

IGNITING AFRICA'S FUTURE, ONE SCHOLARSHIP AT A TIME

15 years of transforming lives with Wings To Fly

DR. JAMES MWANGI, CBS
EQUITY GROUP FOUNDATION
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

This week marked an extraordinary moment for Equity Group Foundation (EGF) as we celebrated the commissioning of 1,000 *Wings to Fly* scholars into the 15th cohort, a milestone resonating with dreams and the assurance of a brighter tomorrow. Initiated over 15 years ago with the goal of providing 500 scholarships, the program has remarkably expanded to oversee 60,009 scholarships under EGF.

With an outstanding track record, the program boasts a 97% secondary school completion rate since its inception, with 82% of graduating students achieving university entry grades, a testament to its unwavering commitment to academic excellence.

The *Wings to Fly* scholarship is not just an endpoint; it's a gateway. Scholars completing four years of secondary education can seamlessly transition into the Equity Leaders Program (ELP), empowering them with access to local and global universities while nurturing leadership skills.

Since its inception, ELP has facilitated university entry for 18,735 scholars, with 8,337 benefiting from paid internships at Equity Bank. Notably, 891 ELP scholars secured fully-funded scholarships at 209 global universities across 56 countries, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and Cornell.



Dr. James Mwangi addresses scholars at a past annual Education and Leadership Conference

“Going beyond academics, we instill the right values, cultivate resilience, and inspire confidence to confront life's challenges.”

Furthermore, ELP scholars pursuing medicine have been supported by EGF to establish Equity Afia medical centers, thus expanding access to affordable, quality healthcare. To date, 102 facilities have been successfully launched nationwide, and Equity Afia is expanding the franchise in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

To further promote enterprise and provide solutions to various socio-economic challenges facing the continent, EGF has also created a network for ELP alumni in the enterprise and innovations space and has been supporting them to set-up and grow their businesses.

Education, for us is a passport to a future brimming with boundless opportunities. We are unwaveringly committed to ensuring financial

constraints do not hinder our scholars' pursuit of knowledge. Going beyond academics, we instill the right values, cultivate resilience, and inspire confidence to confront life's challenges. Our scholars are not just learners; they are leaders and change agents within their communities.

Our success is a testament to the support of incredible partners like Mastercard Foundation, The German Government through KfW, USAID, UKaid, DFID, Equity Bank Kenya, and numerous corporate and individual benefactors.

Here's to 15 years of dreams of transforming challenges into opportunities, and of empowering the leaders of tomorrow. With *Wings to Fly*, the sky is not the limit; it's just the beginning.



From peasant roots to food sector revolutionist

From the daughter of a peasant farmer to a *Wings to Fly* beneficiary, Monica Marika's journey is one of transformation and determination. After scoring an A (plain) at Karima Girls High School, she joined the Equity Leaders Program (ELP), further cementing her academic path.

Monica delved into Food Science at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and expanded her knowledge through a Master's project at Michigan State University, USA. Her research, focused on creating nutrient-dense food products for vulnerable populations in South Africa, Jamaica, and the USA,

demonstrates her ability to turn academic research into practical solutions.

Today, she stands at the forefront of bridging academia and practical application, having presented her findings to diverse audiences including the Institute of Food Technologists FIRST in Chicago and the South African Association for Food Science and Technology in Cape Town.

"The formative experiences and mentorship of the *Wings to Fly* program instilled in me a passion for leadership and change," says Monica.



Rising Above: From humble beginnings to a global finance and health trailblazer

Orphaned and from a humble background, John Ndolo found strength in his great grandmother and in education. Scoring 375 in KCPE and being among the top performers in Kagundo Constituency earned him a spot in the *Wings to Fly* scholarship. He would later also excel in KCSE exam at Kangundo Boys' High School, scoring an A (Plain).

In 2015, he joined the Equity Leaders Program and obtained a First-Class honors degree in Actuarial Science at JKUAT. He later pursued two Master's degrees abroad — one from the University of Toronto and another from the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

"The light from *Wings to Fly* illuminated the ups and downs of my journey, guiding me towards a bright future and transforming me from a humble background to an international icon. Today, I stand not just as a product of my past, but as a beacon of inspiration for children who share similar backgrounds, proving that with determination, education, and support, any obstacle can be overcome and destiny rewritten," he says.

Today, he is committed to leveraging his education to champion inclusion in Africa's financial and healthcare sectors and paying forward the support he received by making significant impact in his community.

SCHOLARS AT GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

BY CONTINENT

North America	591
Africa	155
Europe	73
Asia	35
Middle East	30
South America	6
Australia	1
Total	891

TOTAL SCHOLARS

Female	406
Male	485
Total	891

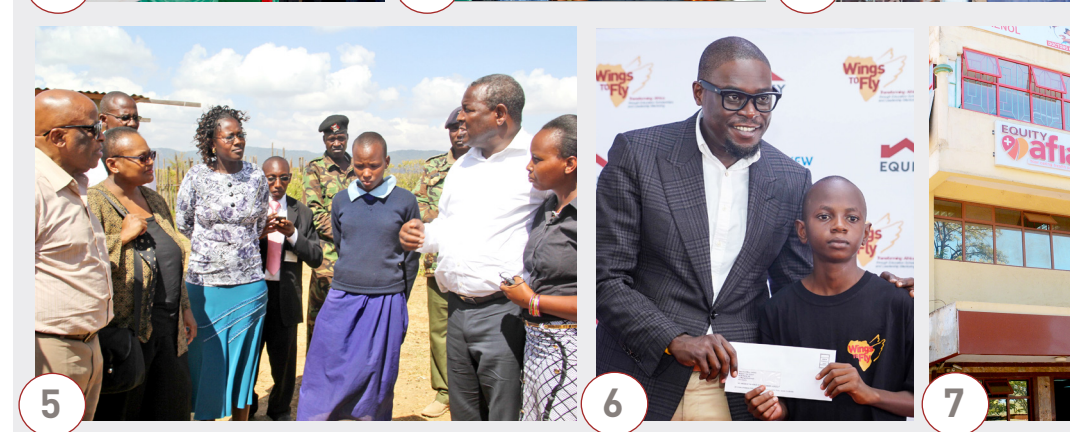
SCHOLARS AT IVY LEAGUE INSTITUTIONS

Harvard University	41
University of Pennsylvania	35
Yale University	28
Cornell University	25
Dartmouth College	19
Princeton University	19
Brown University	17
Columbia University	15
Total	199

Empowering Dreams: Rigorous Selection Process

The selection process for the *Wings to Fly* scholarships is both rigorous and transparent, involving community-based verification and monitoring. Members of the Community Scholarship Selection Boards (CSSBs) across the country diligently review applications, conduct face-to-face interviews, and make home visits. This thorough process ensures that scholarships are awarded to the most deserving scholars, thereby maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the program.

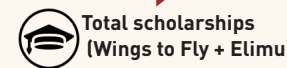
"The *Wings to Fly* program has a far-reaching impact that spans several areas. It primarily benefits children who are orphans, hail from single-parent families, or have parents grappling with chronic illnesses or various forms of disabilities. Most of these individuals lack the financial means to afford school fees, and this is where the scholarship plays a pivotal role. The scholarship lifts a significant burden, enabling the children to focus on their studies rather than being preoccupied with the financial challenges they face at home," says Rosemary Wambui, Kibera Deputy Director of Education (Kibera CSSB).



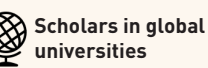
- Scholars attend the annual Education and Leadership Congress where they receive mentorship during the school holidays.
- His Excellency, the late Mwai Kibaki, 3rd President of the Republic of Kenya, accompanied by Equity Group Foundation Executive Chairman Dr. James Mwangi officially launches the *Wings to Fly* Program in January 2011.
- His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, 4th President of the Republic of Kenya issues scholarship letter to a beneficiary
- His Excellency President Dr. William Ruto, addresses scholars at a past congress
- Left: The Mastercard Foundation board members Former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae and Jendayi Frazer, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, accompanied by Equity Group Foundation Executive Chairman Dr. James Mwangi (2nd right) visit a scholar in Samburu.
- Governor of Nairobi County, H.E. Hon. Johnson Sakaja (left) hands over an award letter to Brian Mbuvi (right), one of the beneficiaries of the 2024 *Wings to Fly* scholarships from Kitui County, during the commissioning event at Pangani Girls High School.
- Equity Afia clinics are established and managed by doctors who are alumni of ELP. So far, we have 102 Equity Afia clinics across the country with an ambition of having 300 clinics by 2025 and 1,000 clinics by 2030.

Established in 2010 to support secondary education for top performing children from financially challenged backgrounds, the *Wings to Fly* programme offers comprehensive scholarships through provision of tuition fees, accommodation, books, uniform, shopping, pocket money and transport during their 4 years of secondary education.

60,009
Total scholarships (Wings to Fly + Elimu)



891
Scholars in global universities



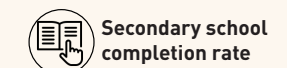
2,200+
Partner Schools to date



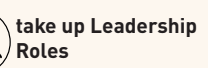
53%
Girls



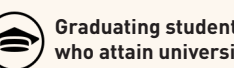
97%
Secondary school completion rate



86%
take up Leadership Roles



82%
Graduating students who attain university entry grades



47%
Boys



Reeta Roy, President and CEO of The Mastercard Foundation

"All young people deserve an opportunity to learn and prosper and this partnership is transforming the lives of thousands of young people and those of future generations."



Karen Freeman, Former USAID Kenya Mission Director

"One of our goals is to make *Wings to Fly* scholars pioneers of transformation in society. Dr. Mwangi has worked to promote the inspiration of youths so as to develop them."



Mr. Oskar von Maltzan, KfW Development Bank Country Director

"We are happy that in Equity Group Foundation we have found a partner who puts these funds to well-use in promoting young people from financially challenged background to move ahead and have a future."



Hon. Ezekiel Machogu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education

"This initiative is proof that well-structured public-private partnerships can make significant contribution to Kenya's social and economic agenda."



Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States

"I thank Equity for believing in the possibility of nurturing needy scholars. A graduation rate of well over 90% is a feat some developed countries in terms of income can't begin to match."



Partners

