

GENNEXT FELLOWS GO THE *Extra Mile*



GenNext Fellows, Elizabeth Bolarinwa and Daniel Ryan, recount their incredible experience accompanying their host organization, Save the Children, to their in-person Global Education Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

My trip to Nairobi was such a great experience. I am working with Save the Children in the Humanitarian Public Health team, focusing on Maternal and Newborn Health and Sexual Violence, and this was the team's first in-person retreat since 2015. It was incredible to see the team's growth and be part of the 2024 planning! For a week, we dived into sessions on ways of working, localization, capacity building, and integration. Since starting in October, I've learned a lot about the team's structure and program planning, but the retreat allowed me to understand more about why the humanitarian health team is structured the way it is and hear from regional and country office employees. Beyond work, exploring Nairobi's restaurants, Uhuru Park, and going on a safari at Nairobi National Park added a rich cultural layer to my experience.

Through long conversations and planning discussions, I've realized that even veterans are still figuring out new ways to be efficient and impactful. My team is not just innovative, but also passionate about reaching the hardest-to-access communities. There's so much more to learn, but my time in Nairobi has set a solid foundation for the next two years.

-Elizabeth



Elizabeth goes on safari at Nairobi National Park



Daniel spends the day with the Masai community in Nairobi

From November 7th - 9th, I had the phenomenal opportunity of attending the Save the Children, Global Education Face-to-Face Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. My overall experience was amazing! it allowed me to meet and learn more about my specific team, Center Humanitarian Education Team (CHET). The week consisted of several sessions, that focused on strategic priorities and best practices for the 2024 work period.

As I learned and collaborated with the other attendees and teams throughout the week, my specific team, CHET, also held separate group sessions that discussed team priorities and individual goals. With this perspective, I have a better understanding of how I will integrate my skills and learning into my individual and group work. As well as gaining a deeper understanding of my team members and experiencing Nairobi's rich culture, I also participated in several team-building excursions. Over the next two years, I look forward to learning and working with my team CHET, and other teams in Save The Children.

-Daniel