

# Wezesha Project



USAID

*Lea Akinyi is a 45-year-old widow from Homabay County supporting six children, including two of her grandchildren. Lea is a member of the Riembo Dier caregivers group, which started in 2014 with support from USAID's Wezesha Project.*

**Funding:** \$2.6 Million

**Duration:** June 2013 – 2018

**Activity Locations:** Southern Nyanza in Migori, Kisii and Homa Bay Counties

**Implementing Partner:**  
Lifeskills Promoters (LISP)

**Key Partners:**  
Government of Kenya Ministries, including the Ministry of Labor and Social Services, Health, Education, Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, NGOs including, St Johns' Community Center, and Christian Partnership on AIDS in Kenya

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## U.S. PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE

- Global Health Initiative
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

## ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Wezesha Project mobilizes and expands community-based responses to meet the needs of orphans and vulnerable children. The activity works with local implementing partners, including non-governmental, faith- and community-based organizations and relevant Government of Kenya Ministries, including the Ministries of Labor, Social Security and Services, Health, Education, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

The Wezesha Project uses a sustainable and family-centered approach to meet the basic needs of orphans and vulnerable children, regardless of faith. The activity supports community workers to conduct local needs assessments and develop realistic plans for improving household incomes of families that serve as primary caregivers to orphans and vulnerable children. Community volunteers provide counseling, health information, referrals and resources to orphaned and vulnerable children and their caregivers to address the children's health needs.

The project cultivates local responses to the growing number of orphans and vulnerable children and complements the work of county and national government, public institutions and other civil society organizations.

The activity also strengthens child protection structures to improve the well-being of children and increases market-driven vocational skills for older orphans and vulnerable children. The project strengthens 20 community organizations to respond to orphan and vulnerable children needs effectively.

## ACTIVITY GOALS

- Coordinate sustainable, local support systems for orphans and vulnerable children
- Support 5,000 households to provide care for orphans and vulnerable children
- Support 20,000 orphans and vulnerable children

## ACTIVITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (April-June 2015)

- 14,627 adults and children reached with counseling and support by community health volunteers
- 13,631 adults and children provided with protection and legal services
- 12,396 children provided with education or vocational training