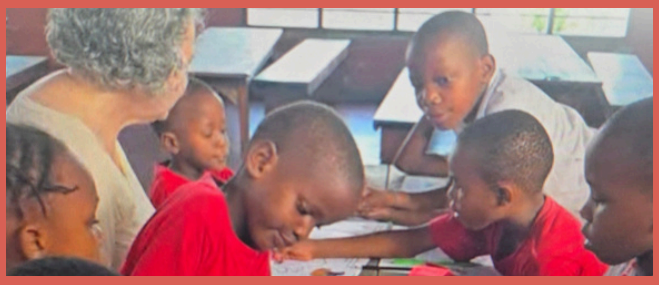
KUTANA WEMA

A Hope-Building Project

Vision

To build a global community of Kutana Wema alumni, rooted in core development principles, dedicated to supporting Wema Centre's vision of a society where the severely poor and every street-connected child has access to essential health services, is rehabilitated, nurtured, and connected to a family.



Mission

To foster meaningful cross-cultural educational engagement that illuminates the work of the Wema Centre, cultivating conscious global citizenship, deconstructing colonization impacts, strengthening understanding of current political impacts on economic and social structures influencing Kenyans, and empowering participants to sustain and amplify Wema's mission from their own contexts.

How This Aligns with Wema Centre's Ethos

Wema Centre's own **Vision**: "A society free of street connected and vulnerable children" - and **Mission**: "To advocate for, rehabilitate and integrate street-connected and vulnerable children through holistic care and support into stable families and communities" - are mirrored in our design through emphasis on mutual care, transformation, access to education, healthcare, and sustainability.

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Wema has brought a focus to changing lives for girls and young women since their inception, and has subsequently expanded to also supporting younger boys in the Centre and young men within the community. Wema is now on the cusp of a new initiative, to expand to health care delivery for those severely poor, living on the street and on a dumpsite without access to adequate care.

Kutana Wema builds on Wema's established strengths—rehabilitation, education, psychosocial care, livelihood training, income-generating initiatives, and now health care delivery - by creating a globally connected platform that not only raises financial support for Wema's work but also deepens understanding, compassion, and ongoing collaboration.

Core Values

1. Sustainability
Embed long-term, self-perpetuating strategies in relationship-building, fundraising and economic development initiatives that support Wema Centre's impact goals.

Work in support of increasing ongoing access to education and employment skill development for Wema beneficiaries, towards positively impacting social determinants of health and increasing long-term opportunity.

2. Mutuality
Co-develop Kutana Wema program elements alongside Wema staff and stakeholders, ensuring shared ownership, respect, and culturally grounded collaboration.

3. Responsiveness through Needs Assessment
Design and implement every initiative based on a clear, evolving understanding of Wema Centre's articulated needs, ensuring relevance and effectiveness.

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Core Values

4. Knowledge-Share Framework
Foster two-way learning between Kutama Wema participants and Wema staff and beneficiaries, recognizing that wisdom flows in all directions, enriching all involved.

Foster long-term collegial relationships for mutual support and learning as trauma treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation providers.

5. Decolonizing Mindset
Encourage participants to engage in critical self-reflection around privilege, assumptions, and power dynamics, promoting ethical and equitable engagement.

6. Economic Development Orientation
Prioritize support for Wema-led economic initiatives that both directly benefit the Centre and stimulate the local Kenyan economy.

Program Objectives

1. Fundraising Target
Generate USD 10,000–15,000 annually to sustain Wema Centre's operating budget.

2. Educational Experience
Offer a transformative learning journey—through both in-person and virtual formats—where participants deeply understand Wema's work and explore ways to continue meaningful support upon return.
Offer ongoing Peer Trauma Consultations, co-hosted by Wema & Redbird Therapy, towards developing an international, collaborative network of trauma practitioners.
Offer ongoing Health Care Provider learning and contribution opportunities, both for registered nurses and those in training.

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Guiding Policies

1. Procurement of gift items must be done locally in Kenya, with the exception of essential educational devices (e.g. computers, phones) intended for Wema Centre use.

2. 100% of funds raised or donated through Kutana Wema are sent directly to the Wema Centre, ensuring transparency and trust.

3. Posting of photos on social media or other public forums will be vetted by Kutana Wema or Wema staff. Discussion with Kutana Wema participations will occur prior to on-site engagement regarding discernment of appropriate photo use, to ensure respectful representation of Wema Centre and their beneficiaries.

4. All Kutana Wema participants will engage in preparatory coaching, to increase awareness and understanding of being a "good guest" at Wema and in Kenya. This program component is mandatory for any on-site involvement at Wema Centre.

5. No Kutana Wema participant will be onsite with Wema beneficiaries without staff or Kutana Wema leadership oversight.

6. All participants will be informed of liability responsibilities with their participation, and consent to involvement in the program components.

7. All participants and Wema staff will have clear directives provided prior to the program regarding ongoing contact after the in-person program in Kenya. Our policy does not limit contact, but clearly informs all involved that individual requests or offers of financial support are not permitted. Kutana Wema's objective is to directly provide financial support to the Wema Centre as a whole, rather than focusing on individual beneficiary or staff advancement.

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Element	Statement
Vision	A global community of lifelong solidarity, bridging Wema Centre and global citizens in mutual transformation.
Mission	To inspire participants through immersive learning and mutual exchange to support and champion Wema's mission.
Values	Sustainability, Needs-Responsiveness, Knowledge Sharing, Mutuality, Decolonizing Mindset, Economic Development Support.
Objectives	Raise USD 10–15K annually; deliver impactful cross-cultural learning through both in-person and virtual engagement.
Policies	Procure items locally (exceptions for essential tech); ensure all donations reach Wema directly; attend to safety needs of Wema beneficiaries.

Support Resources

Frankenberg, R. (1993). White Women, Race Matters: The Social Construction of Whiteness (NED-New edition). University of Minnesota Press. http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/j.ctttsnhh

Mwenda Kithinji,M., Mwanzia Koster,M. & Rotich, JP. (2016) Kenya After 50: Reconfiguring Historical, Political and Policy Milestones, Palgrave Macmillan New York. https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137574633

Nutt S, (2011). Damned nations. Toronto, Ont: Signal.

Sultana, F. (2007). Reflexivity, Positionality and Participatory Ethics: Negotiating Fieldwork Dilemmas in International Research. ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies, 6(3), 374–385. https://doi.org/10.14288/acme.v6i3.786