

Name: Oliven Anyango Oluoch

Date of birth: 3rd of March, 2003

Age: 16 years

School: Karabondi Girls' Secondary School

Kisumu, Kenya

Family background: Oliven is a total orphan. She lost her father before she was born. Her mother died when she was 3 years old; she cannot remember her. She has grown up under the care of a maternal aunt, the sister to her late mother. They live in Karabondi area. She is the last born of four children (1 boy and 3 girls). Her brother is a casual labourer and lives with her paternal grandfather. Her sisters got married early due to the desperate situation at home. She cannot remember the last time she saw her siblings and this makes her very sad.

Current financial situation: Her aunt did not get an education, and she earns her daily bread by cleaning the fish brought in by fishermen in the neighboring Lake Victoria

before the fish mongers can sell it out. She makes Ksh.200 (Euros 1.7) on a good day. This is not enough to cover the daily requirements of her household. She cannot afford to send Oliven to high school.

Her Story: Oliven was the best female candidate in her primary school in the 2018 KCPE Examinations. The school gifted her Ksh. 1,000 (Euros 8) for her good performance. She got admission to a Government boarding school in Siaya County (Nyamira Girls) but the school fees and cost of boarding requirements was too prohibitive. She could not even afford the bus fare to the school. Oliven lost all hope of ever getting a high school education. She walked into the neighboring Karabondi Girls Secondary School and approached Principal Christine Musiga for admission. Christine sent her away and advised her that a student must be accompanied by an adult to be admitted to a school. Oliven just burst into tears and refused to go away; she insisted that she was ready to learn and nothing was going to make her go back home where the situation was desperate. The school was forced to trace her aunt who could only raise Ksh.3,500 (Euros 29) which included Oliven's contribution of Euros 8. This could not cover much and she got a skirt and a blouse as part of the school uniform. Christine allowed her to stay in boarding school as they hoped that a well-wisher would come along and assist her. She has no other school and boarding requirements and she depends on other girls for basic necessities. Despite all these, she is determined to get an education and excel in life.

Future aspiration: To be a doctor and become an independent woman capable of giving back to society

