



## Matete Community Development Area



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# Transforming the lives of children and families in Kenya

**Droughts and poverty are making it increasingly difficult for families in Kenya to survive. Approximately 75 percent of the labor force is engaged in agriculture, but harvests are often poor. Health concerns caused by malnutrition and contaminated water are compounded by the HIV and AIDS pandemic. Often times poverty and cultural practices force children to leave school early. World Vision has come alongside the people of the Matete area to help address these problems with a sustainable focus.**

World Vision initiated a partnership with the 59,000 residents of the Matete community in October 2007, beginning with a thorough assessment and project design phase. People from the region identified their greatest challenges to be food security, education, HIV and AIDS response, and health and sanitation. A description of the greatest needs in the community follows.

### Food security

The main source of food and income for people in Matete comes from growing sugar cane, corn, and sweet potatoes. Due in large part to farming methods that erode soil, crop yields are frequently too low to feed hungry families. Even when farmers have surplus harvests, they face serious challenges accessing markets where they can sell their produce.

### Education

Schools in Matete are in disrepair. Educational achievement is low, but worse for girls—approximately 60 percent of females drop out before they reach secondary school. Many of them are forced to marry at a very young age, leading to early pregnancies and often ending their educational progression.

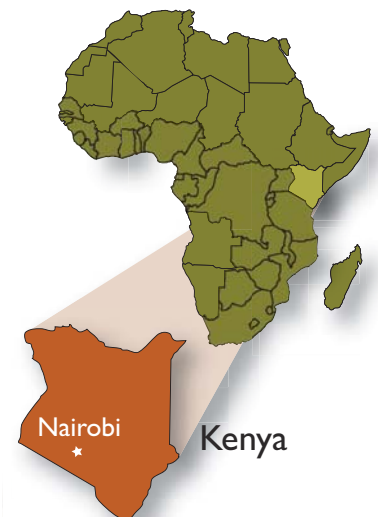
### HIV and AIDS

In Kenya, the prevalence of HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS, is 6 percent. Some traditional cultural practices in the region have greatly accelerated HIV infection—e.g., polygamy, wife inheritance, and early marriage. Because of the AIDS epidemic, many orphans and vulnerable children have been left without parents to care for them.

*Food shortages in the past meant Jane and her family in Lodwar, Kenya, struggled to merely survive. “We ate once a day in the evening,” explains Jane’s husband. “Our problems ended when World Vision came and introduced us to modern farming techniques.” Now, the sale of produce from their farm provides three meals a day for the family and even helps put their children through school. Child sponsorship in Matete will help fund food security interventions that will provide relief to hungry children and families.*

### Top causes of poverty identified by Matete community members:

- Low school performance and completion
- Low farm yield
- High prevalence of HIV and AIDS
- Inadequate health facilities
- Poor sanitation
- Inaccessibility of potable water
- Poor infrastructure
- Gender inequality
- Lack of credit facilities
- Harmful cultural practices





*Thanks to sponsorship funds in Tseikuru, Kenya, World Vision is helping communities to strengthen schools, like the one pictured above. Through child sponsorship in the Matete region, we plan to help increase school enrollment, retention, and performance and to strengthen the learning environment for all schoolchildren.*

## How you can help

World Vision typically works in a community development area from 12 to 18 years, or until we can withdraw support without jeopardizing continued development. During this time, World Vision partners with community members and collaborates with local governing bodies, churches, and faith-based organizations to ensure effective development and long-term sustainability.

Activities in Matete are supported by child sponsorship and funds raised for special projects. Sponsorship helps provide the essentials a child needs to live a healthy life. World Vision pools these funds to help the entire community find lasting solutions to poverty.

Please consider joining this collaborative effort to bring change and hope to the community of Matete.

**May God bless you.**

## Health and sanitation

Extreme poverty in Matete has taken a toll on the health of children and families. Approximately half of all children under 5 are malnourished. Around 70 percent of the population must drink from unprotected water sources that may be contaminated with disease. Furthermore, there are not enough health facilities to care for children who become sick, and the ones that do exist lack supplies and personnel.

## Community goals

World Vision completed the design of projects in Matete during 2010. In addition, we enrolled 2,150 children from the poorest families in the sponsorship program. World Vision plans to continue working in the community through 2021, initially focusing on the following goals.

## Food security

- Increase crop and livestock production among farmers
- Improve market access for both livestock and crops by developing market linkages and building market networks
- Provide administrative and logistical support to farmers

## Education

- Strengthen the learning environment for children attending school
- Increase school enrollment, retention, and performance
- Provide administrative and logistical support to schools

## HIV and AIDS

- Improve and expand care for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), people living with HIV and AIDS, and their families
- Strengthen the community, churches, and local institutions to respond to the needs of OVC
- Reduce the impact of HIV and AIDS in the Matete community

## Health and sanitation

- Support access to essential child and maternal healthcare
- Decrease the rates of malaria, acute respiratory infection, diarrhea, and preventable disease for children below age 5 and their mothers
- Reduce the rate of malnutrition among children and their mothers

Families in Matete will also benefit from the Kenya Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program. The objective is to reduce disease and lower mortality rates through improved sanitation and clean water. World Vision will provide schools and homes with latrines. We will drill wells, build rainwater harvesting systems, install water treatment systems, and organize committees to manage these facilities.