

Why Education?



Like most poor women in African nations, the majority of Maasai women in Kenya are destined to live a life of poverty and cultural oppression. Typically, Maasai girls are circumcised between the ages of 11 to 13 and soon afterwards married to a man chosen by her father in exchange for cattle and cash.

She will be one of multiple wives, and will have many children, regardless of her health or ability to provide for them. She will live a life of few physical comforts, dependent on a husband and a family she did not choose. Her life expectancy is 45 years.

One of our main objectives at Amboseli Children's Fund is to educate Maasai women so they will know their rights and have the confidence and independence to stand up for them. They will choose whom to marry and when to marry. They will have fewer children, and they will be

healthier and better educated than the previous generation. They will not circumcise their daughters. They will have economic security. They will help support their parents and will not forget where they came from.

At ACF, we believe education is important for **both men and women**. Gender discrimination must be overcome through increased awareness on the importance of **education for all**.

The widespread benefits to societies of education are well-documented. Education is a means of overcoming poverty, increasing income, improving nutrition and health, reducing family size as well as raising people's self-confidence and enriching the quality of their lives.

This is true in every culture, worldwide. This is true in Kenya. This is true for our Maasai children in the Amboseli region.

