

**e - News 15/7/17 GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE, Kenya
(G-BIACK)**

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G-BIACK Empowers a Maasai girl



Regina Riton at the G-BIACK farm



At the computer literacy class

The Maasai are among the 42 tribes that live in Kenya. They are one of the most impoverished tribes in East Africa. A noble and dignified people, they have proudly maintained their traditional lifestyle and cultural identity despite pressures of the modern world.

However, over 90% of Maasai girls are never educated due to cultural beliefs that perpetuate the practice of early marriage. These include: The belief that the biological family does not benefit from educating a daughter, since she becomes a member of her husband's family when she marries; economic incentives for early marriage such as cattle and cash dowries; family and peer pressure for early marriage, as women are valued by the number of children they have; and fear of early pregnancy, which is a disgrace prior to marriage and lowers the bride price.

Reginah Riton is a 17 year old Maasai girl who has gone against some of the retrogressive culture that has seen most young women from 13 years old getting married to old men of 50's. Reginah finished her class 8 education in November 2016 and although she did not qualify to join high school, she identified G-BIACK where she is now being empowered to become a young woman leader in her community in Kajiado County. She is being empowered in the areas of Sustainable agriculture, Sewing and Tailoring, Computer literacy, cooking and baking.

If you educate a woman: She will know her rights and have the confidence and independence to stand up for them. She will choose whom to marry and when to marry. She will have fewer children, and they will be healthier and better educated than the previous generation. She will not circumcise her daughters. She will have economic security.

Please help us to empower more Maasai young women!

Visit our website: www.g-biack.org.

Go to Google maps to see us from above by entering: G-BIACK, Thika, Kenya

Donations of any amount help us to reach out to vulnerable families.

G-BIACK is a registered NGO in Kenya, and donations are tax deductible.

Contributions may be made directly to G-BIACK or through Network for Good on our web site.

Or checks payable to Kilili Self Help Project may be written and sent to

260 Marion Ave., Mill Valley CA 94941 USA—no overhead will be deducted, meaning that 100% of every donation will be sent to G-BIACK for our programmes.

All contributions are tax-deductible