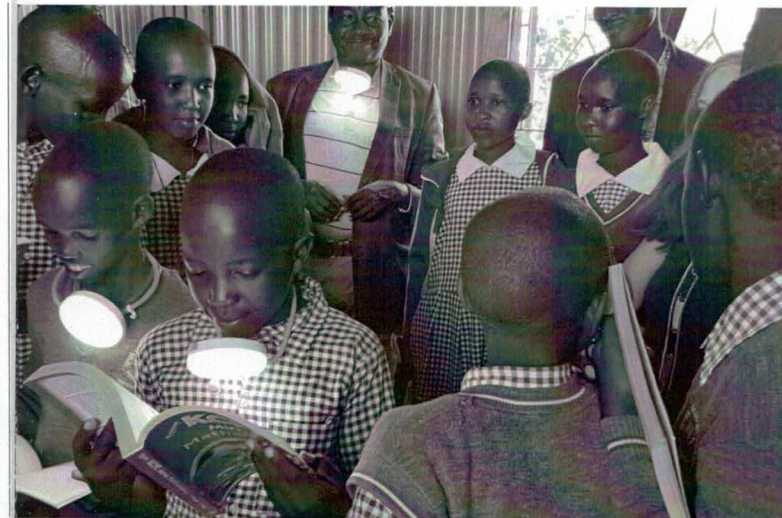


KENYA

OLIVESEED

Grant amount: **US\$ 25,000**



Oliveseed Kenya Trust is a community-based Kenyan organization working to nurture a culture of reading and learning in the rural communities living alongside the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Families there live in unpowered earthen homes, books are a rarity, and the public schools have no libraries or other resources to nurture a love of reading. Oliveseed Kenya is addressing this by developing high-quality, culturally relevant, and engaging libraries with related programs; putting solar lighting and small libraries in homes; and running creative-writing competitions for youth across the region.

Oliveseed Kenya is using the APIF grant to strengthen all these initiatives, by adding libraries and enrichment programs in two more key locations: one at a girls' high school with 900 students; and the other, the first public library in the region, impacting thousands more. This initiative includes training workshops for teachers and student librarians and after-school reading challenges – and culminates in an indigenous story writing project, with young people interviewing elders and writing their stories. Oliveseed Kenya will publish these indigenous stories in printed and digital books.

To launch the initiative, the team is now designing the content for both libraries and coordinating with teachers to plan the extra-curricular activities to inspire young Maasai learners to read for pleasure, learn, create, and grow.



"We are so grateful to APIF for this support. We have seen how the school libraries we've developed have already become "learning centers," with teachers and students both highly motivated by this new resource. With this grant, we're excited to be able to add the first public library in the Maasai Mara, which will expand these offerings to many more people and provide space to unify many literacy, reading, and writing programs. We've also found a scarcity of written local stories that students here could identify with, so to fill this gap, we will publish indigenous stories through the words of the students themselves. As well as inspiring young people to write and develop their own voice, this ensures that we preserve local stories, and that students' own world is represented in these libraries shared by all."

Barbara Mackraz

Co-founder & Director, Oliveseed Kenya Trust