



Wings to Fly



The Equity Group Foundation commissioned 2,000 new scholars into the Wings to Fly program in 2016

U.S. Presidential Initiatives:

- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief



Funding Level:

\$20 million

Duration:

November 2011 – December 2017

Activity Goals:

- Increase access to high school and higher education for talented, economically-disadvantaged young people
- Support an educated, self-reliant and productive youth population to help Kenya drive its own development agenda
- Encourage the private sector to take a leadership role in realizing Kenya's development goals

Geographic Focus:

Nationwide

Key Partners:

Ministry of Education Science & Technology, and:

- Equity Group Foundation
- Equity Bank
- MasterCard Foundation
- UKAID
- KfW

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Every year, thousands of academically gifted and motivated students in Kenya drop out of school because they cannot afford to continue their secondary education. Wings to Fly, an innovative public-private partnership founded by the Equity Foundation, reaches out to these top-performing but economically disadvantaged students and gives them an opportunity to pursue their academic dreams.

USAID has supported 4,090 Wings to Fly scholars over the last six year. Wings to Fly beneficiaries are provided full scholarships including tuition, room, and board. Participants also receive leadership training, career guidance, and personal mentoring to help them maximize their potential.

ACTIVITY AREAS

Wings to Fly supports students from every corner of Kenya through a highly competitive and transparent selection process. Only the top scorers on national examinations coming from the poorest households in Kenya are chosen for the program. The scholarship program allows thousands of these special young people to finish their secondary education, drive their own development agenda, and work towards a nation with educated, self-reliant, and productive citizens.

Scholars' progress is closely monitored throughout the program. For example, participants are matched with mentors to boost their self-esteem and give them the academic and social tools to rise above their circumstances.

A small group of Wings to Fly scholars transition to the Equity Foundation's Equity African Leaders Program (EALP). EALP allows scholars to pursue university education in Kenya as well as other international institutions.

Implementing Partner:
Equity Group Foundation

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ACTIVITY IMPACT



Wayne Gakuo Jotham speaking at a Wings to Fly event.

Wayne Gakuo Jotham, Wings to Fly scholar at the Aga Khan High School in Mombasa, was accepted into the Equity African Leaders Program scholarship program after completing his high school. He scored an A- (minus) in the national exams and was admitted to Ashesi University in

Ghana in September 2015. Wayne has been an active mentor for other Wings to Fly scholars. He has promised that he will complete his studies in computer science and come home to work on making internet access 'affordable to all'.

In 2015, President Uhuru Kenyatta and First Lady Margaret Kenyatta recognized Wayne and other EALP scholars for their accomplishments. Wayne is among 65 Equity Africa Leaders Program scholars who have been admitted to world-class universities.



President Kenyatta and First Lady Margaret Kenyatta with Wayne Gakuo Jotham and other Equity Africa Leaders Program scholar.