



## Voices on the Ground: Teacher Monica Saya

As a teacher, being a part of Dignitas Project's programs has strengthened my foundation. I now feel like a real teacher who is able to interact with my students and impact their futures.

I have gained knowledge, such as how to improve performance in pupils, counsel children facing challenges in their families, and relate better using different teaching methods for different students. My teaching skills have been enhanced by the sessions – and I feel I've been sharpened in my role as a community leader.

*Monica is a Dignitas teacher at Mercy Care Education Centre, located in Mathare's 4B village.*

Our communities  
co-invest in our  
work.

We hope you will  
do the same.

Help make a difference in the lives of children and families made vulnerable by poverty and disease. Join our movement by volunteering your time, creating a personal fundraising campaign, visiting our sites and schools, or contributing financially to sustain our efforts. With your help, we can transform entire communities, develop emerging leaders, and empower the poor so that they can raise their voices and stand up with dignity.

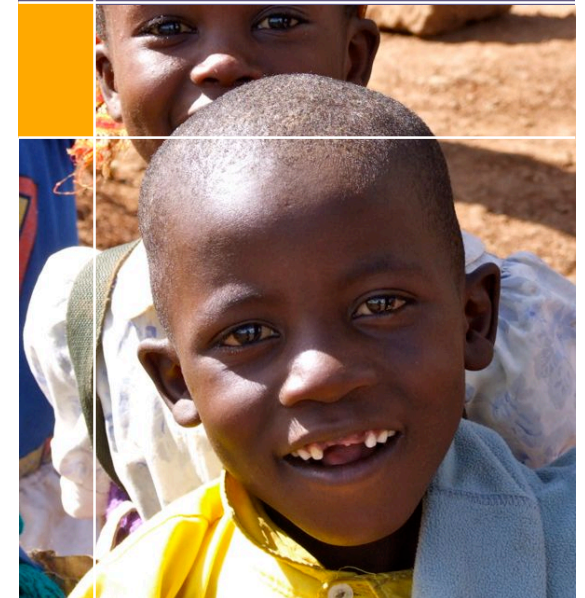


**Dignitas Project**

*Dignity through education*

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Imagine a  
world where all  
children  
realize their  
full  
potential.



# Mathare Valley Nairobi, Kenya

In the shadows of East Africa's hub of commerce and tourism, Mathare Valley – just 4km from downtown Nairobi– is one of Africa's largest slums. More than 600,000 children and families live in this community.

With little access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and schools, Mathare residents experience a life of hardship. Yet people in Mathare are determined to persevere.

Esther, a young entrepreneur insists, "Mathare is just a name—we are not Mathare. We can grow and achieve far beyond what Mathare is today."

Indeed, we believe in Esther's words and work to honor her hope, and the dreams of thousands just like her, one child at a time.



*"Tell the children of Mathare that there is a future for them."*

-A seventh-grade boy in one of Mathare's community schools

Launched in 2008, Dignitas Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to improving education and expanding opportunities for the next generation. Our strategy focuses on empowering indigenous leaders and communities to:

- Enhance learning and leadership for children and youth
- Build technical and infrastructural capacity in community schools
- Implement projects to address health, economic, and education needs
- Ensure that community voices are integrated into policy decisions

We recognize the importance of working in a process that brings dignity – and lasting change – to every individual involved in our efforts.

## Our Impact

Since January 2009, we have achieved the following impact in five partner schools serving 2,000 students:

- Trained 22 teachers through twice-monthly skills and leadership development sessions
- Increased textbooks in classrooms, lowering the number of students sharing one textbook from 45 to 3.
- Administered typhoid vaccinations and HIV education to 2,000 children; taught basic hygiene and health promotion education
- Coached and mentored teachers and principals for high performance at school sites

## Future Directions

In 2011, we are launching a leadership institute in partnership with the University of Nairobi. Our goal is to train, develop, and equip 160 teachers, principals, and community leaders so that they can transform education opportunities in Mathare.

