Tackling Financial Barriers to Education
Educating Children, Changing Lives
Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself.  
— John Dewey
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Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. - Nelson Mandela
Kenya has made important strides in improving its education system in recent years; since primary education was made free and compulsory in 2003 primary school enrolment rates have increased dramatically. However, for children living in remote and pastoralist areas of north-eastern Kenya, as well as children with disabilities, access to education is limited.

Lack of trained teachers, high levels of food insecurity and sporadic localised conflict contribute to enrolment rates in these communities being among Kenya’s lowest. In some areas only 20% of children between six and 14 years of age are in school.

Girls are far less likely to be enrolled than boys with only one in five girls attending school in Garissa and Wajir Counties. The quality of educational outcomes is a further cause for concern, as the counties of Mandera, Garissa and Wajir regularly feature towards the bottom of the league tables for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education examination.
The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. — Martin L. King Jr.
Despite the introduction of free primary education in Kenya in 2003, the direct and indirect costs related to education continue to pose a barrier to children accessing quality education, especially in poor, hard-to-reach areas of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, and one of the reasons for this is the hidden costs of education. To tackle this fundamental demand side barrier, Save the Children implemented a cash transfer pilot project funded by United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) in Garissa County.

In 2012, Save the Children initiated a pilot research project, with the overall goal of reducing the direct and indirect costs related to education, and increasing enrolment and attendance in primary school. The ultimate purpose of this pilot was to generate evidence on the relative impact of cash transfers on enrolment and retention. The pilot involved 18 months of cash transfers to 3,000 households in Garissa County. 1,500 received the cash transfer on the condition that a child attended school a minimum of 80% of the month and the other 1,500 received the cash transfer irrespective of whether a child attended school.

The money was sent via Mpesa mobile money transfer platform and withdrawal charges were included.
Programme Reach

**Children**
- **49%**
  - Children newly enrolled in school group (8% higher than control group)
- **7,142**
  - Children retained in school from the treatment groups

**Adults**
- **327**
  - Community Accountability Committee members
- **3,000**
  - Beneficiary households

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The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one. — Malcom Forbes
The only person who is educated is the who has learned how to learn and change. — Carl Rogers
Case Studies and Testimonials

Case Study:
Name: Abien Abdullahi | Location: Mansabubu

I could not feed my family or take my children to school, but thanks to the help from Save the Children I am able to do that now.

Issa Alale, Age 10

I want to become a doctor so that I can be able to assist my family and community in the future.
Case Study

Name: Yussuf Hussein | Age: 13 | Location: Kotile
School: Kotile Primary

I am grateful to Save the Children because I am back in school. I am looking forward to sit for the primary level national examination.

Name: Dunia Ahmed | Yussuf’s mother | Location: Kotile

Now that the project has come to an end, I am still able to take care of my family and keep my children in school from the money I get from my business.

Case Study:

Name: Habiba Muhamud Ali | Age: 13 | Location: Hara
School: Hara Primary School

We were very poor and had no hope, now we are able to survive from the money given to us from Save the Children.

Case Study:

Name: Ulsh Baro Hassie | Age: 14 Yrs | Location: Gababa | School: Gababa Primary

I look forward to being a teacher so that I can teach other children from this community.

Testimonial

Name: Ahmed Sheikh | Abdullahi
Position: County Director Of Education

This project has caused a community that was slowly losing hope in education awaken to the fact that it is possible to achieve the much desired education.

Testimonial

Name: Leila Yusuf | Position: Community Accountability Committee Chair

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