Contents

Acknowledgments vii

1 Change in Gikuyu Women's Lives 1

2 The Life of a Traditional Woman 33

3 Wamutira: The First Wife 57

4 Watoro's Story: Poverty Is Like Dust 89

5 Wangeci's Story: A Widow Among Women 109

6 Wanoi: The Many Facets of a Midwife 141

7 Lives and Schooling: Nyambura 171

8 Lives and Schooling: Wanja 187

9 The Life Histories in Retrospect 199

Appendix A 221

Appendix B 224

Glossary 225

References 231