



# The Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) & Higher Education Scholarship Project



PricewaterhouseCoopers

*Children performing during the launch of the OVC program in 2009.*

## Overview

The overall objective of the USAID/Kenya Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) scholarship project is for OVCs to access and complete a quality secondary and or, middle level college and or university education. The Higher Education Scholarship Program provides university scholarships and all related fees.

## The Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Project

USAID Kenya OVC scholarship project is in its second phase, running from January 2009 to December 2013. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) manages the scholarship program and works closely with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and 769 learning institutions.

## Key activities

The project provides financial support to OVCs from all districts enrolled in secondary school, middle level colleges and universities in the country. It defines “OVC” as a child who is either orphaned, or made more vulnerable because of HIV/ AIDS. An orphan has lost either one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. Vulnerable is HIV-Positive; lives without adequate adult support; lives outside of a family care; or is marginalized, stigmatized or discriminated against.

The USAID/Kenya OVC scholarship project includes:

- Obtaining all information (including financial and academic) regarding the students from their respective schools.
- Vetting all information obtained and following up with beneficiaries and institutions where necessary.
- Monitoring performance and class attendance by students on a term basis. This involves visiting the beneficiaries’ schools/ institutions.
- Reporting to USAID and providing advice on the scholarship processes.

## Achievements

The cost of education can be prohibitive to OVCs care of by grandparents whose productivity is diminished and guardians who have children of their own to support. Without the scholarship they would miss out on education. By March 2011, the USAID Kenya OVC scholarship project had assisted close to 5,000 OVCs to access quality education, and nearly 3500 have completed the cycle of education they were sponsored for. The program is;

- Currently supporting 1,536 OVCs - 69% enrolled in high schools, 26% in universities and 5% in middle level colleges.
- 31% in tertiary institutions to gain employable skills and eventually address poverty.
- Assisting more girls to access and complete education - 40% of beneficiaries are female with 28% in high school.

- Increasing available income in families through provision of secondary support to the 1,536 beneficiaries.
- In 2010 KCSE, 76% of the OVC beneficiaries achieved scores that qualify them for Universities or Middle level Colleges against the national proportion of 55%.
- Boosted morale and self-confidence of young people - testimonials express gratitude.

### **In-country Higher Education Scholarship Program for Marginalized Communities**

The objective of the program is to provide in-country higher education scholarships to 18 deserving students within the marginalized communities of the North Eastern, Coast and Eastern Provinces as well as Nairobi unplanned urban settlements. The aim is to increase the numbers transiting from basic education to higher education and also to train a pool of leaders who would act as role models for the younger generation and take the lead in addressing challenges facing the marginalized communities within Kenya.

The scholarship includes tuition fees, registration fees, basic stationery, textbooks, school, boarding cost, examination and research fees where applicable, cost of practicum, and other miscellaneous costs such as transport, medical fee, activity, and stipend for the academic years 2007/2008-2010/2011.

The program advances the transformational diplomacy goal of helping build and sustain a democratic, well governed Kenya that will respond to the needs of its marginalized people and is consistent with interagency efforts to reach out to the marginalized communities.

#### **Contacts**

##### **PWC**

Alphan Njeru  
Director, PwC  
Tel: +254 20 2855000  
Email: [alphan.njeru@ke.pwc.com](mailto:alphan.njeru@ke.pwc.com)

##### **USAID Kenya**

Irene Muriuki  
USAID/Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 8622432  
Email: [imuriuki@usaid.gov](mailto:imuriuki@usaid.gov)