

# NEWSLETTER

April 2022



## VEGA EDUCATION FUND



[www.vegaeducation.org](http://www.vegaeducation.org)



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## OUR VISION

A quality educational system that is fully accessible to all, regardless of income level or location.

## OUR MISSION

To provide opportunities for quality secondary education to academically promising, disadvantaged students in developing countries, beginning with Tanzania.

## PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:

### Dr. Joyce Wamoyi, board member, Panda Elimu Bora

We are very fortunate to be able to partner with a few key individuals in Tanzania who are passionate about applying their skillssets and experience to this work. Dr. Joyce Wamoyi, an active member on the board of one of our partners, Panda Elimu Bora, is a Social and Behavioural Researcher at the National Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania. For over 20 years, Dr. Wamoyi has worked primarily in the area of adolescent sexual and reproductive health behaviour,

and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. In her work she has explored the dynamics of transactional sex in adolescents and young women's sexual relationships in sub-Saharan Africa.

It would come as no surprise that Dr. Wamoyi applies this lens to her work with our students, ensuring measures are in place so that female students are protected and have everything they need to succeed. She has a desire to see children

thrive, and enjoys the opportunity to be a mentor and provide financially for children in need. Joyce also sits on the board of trustees for the Village of Hope (VOH) in Mwanza, Tanzania, a home for orphaned and vulnerable children. We are thankful for Joyce's passion and dedication to the children of Tanzania, and are grateful to be able to partner with her in this way.

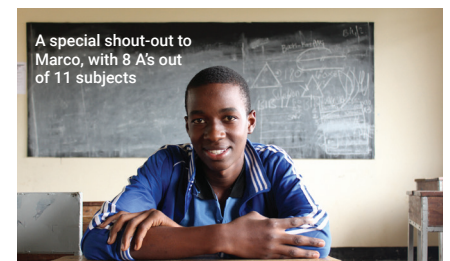


## VEGA STUDENTS COME OUT STRONG IN NATIONAL EXAMS

Form 2 (Grade 10) National Exam results are in for Vega Education Fund's first cohort of students and they nailed it! These exams are run by the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA), a government institution that aims to assess the quality of education across the country. Average NECTA scores by school are available to the public, and in fact, these are a key factor in how Vega Education determines secondary schools with which to partner. The score is based on a points system whereby a student's top seven subjects are scored: 1 point for A's, 2 points for B's, 3 points for C's etc. A little counterintuitively, a lower overall score is better. Total scores are then categorized by divisions: Division 1 (7-17 points), Division 2 (18-21 points) etc. We

typically partner with schools whose students consistently rank Division 1 or 2.

Back to our students. Of the 14 students in Form 2 last year, ten of them scored Division 1 and four scored Division 2! We are so proud of our students, and thankful to their teachers and our partner schools for maintaining high educational standards. Go Vega students – keep it up!



“The people who are crazy enough to believe they can change the world are the ones who do.  
~Steve Jobs”

Lake Victoria, Mwanza



“Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom.  
~Oprah Winfrey”

## MEET ONE OF OUR NEW STUDENTS

### Jackson



Jackson was born in a small village called Kusenyi, located at the shores of Lake Victoria. His two older brothers have left home while his sister, who is disabled, still lives with his parents. His parents are older, however, and have very little means to support the family. From a very young age, Jackson would wander along the lakeshore, picking up small fish that the fishermen had discarded, to bring home for food for the family. Jackson's primary school attendance was low - he missed a lot of school because of the family's need to have him search for food.

One of his teachers decided to take him in to live with her so that he could concentrate on his studies. Unfortunately, when Jackson was in grade 6 this

teacher got transferred to a school in a different district, which meant that Jackson had to go back home to live with his parents during his last years of primary school. Once again his attendance suffered: his grade 8 attendance record shows that his attendance rate was only 50%, due to his responsibility of helping at home.

For the Grade 8 national final exam, the principal had to send someone to go and bring Jackson to school to write the exam. Jackson ended up doing very well academically, notwithstanding all the difficulties he had in attending school. This encouraged his teachers and village elders to seek additional help for this intelligent boy. They decided to approach Panda Elimu Bora, Vega Education's Mwanza-based partner, for support.

Jackson is now attending Form One (grade 9) at Yusta Secondary School through a Vega Education Fund sponsorship. Now that he is in boarding school with all his needs taken care of, he is happy to be able to focus on his studies. He plans to work hard in school so he can pursue a career which will enable him to support his disabled sister and his aging parents.

## YEAR TWO STUDENTS REFLECT ON THEIR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL

### Maria:



#### 1. What are your thoughts on your first year?

I started my first year in poor health. With an added challenge of having little grasp of the English language, I struggled with my studies at the beginning. I was able to persevere with the help of my teachers' support in extra tutorials and reviewing my work daily. At the end result I was able to raise my test scores and finally report by getting Division 2 (B average).

#### 2. Do you have a message for Vega Education Fund sponsors?

There are many things that I am thankful for this year. I thank my sponsor for providing me with Health Insurance. As a result, I went through a successful abdominal surgery this past December. Also, I am thankful for providing me with all school supplies. My parents are also very grateful for all that you have done. You will forever be in my prayers.

### Lucas:



#### 1. What are your thoughts on your first year?

I am very pleased of my first year of secondary school because I have achieved good results. Firstly, I was able to do well in most of my courses. Secondly, we had a number of visits from Panda Elimu monitoring our progress in school. Lastly, we were given a lot of support in school to be successful in our studies. Commerce and English subjects were a little challenging due to frequent teacher changes during the year. However, I am determined to do a lot better in the coming school year.

#### 2. Do you have a message for Vega Education Fund sponsors?

I would to thank my sponsor for providing me with a good education. I would also ask if you find in your heart to help other students who are in the dire economic state like mine. I thank you so much because you have changed my life for the better. Thank you for funding my school fees, and all other school required items for my schooling. I pray for God to bless you tremendously in all that you do.