



Inspiration for Lamu - Helping And Mentoring

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# update

*Dear Friend,  
For just one and half years,  
ILHAM has supported a number  
of girls in education aimed at  
building up new leaders and new  
ideas for social change. We are  
proud to announce our success and  
hope to inspire thousands,  
including the next generation of  
young leaders.*

*Tahreni Bwanaali*



## OUR MISSION

Our mission at ILHAM is to work with others to inspire and assist in the advancement of the economic power of women in Lamu District by improving education & health of women and children in the area.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To advocate for and to assist girls in the advancement of quality education;
- To provide assistance and engage in services for the advancement of better healthcare for women and children;
- To help build the capacity of women in economic and social development to improve their livelihoods.



One of the remote villages in Lamu District

## MANAGEMENT

ILHAM currently has members spread in many areas in Kenya, with some overseas. The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the organisation, ensuring that projects and activities meet the stated mission and objectives. Members also play a significant role towards achieving the objectives.

**ILHAM** has been operating for one and a half years now and among the tangible projects that we are very proud of are the following:

## EDUCATION

### a) Secondary school fees support program

With the funds raised, ILHAM has sponsored 9 girls in 2006 and 5 in 2007. The students are in different schools and are from the following villages:

- Tchundwa - 3
- Faza - 5
- Myabogi - 1
- Ndau - 2
- Mkokoni - 2
- Kiunga - 1

### b) University fees support program

ILHAM is seeking to support legible students who have been accepted into public universities but cannot afford to pay for tuition.

### c) Primary schools support program

ILHAM has been stocking and distributing stationery, books, exam papers among other items to primary school children.

## HEALTH

In November 2006, ILHAM participated in a fact finding mission with doctors from Medicines du Monde (MdM) and representatives from KIBODO. ILHAM has since been identified to provide a community link for the proposed MdM health project (2 yrs) which is expected to start later this year.

## MENTORING

- Talking to girls/teachers/parents in primary schools to emphasise the importance of education;
- Holding meetings with women group representatives in Tchundwa village to give them advise on how to manage such groups;
- Holding meetings with youth who have completed form four to advise and mentor them;
- Organising for volunteers to help in the villages.

## PROPOSALS

We have written a number of proposals to seek funding to do the following:

- Cover wells and install manual water pumps;
- Establish a global village by raising funds to setup internet and computer bureaux in the villages;
- Raise funds to establish a library and computer lab for Faza Secondary School.



Some of the girls in the school fees programme

# VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

ILHAM has been working with volunteers who have shown keen interest to help fulfil the organisation's objectives. In January 2007, four volunteers from the US were posted to Faza Secondary School, Rasini and Tchundwa Primary Schools to teach students and participate in a number of extra curricular activities. Another volunteer from France is expected in July 2007.



A school in one of the remote villages

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

- Continue with the school fees support programme for needy girls;
- Providing basic requirements such as stationery, uniforms, books etc;
- Establishing a vocational learning institute to cater for students who finish secondary schools but do not qualify or cannot afford to go to universities;
- Installing manual water pumps to obtain water from wells so as to enable the communities to have access to clean and safe water;
- Assisting and equipping women to identify and undertake income generating activities;
- Assisting women and children to easily access good healthcare services;
- Providing basic training and awareness on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, nutrition etc. to women and girls;
- Establishing & equipping a field office;
- Establishing an internet/computer bureau in one of the remote villages;
- Establishing a library/computer lab in Faza Secondary School.

*Who's up for a donkey ride??!!*



Jimmy O'Hare on a donkey

## *A Statement By Lea* (one of the volunteers)

For years I have dreamed of traveling to an African nation where I could integrate into the culture just enough to take on a new perspective of the world and my existence. Kenya, and the extended family have made my dreams a reality and represent one of the most transformative blessings in my life. As a woman of color from the United States, my experiences are uniquely different from that of many privileged Americans abroad. My four week journey made me acutely aware of my privilege as an American and simply a human being. A lack of running water and electricity were not the adjustments that challenged my perspective; it was the politics of survival that dominated the countryside and urban slums.

I am eternally grateful for the open hearts and minds of the families and community that accepted me without question or hesitation. I had the privilege of working with the 7th and 8th graders of Tchundwa Primary School in Lamu District. Their kindness, honesty, and willingness to struggle were intrinsically motivating and remain a major factor in my desire to teach. The faculty adopted me as one of their own; there are no words that express the joy I felt when I learned that they valued me as much as I appreciate them. I learned about Islam, the political history of Kenya, Swahili and the challenges I would face upon my return. I thank every human being that was patient with me in my struggle to learn Swahili and adapt to the culture. Above all I now deeply understand the value of human connection, and refuse to take for granted the people who have expanded my heart.

THANK YOU...

*Lea/Lei/Lela*



Some of the local teachers of Lamu with the volunteer teachers  
Andrew Estep (1st left standing), Lea (3rd right squatting),  
Jimmy O'hare (1st right squatting)

**For more information, ideas, assistance or support, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

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