



The Girls' Empowerment Program (GEP).

The Girls Empowerment Program is Heshima Kenya's multi-disciplinary program that provides a safe community and opportunities for girls and young women to access their human rights, obtain an education, experience economic success and become leaders in their own communities. The GEP provides informal education tailored to each girl's individual needs, including literacy and numeracy, life-skills, vocational training and an income-generating/social enterprise-the Maisha Collective. The basic education curriculum is certified by Kenya's Department of Education's Non-Formal Adult Education Guidelines and consists of four Levels, three levels corresponding with formal primary school grades and one secondary level. The program also equips girls with life skills in human rights and peace-building, leadership and community resources. Our programs focus on creating a safe space to discuss situations openly and make informed decisions. Topics include sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, and HIV/AIDS prevention. While enrolled in basic education, participants also engage in vocational training, where they are taught tailoring and dressmaking for one year. Entrepreneurship training, public relations and career development is also integrated into the vocational training curriculum. Heshima Kenya provides full-time childcare for children less than 7 years of age within GEP. Currently, the program has 230 participants who include 71 children and 159 girls.