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Editor's Note
Happy New Year from Turning Point! We hope that you all had a wonderful festive season. A special thank you to all who shared Turning Point Gifts with friends and family at Christmas. We have big plans for the new year to grow our impact and return 50 children to school, learn more about why and how in this edition of Viewpoint. Ed.

Growing Our Impact

By Brenda Kaloki

Imagine watching your peers go to school every morning and listening to them sharing stories of their day in the evening yet you have not been in school. You spent your day fetching water for people because your guardian can't afford to take you to school. It's not an easy picture to paint yet this was the life of Leo for two years before he joined the Transition Programme.

Leo is a quiet 15-year-old boy who stands a head taller than all his classmates and loves football. He lives in a single room with his auntie and five other children in Kibera. It's been a good year for Leo because he finally joins his peers every morning and comes to school. Though he had to go back three grades due to being out of school for so long, he is learning and catching up.

As a new school year begins, we are excited to see kids graduate out of the Transition Programme and join formal primary school. At the same time we are welcoming new children into the Transition programme as they start their journey back to school.

"In 2020 we plan to grow our impact by increasing our admission to 50 students per year"

Since its inception, the Transition Programme has prepared more than 400 out-of-school children to return to primary school. With your help, in 2020 we plan to grow our impact by increasing our admission to 50 students per year.

To be part of achieving that goal, visit www.tptrust.org/donate
Opening Doors to Quality Education

There are more children out of school in Kibera than in the rest of Nairobi. Why is this happening? Let's hear a few stories to understand why.

There are so many people living in the slums that the nearby public schools are packed with kids. Brian shared a classroom with 50 other students, all vying for one teacher's attention. This did not suit Brian at all. Brian is super high energy and gets bored easily. He often missed school, fell behind his peers and eventually dropped out of school. Brian’s worried mother brought him to Turning Point. At Turning Point, there were just 20 students in the class. His engaging teacher helped him enjoy the lessons and he soon caught up. He finished primary school at the end of 2019. This is no small achievement as only 76% of children in Nairobi’s slums complete primary school.

Peter had a different experience. He went to a private school in Kibera which offers a cheap alternative to the packed public schools. However, the teachers aren't trained and there are not enough textbooks. Peter ended up dropping out. When Peter joined our Programme, he was 3 years behind his peers academically. His mother had worked hard to send him to school, not knowing that he was not learning. Peter worked extra hard to get ready for school and this year he will join the Fountains of Hope Primary School.

Zena’s family, like many others in Kibera, was unable to pay school fees. Zena was at risk of abuse in her rural home, so they came to Nairobi to escape. In the city, Zena’s mother struggled to pay rent and buy water and food. They didn’t have enough left over to pay school fees, so Zena stayed at home alone while her mother looked for work. Turning Point enabled Zena to go back to school. Zena’s education will help her to have a brighter future.

Brian, Peter and Zena did not have the opportunity to learn in a great school. With your help, Turning Point is opening doors for more children in Kibera, like Brian, Peter and Zena, to access quality education.

#GivingTuesday

Giving Tuesday is a global movement celebrating generosity. We joined the celebrations in December by organising a joint event with six other organisations from Kibera. We gathered over 40 stories from the community of ways people help and uplift each other. Najat shared her story of a friend who introduced her to a women’s self-help group. They lent her a large sum to open her food stall, and now she provides for her own family and employs other mothers in her business. It was great to collaborate with other organisations and volunteers to highlight the power communities have to create positive change.

The Turning Point Trust is a Christian charity that exists to serve vulnerable children and families living in Kibera (a slum area in Nairobi, Kenya) by creating opportunities for them to develop to their full God-given potential. If you would like more information about our work, or you are interested in supporting us, please use the contact details overleaf.