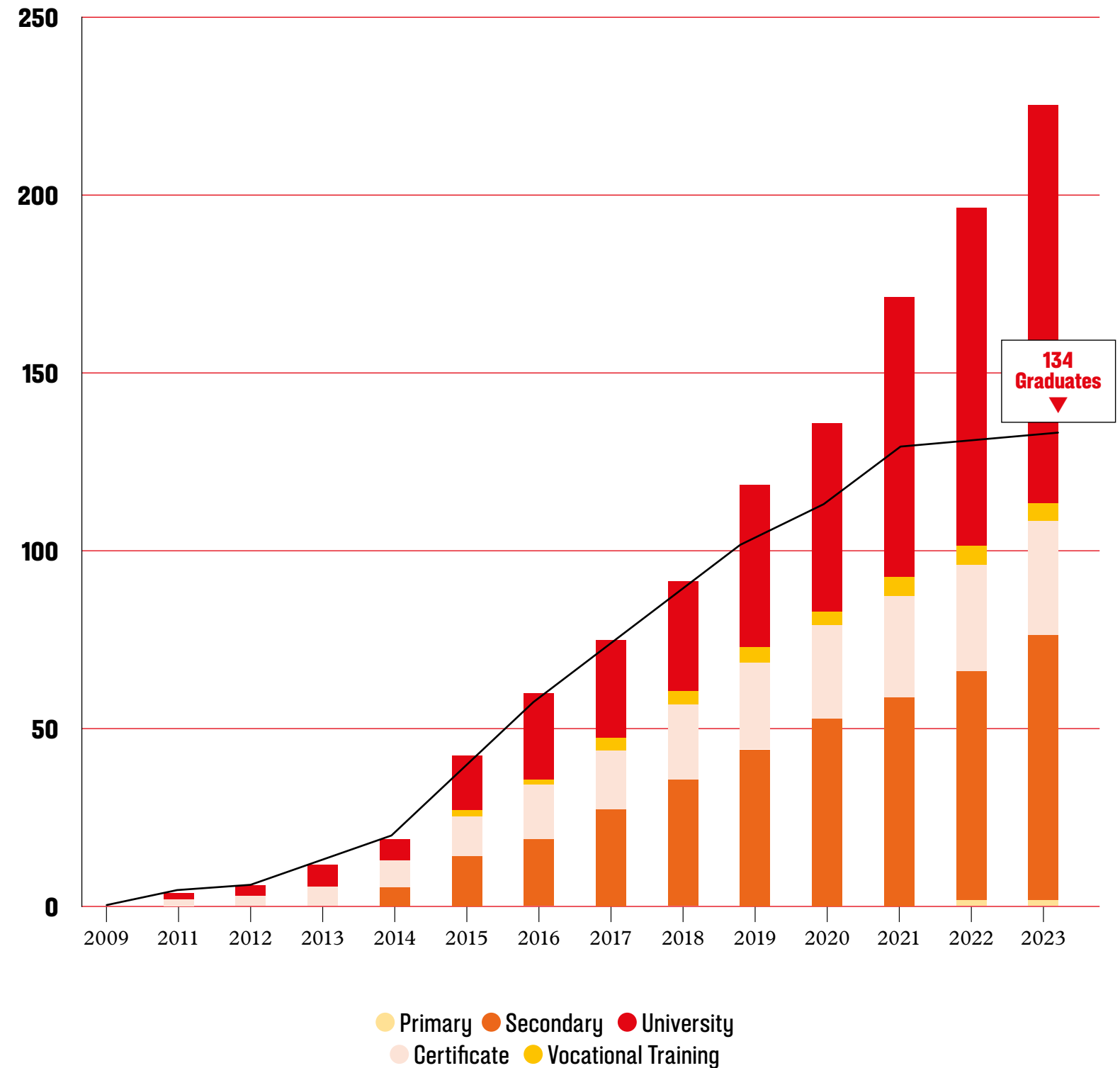
Beyond education, the project aims to improve job opportunities for graduates, who will become agents of change and transformation, thereby contributing to poverty reduction in the region.

We have supported 227 young people at different educational levels, 2 in primary school, 75 in secondary school, 5 in vocational training, and 145 in university

Of the students who have benefited from the program since its inception, 134 have already graduated and currently 90% are employed.

We select and award the scholarships in collaboration with kenyan educational institutions, with the assistance of a selection committee made up of kenyan professionals and with the reference of our counterparts.

Distribution of scholarships awarded over the years

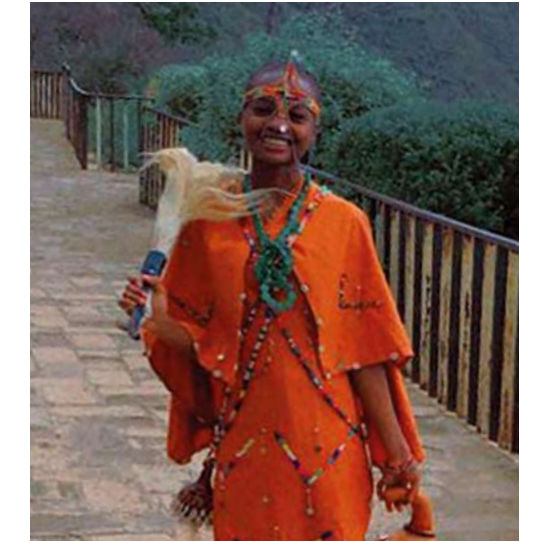




What do the
STUDENTS
say...

Third-year Computer Engineering student at Kisii University

MAUREEN WANJIKU



Despite being orphaned at the age of eight, Maureen is striving to become a talented software engineer.

Maureen was born into a single-parent family. Her mother died when she was just eight years old. She and her sister were then moved in with their grandmother, who also passed away due to serious health issues. They were subsequently taken in by different relatives in very vulnerable environments.

Africa Digna identified her and granted her a scholarship for boarding school at Loreto High School. Later, Africa Digna has continued to support her in her university studies.

“My dream is to work and innovate in the world of technology to become a mobile app developer and web programmer. I want to contribute to my community by offering others the opportunity to access education, just as it was offered to me.”

Third-year Civil Engineering student at Kenyatta University

ESTHER NESLINE



Esther is a bright girl with exceptional grades, but comes from an extremely vulnerable family. Now, she dreams of founding her own construction company to create employment and progress.

Born in Kakamega County, Esther comes from a very humble family; her mother used to sell second-hand clothes, while her father used to sell hardware materials until he tragically lost his life in 2007 during post-election protests due to a stray bullet.

Esther always excelled in her studies and scored excellently in national exams. Africa Digna funded her secondary and university education.

“Ever since Africa Digna decided to grant me a scholarship, everything has been smooth sailing. When I gained admission to University, I started doing temporary jobs, such as mathematics tutoring or drafting documents, to cover my accommodation expenses. Additionally, as a gesture of gratitude, I volunteer at an orphanage and participate in a girls’ program to distribute reusable pads.”

Fourth-year Computer Engineering student at Kirinyaga University

NTHENYA NYAMAI



Raised by an unemployed mother, Nthenya used to attend school barefoot and without a uniform. Today, her dream is to provide support to children in situations similar to hers.

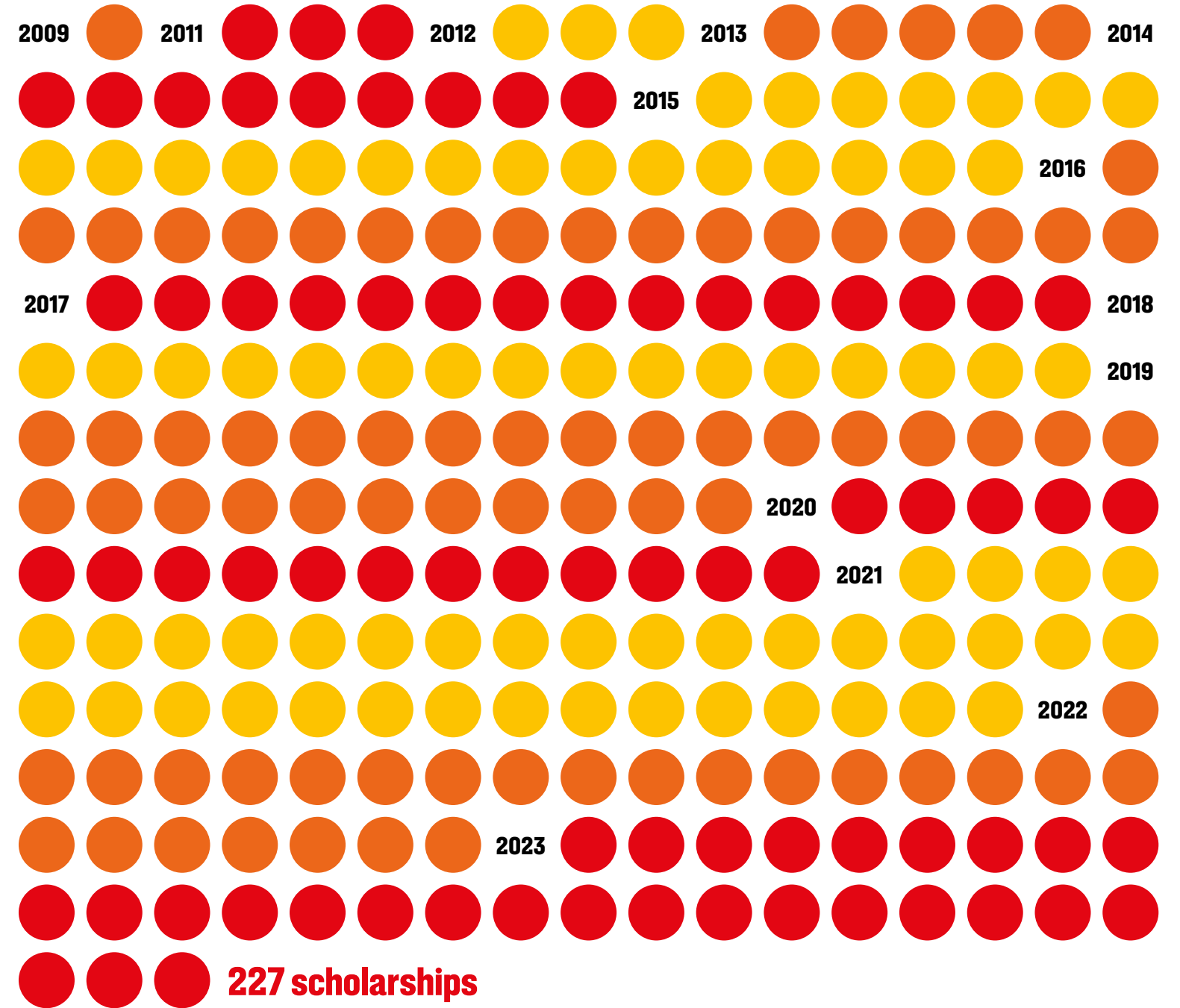
Born in Makueni County, Nthenya lost her father when she was one year old and faced numerous family conflicts. She was raised by her single mother, who made a living along the railway tracks as an illegal occupant.

Nthenya excelled as a bright student, culminating her primary education with excellent grades. The Africa Digna scholarship has been like a beacon of hope, allowing her to continue her studies.

“My dream is to help the illegal occupants who struggle every day along the railway lines, just like my mother did. I want to buy a small piece of land, build houses for these families, and offer them a peaceful environment to live in. Additionally, I wish to sponsor as many children as I can and become their mentor. I want to show them that being born into poverty is not a limitation, but a springboard to greatness.”



Evolution of the total number of scholarships





Meeting with samburu women



Annual event with our scholarship students in Nairobi

MICROMICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO **LOANS** MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO MICRO

Currently, we support local entrepreneurs with microfinancing, fostering and closely monitoring the development of their businesses.

THE PATTERN Ruanda y Kenia, 2018



Foundation: February 2018
Activity: Tailoring business offering pattern design, sampling, and clothing production.
Annual revenue: 18,000€
Shareholder: Ignace Manirakiza
Number of employees: 10
Location: Kigali (Rwanda) and Nairobi (Kenya)

What has been done with the funding?
The money was invested in the store and workshop renovation.

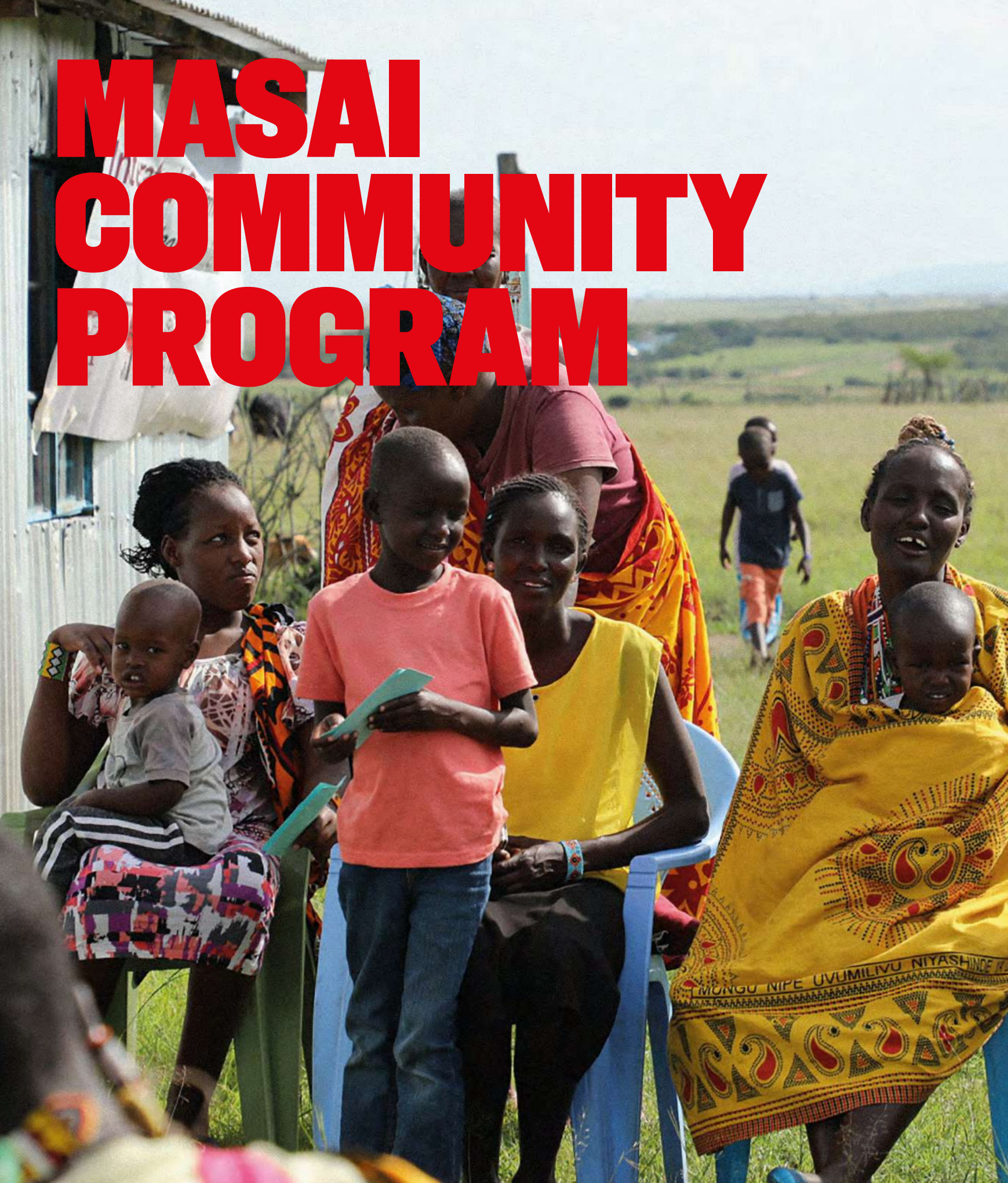
ECOVILLE ENTERPRISE LTD Kenia, 2020



Foundation: November 2020
Activity: Plastic recycling management
Annual revenue: 128,000€
Shareholders: Everlyne Mageto and John Mageto
Number of employees: 16
Location: Nairobi (Kenya)

What has been done with the funding?
It has been invested in the purchase of plastic waste.

MASAI COMMUNITY PROGRAM



THE MAA TRUST

The Maa Trust is an organization committed to wildlife conservation in the Maasai Mara National Reserve to ensure the survival of its ecosystem.

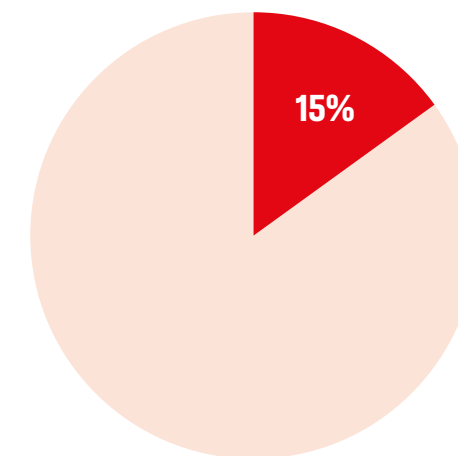
Africa Digna collaborates with its Integrated Community Health Program, which includes medical services, health education, disease prevention, and community engagement. The program has expanded its reach to 42,099 people, representing a 61.8% increase compared to previous years.

Less than 45% of women make independent decisions regarding Sexual Reproductive Health, including contraceptive use. Therefore, there is a focus on empowering women through awareness activities.

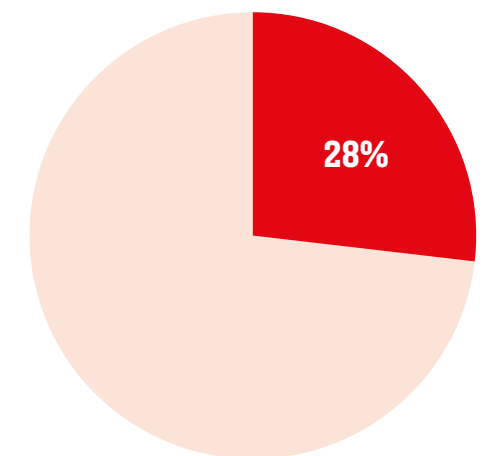
1,162 women aged 12 to 35 from different villages have been trained with the aim of empowering them with knowledge and skills to address issues such as early marriages, teenage pregnancies, and child abuse. According to the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 15% of adolescents aged 15 to 19 have had a childbirth, while in Narok County, near the Reserve, this rate nearly doubles the national average, at 28%.

Awareness activities on reproductive health rights have increased the utilization of these services in the community.

Teenagers from 15 to 19 that have given birth



NATIONAL AVERAGE (KENYA)



NAROK (CLOSE TO THE RESERVE)

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN

MAISHA FOUNDATION

The Maisha Foundation is an organization that aims to be a support platform for pregnant women in vulnerable situations who lack a support network.

Under the direction of the Maisha Foundation and in collaboration with Africa Digna, over 200 women have received support during their pregnancy and postpartum period, and more than 70 have found refuge in the Nairobi shelter. Our mission not only involves providing them with safety but also committing to offer education within the context of motherhood.

In Kenya, only 40% of births take place in hospitals, and the maternal mortality rate is 377 per 100,000 live births. This situation is compounded by a concerning 21% rate of teenage pregnancies. Faced with this reality, the Africa Digna Foundation continues to strive to change the course of these statistics.





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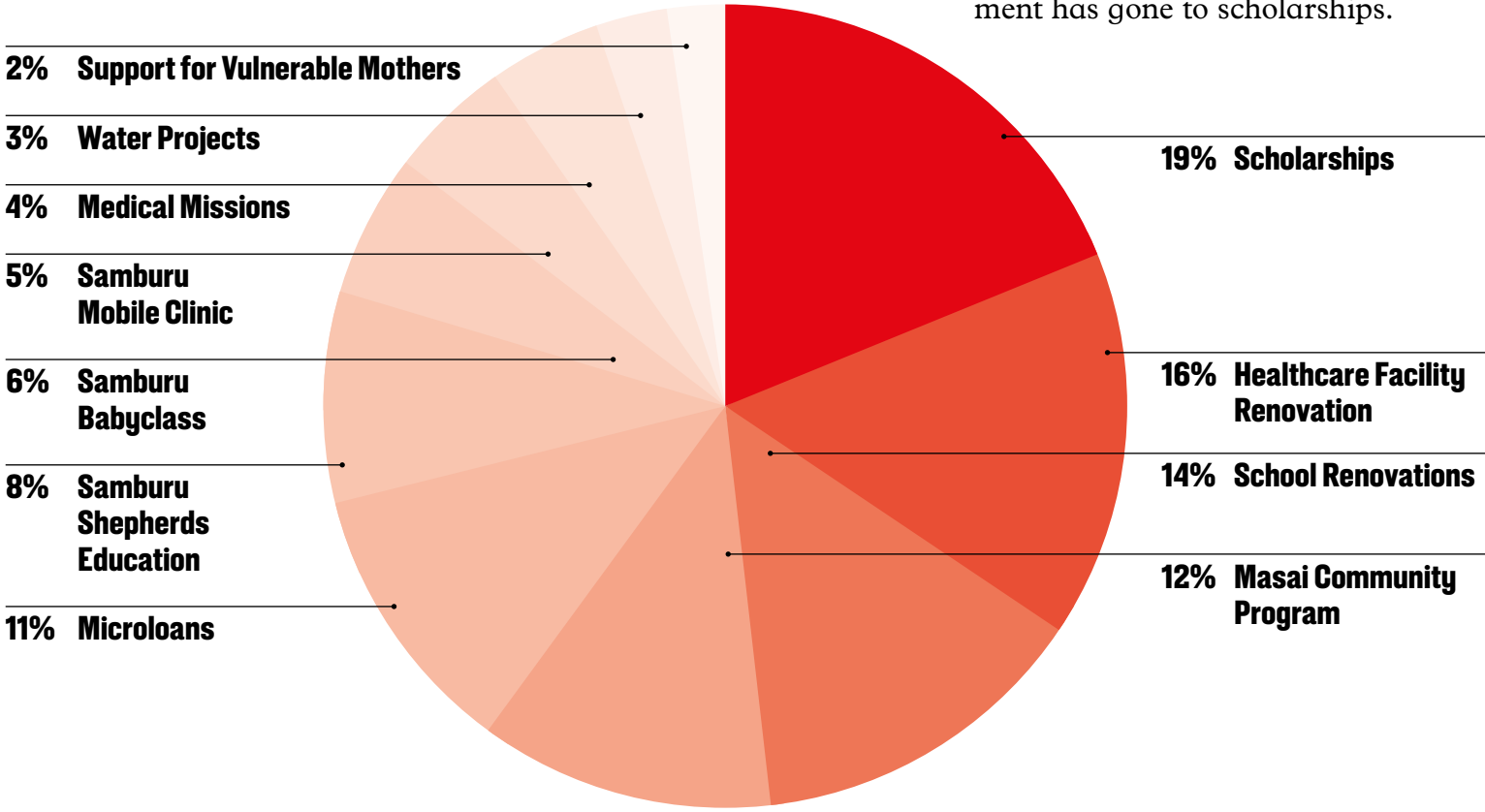


KENYA

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	ACUM 2023		EST 2024	
Income	3,490,000	100%	229,000	100%
Sponsors	2,801,000	80%	140,000	61%
Subsidies	22,500	1%	10,000	5%
Members	347,000	10%	35,000	15%
Events	288,000	8%	44,000	19%
Other incomes	32,000	1%		
Projects	2,590,000	74%	179,000	78%
Staff & Office	900,000	26%	50,000	22%
Net Profit	0		0	

The 57% of the investment has been allocated to the Samburu and Masai communities, while 18% of the investment has gone to scholarships.



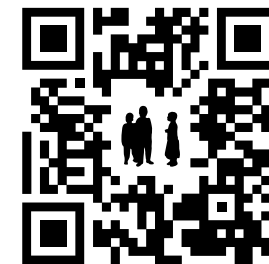


ENGAGE

With money

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Africa Digna Foundation
20 years

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**We're celebrating 20 years.
Years and years full of emotions.
And, we won't stop.**