



Women's Global Education Project
P.O. Box 617613
Chicago, Illinois 60661-7613 USA

womensglobal.org
708 415 7410
info@womensglobal.org

2009 Annual Report
Women's Global
Education Project
*Fighting poverty
by educating girls*

Mission & Vision

Women's Global Education Project was founded on the idea that everyone is entitled to an education, regardless of gender or economic status.

WGEP believes that universal education, gender equality and empowerment of women are critical to a society's development. Our mission is to provide access to education for women and girls, and to develop training programs that empower them to build better lives and foster equitable communities.

Building Sustainability

WGEP believes that a multi-level strategy is necessary to build a sustainable approach to girls' education. Currently working in rural communities in Senegal and Kenya, WGEP provides:

- Full scholarships for tuition, school fees, supplies, tutoring, mentoring, and room and board;
- Partial scholarships for girls already enrolled in school to assist with school supplies and after-school tutoring;
- Adult literacy classes to help women support their daughters in school;
- Health education for scholars and their families to prevent health-related absences from school;
- Educators' training to enhance classroom skills and to help educators affect policy at a broader level;
- Trade preparation for older girls who did not finish school; "Molding clubs" for girls and boys to affect the next generation; Community Awareness programs for parents, village leaders and other community members;
- Empowerment programs, including an alternative rite of passage program to combat female genital mutilation, to help girls, women and their families make the most informed choices for their future.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

What an amazing journey this has been!

Last May I had the amazing privilege to represent Women's Global Education Project at the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative global conference in Dakar, Senegal, and I was reminded again how far we've come as an organization. Your constant support and unfailing dedication to our mission has allowed us to grow sustainably over the past seven years to greatly expand our reach, impact and the awareness of the issues that surround global poverty and girls' education.

At the UNGEI conference, we were one of the smallest organizations among large NGOs, government agencies and policy thinktanks. As such, however, WGEP represented the voice of grassroots initiatives that work with girls living in rural poverty—girls who are more likely to fall through the cracks of government and development interventions and thus were identified by UNGEI for necessary accelerated action if progress on girls' education is to continue worldwide.

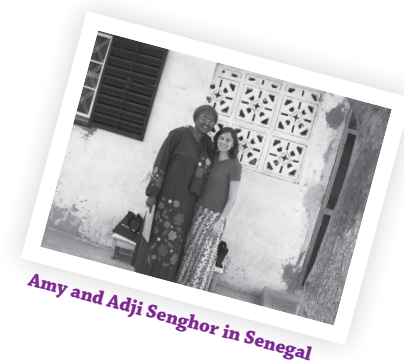
I believe WGEP stood out at the conference because we target the exact population that is falling through the cracks of larger initiatives, we work in partnership with local organizations that are smaller, community-based initiatives living and working in the communities we serve, and we provide a comprehensive array of services to the community that promotes girls' education and empowerment on multiple levels. I was extremely proud to showcase the work we've done—work that has made a difference for so many girls and families, and that would never have even been possible without supporters like you.

Thank you for walking along this journey with us these past seven years.

Yours,



Amy Maglio
Executive Director



Highlights

2009–2010

Our Impact

More than 3,700 individuals reached via scholarship, tutoring, adult literacy, educator training, health education, and community awareness programs in Fatik, Senegal and Tharaka, Kenya.

- **All-time high program retention rates at 93 percent in Senegal and 97 percent in Kenya;**
- **Academic achievement: 75 percent of all scholars earned grades that were average or above, with 30 percent placing in the TOP FIVE of their class;**
- **A measurable increase in the number of girls attending school all across the Fatik region.**

WGEP speaks at UNGEI conference

Executive Director Amy Maglio and Senegal Project Coordinator Adji Senghor were presenters at the May 2010 United Nations Girls' Education Initiative global conference in Dakar, Senegal.

Scholar accepted to African Leadership Academy

Congratulations to WGEP scholar Maimouna Diallo who was awarded a place at the prestigious Johannesburg, South Africa, secondary school.

Neutrogena-GlobalGiving Wave for Change

WGEP was honored to be selected as a partner for the Neutrogena-GlobalGiving "Wave for Change" summer 2010 campaign, in which proceeds from the sales of selected Neutrogena products went to support WGEP and two other nonprofits. Neutrogena also raised awareness for the campaign—and for our mission—among teen and young adult women via facebook, People magazine and MTV.

Ndajee raises \$23,000

In 2009, WGEP's annual fundraising event honored Chicago Public Radio *Worldview* host Jerome McDonnell and feted guests courtesy of Chicago's acclaimed North Pond restaurant and James Beard-nominated Executive Chef Bruce Sherman.

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Partnerships

WGEP is proud to partner with online communities Global Giving and ammodo; the national fundraising organization for girls' education Tea Party Angels; leadership consulting organization International Consultants and Associates; and our in-country community partners Union Democratique Des Enseignantes de Senegal (UDEN) in Senegal and Ntanira Na Mugambo Tharaka Women's Welfare Project (TWWP) in Kenya.

WGEP in the media!

WGEP has recently appeared in the *Chicago Tribune Oak Park-River Forest TribLocal*; the *Oak Park Leaves*; *Today's Chicago Woman*; WBEZ Chicago Public Radio *Worldview* global activism series; and *The New York Times' Chicago Life Magazine 2008 Annual Philanthropy Guide*.

WGEP gets the word out

Chicago Public Radio Global Activism Expo; Dominican University "Education and Entrepreneurship in Africa: The Role of Women" conference; Oklahoma City University "Peace, Poverty and Planet Earth: Exploring Resources for a Sustainable Future" 2010 conference; Millennium Campus Network Chicago chapter community dinner; ChickChat "Women Hold Up Half the Sky" Soiree; community roundtables, townhall meetings and village gatherings in 58 villages in Senegal and Kenya.



"NO!" TO FGM

86 girls, their families and their communities took part in the 2009 "Circumcision With Words" (CwW) alternative rite of passage program in Kenya, saying "No!" to female genital mutilation. CwW seeks to address this culturally-entrenched practice on multiple levels, engaging entire families and communities in eradicating FGM and in educating and empowering their girls. The program has also helped raise school retention rates: fully 100 percent of all girls who participated in CwW have been shown to stay in school, compared to just 42 percent of all girls in school nationwide and 30 percent in rural Kenya.



"Circumcision With Words" is sponsored by the Rubens Family Foundation.

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**Changing The
World, One
Sister-to-School
At A Time**

Diale Ba and Mariama Ndao

In their remote, rural village of Drame, Senegal, 7-year-old Diale Ba and Mariama Ndao are making history.

Diale and Mariama are the first—and currently the only—girls from Drame going to school. They are two of the 240 girls supported by WGEP’s Sisters-to-School scholarship program which helps girls get the opportunity for schooling that they might otherwise never have.

Because there is no school in Drame, Diale and Mariama walk to the nearest village, Passe, to attend the school there. On some days, they might be able to catch a ride with villagers going to the Passe market in a horse-drawn charrette (cart); most days, the girls must walk the 40 minutes along the dirt path to Passe in the morning and then back again in the evenings.

The director of Passe II Elementary School helped connect Diale and Mariama to Sisters-to-School and hopes other families will be inspired by their example to send more girls from Drame to school. As in many rural regions in Senegal, education for girls is not culturally valued in the area. Girls are expected to do the bulk of household and farm chores, then to marry early and start families. Even when there are resources for schooling, the priority is usually for the boys in the family to go to school before the girls.

Your support of WGEP’s Sisters-to-School program makes it possible for Diale, Mariama and other Sisters-to-School scholars to have the chance for an education—and a chance to build a better future.

Diama Gaye

Although unusual for their rural community of Diossong, Senegal, Diama Gaye was sent to school at a young age. This was because her mother valued education and wanted her daughter to have opportunities in life that she herself never had. But when her mother suddenly died, Diama’s father, Oussman, withdrew his daughter from school and kept her at home to take over the house chores.

The young Diama was befriended by Maimona Ndong, a teacher at the local school, who began to mentor her. Maimona saw how much Diama wanted to go back to school and decided to talk to Oussman. At first, Oussman was unwilling to send his daughter back to school, especially because he could no longer afford the school fees. Maimona, however, wouldn’t give up. She told Oussman about Sisters-to-School and promised to help Diama apply for



Diale and Mariama



Diama and her father Oussman

a scholarship to pay for the school fees. It took some time, but eventually, Oussman agreed.

Now 12 years old, Diama is doing well in school and is aspiring to become an entrepreneur to help her community. Her father is proud of her success and has now become a strong advocate in the village for girls’ education. As a religious leader, Oussman has been key in helping to change minds and in persuading other families to send their own daughters to school.

“School has been very positive for my daughter,” Oussman says. “After seeing what it has done for her, I now believe that it is very important for girls to go to school.”

**Sustainability
at the
Grassroots
Level**

Despite the amazing progress made in girls’ education over the last decade—more than 22 million girls enrolled worldwide since 1999—the current rate of progress will still leave out 56 million children by 2015, most of them girls living in poverty in rural communities.

UNGEI “E4 Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality” global conference, May 12–20, 2010, Dakar, Senegal

WGEP was recognized for our grassroots focus on rural communities at the United Nations Girls’ Education Initiative (UNGEI) global conference in Dakar, Senegal last May, where Executive Director Amy Maglio and Senegal Project Coordinator Adji Senghor were invited to be presenters.

At the conference, entitled “E4 Engendering Empowerment: Education and Equality,” Amy and Adji showcased the work of WGEP in Senegal and Kenya to help girls living in poverty in rural communities, a key focus of “E4.” It was shown that girls in poor, remote, rural villages are more likely to fall through the cracks of larger education initiatives, making the work of WGEP more timely than ever before.

WGEP also presented on our community-led, grassroots strategy to involve all levels of a community in the education and empowerment of girls. Our partnerships with local community organizations—Union Democratique Des Enseignantes de Senegal (UDEN) in Senegal and Ntanira Na Mugambo Tharaka Women’s Welfare Project (TWWP) in Kenya—ensure that our programs meet real needs on the ground and that they will garner the support of families, neighbors, village leaders, teachers, government leaders—everyone involved in making a brighter future for our girls, families and communities.



Financial Overview

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures in U.S. dollars

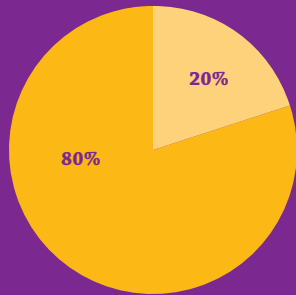
January–December 2009

Revenue

Business Donations	9,069.08
Community Organizations	1,873.31
Annual Fundraiser	21,250.00
Foundations	45,250.00
Individual Donations	28,418.00
Total Revenue	\$105,860.39

Expenditures

Programs	
Senegal	55,000.00
Kenya	25,150.00
Fundraiser	2,302.00
General and Administrative	4,192.00
Accounting and Bookkeeping	2,394.50
Consultants/Staff	10,910.00
Total Expenditures	\$99,948.50

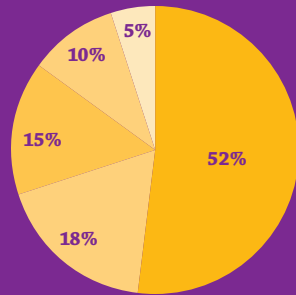


Breakdown of Expenditures

Administrative	20%
Program	80%

Senegal Program Expenditures

Scholarships	58%
Parent and community workshops	15%
Mentoring and health education	18%
Teacher training	4%
Administrative	5%



Kenya Program Expenditures

Scholarships	52%
Anti-FGM/alternative rite of passage	18%
Parent and community workshops	15%
Mentoring and health education	10%
Administrative	5%

2009 Donors

Corporations, Foundations, & Organizations

Grants and Contributions

\$10,000 - \$25,000

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