



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF TANZANIA
ORKEESWA SCHOOL

Through the highest-quality holistic education, we equip youth to become leaders in their communities.

In 2008, responding to a high demand for access to secondary education, Orkeeswa School opened in an under-served Maasai community in the Monduli Hills of northern Tanzania on land donated by local leaders. Orkeeswa School is the most affordable secondary school within its catchment area, which consists of four Maasai villages, covering an area of approximately 32 square-kilometers, with a total population of over 10,000 individuals. **Roughly 78% of families in these communities live below the poverty line of less than \$1.25 / day.** These communities face serious challenges when it comes to income, healthcare, land and food security, access to water, and gender equality. We believe that education is the first and most necessary step toward sustainable community development. We are focused on preparing our students to become leaders in their communities, equipped to take on these challenges now and in the future.

COMMUNITY-BASED DAY SCHOOL

A holistic, community-based education offers our students the opportunity to develop critical and creative thinking skills while remaining deeply connected to their community. **The result is a new generation of visionary leaders, innovators, and problem solvers who have a thorough understanding of and commitment to their own culture, community and local politics.** Our students live and learn within their village, allowing them to take their education home with them everyday and make an immediate impact on their families and community members.

CO-EDUCATIONAL LEARNING

In the context of a community where women and girls experience severe gender discrimination, **a co-educational environment offers girls an opportunity to learn and lead alongside boys, gaining immediate respect and confidence in their capacity to be educated leaders in their community.**

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Effective and sustainable community development must come from within – conceived, implemented and managed by local leadership. **The best leaders are well-rounded.** They are able to think creatively, inspire and motivate community members, and apply actionable solutions to complex problems. Our programs are designed to nurture our students' creativity, allowing them to hone their own unique leadership styles, while building their capacity to think outside the box. **Therefore, we emphasize holistic, experiential learning that includes: high-quality academics, athletics, extra-curricular activities, entrepreneurship, community service, career and college counseling, health and wellness, life skills, counseling and advocacy.**



EDUCATION IN TANZANIA

In rural Tanzania, less than a quarter of eligible students have access to secondary school. In Maasai communities like Orkeeswa Village, access is significantly lower due to a long history of economic, social and political marginalization. At Orkeeswa School, we support students whose families do not have the resources to send them to secondary school.

Within secondary school, while access to Ordinary Level (Forms 1 - 4) is low, access to Advanced Level (Forms 5 and 6) is significantly lower. In rural Tanzania, 3% of eligible students and less than 1% of girls have access to A-Level education, the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, less than 1% of youth in Tanzania complete secondary school. These levels of student attrition suggest a severe lack of quality in education at the secondary level, as eligibility for A-Level relies on student performance on their National Exams. In response to that reality, Orkeeswa School focuses not only on access, but on the quality of our program, prioritizing a thoroughly trained teaching staff, a low student-to-teacher ratio (7:1, compared to a national average of 60:1), curriculum development and a holistic approach to learning.

ORKEESWA STUDENT BODY

278 ORKEESWA STUDENTS

163 GIRLS

115 BOYS

ORDINARY-LEVEL

131 GIRLS

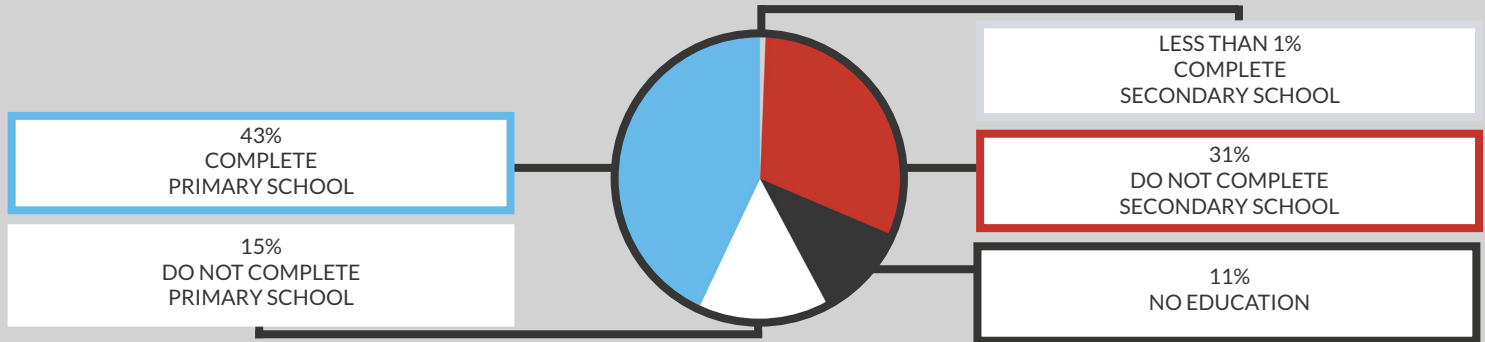
86 BOYS

ADVANCED-LEVEL

32 GIRLS

29 BOYS

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF YOUTH IN TANZANIA, AGES 15-24





PRIMARY SCHOOL TO SECONDARY SCHOOL



IN RURAL TANZANIA, ONLY 7% OF GIRLS HAVE ACCESS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Each year we welcome 50 new students into our Pre-Form One (6th Grade) English Immersion Program, a year-long curriculum focused on project-based learning, literacy and numeracy, STEM, arts, drama and athletics, all designed to strengthen their language skills and build their confidence as they prepare to embark on their Ordinary-Level studies at Orkeeswa School.

FROM THE BOTTOM 15% TO THE TOP 5%

We select our students from four government-run primary schools in and around Orkeeswa Village. These primary schools are some of the lowest performing schools in the country, with their National Exam results placing them as low as the bottom 15% of schools in the country. In 2015, we extended our Pre-Form One program from 3 months to 15 months in order to better prepare these students for academic success at Orkeeswa School. Now, within two years of studying at Orkeeswa School, our students are demonstrating a remarkable improvement in academic performance. In 2016, our Form Two National Exam results rank them as some of the top-performing students in Tanzania.

2016 FORM TWO NATIONAL EXAMS - NATIONAL RANKING BY SUBJECT

CIVICS
TOP 6.9%

ENGLISH
TOP 3.5%

HISTORY
TOP 3.2%

PHYSICS
TOP 1.1%

AGRICULTURE
#1
IN TANZANIA

CHEMISTRY
TOP 1.5%

BIOLOGY
TOP 1.2%

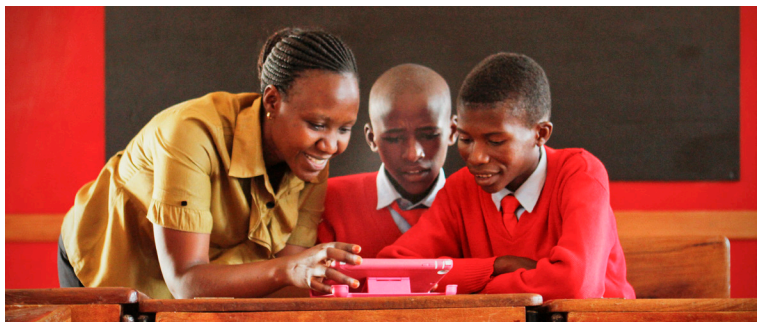
GEOGRAPHY
TOP 3.0%

MATH
TOP 5.0%

SWAHILI
TOP 17.7%



ORDINARY-LEVEL TO ADVANCED-LEVEL



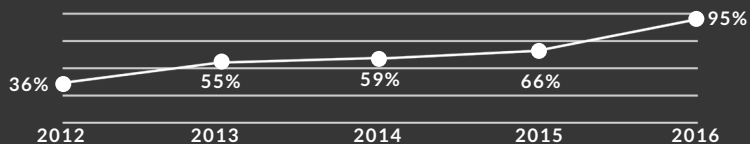
"I had a dream that one day I would make it to Form Six (12th Grade), but I was not sure that I would be able to do it. And now I have made it. I have focused on my studying in a way that gives me a deep understanding of my subjects. I know that I must continue to work hard, but I feel more confident in myself. I know that I can complete my courses, go to university and help my family and my society. I am very proud of myself!"

– Bertha, Graduate

In rural Tanzania, 3% of eligible students and less than 1% of girls have access to Advanced-Level studies. In the Tanzanian education system, the likelihood of a student qualifying for A-Level directly depends on their performance on the Form Four National Exams. Since the inauguration of our A-Level Program in 2012, we have introduced a number of programs and initiatives designed to improve our students' academic performance, including Professional Development for teachers, technology resources in the classroom, and more. Since 2012, our A-Level matriculation rates have improved from 36% to 95%.

TOP 5% OF SCHOOLS IN TANZANIA

A-LEVEL MATRICULATION RATES : FROM 36% TO 95%



FORM FOUR (10th Grade) NATIONAL EXAMS

100% PASS RATE

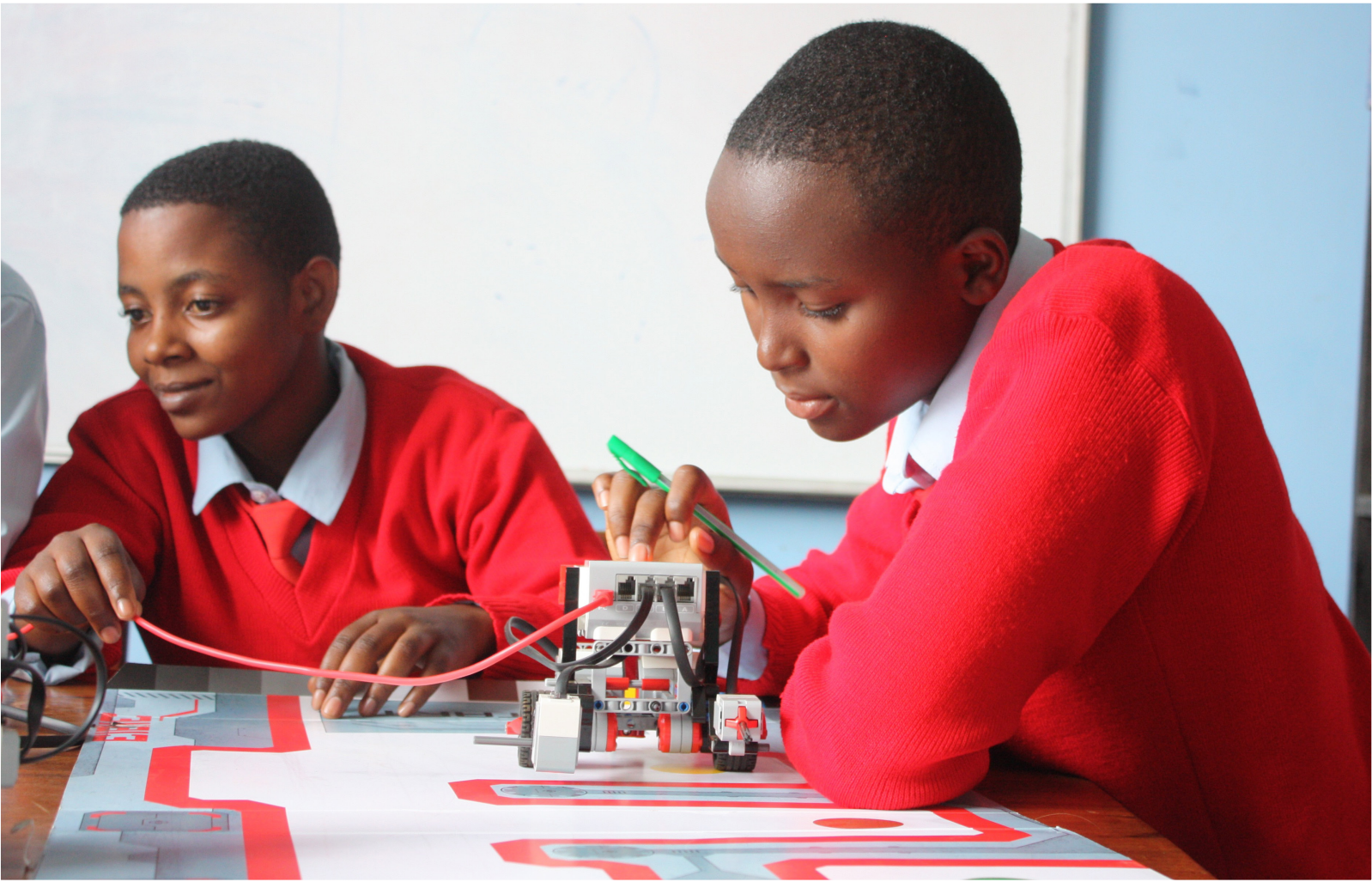
COMPARED TO A 70% NATIONAL PASS RATE

95% OF OUR STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR A-LEVEL

COMPARED TO 27% NATIONALLY

100% OF OUR GIRLS QUALIFY FOR A-LEVEL

COMPARED TO 22% NATIONALLY



SECONDARY SCHOOL TO HIGHER EDUCATION



“Orkeeswa has helped me grow. It has made me a confident leader. And it has given me an education that I can use to help my community. Now, I want to go to University and study education. After that, I hope to come back and work at Orkeeswa. I want to help and stay close to this school. I feel happy that it is my time to go back and try to serve.”

– Lenga, Orkeeswa Graduate & Teacher

ORKEESWA BRIDGE PROGRAM

Less than 4% of Tanzanians continue on to higher education. We are currently supporting 19 of our Graduates in University through Scholarships and Loans. We have seen our first three classes graduate from Form Six and have recognized their need for support in order to continue onto higher education. The Orkeeswa Bridge Program works to supplement government funding for University with 0% interest loans developed out of thorough conversations with each student and their families. We guide each graduate through the University application process and are developing a robust **Career & College Counseling program**, as well as an **Alumni Network**, to ensure that our graduates have access to the resources they need to continue their education, find employment and make a positive impact on their communities. Furthermore, we have introduced a **Gap Year Fellowship program** providing employment opportunities for graduates at Orkeeswa School.

ORKEESWA GRADUATES

11
2017 ORKEESWA
GRADUATES

93
TOTAL ORKEESWA
GRADUATES

56
GRADUATES IN
HIGHER EDUCATION

11
APPLYING FOR
UNIVERSITY

18
GRADUATES
EMPLOYED

9
EMPLOYED AT
ORKEESWA

STRATEGIC PLAN

In collaboration with our Board of Directors and our School Leadership Team in Tanzania, we developed a Strategic Plan, outlining goals and priorities for the next five years. Our planning process was guided by two core questions:

**How can we better support our students and their goals to make an impact in their community?
How can we expand and deepen our impact within the Orkeeswa community and beyond?**

In response to these questions, we have developed three main goals to help shape our progress over the next five years:

GOAL ONE

Retain each Orkeeswa student through seven years of our program.

In order to maximize our impact on each individual Orkeeswa student, we must ensure that they are able to receive a high-quality education at Orkeeswa School for the full seven years of our program. While our student retention rate is extremely high compared to the national average, we have seen a handful of students drop out due to early marriage, pregnancy, family pressure, and national exam performance. We have developed a list of strategies to implement over the next five years to mitigate these challenges, including:

- Investing more resources into our Life Skills program, specifically the development of a seven-year Life Skills curriculum that responds to the specific needs of our students and their community
- Expanding our Counseling program, including peer counseling and family counseling programs
- Improving our ability to track student performance from month-to-month and respond with individualized academic support
- Expanding our Professional Development program and resources for teachers

STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL TWO

Facilitate graduates returning to their communities, equipped and inspired to make a positive impact.

Orkeeswa School's ultimate goal is to see positive, sustainable community development through education. We believe that we are making an investment in our students and expect that they will use their education to make an impact on their community. We recognize significant obstacles for our graduates, even after receiving a high-quality secondary education, including limited access to higher education, particularly in the form of financial support, as well as limited employment opportunities within and around the Orkeeswa community. We intend to address these obstacles by :

- **Developing a robust Career and College Counseling Program**
- **Investing in the development of our Entrepreneurship Program**
- **Expanding Community Service opportunities for all students and alumni**
- **Forming a tight-knit Alumni Network with access to resources and support**
- **Offering our graduates scholarships and loans for higher education through our Bridge Program**

GOAL THREE

Expand our impact within the Orkeeswa community and beyond.

Orkeeswa School has grown out of an organic process of experimentation in collaboration with the local community. While we are still growing, and intend to impact more students from the community, we also recognize an opportunity to share what we have learned with like-minded schools and organizations, allowing us to expand our reach beyond Orkeeswa Village. We intend to grow our impact by:

- **Increasing our student body**
- **Expanding our campus infrastructure**
- **Packaging and sharing the Orkeeswa Model**