No child left behind: This social entrepreneur has served nine million meals to children in need

Aug 31, 2022
Wawira Njiru established Food for Education in 2012 to address the inequality in food access and education for Kenyan children.

There is a direct correlation between inadequate nutrition and lower school attendance and performance.

Today the organization has provided and delivered subsidized meals to over 9 million children through cutting-edge technology, like the digital mobile platform, Tap2Eat.

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What motivated you to start Food for Education?

I started Food for Education as a university student after I first learned about the impact of poor nutrition, particularly on children, and the direct correlation between adequate nutrition and school attendance and performance. Too many children go to school hungry—not only in Kenya but around the globe—and this has...
As Kenya and Africa face up to different challenges, including youth unemployment, how can a new class of empowered young entrepreneurs be created?

Great strides have been made to enable female entrepreneurs to be part of the solution, but there is room for more to be done.

A significant challenge female entrepreneurs face is limited access to funds and grants, which effectively weighs on overall economic performance and hinders the necessary innovation. According to studies conducted by the European Investment Bank, female-founded companies deliver twice as much revenue per dollar invested, despite receiving less than half of the investment capital of their male peers, proving that greater funding for female-founded organizations directly translates to overall economic growth.
What is your long-term vision for the Food for Education?

At the moment, our main goal is to scale our operations to enable us to feed one million children in the next five years, and we are working hard to ensure that all children have access to nutritious meals every day. Similarly, our vision is to cultivate a country in which no Kenyan child will have to go to school hungry and to...
THE BIG PICTURE

Explore and monitor how Education is affecting economies, industries and global issues

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Can AI transform learning for the world's most marginalized children?

Frank van Cappelle

October 17, 2023

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Generative AI has disrupted education. Here’s how it can be used for good — UNESCO

Madeleine North
September 27, 2023

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Why AI makes traditional education models obsolete – and what to do about it

Sean Hughes
September 21, 2023

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