



# Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss

Dear Friends,

I am writing from Kenya where we just completed a successful program in three regions of the country. I am thrilled to share this update with you!

The Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss began working in Kenya last year. In partnership with the University of Nairobi, the GFCHL's talented professional team has been teaching our proprietary training curriculum in auditory-verbal therapy.

The first cohort of 19 Kenyan participants have committed to the GFCHL series of in-country, scaffolded workshops to build on their skills over a period of two years. They will graduate this November with a certificate from the GFCHL and the University.

I have spent a great deal of time in Kenya developing personal relationships with families, caregivers, and the professionals who serve them, learning about the landscape of care, and advancing the GFCHL's connections with various local organizations.

Over time, we saw an opportunity to collaborate to raise awareness for pediatric hearing loss and to bring the GFCHL's expertise to additional groups. Our August program was conceptualized and executed as a result.

We plan to build on the momentum and tremendous interest generated by this initiative by providing additional, more intensive support moving forward.

Together with our local partners, the GFCHL team achieved the following during this August program:

- 3 destinations in Kenya
- 1100 km (670 mi) traveled
- Multiple GFCHL pediatric hearing loss training sessions and outreach seminars
- Focus was on early identification and early intervention for children with hearing loss. Topics covered pediatric audiology, auditory-verbal therapy, and oral deaf education
- 320 Kenyan participants from 6 counties (states): teachers, speech pathologists, audiologists, medical professionals, community health workers, government officials, parents, community members, students
- New Oticon hearing aids fit on children in need supported ongoing by Kenyans we are training
- GFCHL donation of new equipment launched pediatric hearing screening in a region for the first time

I am grateful to our GFCHL professional team members Dana Cohen, Katie Jennings, and Alejandra Ullauri for contributing their expertise to this month's amazing efforts! Please read on for more details.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work.

Paige Stringer, MA, MPH

Founder and Executive Director



We collaborated with the Jabali School in Nairobi to lead a 3 day seminar for 30 kindergarten and primary school teachers working with children with hearing aids and cochlear implants in mainstream school settings. Topics included audiology basics, child development, auditory-verbal therapy strategies, and maximizing academic performance.

We also led a family seminar for about 40 parents whose children attend the school. Jabali School is unique in Kenya in that it provides inclusive education for typically developing children alongside children with hearing aids and cochlear implants.



In Eldoret, we collaborated with CHISHLO to help raise awareness and develop expertise and sustainable services across the Continuum of Care for young children with hearing loss living in Western Kenya. Currently, most hearing care services are concentrated in far-away Nairobi. This makes it challenging for local families to access critical support for their children.

The GFCHL team led a series of workshops. First, an audiology training session for 10 audiology professionals that focused on the pediatric test battery, assessment, and family counselling.

Oticon hearing aids were fit on children who will receive ongoing support from the CHISHLO team, some of whom are in the GFCHL auditory-verbal therapy training program in Nairobi.

Then, an all-day family program for 50 parents of children with hearing technology learning to listen and speak preceded a 3 day seminar with 45 interdisciplinary professionals from three counties (states).

During the professional seminar, we engaged in lectures and discussions about how to establish and/or strengthen health and educational services for babies and young children with hearing loss in the Western region.



We wrapped up our August Kenya program in Wamunyu with Kenya Connect.

After months of advance planning with Kenya Connect and County government health care stakeholders, we initiated pediatric hearing screening in the region for the first time. The GFCHL donated hearing screening equipment and provided training to the Wamunyu Health Centre medical team.

Meanwhile, over 150 family members, community health workers, teachers, and medical professionals joined our multiple day seminars at Kenya Connect to learn about pediatric hearing loss, the importance of early identification, and the interventions available.

Kenya Connect hosted two podcasts with the GFCHL team and local professionals that will extend these messages further out into the community. Soon to be available on Spotify!

We also held a Career Seminar for over 30 high school students. We informed them about the fields of audiology, therapy, and deaf education. Some expressed interest to learn more as a potential career option! - great news in a country where such professionals are in short supply.



Thank you to our partners, GFCHL professional team, the participants, and our generous donors for helping us achieve a successful August program in Kenya!

Please visit our website for more information about our organization and programs. Donations to the Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss are tax deductible.

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