Heshima n. (Swahili)
respect, honor, and dignity

OUR MISSION
Heshima Kenya specializes in identifying and protecting orphaned, unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children living in Nairobi, Kenya.

OUR VISION
The children and youth Heshima Kenya serves today become tomorrow’s advocates, creating social change, both individually and collectively.

OUR APPROACH
Heshima Kenya’s integrated model provides holistic support, empowering refugee girls and young women to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and leaders in their own right.

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HeshimaKenya.org
A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

The young women of Heshima Kenya inspire us everyday. Through their laughter, joy and friendship, the girls of Heshima empower themselves and their peers to be agents of positive change in the world. These extraordinary young women come from all over East Africa, fleeing terrorism in Somalia, escaping violence in DRC, running from political turmoil in Ethiopia and seeking refuge from persecution based in their sexuality in Uganda. Since our founding in 2008, Heshima Kenya has provided protection, education, and a healing community for young women and girls. Over the last year, we have seen that community grow beyond our imagination.

In 2015, the global refugee crisis reached an unprecedented level. Of the 60 million refugees globally, among the most vulnerable are refugee children who have lost their families. Referred to as “unaccompanied minors,” these refugee children have been forcibly separated from their families, homes, communities and countries. In Kenya alone there are 18,000 registered unaccompanied minor refugees and asylum seekers. Heshima Kenya is a safe haven and healing community for unaccompanied children from across East Africa. We are honored to be the first and only organization dedicated to meeting the needs of this vulnerable population.

2015 was a year of significant growth for us. In this report, you will learn about our new implementing partnership with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). We became the UN’s official Child Protection Implementing Partner, with a mandate to protect and serve unaccompanied minors in Kenya. Through this partnership, we have doubled our direct assistance to refugee children throughout Kenya. Over the past eight years, over 1,600 young women, girls and their children have received protection through Heshima Kenya’s award-winning holistic model, that provides a full spectrum of care and support. In 2015, an additional 1,400 children received direct service through our UNHCR partnership. Finally, we are very proud to share Heshima girl, Ange’s, journey throughout this report.

Heshima Kenya’s growth would not have been possible without supporters like you. We look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Alisa Roadcup
Executive Director
Ann Laatsch
Chair, U.S. Board
Rosalind Raddatz
Chair, Kenya Board

Heshima Kenyan n. (Swahili)
respect, honor, and dignity

HeshimaKenya.org

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Heshima gives us courage. We are empowered women.”
– Mignore, Age 17, Democratic Republic of Congo

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respect, honor, and dignity
Heshima
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“I could not share my story, but now I can open my heart and tell you what I feel.”

Ange was 15 years old when she was forced to flee from her country, community, home and family. In 2009, violence engulfed her village in the Democratic Republic of Congo and both her mother and father were captured. Unable to find her brothers and sister, Ange made the decision to run, fearing that she would also be captured. After hearing about a Congolese community in Nairobi, Kenya where she could find shelter in exchange for work, Ange began the harrowing journey to this foreign place. Vulnerable and alone, Ange suffered from sexual violence during her escape from the Congo and became pregnant. When Ange finally arrived in Nairobi, a member of one of Heshima Kenya’s Women Ambassadors Groups immediately referred her to Heshima Kenya. After meeting with our Case Management team for an initial assessment, Ange was brought to the Safe House for shelter and protection, given prenatal care and received trauma counseling. One month later, Ange gave birth to a happy and healthy daughter. Filled with hope for the future, she named her daughter Esperance, which means “hope and expectation.” With the support of the Heshima Kenya staff and the other residents of the Safe House, Ange began education courses at Heshima’s Girls’ Empowerment Project just two weeks after her 16th birthday. “I could not share my story, but now I can open my heart and tell you what I feel.”

She is Safe: Ange Finds Heshima
Ange was 15 years old when she was forced to flee from her country, community, home and family. In 2009, violence engulfed her village in the Democratic Republic of Congo and both her mother and father were captured. Unable to find her brothers and sister, Ange made the decision to run, fearing that she would also be captured. After hearing about a Congolese community in Nairobi, Kenya where she could find shelter in exchange for work, Ange began the harrowing journey to this foreign place. Vulnerable and alone, Ange suffered from sexual violence during her escape from the Congo and became pregnant. When Ange finally arrived in Nairobi, a member of one of Heshima Kenya’s Women Ambassadors Groups immediately referred her to Heshima Kenya. After meeting with our Case Management team for an initial assessment, Ange was brought to the Safe House for shelter and protection, given prenatal care and received trauma counseling. One month later, Ange gave birth to a happy and healthy daughter. Filled with hope for the future, she named her daughter Esperance, which means “hope and expectation.” With the support of the Heshima Kenya staff and the other residents of the Safe House, Ange began education courses at Heshima’s Girls’ Empowerment Project just two weeks after her 16th birthday. “I could not share my story, but now I can open my heart and tell you what I feel.”

She is Growing: Ange Finds Education
With the support of the Heshima Kenya staff and the other residents of the Safe House, Ange began education courses at Heshima’s Girls’ Empowerment Project just two weeks after her 16th birthday.

She is Empowered: Ange Finds Her Voice
With the support of the Heshima Kenya staff and the other residents of the Safe House, Ange began education courses at Heshima’s Girls’ Empowerment Project just two weeks after her 16th birthday.
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WHO WE SERVE
Heshima Kenya has provided a lifeline of hope to over 1,679 young refugee women, girls and their children since our inception in 2008.

INCOMING HESHIMA GIRLS
70% were illiterate and received little to no formal education prior to joining Heshima Kenya.
60% traveled by truck to reach Nairobi, a means of travel that increases the likelihood of sexual assault by four times.
60% of beneficiaries reported incidents of sexual and gender-based violence; the percentage is believed to be closer to 80% as survivors are hesitant to disclose out of fear of incrimination.
33% of the young women in our programs have one child, sometimes two, often as a result of forced pregnancy or limited reproductive health alternatives.
33% of beneficiaries have experienced Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

HOW THEY ARE REFERRED TO US
29% UNHCR and Heshima Kenya’s Child Protection Teams
29% Heshima Kenya’s Community Outreach Initiatives
22% Community Partners such as Médecins Sans Frontières, International Organization for Migration, HIAS and various Embassies
20% Word of mouth referrals and referrals from other Heshima Kenya Girls

WHERE THEY ARE COMING FROM

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WEBSITE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT BY

HeshimaKenya.org

50%

14%

27%

3%

2%

2%

1%
After nearly 25 years of protracted refugee crisis in Kenya, Heshima Kenya is proud to have redefined how models of protection best work for refugee girls and young women. Our award-winning holistic model provides opportunities for refugee girls to access their human rights, experience economic success and skill development and become leaders in their own communities.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The Maisha Collective is our social enterprise and a peer-driven initiative that systems leadership and business management skills through the design and production of unique hand-made scarves and textiles. In managing and working in the collective, members gain life skills and marketing skills that develop their confidence and prepare them for future independence.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Heshima Kenya’s outreach program enables refugees in Nairobi to access vital protection and services. Our Community Outreach staff facilitates trainings for refugees on human rights and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence prevention, develops partnerships with organizations to spread awareness of our programs to increase referrals and Gender-Based Violence prevention. We partner with other organizations to spread awareness of our programs to increase referrals

ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

Heshima Kenya’s Advocacy portfolio is driven by the need to improve refugee documentation, birth certificates and resettlement. Beyond legal aid, we participate in policy analysis and advocacy to influence dialogue and solutions for urban refugees, advocates for the protection of unaccompanied refugee children and youth, and publish research on current trends and best practices within the refugee advocacy sector.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Our Case Management services provide intake needs assessments, counseling and emotional support, medical assistance, legal aid and support, community integration and resettlement.

CHILD PROTECTION

In 2015, Heshima Kenya became the Implementing Partner for Child Protection with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our mandate was to provide protection for the largely invisible population of 18,000 unaccompanied minors residing in Kenya. In 2015, we provided direct services to 1,400 refugee children and indirect services to 8,500.

THE SAFE HOUSE

The only shelter of its kind in Kenya, our Safe House provides a healing space for the most vulnerable refugees from Kenya and East Africa. Our shelter provides protection, counseling, coaching for new mothers and a community of support. We are a registered CIC (Community-Initiated Charitable Institution) under the Kenya Children’s Department.

EDUCATION

The Girls’ Empowerment Project (GEP) is our education program that allows participants to access education and leadership opportunities, learn about their human rights and sexual reproductive health as well as cultivate leadership skills. Most participants come to Heshima unable to read and write.

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Four months after Ange arrived at Heshima Kenya, she was thriving in her classes at the Girls’ Empowerment Project. Ange had never attended school and was now learning how to read and write in English and Swahili, along with basic math. After months of study, Ange passed her literacy proficiency test. Her next step was to enroll in Heshima Kenya’s tailoring training course, where she learned how to stitch and sew beautiful dresses. As Ange began to adjust to her new life, she began to excel. Each morning she would arrive to the Girls’ Empowerment Project from the Safe House in a bus filled with other girls and their children. After dropping off baby Esperance at Heshima’s Early Education Center, Ange would rush off to attend her first class. After an intense morning of studies, Ange would make her way to the daycare to feed Esperance. Soon after lunch, Ange would begin her tailoring class. Finally, at the end of a long day of learning, Ange would return to the Safe House to eat dinner and relax. Less than a year after joining Heshima Kenya, Ange graduated from the tailoring course and enrolled in the Maisha Collective, where she learned how to hand dye scarves and began to earn an income. Here, she made plans to move out of the Safe House into the community with two of her friends in the Collective, Beatrice and Aline.

“This Heshima is a place where I feel free.”

Heshima n. (Swahili) respect, honor, and dignity

OUR MISSION
Heshima Kenya specializes in identifying and protecting orphaned, unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children, living in Nairobi, Kenya.

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Heshima is a place where I feel free.
OUR IMPACT IN 2015

"I have the confidence to use my voice so that other women are heard.”

– Asha, Age 20, Somalia

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<th>INDIVIDUALS AND CHILDREN IN OUR EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM</th>
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<td>2015: 31</td>
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<th>GIRLS ENROLLED IN OUR GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT PROJECT</th>
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<td>2015: 238</td>
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<th>70 HESHIMA BENEFICIARIES RESETTED TO NEW HOST COUNTRIES</th>
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<td>2015: 70</td>
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| 2014: 151 | 2015: 106 | 42% |

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<th>25 YOUNG WOMEN GRADUATED FROM OUR 7-MONTH TAILORING CLASS AND ARE NOW MEMBERS OF THE MAISHA COLLECTIVE</th>
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<td>2014: 7</td>
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<th>ARTISANS IN THE COLLECTIVE</th>
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<td>2014: 1,250</td>
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<th>70 HESHIMA BENEFICIARIES RESETTED TO NEW HOST COUNTRIES</th>
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<td>2014: 67</td>
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| 67 OUT OF THE 72 YOUNG WOMEN WHO TOOK A LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAM PESSED |

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<th>4,107 INDIVIDUALS WERE REACHED THROUGH SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS</th>
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<td>2014: 3,107</td>
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<th>94% INCREASE</th>
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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT
UNHCR Child Protection

HESHIMA KENYA EXPANDS PROGRAMS AND NATIONAL REACH
In 2015, Heshima Kenya was named Child Protection Implementing Partner to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our UNHCR partnership provides protection for approximately 18,000 unaccompanied refugee children. Heshima Kenya provided direct services to over 1,400 unaccompanied refugee children and indirect services to over 8,500 in 2015. In addition to our core programs at the Girls’ Empowerment Project campus, we opened three satellite offices in Eastleigh, Kayole and Kitengela, and conducted missions to Meru, Mombasa and Nakuru.

Heshima Kenya’s service to the refugee community under UNHCR includes:

ENSURING PROTECTION
Heshima Kenya staff support refugee children in the formal process of assessing the child’s best interests and ensuring necessary documentation to aid in identification and resettlement processes. This includes conducting Best Interest Determinations (BIDs), Best Interest Assessments (BIAs), family tracing, home visits and birth registration and certification.

PROVIDING CARE
Heshima Kenya facilitates foster care arrangements and provides for children’s basic needs by providing food baskets, clothing, financial support and material goods. These programs ensure that refugee children are not only physically safe, but also emotionally supported. Our partnership with the Centre for Victims of Torture provides trauma counseling for the most vulnerable.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY
We are dedicated to establishing community-based support systems for refugee children throughout Kenya. This is achieved by creating community support and advocacy committees, as well as facilitating community outreach workshops and cultural sensitivity trainings with local government officials, tribal leaders and magistrates.

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She is empowered: Ange finds her voice

Now, Ange is flourishing. Little Esperance is almost two years old and her favorite pastime is playing on the swings on Heshima’s playground. Last year after completing the tailoring course, Ange was invited to join the Maisha Collective, where she contributes to the design and production of unique, hand-dyed scarves and textiles. Ange is now financially independent because of the monthly stipend she earns as a member of the Maisha Collective. She is able to pay rent and care for her daughter in the apartment she shares with her friends, Heshima girls Beatrice and Aline.

In November 2015, Ange sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam. She is planning to attend secondary school next fall and is training to launch her own business as a hairstylist to provide a bright future for herself and Esperance. Ange is now an empowered woman, entrepreneur, mother and leader within her community.

“Heshima is my family. I grew here. My daughter grew up here.”

HeshimaKenya.org

“Heshima is my family. I grew here. My daughter grew up here.”
Heshima n. (Swahili)
respect, honor, and dignity

OUR MISSION
Heshima Kenya specializes in identifying and protecting orphaned, unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children living in Nairobi, Kenya.

OUR VISION
The children and youth Heshima Kenya serves today become tomorrow’s advocates, creating social change both individually and collectively.

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Heshima Kenya’s integrated model provides holistic support, empowering refugee girls and young women to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and leaders in their own right.

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HeshimaKenya.org
Out of 600 idea submissions, Heshima Kenya was among 5 finalists to win the OpenIDEO & Amplify Refugee Challenge, a crowd-sourced competition that provided 50 refugee women with micro-loans to launch their own businesses.
Heshima

respect, honor, and dignity

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Each year, the Heshima Kenya Fashion Challenge Gala celebrates the Maisha Collective and the young women of Heshima Kenya. Our 2015 Gala raised over $50,000 to support the Girls’ Empowerment Project. Thank you, Chicago supporters!
Heshima, (Swahili)
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33 of the young women in our Girls’ Empowerment Project sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education exam, a 70% increase in participation from 2014.
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Through our partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), we participated in events celebrating World Refugee Day, the Day of the African Child and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.
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In 2015, our staff doubled in size in both Kenya and US offices.
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Our Girls’ Empowerment Project introduced three new flourishing extracurricular clubs, including a journalism club, language club and book club.
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Heshima Kenya girls participated in a multimedia visual storytelling workshop for urban refugee youth sponsored by the UNHCR.
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HeshimaKenya.org

The Maisha Collective embarked on many new collaborations and partnerships, including our largest custom order to date of 1400 meters of fabric for Piece & Co.
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Catherine Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues, presents Heshima Kenya’s Executive Director, Alisa Roadcup, with an Artisan Enterprise Multimedia Competition Finalist Award at the US Department of State in Washington, D.C.
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Since 2010, the Maisha Collective has supported over 100 refugee artisans in building leadership and business management skills through the design and production of unique hand-dyed fabrics.

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Chicago designer Lagi Nadeau traveled to Nairobi in April to collaborate with the Maisha Collective on a one-of-a-kind jewelry line, Lagi Nadeau for Heshima Kenya.
Heshima (Swahili) respect, honor, and dignity

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Heshima Kenya girls attended the East African Girls’ Leadership Summit (EAGLS), hosted by our partner, Akili Dada.
MAKE YOUR IMPACT TODAY!

A gift at this level will support education and fully resource 5 classrooms completely outfitted with A/V and technology, desks and educational supplies.

$10,000

A gift at this level will offer safe shelter for 30 girls and their babies. This gift will fully furnish 5 bedrooms at the Heshima Safe House.

$5,000

A gift at this level will provide a lifetime of impact by enrolling one girl for one year into Heshima’s Girls’ Empowerment Project. She will attend classes, vocational training, receive counseling, medical aid, legal aid, psychosocial support and much more.

$2,500

A gift at this level will provide holistic Safe Shelter services for two residents for one month, including rent, residential care costs, caregiver salary support, security and food.

$1,000

A gift at this level will support 5 Heshima girls suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) with therapy sessions for one month.

$500

A gift at this level covers the cost of three wholesome meals a day for one girl in the Safe House for one month.

$250

A gift at this level provides full-time daycare services for 15 infants for one week, ensuring their mothers can attend class and vocational training.

$100

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HeshimaKenya.org

MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY!

BUY A SCARF

Each scarf is hand-dyed by a Maisha Collective artisan.

SIGN UP FOR OUR MAILING LIST
AND FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

SHARE OUR STORY

HOST AN EVENT

$10,000

$5,000

$2,500

$1,000

$500

$250

$100

$10,000

$5,000

$2,500

$1,000

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Our Supporters

Heshima Kenya is grateful to the individual donors and foundations who supported our programs in 2015, including those who purchased scarves, attended our events, hosted scarf parties and donated in-kind materials, services and their generous time throughout the year.

We couldn’t serve the most vulnerable without you.

Our Supporters

Kenya
Canadian High Commission to Denver Tech for All
AJG Foundation
Dining for Women
Hogsalt Hospitality
Imago Dei Foundation
Manaaki Foundation
Zakat Foundation of America
One Day’s Wages
Amplify: UK Aid
Pathy Family Foundation
Commissioner for Refugees United Nations High Refugees, Migration

Attended our events, hosted scarf parties and donated in-kind materials, services and their generous time throughout the year.

We also thank the ambassadors who brought together their networks to raise awareness about Heshima Kenya.

USA Retailers

Ten Thousand Villages, Gen. Dlyn
Ten thousand Villages, Champaign
Ten Thousand Villages, Evanston
Alapash Textiles, Chicago
Illinois Holocaust Museum Retail
Skiball Cultural Center, CA
Ash & Rose, MA
Baja California Courant

Designs by the Deaf, WI
Greektown Kids, MI
Haiden Nation

To The Market

MAMET
Jewel & Lotus
Lydli

Kenya Retailers

Sakina Village, National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi
Spinnakers Web
International School of Kenya
Banana Box

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Ariska Para Consulting
Bluefin Productions
Coronado Brewing Company
Eco Boco
Fahrenheit674°
EcoTools
Fahrenheit674°
Peatix Inc.
Karen Hood Photography
Jordan’s Food of Distinction
Hogsalt Hospitality
Technotrix
Stylisted
Room 1520
Peatix Inc.

Individual Supporters


Canadian Association of Kenya
Chicago North Shore Alumnae Kappa Alpha Theta
Christopher Family Foundation
Circle of Sisterhood
First United Church of Providence
Global Pathways to Literacy
IDP Foundation Inc.
Jordan’s Food of Distinction
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Baja California Courant

International School of Kenya

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#GivingTuesday

Sasa Designs by the Deaf, WI

Greektown Kids, MI

Haiden Nation

To The Market

MAMET

Jewel & Lotus

Lydli

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Who We Serve

Heshima Kenya’s Holistic Model

Growing Hope, Finding Freedom

Program Spotlight: UNHCR Child Protection

Baja California Courant

International School of Kenya

Banana Box

Our Mission

Heshima Kenya specializes in identifying and protecting orphaned, unaccompanied and separated refugee children and youth, especially girls, young women and their children living in Nairobi, Kenya.

Our Vision

The children and youth Heshima Kenya serves today become tomorrow’s advocates, creating social change, both individually and collectively.

Our Approach

Heshima Kenya’s integrated model provides holistic support, empowering refugee girls and young women to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and leaders in their own right.
Our work would not be possible without the hard work and support of our incredible network of interns.

**INTERNS**
Akhin Abiyou
Alka Gardner
Ariana Shickley
Beaullarrie Thomas
Ceddy Hopkins
Caroline Wairimu
Charles Kayye
Chloe Eastburn
Christen Wamukoya
Christina Wei
Clifford Mucoki Njoroge
Dorothy Malu
Emily Levi-D’Ancona
Emily Snyder
Emily Waterston
Ghali Grace Ochola
Godehi Kimma Nguku
Gore Njiri Kagwima
Gracyan Keliehor
Joseph Kiarie
Mary Wangui Agnes
Mercy Lome
Michell Small
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HeshimaKenya.org

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**GIRLS’ EMPOWERMENT PROJECT** 53%

**SAFE HOUSE** 25%

**CASE MANAGEMENT** 7%

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** 16%

**PROGRAMS** 76%

**FUNDRAISING AND ADMIN** 24%

respect, honor, and dignity

Heshima n. (Swahili)

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