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HELLEN WANGECI

I am sixteen years old and a Kikuyu by tribe. I don't know the meaning of my name but I believe it has one, and it must be a good meaning because 'Wangeci' has a good ring to it. I started playing football as a hobby at the KCC ground. Later my team and I started participating in the MYSA leagues and that is how I ended up playing in MYSA. I was selected to go to an AIDS awareness workshop and that is where I handed in my application form for Shootback and later I was selected. I have really learned a lot from Shootback. For example, I know how to take pictures using different types of cameras, which I knew nothing about before, and I have become more assertive and confident. I want to study journalism as a profession. My hobbies are playing football, taking pictures and travelling.



Robbie Carr/Bisset

FRANCIS 'KOM' KIMANZI

The day I kicked a home-made football in Mathare was the start of my new life. We all understood the soccer language, and it gave us a dream to become professional players. MYSA has made this great desire come true for me and established a direction in my life. Thanks to MYSA I am a respected member of the community and a role model for other youths.

LANA WONG

I was born in New York and studied photography at Harvard and the Royal College of Art, London. I moved to Nairobi in 1996 and will never forget my first walk in Mathare, on assignment to photograph MYSA. The kids' energy was infectious, and inspired the Shootback process. Throughout our collaboration, we have opened each other's eyes to new ways of seeing, and I am now Mathare United's biggest fan.

MATHARE YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

MYSA is Africa's largest youth football league with over 14,000 boys and girls on over 1,000 football teams which are also committed to community service, AIDS education and gender partnership. Established in 1987 in Nairobi as a small grass roots project to organize sports and clean-up activities in the Mathare slums, it is now one of the most successful development projects in the world which links self-help youth sports, environmental clean-up and other community service activities.

Young people drive MYSA. Most of the several hundred volunteer coaches, referees and officials are under sixteen years old. Elected committees of youth leaders organize the MYSA sports programmes, weekly clean-up activities and AIDS prevention training. A youth Executive Council is responsible for the overall management and budget of MYSA.

MYSA has a Youth Fairplay Code with eleven basic rules, including: *I will not smoke, drink alcohol or use illegal substances. I will promote environmental awareness and improvement as healthy athletes need a healthy environment.*

As youth in Mathare cannot afford to pay fees for sports activities, all teams participate in clean-up projects instead. Every weekend, over fifty teams clear the garbage and drainage ditches around their homes. Teams earn six league points for each completed project. In addition, over 150 MYSA boys and girls have received special training and now lead an AIDS prevention and counselling programme in the Mathare slums. The Mathare youth are also helping to set up a similar sports and development programme in the Kakuma refugee camp in northwest Kenya.

MYSA's emphasis on sound minds and bodies has paid off. Since 1990, MYSA teams usually qualify for the final rounds in the Norway Cup, the world's largest youth football tournament. Our boys team won the Cup in 1995 and 1998, and our girls team, the first-ever girls from Africa to compete, won the silver medal in 1998.

The Mathare United professional team, comprised of young men who have been playing in the MYSA leagues for a decade, made Kenyan football history by winning the 1998 Kenyan Moi Golden Cup and by representing Kenya in Africa's 1999 Cup Winners Cup.

Since 1987, over 40,000 youth in the Mathare slums have benefited from the MYSA programmes. By 'giving youth a sporting chance' the young people in Mathare will continue to set and reach new goals both on and off the field.

For more information or to help contact:

Mathare Youth Sports Association
PO Box 69038, Nairobi, Kenya
tel/fax: +254 2 583 055
munro@form-net.com



BELDINE ACHIENG

'Achiong' is my tribe name which comes from *chieng* which means 'sun'. I was born at midday when the sun was brightly shining. My hobbies are playing football, cracking jokes, reading, watching movies, listening to music and taking environmental photos. I also like trips, making new friends and much more. I hate roaming, staying idle and the worst is rumour mongering. I'm fourteen and belong to a large family of four brothers and one sister. The best couple is my dad and mum — the greatest human beings in the whole world. I joined MYSA in 1996 as a footballer and later joined other projects such as AIDS awareness, Shootback and Gender Partnership. Shootback is so interesting. I've gained a lot of experience in taking photos, writing journals and camera techniques. My ambition is to be a photojournalist or a lawyer. I hope I'll cope.



EDITH AWUOR

My last name in my language (Luo) means that when my mother was pregnant she liked to eat a lot. I am fourteen and the third-born in my family of two brothers and three sisters, together with my mother and father. We live in Dandora estate which is very noisy. With Shootback, MYSA introduced a new thought for us — photography. I was interested in taking photos and I have achieved a lot. Apart from knowing how to handle expensive cameras, I also know how to position myself towards the light which plays a big role in photographing. My hobbies are playing football, swimming, taking photos, sharing new ideas, listening to music and rapping. On our football team I am the captain. My ambition in life is to become a professional journalist. I like taking pictures of what I see and I can be a photojournalist and a lawyer.



MAUREEN MAK'OPIYO ATIENO

My family consists of six members — two sisters and a brother together with my mum and dad. I'm fifteen and the second-born. I live in Nairobi in an estate called Kariobangi South. It's rather an old estate, but it's a good place to live. Our city is polluted and some of the roads have very big potholes which look like craters. Anyway that's the bad part — the good part is that there are many parks with animals that you can visit. My special interests include reading novels, creating awareness about gender and AIDS and listening to hip-hop music. My ambition in life is to become a politician and who knows, maybe I will become the first woman president in Kenya! One good thing I like about myself is that I don't care what other people think or say 'cause deep down inside I'm sure of who I really am.



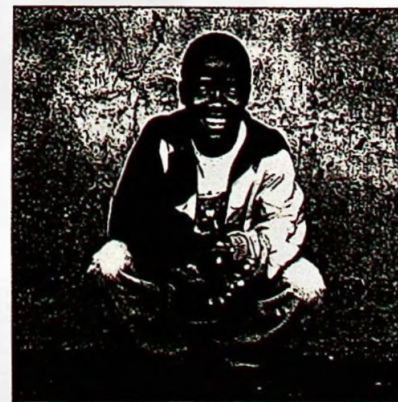
PAULINE AWUOR

My father passed away in 1990 — but it is normal that death is here. We are only ten people — six sisters and four brothers. I am staying with my mother. But nowadays I know that she is my real mother because my father married another woman and my mother went in 1986. She left me behind. In 1996, my mother died and my real mother came back. First I thought that she was my elder sister, because she left me when I was only two and now she came back when I was twelve. I joined MYSA in June 1997. I didn't know how to play but was interested in football. My effort led me to Shootback. Photographing is not quite as easy work that people might think, but when you know what you are doing and what you want in life, things cannot be all that difficult.



SALOME 'SALLY' ATIENO

'Atieno' in my Luo tribe language means 'one who is superior or unique'. We are seven in our family and my mother is the breadwinner due to my father's death in 1992. She has a small business selling second-hand clothes. The money she earns is just enough for feeding us and paying rent. We live in a single room all together. I'm fourteen, the fourth-born, tall in size, blackish in colour and have short brownish hair. I like laughing since people from our area are very funny. I'm talkative, flexible and in school. Through MYSA, I have been playing football and participating in clean-ups. I'm really thankful for this golden opportunity, Shootback. I'm glad to get such a chance and I'll not misuse it. My hobbies are taking pictures, sharing ideas and studying. My favourite colours are red, green and orange. My favourite food is chicken and rice.



ALI BARISA

I am fifteen years old and I live in Kahawa Githurai zone. I have six brothers and one sister, and I am living with both of my parents. I was named Ali after my grandfather. 'Ali' means 'great father of the Nation'. I am doing all I can so as to earn my future living in this tough globe. I am looking forward in my life to be a professional footballer and photographer. Shootback is my dream because I was waiting for such a chance. In our project, we are working with Francis Kimanzi and Lana Wong. They are helping us very much. They have taught us how to use cameras. At this moment we are using Yashica, Canon and Clearshot cameras. My hobbies are taking pictures and playing football. I have taken a lot of pictures covering clean-ups and lifestyles in the slum.

MOHAMMED

My name is Mohammed. We are a family of five. My mother is the breadwinner. I like taking pictures of people and about taking pictures. And that's why I like taking pictures. I like taking pictures of what's happening. I dreamed of being a photographer. Photography is my coming job.

BERYL ANTONIO

My name is Beryl Antonio. I am 14 years old. I am a student. My hair is short. I like taking pictures of my family. I also have a white striped shirt. I have a camera. I entered the contest. It was a chance. It was a chance.



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MOHAMMED DAHIR

My name means 'the praised one'. I am seventeen years old. We are a family of six. I joined MYSA when I was twelve. My nickname is 'BMX' but people call me 'Sinyorita' becoz I look Mexican. I happen to be a Muslim. Shootback Involves taking pictures and learning so many kinds of crazy words of photography. At first, my thoughts were, 'What's good about taking pictures?' As time passed, I started learning more and more and things started sounding interesting. And that's when I started being interested in photography. I like taking pictures becoz it's a way of showing people what's happening in a place rather than describing it. Always I dreamed about my future but I did not know what to do. Photography is now my hobby which I take as my future coming job. I also like swimming and reading politics.



COLLINS OMONDI GUYA

I am fourteen years old. My name 'Omondi' means that I was born in the morning. The size of my family is four and I am the last-born. My mother does some work at Kenyatta University (KU) and my father is a soldier at Kenya Airforce. I live in an area called Mathare North and have been a member of MYSA since 1995. My special interest is football. I like playing football very much because one time one day it will help me. Shootback has helped me to take pictures and touch the camera. I would like to say that we should be serious with our project because our leaders are helping us in many ways.



SAIDI HAMISI

'Saidi' in our language means 'a person who is kind, strong and aggressive when he does his work'. I'm fifteen years old. I live in Kayole in a slum area called Soweto. It's one of the poorest slums in Kenya. I am the only boy in a family of six. I joined MYSA eight years ago and I have been able to learn a lot from the organization. For example: playing football, facts about AIDS and taking good pictures through Shootback. My ambition in the future is to become a photojournalist.



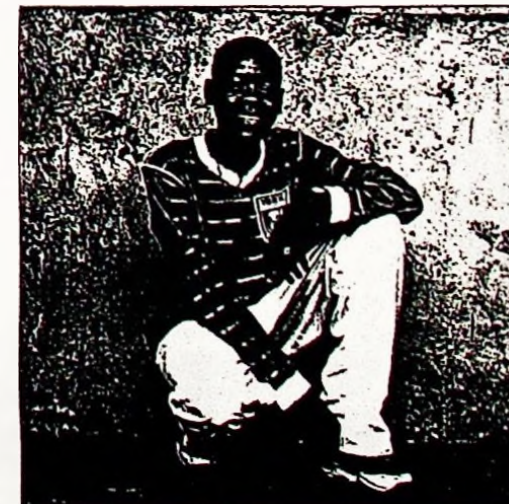
BERYL ANYANGO JUMA

My name 'Anyango' means 'the sun that comes at ten o'clock'. I am fourteen years old, black in colour, short and my hair is short and black. I stay in Dandora Area Four with my family. My family consists of my mother, father and my three brothers. I play football and I have football boots. I also have shin guards and socks. My socks are yellow with white stripes at the top. I am also training to be a journalist. I have a camera and the snaps that I have taken since I entered the Shootback project. I was very happy to get that chance. It is very fantastic to take a photo of yourself.



HASSAN TOM KASEKI

Jambo, habari (Hi, how are you)? My name is Hassan. I am sixteen years old and I like football and swimming. I am the tallest boy in the group and I have short hair. I have three sisters and five brothers. I like them so much but I don't have a father. My father died in December last year. I would like to say that I like the Shootback project so much — It has taught me how to use the camera and the Shootback teachers have taught me how to take the best pictures. I don't have so many things to say, so *kwaheri* (goodbye).



NICHOLAS MATHENGE

'Mathenge' comes from *thenge* which means 'he-goat', and is used to refer to a brave and strong person. I am sixteen years old and the fourth-born in a family of five children. I have three sisters and one brother. I have been a member of MYSA since 1992 as a football player. Since 1997, Shootback has done a lot for me and helped me polish a talent I didn't know of. My special interest is of course taking pictures around my home area because I think I can make something out of it for my future. I hope that I can be a good example for the rest of the MYSA youths. I believe the project can do miracles for me because I can manage to get a job when the time comes and also it can take me to countries which I hadn't dreamt of going to and I will be able to help my family.



DAVID MBUTHIA

We have 42 tribes in our country, and each speaks its own mother tongue. I belong to the Kikuyu tribe. 'Mbuthia' is a Kikuyu name which comes from my father's and grandfather's name. 'David' is a Christian name meaning the courage and confidence it took to make him (David) kill Goliath. I belong to a family of eight and I have six siblings. I am fifteen and the third-born. We live in a slum called Mathare Valley. There are many people living here, but we have some other slums like Korogocho, Majengo and Kibera. I am proud of Mathare Valley. MYSA, our self-help youth group, has many activities such as AIDS awareness, gender partnership, sports and photography. Through MYSA I have become a peer educator and now I am a member of the Shootback Team. My ambition in life is to be a professional photojournalist and football coach.



VINICK MUHANJI

My hair is black in colour, my face is chocolate and my size is normal. My weight is normal, I'm fashionable too. I'm thirteen years old and I have four sisters and two brothers. My hobbies are eating pudding, photographing, watching movies, playing football and listening to pop stars. My best musicians are Brandy (*The Boy is Mine*), Elton John (*Candle in the Wind*), and Eric Denison (*This is the Land of My Lord*). My favourite dishes are chips, matooke and kebabs. Oh gosh! But I hate waking up early. I live near Mathare River which is very dirty. The people of town have learned more about our project through our pictures. I'm so happy because my pictures show people how we live. Most children are happy with Shootback because they are saying that they will be camerawomen and cameramen.



JOSEPH MULEI

'Mulei' means 'someone who likes to disagree with people'. I have many friends and only a few enemies and this makes my life satisfying. I am sixteen years old and happy that I am that old. I am the last-born in a family of three and I live with one of my sisters who is married since my parents are dead. I have been a member of MYSA since 1990. I joined MYSA when I saw many of my friends playing football so I decided to join them. I am a good footballer in the making and one day I will be a professional footballer and then the president of Kenya. In Shootback, I am learning how to take pictures of all kinds. I am so happy to be a member of MYSA because I have learned how to make friends and socialize with other people.



PETER NDOLO

'Ndolo' means 'muddy day'. I am a goalkeeper. My mother said I live with my m in a cubic room. God and Shootback borrowing money but now I know and about the life to learn and go boring. I go to school we go to search



SUSAN MUTHONI

'Muthoni' in my Kikuyu tribe means 'in-law'. For example, if I marry and my husband has many sisters, they are my sisters-in-law. I am twelve years old. Our city has many slums and I live in Githurai Kimbo zone. I go to school at Moyyo Academy. I come from a family of four members, whereby we are two girls and one brother plus my mother. I have gained a lot from MYSA and Shootback because I know how to use different types of cameras. My hobbies are reading storybooks, taking photos and watching movies. My special interest is to be a journalist.



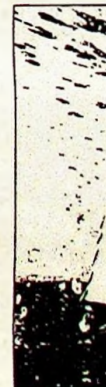
JAMES NJUGUNA MWAURA

I am fifteen and my favourite hobbies are football and being a professional photographer. I also like having haircuts. I play for a team called Sanpadros. I'm the only goalkeeper. We play on a gravel pitch. Almost everybody plays barefooted, but I play with my own boots. Shootback has helped me to know how to focus cameras, use the shutter, write captions, etc. I know I am ready to become a professional. My happiest day was when we went to the museum because my pictures were sharp and displayed on the walls. Many people were looking at and discussing my pictures which made me feel like I was a professional photographer. Now I feel famous because many people saw my name and pictures. Others asked me if I was James and told me how beautiful my pictures were and that I should go on shooting pictures like those.



JULIUS 'RAGOS' MWELU

I am fourteen years old and my name 'Mwelu' in my tribe means that I was born in the morning. I am the last-born in a family of four. I am living in the slum known as Mathare Phase One, in a room which we use as a bedroom, sitting-room and kitchen. I joined MYSA in 1992. I was approached by my friend who was in the organization at that time so I decided to join. When MYSA introduced Shootback, I sent an application and I was chosen to be a member of the Shootback Team. My other interests are reading storybooks, exchanging ideas, playing football and watching movies. My ambition in life is to be a photojournalist.



CHARLES ODHI

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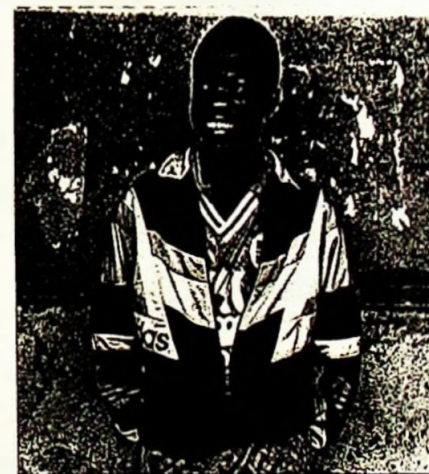
PETER NDOLO

'Ndolo' means 'muddy day', that means I was born on a muddy day. I am thirteen years old, black and fashionable. I am a goalkeeper. I finished my primary education in 1997. My mother said she doesn't have money, so no school now. I live with my mother and four brothers and three sisters in a cubic room in Huruma, in a place called Ngel. I thank God and Shootback because I could have been in the street borrowing money, snatching women's bags or sniffing glue but now I know how to take pictures, how to process film and about the Internet. When I get money I can continue to learn and go to secondary school. And when home is boring, I go to my friends like Mathenge and Julius and then we go to search for better pictures and I call it a day.



CHARLES ODHIAMBO

My second name means evening, so I could have been born in the evening because my tribe always gives newborn babies names depending on the occasion or time after birth. I am fifteen years old and I am the fifth in a family of seven, living in Mathare Valley. I joined MYSA in 1994, whereby I played football from the age of twelve years until now. I joined Shootback in order to learn photography and also meet new friends. I am now familiar with different types of cameras. My special interests include watching videos, taking photos, reading novels and swimming. My dream in future is to become a journalist. Peer pleasure not pressure.



PAUL 'BEBETO' OCHIENG

I am fourteen years old. The name 'Ochieng' means that I was born when the sun shines. My nickname is 'Bebeto'. I like this Brazilian footballer because he scores some fantastic goals in each and every match played. I have two sisters and two brothers and I am schooling at Ofafa Jericho High School. Our city is not all that big, but there are some interesting buildings. In our city, there are some slums. The garbage is also thrown anywhere aimlessly. Does your city have slums? And is garbage thrown anywhere in your city? My future life really matters to me so I can't waste time, for time wasted will never be recovered. My ambition for the future is to be one of the best photographers in our country, the best footballer in the world, the best swimmer and other interesting things. Bye bye for now.



HELLEN OKOTH

I'm sixteen years old and schooling at St. Dominic Savio's. We are eleven people in our family. My hobbies are playing football, watching movies, reading storybooks, novels and socializing. Strangers are friends you don't know. My favourite subjects are social ethics and biology. I'm happy to be among the Shootback Team. The aim of it is to know more about photography.



SERAH ODEKE

I am a Luyha, fourteen years old and the first-born. We are four in our family. 'Odeke' means 'when people are going to church to praise the Lord'. MYSA has helped me in many ways. I have attended the AIDS workshop and coaching course. My team is called Willopex Babes. In Shootback I have learned how to take pictures. My hobbies are exchanging photos, watching movies, exchanging ideas and playing football. I would like to be a special photographer. I like playing with flowers and animals such as rose flower and cat. I like that flower because it smells well and looks pretty too. I like cat because it likes playing around with things and even with people.



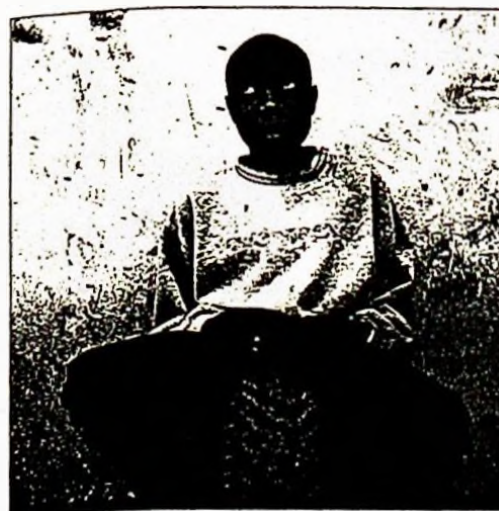
COLLINS OMONDI

I'm seventeen, a handsome young man, Luo in tribe and I can speak fluent English and Kiswahili. My hobbies are making new friends, travelling and adventures. Dislikes: gossipers, pretenders (lions in sheep's skin). Likes: forthright, assertive and ambitious people, beautiful things and people. I'm mentally a billionaire. I own a posh villa in the Nairobi suburbs and a fleet of vehicles ranging from a Rolls Royce limousine to a VW beetle. Due to my mass wealth I have been a victim of armed gangsters but I normally tip them off with a token of 2000 dollars. There is no difference between us and other photographers. The only difference is that they shoot and we shoot back. My ambition in the future is to become a photojournalist and a famous one. Through the motivation of our project leaders, I know I will achieve my dream. Bye and Ciao!



KENNEDY OMONDI

I am fourteen and the last-born in a family of five. I live in an estate known as Dandora. I have been a MYSA member since 1994. I like reading novels, playing football, listening to music, watching movies and exchanging ideas. I am a great footballer indeed. As far as Shootback is concerned, I like to take pictures in the slums and in the estates. My first time to touch the camera I did not know much about cameras, how to handle them, focusing and taking of pictures. But nowadays, I can do so. I can take pictures of different views, slums and even of matches. I am interested in learning how to use the fancy cameras. I can be very proud when I will be able to use those big cameras.



FREDRICK 'ORECK' OTIENO

I don't know where I come from, where I was borned I don't know. If you know call the following numbers, 0000MYSA or box number 000 Mathare slums for more details. I must ask God but will I see him? I don't know but I will go to church and ask the pastor. I don't know if he will tell me. But I believe everyone knows the creator of all. May I thank God a lot for creating me in this world. Fredrick likes everybody and he likes jokes. I was born in Mathare slum and I'm fourteen years old. Our family is composed of three members and my mother. My friends told me that there is one big organization known as MYSA which I joined in 1992 whereby I was like a footballer. I really like Shootback actually and the other MYSA activities.



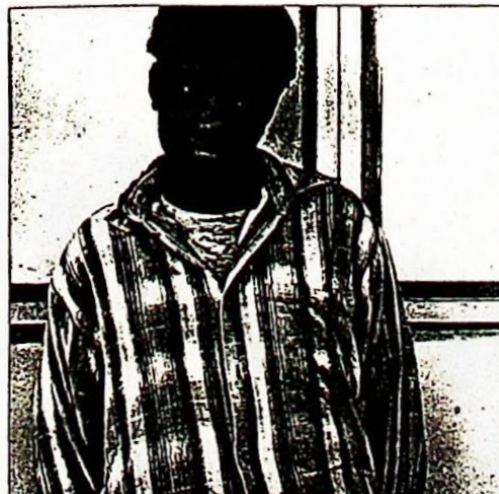
GEORGE OTIENO

I am a Luo by tribe (Nilote). 'Otieno' means 'night'; this shows that I was born at night. I am fifteen years old. I am in my final class in secondary school. I am the third-born in a family of six living in a big slum called Mathare Valley. We live in a single room all together. I joined MYSA as a young talented footballer at age ten, playing in the MYSA league for under-twelve boys. Now I am playing in the under-sixteen league. I joined the Shootback project because I wanted to know how photos were made. Now I know how to take good photographs. Apart from taking photographs, I like reading novels, listening to reggae music and watching movies. My main goal is to be a professional photographer and footballer.



MOSES OUMA

I am thirteen years old. I live in a house which is eleven years old. My hair is short and I am one and a half metres short. I like my name 'Moses' because Moses is the man who was given the Ten Commandments by God. 'Ouma' means that I was born when I bent down with my knees to hunt. I come from the Luo community and am black in colour. I like football so much because it is my favourite game. Here in Kenya the environment is very polluted and we don't have enough place to play so we play in half of a playing field. I would like our Shootback Team to improve their skills by taking sharp pictures and writing something good in their composition books. We are supposed to know how to use different types of cameras like the Yashica and Clear Shot. If you know, show others.



SERAH WAITTHERA

According to our tribe, 'Waitthera' means that I was born during the rainy season. 'Serah' is a Christian name. I come from a family of seven members and I'm fifteen. We are all girls, without any brothers. I'm schooling at Guru Nanak Secondary. Having joined MYSA in 1995, I have achieved a lot. My best achievement so far was being selected to represent MYSA on the under-fourteen girls' team for the Norway Cup tournament last year. I'm also a coach and I coach kids. Apart from football, I have gained knowledge about AIDS. My special interests include playing football, taking pictures and visiting friends. My ambition is to become a professional player. Since I was young, I really dream about being somebody. So aim for the sky before your end of life.



ANNE WAMBUI

I am twelve years old. 'Wambui' means that I was born in darkness when the moon was bright. In our language we call it *mbul*. Our home city is Nyeri. In our family we are four people, one brother and three sisters. I joined MYSA when I was small and now I am matured enough. I school at Moyyo Academy in Githurai Kimbo. We are five hundred pupils. I like photography because it makes me to promote our country and know more about our country. In Shootback Lana and Kim are our leaders. I would like to thank them for the good work they have done. From the time we started Shootback they help us by teaching us how to photograph. Even our parents are very happy for the good work. Congratulations Kim and Lana so much. I like photographing so much. I will never leave photography forever and ever.



HELLEN WANG

I am sixteen years old. The meaning of my name must be a good thing to it. I started from ground. Later I joined MYSA leagues. I was selected to that is where I started and later I was in Shootback. For different types of before, and I have I want to study, playing football



FRANCIS 'KIM' K

The day I kicked a start of my new life and it gave us a direction in my life of the community. I was born in New and the Royal Col in 1996 and will in assignment to phatious, and inspired collaboration, we of seeing, and I am