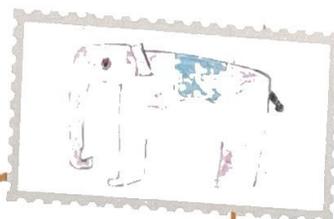




# All about Fenny



## Hello!

Welcome to this special information about Fenny, where you'll get to learn a little more about her life, their family and community. Fenny was born in 2015, and lives with her family in Nyokal, Kenya. Fenny's family speak Luo, the most commonly spoken language in Nyokal. Some families also speak Swahili and English, the two official languages of Kenya.

Nyokal is situated in western Kenya, on the eastern bank of Lake Victoria, over 230 miles from Nairobi, Kenya's capital city. Kenya has the largest and most advanced economy in east and central Africa. Yet over a third of the population live below the poverty line. Kenya has endured prolonged droughts in recent years, particularly in the arid north, leaving millions of people in need of food support. However, in the Rift Valley, flooding is common, displacing thousands of people, contaminating water sources and destroying crops.

Livelihoods, women's rights, food security and education are among the challenges faced by people living in Nyokal. Families, like Fenny's, are developing solutions and leading projects to tackle these issues and bring sustainable change to the lives of people living in Nyokal.

## Education

Fenny currently attends primary school. Despite primary education being free and compulsory in Kenya, some children do not complete this level as their education due to insufficient government investment. In rural areas like Nyokal, schools can lack basic facilities, like toilets, desks, chairs and books, or even have enough trained teachers. Children also face other barriers to attend school regularly, including the need to help at home to look after younger siblings or household chores – this can specifically affect the attendance of girls in school.

## Earning a living

Families, like Fenny's, who don't own livestock are among the most vulnerable in the community. Without livestock, they are missing a valuable source of food and income.

In Nyokal, farming is the most common way that families earn a living and grow food. Fenny's family have a small plot of land where they grow crops like beans and maize.

## Homelife

Fenny's home is built using traditional skills and materials like bamboo, dried mud, wood and grasses. These homes are eco-friendly and cost-effective to build, but are vulnerable to weather damage and need regular maintenance.

Inside, most of these homes have a single room that serves as both the living and sleeping area, with the size depending on the number of occupants. Typically, these homes lack amenities like electricity and sanitation. Collecting water is a task that falls to women and girls; there are various water sources in Nyokal including boreholes, wells and a nearby river, all around a 10 to 30 minute walk from the community.

## Community led projects in Nyokal

People living in Nyokal are leading projects to improve farming skills, incomes and help ensure children, particularly girls, can access an equal education. The rights of women and girls are core to these projects and women-led programmes are ensuring they have an active voice in the development of their communities. By sponsoring Fenny, you are standing with women and girls to change attitudes and help improve lives for the whole community.

If you would like to write to Fenny, they would love to hear from you. The address is:

ActionAid, UK Child Sponsorship Office, Chard Business Park, Jarman Way, Chard, Somerset TA20 1FB

