



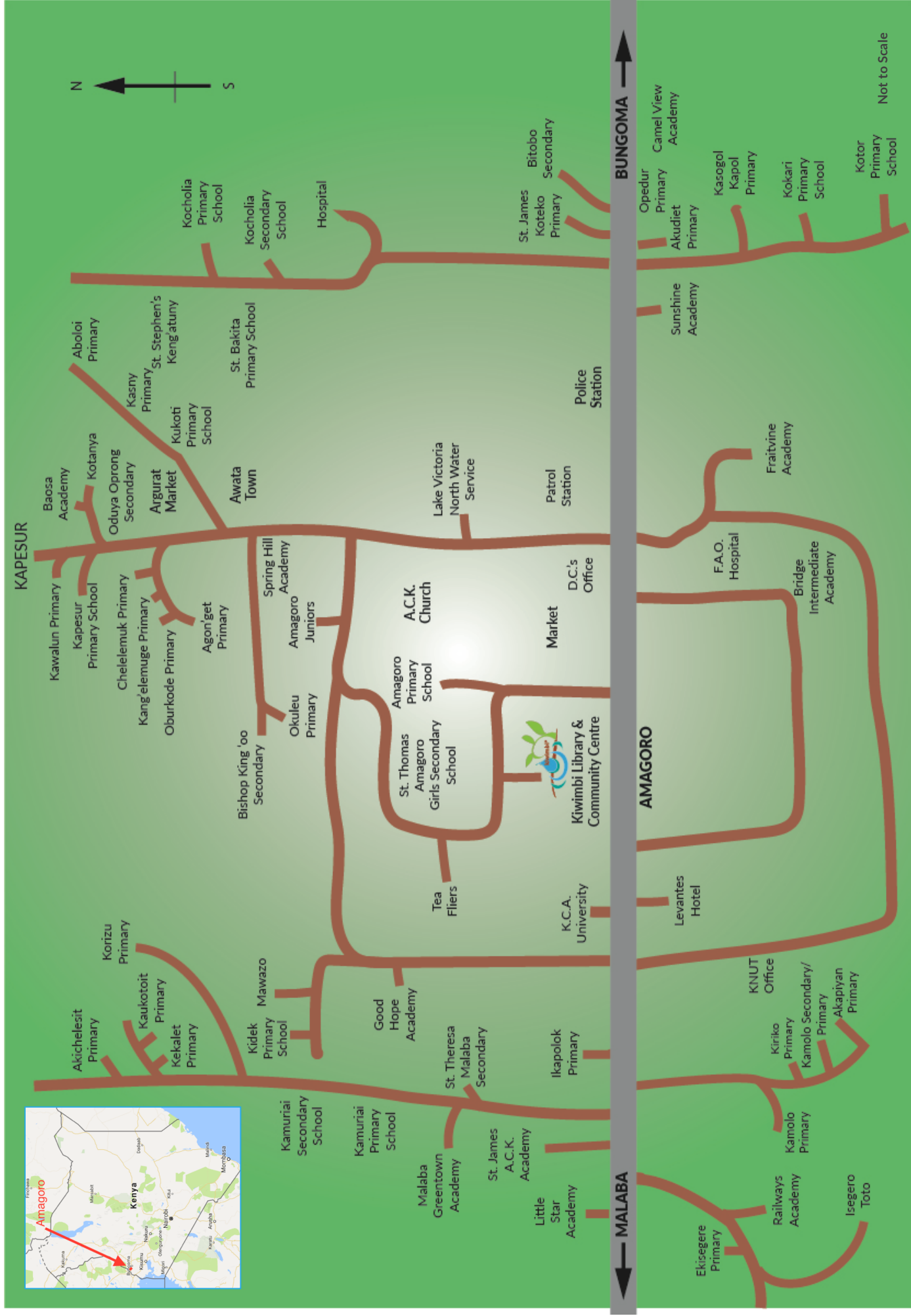
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# Kiwimbi International

## 2016 Annual Report

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Amagoro Area Schools Served by the Kiwimbi Community Center and Library



# Kiwimbi International

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

We see a world where all people are empowered through education to enrich their lives and reach their fullest potential. To accomplish this vision, our mission is to partner with underserved communities worldwide to create educational opportunities through locally run learning centers.

### THANKS TO YOU, IN 2016 KIWIMBI:

Improved the Amagoro KCPE passing rate by 9% while national rate fell dramatically

Saw ALL tailoring students pass the national practicum

Established the vocational training for carpentry program in house

Helped 43% of St. Thomas Amagoro Girls Secondary School pass the KCSE exam vs. just one in 2012

Was awarded a larger role in the U.S. Embassy's English Access program despite overall program cutbacks

Held first-ever annual book festival with celebrated author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, launching the Kiwimbi Amagoro Kamithu Prize for World Literature

THANK YOU FOR MAKING  
THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS POSSIBLE



Community Center and Library

Outdoor Class

Tailoring Class

## THE KIWIMBI APPROACH

Kiwimbi focuses on communities with weak educational infrastructure. We began our work in the western Kenyan town of Amagoro in Busia County. Our goals of improved educational achievement, vocational readiness and enhanced cultural awareness are addressed through two complementary programs: a direct-to-school effort and a Community Center with library and other knowledge resources.

### Organization

Kiwimbi's work is comprised of two organizations: Kiwimbi International (KI), a non-profit 501(c)(3) and the all-Kenyan Kiwimbi Kenya (KK), an NGO. U.S.-based KI raises funds and provides professional support to Kenyan staff. KK has all operational and management responsibilities including identifying and hiring staff and teaching assistants, procuring and preparing lunches, managing the Community Center and Library, and creating supplemental programs for both schools and the community.



Staff Meeting

### Programs

#### Direct to School: The Kiwimbi KCPE-Preparatory Program (KCPE-Prep)



Kenya requires all Grade 8 students who wish to advance to secondary (high) school to take the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) exam. This test, given only in English rather than Swahili or the local language, Teso, determines if students can advance to secondary school and the quality of school they may attend.

KCPE-Prep is a direct-to-school program that combines school-time, after-school and camp programs that strengthen the academic skills of Grade 8 students with a focus on English and math. Kiwimbi utilizes teacher



assistants and provides materials for students. Without teaching assistants, Kenyan teachers can face classes with 80 or more students. With Kiwimbi teaching assistants the classes can be broken into smaller, ability-based learning groups. The lunches we provide are another very important component of Kiwimbi's KCPE-Prep Program. Besides insuring that these children have access to at least one nutritious meal a day, a key to learning, the lunch program eliminates the need for students to walk home, sometimes miles, midday for food. This ensures that the children have the time and energy needed to focus on their education.

## Community-Center and Library



*Another Busy Day at the Kiwimbi Library and Community Center*

In the spring of 2013 Kiwimbi established a physical presence in a building made available by Busia County. The Kiwimbi Community Center and Library is the first free public library in the county and has become a hub for the community. It welcomes between 200 and 500 visitors each day, both school children and adults, seeking educational tools and broader knowledge. Access to the Library is free, critical in this low-income area. Many of Kiwimbi's programs, such as the KCEP-Prep camps, operate here. The Library also contains over 20 e-readers with the texts of the Kenyan curriculum for Grade 8 students. With e-readers, internet access, magazines, over 20,000 volumes, a museum and art exhibits, the Community Center and Library provides an enriched environment for both students and townspeople – another key to learning.

## Measures of Success

Kiwimbi first started at Amagoro Primary School in 2012, making it the longest beneficiary of our programs. Our success at Amagoro Primary demonstrates potential for a larger impact if we could extend our efforts. Overall, about 38% of students benefiting from Kiwimbi's support passed the KCPE exam in 2016 while nationally only 16% passed (and the national figure includes elite private schools and the top city schools). This passing rate is an

improvement for Kiwimbi students from 29% while nationally the 16% passing rate was a decline from 33%. The national decline reflects an anti-cheating drive by Kenya's Education Cabinet Secretary. Another contrast: only 3% of students from similar rural schools in the general vicinity passed the exam. The social impact is significant because those not progressing to secondary school are limited in their ability to provide for themselves and their families. This means that they are often relegated to a life of subsistence farming or a desperate move to the slums of Nairobi to try to eke out an existence.

Success can create additional problems that Kiwimbi is attempting to address. The popularity of Kiwimbi programs is attracting more students every year to the schools we serve: over the five years since Kiwimbi began operating in the area the Grade 8 class has grown by 45%. Fluctuations in enrollment are not uncommon, but now all students take the KCPE exam instead of opting to skip them due to fear of failure. Despite these changes, test scores have remained strong and an estimated additional 55 children from Amagoro Primary alone have progressed to secondary school.

Kiwimbi continues to experiment with supplemental teaching programs and strategies. To show the value of more individual attention, we created the "Friends of Kiwimbi" program. This provides one-on-one after-school tutoring to a group of 20 students randomly selected at the beginning of the school year. The test results for these students demonstrate the positive impact this more intensive education provides. **Fully 95% passed the exam, with a median score 35% higher than that of Amagoro Primary students overall.** [The single student who didn't pass, missed attaining a passing grade by only 4%.]

Recognizing that all students can benefit from tailored teaching strategies, Kiwimbi introduced ability-based teaching in 2014. The weakest students now have additional teaching staff assigned who teach at a slower pace with more repetition. The success of this change in teaching strategy is shown by the sustainable 12% increase in the lowest scores on the KCPE exam.

## Other Programs

### Vocational

Even with Kiwimbi student's high passing rate on the KCPE exam, the large majority of students do not have the opportunity to attend secondary school. To meet the needs of these children, Kiwimbi has developed a variety of vocational training programs including art, carpentry and tailoring. The tailoring program provides



*Proud Graduates*



students with the skills needed to pass a national practical exam. In 2016, all of Kiwimbi's tailoring students were certified and passed the exam. They can do piece work, repairs and, significantly, make complete school uniforms. This means that when they leave Kiwimbi they are in a position to make uniforms for surrounding schools. This steady market provides an opportunity for these young adults to establish a livelihood.

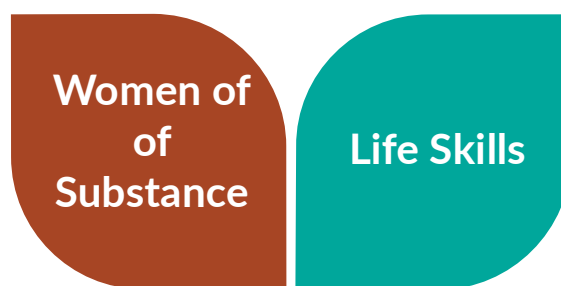
## English Access

With our partner, The Elewana Education Project, Kiwimbi runs the English Access program, an American Embassy Micro-Scholarship Program involving five different local secondary schools. Kiwimbi was approved as the most appropriate site to host the program. The goal of the English Access program is to enhance English literacy while inviting the students to become familiar with American history and culture. Eventually these students will have an opportunity to win a scholarship to a college in the U.S. **Despite Embassy program cuts that in 2016 eliminated 340 out of 400 micro-scholarships, 40 of the remaining 60 slots were awarded to Kiwimbi.**

## Impact Beyond Amagoro Primary School

In 2015, the KCPE-Prep program expanded from one school to three (adding Agong'et Primary and Okuleu Primary) serving a total of 200 students daily.

Additionally, Kiwimbi ran two mentorship programs at local schools:



The goal is to foster self-confidence in young women and give them a neutral space in which to discuss current events, boy/girl relationships, women's roles in society and whatever else the girls choose.

This program teaches basic life skills and public speaking. It is geared towards young men and women who have graduated from Secondary School and are currently students at the local Polytechnic.

## The Reach of the Library Extends Beyond Amagoro

Through various arrangements, over 50 other schools use the resources of the Community Center and Library.

Kiwimbi has also established two satellite libraries to meet the insatiable demand. Indeed, some schools are so far away that books and materials are couriered to them from Amagoro using boda boda motorbike taxis.



*Out for Delivery*

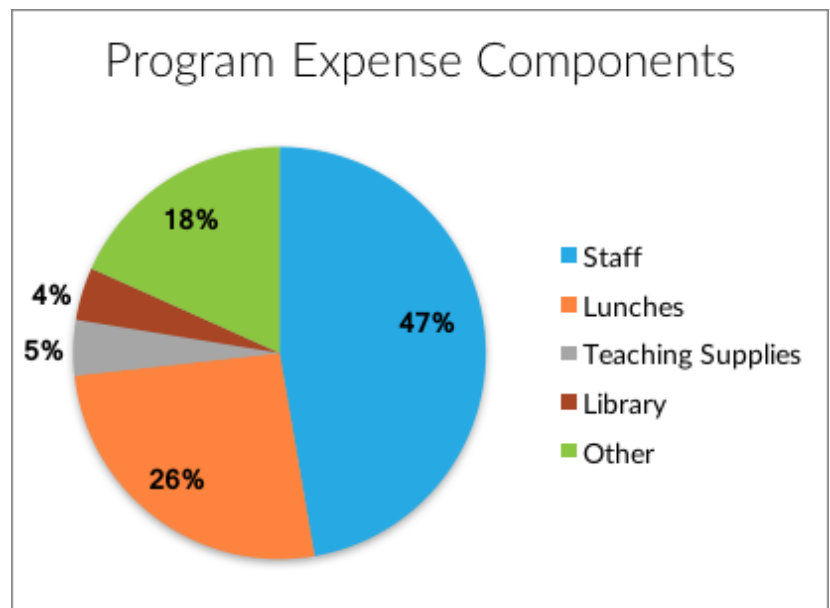


This popularity comes with another challenge: space has run out at the Community Center and Library in Amagoro. As Kiwimbi serves an ever-growing user base, the layout of the building doesn't support the multiple kinds of services that could be provided in a more intentionally designed building. In fact, our carpentry program is actually run off-site in a rented building. One of Kiwimbi's near-term goals is to identify affordable land upon which to build a facility that will enable us to more fully address our goals and the educational needs of the community.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Kiwimbi International is responsible for raising funds, strategic planning, coordination of U.S. volunteer activities and the provision of professional support to Kiwimbi Kenya. In 2016, 86% of KI spending, or about \$105,000, was dedicated to Kiwimbi Kenya programs. The remainder was evenly split between development and administration.

These moneys, in addition to funds raised by Kiwimbi Kenya, were utilized mainly for teaching staff, school lunches, supplies and library support.





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We greatly appreciate our donors' faith in Kiwimbi's ability to harness their contributions to change lives.

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Or visit [Kiwimbi.org](http://Kiwimbi.org) and click on "Donate Now."

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**Kiwimbi**, Swahili for "ripple" or "wave"

We see our effort as a drop in the water that sends out ripples leading to natural growth and development: a plant growing with the help of the water and the red earth around it.

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