

SBCF-K US Funded Scholarship Program Impact Report

Reporting Period: 1st January – 30th June 2025



Figure 1: Molibany Primary School Pupils, Talek (Grades 3-9) -Scholarship beneficiaries

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Education is the cornerstone of empowering children with the knowledge and skills they need to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the wider economy. In 2022, SBCF-K launched its Scholarship Program in target areas with the following key objectives:

- **Expand Access:** Provide educational opportunities for underprivileged learners.
- **Support Transitions:** Increase progression rates from primary to secondary school.
- **Boost Employability:** Equip beneficiaries with skills that enhance their career prospects upon completing studies.
- **Promote Equity:** Ensure fair regional distribution and gender balance so that both boys and girls benefit equally.

Since its inception, the program has received strong donor support. In 2023, scholarships were funded by Norway, the USA, the Floriss Foundation, and Dermanor. In 2024, funding was provided by Norway and the USA, with the USA taking the lead as the main donor partner in 2025. Currently, the SBCF-K Scholarship Program supports learners at various educational levels—primary, junior secondary, secondary, and college.

By mid-2025, **a total of 59 students from the Mara Maasai and Samburu communities in Kenya were the direct beneficiaries of funding provided by US donors.**

This report presents the program’s achievements during the first half of 2025. Guided by SBCF-K’s *Conservation Education and Indigenous Knowledge* theme, the scholarships have enabled students to overcome financial barriers to education. **During this period, \$29,075 in scholarship support was disbursed from a grant of \$80,620.**

The program continues to demonstrate its transformative impact—not only shaping the lives of individual learners but also uplifting families and strengthening entire communities across SBCF-K’s areas of operation – all with a positive conservation connection.

2. STUDENTS SELECTION CRITERIA:

SBCF-K recognises the importance of higher education but accommodates for basic education, focusing on tuition, school supplies, uniforms, transportation, and other essential learning resources. Funding decisions are guided by donor restrictions, though in special cases, higher education support may be considered a priority when resources allow. The students are selected through a well-thought-out criterion, which includes the following:

- Financial need (priority for disadvantaged families).
- Academic potential and commitment.
- Likely long-term impact on families/communities.
- Enrolment in accredited institutions.
- Commitment to diversity and inclusion.
- Availability of funds.

3. REGIONAL/ EDUCATION LEVEL SCHOLARSHIP DISTRIBUTION:

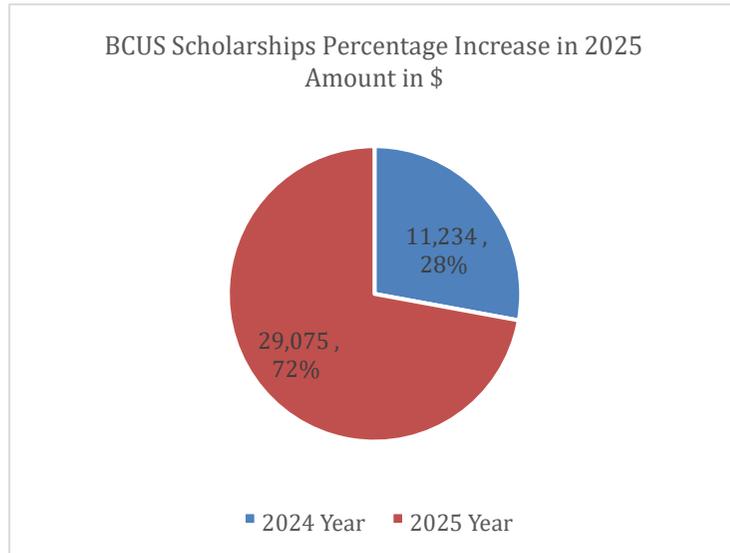
I. Regional Level: SBCF-K operates in four regions, namely: **Maasai Mara, Samburu, Amboseli, and Coast.**

- **98%** of supported students are from Maasai Mara: 20% Mara Central, 43% Mara North, and 37% Mara West.
- **2%** are from Samburu Region: 1% Sera, 1% Kalama.

II. Education level:

- 51% – Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates
- 23% – Secondary School Certificates
- 15% – Junior Secondary Education
- 11% – Primary Education.

III. Scholarships Percentage Increase in 2025:



IV: Saruni Basecamp Foundation Kenya Scholarships Graduation Summary (2023-2034)

#	LEVEL OF EDUCATION	LEVEL OF GRADUATION	GRADUATION YEAR										TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS	THRESHOLD PERFORMANCE PERCENTAGE
			2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034		
1	Tertiary Scholarships	Certificate/Diploma/Degree	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	100%
2	Secondary School - Form 4	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	6	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	83%
3	Junior Secondary Grade 12	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)	0	0	0	3	4	0	8	0	0	0	15	100%
4	Primary School Grade 9	The Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA)	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	3	0	11	100%
		TOTAL	10	14	7	3	4	3	11	2	3	0	57	

Please Note:

- By 2034, all 57 students are expected to have completed their studies and graduated, while 54.4 % of the students will have graduated by the year 2027.
- Total scholarship awarded = **99**; Average award amount = **\$ 300**; Range of awards = **\$23-\$3,000**; Total funding distributed =**\$29,075**; Year-on-year increase: 38% in 2025 as compared to 2024.

Source: SBCF-K Student Database

5. POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- **Retention Rates:** Achieved **100% retention** at junior and secondary school levels in 2024–2025, an improvement from 95% in 2023.
- **Academic Performance:** Secondary-level students maintained an **average GPA of 90% (C- equivalent)**. SBCF-K is addressing challenges affecting the remaining 10% of learners.
- **Improved Grades:** Higher retention has contributed to steady improvements in school performance.
- **Girls’ Empowerment:** The program has successfully **prevented dropouts** and **rescued girls from early marriages**, enabling them to continue their education.
- **Family Well-Being:** Parents report greater **financial relief** and improved capacity to meet household needs due to reduced education-related expenses.

• **SBCF-K Scholarship Program – 2nd Quarter 2025 Student Performance Summary (see details below)**

Institutions	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Sub-Total
Tertiary Institutions	1	4	1		6
Secondary Schools	-	3	18	4	25
Primary Schools	6	5	15	-	26
TOTALS	7	12	34	4	57

Source: Institutional Student Information System

6. NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- **Economic Investment:** Some families have redirected freed-up funds towards livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) purchases and other income-generating activities.
- **Equity gap:** Scholarships are not yet evenly distributed among the most vulnerable households, highlighting the need for more balanced coverage.

7. CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED:

- **Partial Coverage:** Although tuition, transport, and supplies are provided, parents must still cover compulsory expenses such as the **Building Fund** and **Board of Management (BOM) fees**. Families with multiple children, therefore, continue to experience significant financial strain.
- **Continuity of Support & Long-term Commitment:** Parents express a strong desire for **assurance of consistent scholarship support** throughout their children's schooling journey, with particular concern for continuity at the junior levels.

8. FUTURE PROSPECTS:

- **Expand Support Services:** Introduce **mentorship programs** facilitated by alumni, teachers, and professionals to guide and inspire learners.
- **Annual Student–Parent Forums:** Sustain meaningful engagements—such as the **25th June 2026 forum**—to gather feedback, share experiences, and update student records.

9. STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION:



Figure 2: James Lemingani on the left and Edwin Lolosoli on the right, from Samburu County

I. James Lemingani – Sera Conservancy

“My name is James Lemingani from Sera Conservancy in Samburu, a county blessed with abundant wildlife. Growing up in a humble background where illiteracy is common among the youth, my dream of studying Sustainable Wildlife Conservation often felt out of reach.

The scholarship I received from the Saruni Basecamp Foundation Kenya (SBCFK) turned that dream into reality. It allowed me not only to pursue the course I had always longed for but also to study at the Wildlife Tourism College of Maasai Mara (WTC), an institution I greatly admired. My passion has always been to understand and find solutions to pressing issues such as human–wildlife conflict and overgrazing, which remain major challenges in my community.

I believe that upon completing my course, I will be able to help my family address these challenges and secure employment in an organisation where I can apply my knowledge and skills to educate and empower the wider community.

I am deeply grateful to SBCFK for this life-changing scholarship.

II. Edwin Lolosoli – Kalama Conservancy

“My name is Edwin Lolosoli, born and raised in Kalama Conservancy in Samburu County, a land of breathtaking landscapes and a haven for wildlife. My home is situated between conservancies and reserves, providing me with the opportunity to witness firsthand the delicate nature of wildlife and the urgent need to conserve it. After completing my secondary education, I began working on small part-time jobs to raise money to take a course that would help me achieve my dream. This effort provided me with an opportunity to participate in an Internship Program conducted by Saruni Basecamp Ltd (SBC), where I trained at Saruni Samburu Lodges, learning various hotel duties, including housekeeping and tour guiding. My desire to raise money for my studies motivated me to work seamlessly on the duties allocated to me, and that earned me a chance to be employed as an intern at Saruni Samburu Lodges.

One day in the 7th month with SBC, I got word from my dad, which came through the village elders, that the Kalama Conservancy Manager wanted school leavers with an interest in pursuing tourism & tour guiding to attend an interview that would qualify them for a scholarship program to train on the same at WTC. I requested a day off to attend the same, and thanks to God, I came from Kalama Conservancy and got enrolled at WTC under the scholarship program.

I was so happy to be enrolled at WTC because I always believed that my desire to study wildlife conservation was not just a job opportunity but a calling. I am already using my skills in the community, during community gatherings, to sensitise my fellow villagers on the importance of wildlife conservation.

I am so grateful for the scholarship.”

III. Sereti Kisemei - Form 4 student in Talek Girls Secondary School



SERETI KISEMEI

I Can't imagine a life without your presence.
I always appreciate you for what you did for me
thank you always for your help may high deity
bless you sincerely I have been benefited since you
sponsored me. I have never be sent home for
school fees just because of your caring and the
love that you show me. Thank you alot for being
on my side I have never lacked anything.
THANK YOU ALWAYS

IV: Jackson Sasine from Maasai Mara Central Conservancy – Pardamat Conservation Area (PCA)



“My sincere gratitude goes to the donor through Saruni Basecamp Foundation Kenya (SBCFK) for the scholarship, without which I would have been forced to discontinue my studies. Before receiving this support, I faced immense challenges in paying my own school fees while also supporting my four children, who are in school, and caring for the six children of my late sister to ensure they, too, remained in school. This heavy financial burden left me on the verge of dropping out so that I could focus solely on supporting the education of the ten children under my care. Thanks to the scholarship from SBCFK, I have been able to continue my education, and I am now in my second year of studies. For this, I am truly grateful.”

V. Loiboo Kaleku from Maasai Mara West Conservancy



“My name is Oloiboo Kaleku, a husband to three wives and a proud father of 21 children. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation and say ‘Ashe oleng’ — ‘thank you very much’ — to the donors through SBCFK for supporting us with scholarships. Today, my family has enough food, and my children are no longer sent home for lack of school fees.

Before the scholarship, I could only keep a few goats. Each time school fees were needed, I was forced to sell them, which left us with little meat and milk for the family. But now, with the support of SBCFK, my children’s education continues without interruption, and my household has enough food to sustain us.

Ashe oleng!”

VI: Enock Kitirr, Principal, Molibany Comprehensive School



My name is Enock Kitirr, Principal of Molibany Comprehensive Primary School. We currently have eight learners supported through the scholarship program, and I cannot overstate the impact it has had. Covering tuition fees for an entire year not only eases the financial burden but also enables us to plan and meet the learners' needs without delay.

The results are visible—these children are more motivated, their grades have improved, and they can stay in school full-time, unlike others who are sometimes sent home over unpaid fees.

As a school, we are truly grateful for this support. We promise to continue giving our best to nurture and prepare these learners for the careers and futures they aspire to.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & GRATITUDE:

On behalf of scholarship recipients in Maasai Mara and Samburu, SBCF-K conveys its deepest gratitude to our donors. Your investment in education is transforming individual lives, easing the burden on families, and strengthening the resilience and future of entire Maa communities.

Compiled and Reported by the SBCF Team

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