

2013 Issue

# My Community

A KCDF Publication Highlighting Community Success Stories.

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KCDF is Kenyan public foundation that supports community development initiatives across Kenya, through grant-making, capacity development, endowment building as well as resource mobilization. Our areas of support cut across diverse development issues that affect vulnerable and marginalized communities, such as Food Security, Education, Youth, Children, The Girl Child, Community Asset building, Policy and Advocacy among others, all in an effort to enable needy and marginalized communities to access their rights and realize livelihood opportunities.



2013 Issue

# My Community

A KCDF PUBLICATION

## Dear Reader,

I would like to thank you for the support you have continued to give KCDF over the years in its efforts to enable more communities become self-reliant by adopting sustainable ways of initiating and drive their own development agenda.

My community magazine, as the title suggests is a platform for showcasing communities' efforts in initiating and sustaining their own development interventions by using ingenious ways of raising both financial and human resource capital and sharing their experiences with the aim of encouraging others to adopt similar approaches.

In this issue, we highlight a cross-section of interventions that different communities across the country have initiated through their own community structures as well as with support from outside actors in delivering change.

Of particular interest will be success stories of ways in which communities have come to the realization that they indeed do have resources amongst themselves and have gone ahead to marshal these resources, in an organized manner, to support their own development agenda. Communities such as Nkoilale, who came together to construct classrooms to bridge the long distances covered by their children amid a rampant human wildlife conflict environment through in-kind donations of cattle. We also highlight the story communities residing in Malindi who have established a play-ground to cater for more than 8000 children by raising resources from the Muslim faithful in the Holy month of Ramadhan.

We have highlight stories of beneficiaries in our comprehensive education programme that have gone against despair to access and pursue education through your generous support and with it, rekindle their hope of becoming productive members of society with an engrained give back ethos.

We are not able to highlight all the amazing stories that continue to happen in the communities we partner with in this magazine but we invite you to read more by visiting our website on [www.kcdfor.ke](http://www.kcdfor.ke) and also find out how you can be part of this wind of change.

**Editorial Team**

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**Melvin Chibole**  
Communication Manager

**Natasha Murigu**  
Editorial Assistant



## HOPE IN DESPAIR

On setting your eyes on Paul, one is drawn to his unassuming and humble nature. As he settles down for the interview, he keeps gazing at his watch every so often, a habit he formed soon after joining Maseno University at the beginning of this year where he studies Medicine.

“In school, everything works like clockwork and time is probably the most limited resource one has, lest you fall back on your studies and you are kicked out of the programme,” he retorts. But under his calm demeanor, Paul Mwangura has had to grow up fast and take on responsibilities far much challenging than a normal 20 year old should.

It has been a long journey for Paul Mwangura who hails from a small village in Voi District known as Tanzania. Paul was born the year 1993 to a single mother and three siblings. In class six, his mother passed away as she succumbed to tuberculosis.

“It was a painful experience losing my mother to TB,” says Paul. What followed was a rather unfortunate turn of events as his small sister, brother and grandmother whom he lived with also succumbed to TB.

“They got infected since we were all living together in a small room. My elder brother and I are the only ones who were spared,” the soft spoken Paul shares. They tried treatment but it proved to be too little too late.

Since his mother was the sole breadwinner of the family, going to school became a challenge for Paul. His aunt from Mombasa took him under her roof and offered to support him. He continued to school at Kisauni Baptist School and worked for his aunt who brewed local alcohol to earn an income.

Paul worked very hard, always associating himself with friends who would encourage him to read. He finally sat for his Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and scored 308 marks and was called to Tononoka Day High School. However, his aunt and elder brother were not able to raise the school fees for secondary school and he therefore opted to go back home in Voi.

## Window of Opportunity

KCDF started - on a pilot basis, a gender based initiative referred to as the **Window of Opportunity (WOO)** which targets **disadvantaged male students** with **University scholarships** for candidates who have performed exceptionally well in their Secondary School examination. The initiative which began with **14 students** in **2011**, currently has **27 students**.

Paul decided to repeat standard eight at Mwakingale Primary School so as to manage to score a better mark in his final end of year exams. Here, he was able to get support from his elder brother, his school teachers as well as well wishers who saw him through term one.

Since he had demonstrated zeal to pursue education, the little village he came from also mobilized resources time and again to support him through school.

"This was a sigh of relief for me because I no longer had to get distracted with thinking of where to get my school fees," says Paul. He finally sat for his KCPE examinations and scored a total of 358 marks.

Paul secured a place at Kenyatta High School in Mwatate, Taita Taveta District and joined Form One. His brother together with the school teachers, supported him through form one and fortunately, through the school principal, a local trust Works was able to sponsor him from form two all the way to form four. Their humble grass thatched home begun to cave and eventually collapsed. As a result, Paul had to plead with the school administration to let him stay in school whenever they would break for the holidays because of the challenge he faced back home.

"I always wanted to do medicine from primary school level after coming across a book Gifted Hands by Ben Carson. I could relate to his story and gained hope, courage and motivation to do medicine," a jovial Paul shares.

It was therefore no surprise when Paul not only managed to score an A in his KCSE, but also emerged the top student in Taita Taveta. A new challenge however presented itself. His benefactor - Kelimu Trust could no longer continue to sponsor him beyond his secondary school education. He now faced another hurdle of getting sponsors to see him through his university level of education. Despite the new challenge he faced, he still had his eyes set to continue pursuing his dreams to further his education.

"A news reporter from Nation came for to interview me in regards to my KCSE performance and told me he would introduce me to someone who could further assist me," he shares. The reporter introduced him to Mr. Willy Mwadilo who is the Manager at the Sarova Salt Lick Lodge in Taita Hills.

He was able to secure an internship at Sarova Salt Lick lodge after the Manager of the lodge, Mr. Willy Mwadilo heard of his plight. He worked at Sarova for close to a year being paid Ksh. 400 a day. Unfortunately, his brother was involved in a road accident and could no longer work. With savings from his job and his brother's compensation, they were able to rebuild their home that had collapsed.

His story was later highlighted in the media through the Hotel Manager and he got various scholarship offers.

He received calls from various organizations including KCDF and had to make a decision as all the willing organizations had their own conditions.

"KCDF's scholarship program did not have any conditions as I was free to pursue my dream of studying medicine. Better yet, KCDF was giving me a full scholarship which include an upkeep allowance while in school and a mentorship opportunity", .said an elated Paul.

Paul had applied to Maseno University prior to sitting for his final secondary examinations and was accepted to pursue a Degree in Medicine.

## Paul Mwangura

"I want to **help students realize** that passing is not determined by getting an **A**, even students who get B and C have as **much potential**. These students end up confined and dejected in the villages while getting involved in **drugs and alcohol abuse**," adds Paul.

# SUCCESSFUL DESPITE ALL ODDS

## Education

Lomilio Emejen Dickson life's story reads like a work of fiction. Born and raised in the pastoral area of Turkana West, Lomilio has struggled to get to where he is through sacrifice and self-determination. The fifth born child of ten siblings, Lomilio is the only child to have set foot in a classroom in his family.

"My father is a pastoralist and practices nomadism hence we kept moving from one place to another in search of pasture and water for our heads of cattle and camels. This forced me to start my schooling relatively late and had to move in with a friend when it became too strenuous to juggle both school work and tending to the cattle. My father also did not value education," shares Lomilio.

Lomilio made the decision to pursue education after he lost two of his elder brothers in separate cattle raiding incidents by Ethiopian militia along the Kenya – Ethiopia border. The raids on the fateful days are clearly etched in his mind as he takes time to share the ordeal.

"It's something I don't like remembering but it's still very alive in my memory," he says, amid visible discomfort. "Losing two brothers who were barely in their teenage years is sad, not just to me and my family but the whole clan. I have had very close encounters with the same militia groups while herding and I made a resolve not to die in vain without realizing my potential," adds Lomilio as he shrugs off tears in his eyes.



Lomilio joined a missionary sponsored primary school in Lokichogio, as he did not have to pay school fees or buy school uniform. During the day, he would stay on in school and in the evening he would scavenge for food at a United Nations dumpsite for close to seven years. It was only while in class eight that he was placed under the school feeding programme.

He sat for his final exams in 2009, and as expected he garnered 384 marks out of a possible 500 marks securing a spot in a national school. He was the best student in the division and the second best in the district and his spirits were high that he had made a good bet to pursue education. Upon receiving the letter of admission, reality dawned on him that he would not transition to high school due to lack of school fees.

“This was one of my lowest points in life. I had worked extremely hard despite the many challenges I faced and after all that, all my efforts came to not. I knocked in every Government office in the District but I was not able to get any assistance. I had no other option but to drop out.” says Lomilio.

Teachers from his primary schools traced Lomilio two months after he dropped out and convinced him to go back to school and repeat Class Eight as they looked into various avenues of getting assistance for his secondary school upon completion. He accepted and went back to school in the second term.

He sat for his final exams and his performance was even better, scoring 399 out of a possible 500 marks, securing him a place at Lenana School. He was the best candidate in the wider Turkana County. Again, the challenge of raising the school fees emerged.

“I went to all people I knew that could assist me, including the Constituency Development Fund board members but I was not successful. This time around, I was hopeful that I would proceed to secondary school. I began approaching well-wishers in the area to contribute towards my education and luckily, I met a man working with World Food Programme (WFP) who promised to cater for my first term fees through contributions from his fellow workmates. Through their generosity, I reported to school this year (2011).” says an elated Lomilio.

After his first term in school, Lomilio’s benefactor was unable to raise his school fees for the second term and that is when Lomilio got in touch with Edumed Trust, a KCDF partner. He applied for a scholarship and was successful. Edumed Trust extended an education grant provided by Chandaria Foundation through KCDF for his fees for the next four years.

“I am thankful to KCDF for providing me with school fees, am even more grateful to Chandaria Foundation for this god-sent project. I am now much more settled in school which has been validated by performance. I have scored straight A’s in the last two terms that I have been in Lenana School and am working hard to take full advantage of the opportunity accorded to me. One day, I will meet Dr. Manu Chandaria and I will show him how his investment in me has changed my life and those that I will be able to reach in the fullness of time,” concludes Lomilio.

## Education Scholarship

KCDF has been administering **education scholarship grants** for the last **nine years** to needy and deserving children from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds to access education. The **scholarships grants** are awarded to **children** who have **performed well** in their **KCPE** and **are unable** to transit to secondary school. Through the programme, KCDF has also incorporated a **mentorship element** to the programme for students who receive the scholarships.

# A Global Citizen with Global Responsibilities

By Linda Lockhart

When asked about her family, Wilkista replies, “I come from a family of two, my sister and me.”

Wilkista Akinyi is a true child of the universe, who views herself as a global citizen with global responsibilities. Even her major at the University of Nairobi, Meteorology, is grounded in her passion for ensuring a sustainable ecosystem for the planet. So, it is not a surprise that she is currently working as an intern for USAID Kenya in the Environment Department.

Like many children born in the 90s in the rural villages dotting Lake Victoria in the former Nyanza Province of Kenya, Wilkista was raised by her grandparents and guardian. Up until his recent passing, her grandfather kept the 2004 newspaper that listed the names of the highest scoring students on the national exams because that was the day he knew that his granddaughter’s secondary school scholarship was secured. Could he have ever imagined she would someday meet President Clinton and First Lady Michelle Obama – at different times and on different continents? Wilkista’s is an intergenerational CGI Commitment, having been the beneficiary of the 2008 Clinton Global Initiative Commitment (CGI), ‘The Global Give Back Circle’ and a benefactor in the 2011 Clinton Global Initiative University Commitment, ‘Hey Sister, Get Clued-Up’.

Giving back is in Wilkista’s DNA and lightning struck when she read ‘GIVING’ in 2007 and learned ‘how’ to give back Time and Skills. For five years, Wilkista has been implementing Give Back Commitments with scalable impact. The strategy behind ‘Hey Sister’ could only be born from one who understands first-hand the communication

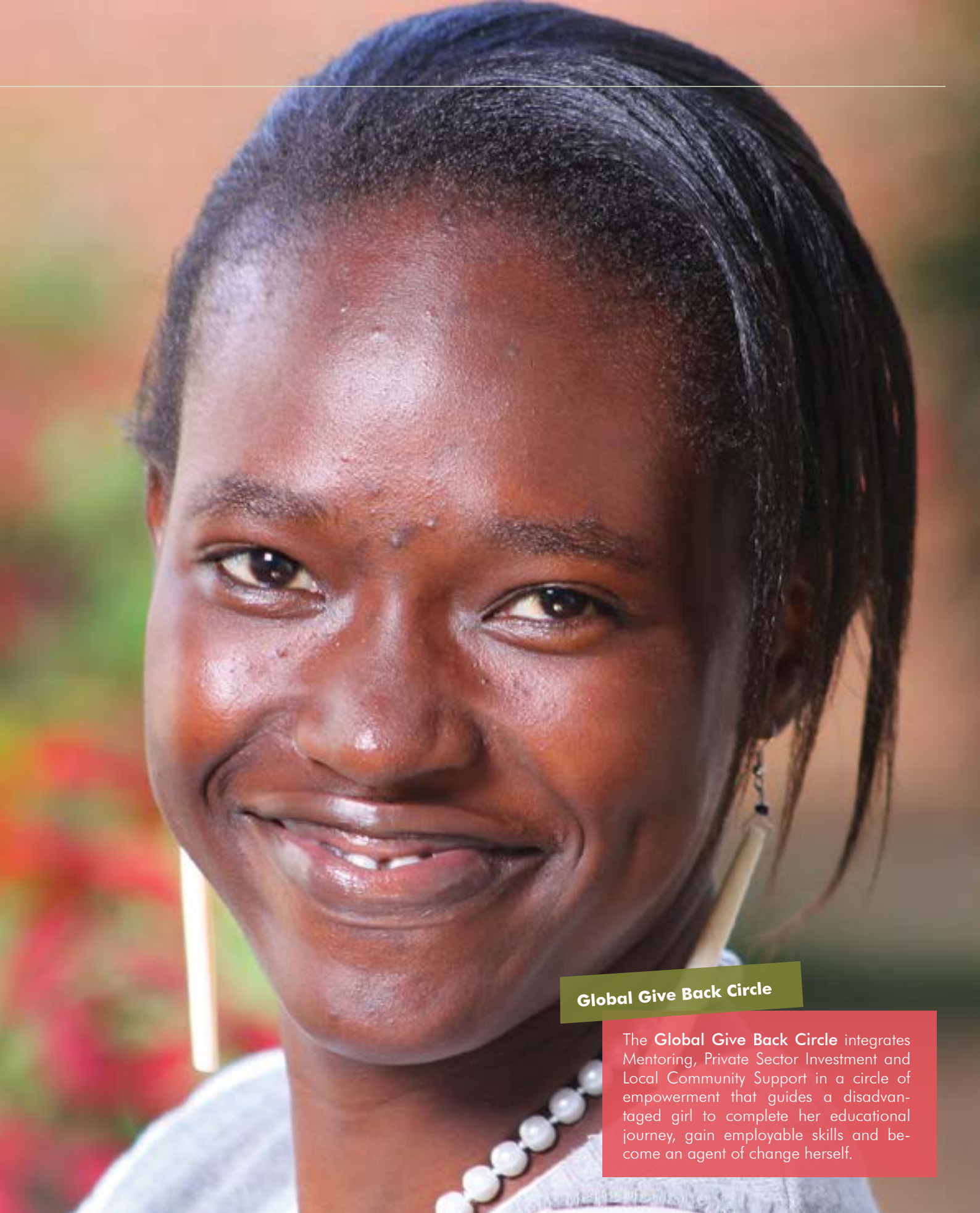
challenges girls in rural areas face when it comes to accessing the kind/level of information they need to make wise decisions in life.

“Hey Sister is a peer-to-peer educational website designed to be the voice of the village for health (especially reproductive), financial empowerment, human rights, and social media savvy whereby all sisters who have access to the Internet, pay it forward by committing to use the power of their Voice to share information with girls and women in the villages who do not have access to such information highways. Aimed at networking 10,000 African sisters, Hey Sister members are allocated a unique membership number and are required to take the pledge- a commitment to use their voices to spread the word”. Wilkista says.

Wilkista exercised social entrepreneurship skills to take ‘Hey Sister’ from a commitment to an operational website with a team of peers and an Advisory Committee of professional women, serving as a feeder-pool for content. She also connected with students at the University of Southern California, who agreed to be the website designer team, amounting to \$10,000 in in-kind contribution. “The year 2013 will be a year dedicated to giving life and breathe to the mission as current members leverage their networks to reach the 10,000 membership goal”. Quips Wilkista.

Wilkista is also an Ambassador for the Global Give Back Circle. She grew up near the residence and Children’s Home of Mama Sarah Obama and in 2011 she made a visit and provided Global Give Back Circle Applications to orphaned girls there. Today, six girls from the home are members of the ‘Circle’ and all are attending college. They are also members of ‘Hey Sister’ and committed to using the ‘Power of Their Voice’ to help girls who follow. And, so it goes as Wilkista cherishes her place as a child of the universe and pays it forward through her magical field of energy.

Website for the Hey Sister, Get Clued-Up:  
<http://heysister.org>



**Global Give Back Circle**

The **Global Give Back Circle** integrates Mentoring, Private Sector Investment and Local Community Support in a circle of empowerment that guides a disadvantaged girl to complete her educational journey, gain employable skills and become an agent of change herself.



# LOVE FOR NATURE Wins Student Scholarship

**A**bigael Ndinda, 22, could easily pass for a model thanks to her striking looks and a smashing smile — but she says she has never given it a thought. Instead, she draws satisfaction from soiling her hands on the farm or at a tree nursery bed back in the village.

The second year Clinical Medicine student in Mt Kenya University traces her roots in the largely semi-arid Makueni County. Her mother, a clinical nurse by profession, struggled to educate her sister and her from her modest income. Coming from a semi-arid region, her conviction to champion tree planting to reduce the effects of desertification in the area was in-born. As a teenage girl, she saw boreholes dry up in her neighborhood and the only nearby River Kikuu recede at alarming rate. She vowed not to stand on the sidelines and watch the grim picture unfold.

After completing high school in 2008, she was never at a loss on how to keep herself busy as she waited to join college. She stepped up efforts to conserve the environment in her village in Matiliku Division. While her peers lazed around, Ms Ndinda was busy planting trees on the family farm.

Ms Ndinda's passion for the environment dates back to her childhood years when her mother gave her and her siblings a rose flower to tend. Failure to water one's flower meant one went to bed hungry. To be on the safe side, she dutifully watered her rose flower twice a day.

"My flower bloomed and was the best among my siblings," she says with nostalgia. "The praises I received from my mother planted in me a passion for nature," she says. She remembers a particular event to mark World AIDS Day, December 1, 2008. The performances of the day

focused on the theme at hand: HIV/AIDS. When her turn came, she recited a poem on environmental conservation.

"Of course the organisers of the event were mad at me, but I cared less; I had made my point," she quips, adding that her obsession with trees cost her friends who could not relate with a 'farmer'.

Ms Ndinda recalls the difficulties she experienced trying to establish her first tree nursery without a penny and the required skills. "All I had was an idea and my passion," she says.

She says she received financial support from churches and recruited 10 members into her community conservation group known as Matiliku Youth Group. Ms Ndinda next approached her grandfather for a piece of land to establish a nursery. Early 2009, Ms Ndinda visited the district youth office in Makueni

## How you can be supportive of the fund

Any interested institution or individual can support the Fund. The Rockefeller Foundation, the Green Belt Movement and KCDF have created a framework on how one can take part in broadening the outreach of the fund.



# THE WANGARI MAATHAI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

where she met Laban Mwangi, the officer in charge. After sharing her story with Mr. Mwangi, he linked her with the area agricultural offices. Here, she says, they were taken through the procedure of making a nursery bed, taught the right irrigation method, and shown how and when to transplant seedlings.

Since then, it has been one success story after another of environmental conservation for her. With her group, they have planted more than 10,000 seedlings in Matiliku area and beyond. The group, through the sale of tree seedlings from their nursery, purchased a half-acre piece of land which they currently use to grow fruit trees and whose produce is sold to the community members.

On March 21 this year, Ms Ndinda became the first recipient of the inaugural Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund in recognition of her unyielding efforts to conserve the environment. The student of clinical medicine at Mount Kenya University received Ksh. 850,000 (\$10,

000) to go towards her tuition and her environmental initiative in Matiliku.

Ms Ndinda says she got to know about the Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund through a website she subscribed to known as Scholarship Position. I missed many classes while preparing my proposal for the scholarship, something that put me on a collision path with my lecturers. She later received an invitation from KCDF to appear before a panel of six judges for an interview.

"It never crossed my mind that I would emerge the winner out of 70 participants," she says.

Ms Ndinda insists that the award was not about her but recognition of environmental conservation efforts that she initiated with her fellow members of the Matiliku Youth Group. Beyond the personal satisfaction, she is happy to see her friends who initially wanted nothing to do with her 'dirty' venture warm to conservation after the award.

Ms Ndinda concludes by quoting her role model, Prof Maathai: "God always forgives. Man forgives at times. Nature never forgives."

The Wangari Maathai Scholarship Fund is an environmental innovations fund set up in memory of Prof. Wangari Maathai that is aimed at developing action-oriented young people with strong values and commitment to the conservation of the physical and social environment in Kenya.

Each year, the Fund awards a tertiary education scholarship to a lady who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to civic engagement and leadership in environmental conservation and peace issues in Kenya. The number of scholarships is expected to grow as more actors come on board to contribute to the fund.

The fund is supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, Green Belt Movement, and Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF).

# ENTRENCHING LOCAL GIVING IN NKOILALE

As one traverses the expansive wildlife migratory corridor of Kenya's famous Maasai Mara, one can't help but marvel at the scenic beauty inter-laced with the wild game roaming freely. Maasai Mara Game Reserve is perhaps the most visited park in East and Central Africa and has been in contention to be named as the eighth wonder of the world because of the infamous wildebeest migration.

This national treasure has somewhat been a resource curse at times for the Maa community of Nkoilale living only 10 kilometers away from the park. Human wild life conflict is common place in the area hindering access to education for the children. Lack of adequate schools has further compounded the education levels in the area. In the entire location, there is only one primary school serving close to 3000 pupils, with the next school located 16 kilometers away.

Informed by the dire education situation prevalent in the area, Nkoilale Community Development Organisation (NCDO) approached KCDF in coming up with a feeder school to reduce the distances covered by school going children as well as mitigate deaths caused by roaming wild animals.

"Most parents decide not to send their young children to school owing to the intense human wildlife conflict. Incidences of people being trampled to death by elephants or attacked by lions



Watch a video on the group's activities at [www.kcdf.or.ke](http://www.kcdf.or.ke)



are all too common here. The need to come up with a feeder school to promote education in this largely pastoral community was of utmost importance," says Jacob Losikany, the Coordinator of NCDO and Headmaster of Nkoilale Primary School.

The project, through a match grant from KCDF under the Pamoja4Change programme, which was completed in April, is expected to serve more than 150 children under the age of eight years in the environs where the school is being built. The group has already identified volunteer teachers as well as furniture for the classes. The children attending the school will be required to pay a highly subsidized fee, less than USD 1 every quarter for maintenance cost of the school as well as educational supplies such as chalk.

Under the match grant, the community was tasked with raising Kshs 700,000 (USD 8200). This being a new concept of funding to the community, NCDO opted to adopt an ingenious way of raising funds which would be easily accepted and adopted by the community. With the Maasai being a predominantly pastoral community, NCDO appealed to the community members by convincing them to contribute either in monetary terms or in kind by donating at least one head of cattle which would later be auctioned and the money used to match the grant.

"This matching concept was fairly new to us, most pastoralists have wealth but in form of cattle. After we tried raising hard cash with minimal success, we adopted the in-kind support from the community through donation of goats, sheep or cows to our

group. This was an instant hit since this is the language our people understand best," says Jacob Losikany.

The concept of in kind donations was also readily accepted because of the transparency element of it. The heads of cattle were confined in one of the schools compound which was accessible to all and fattened so as to fetch a good price when selling. The heads of cattle were then auctioned in the local market and the funds rose declared to all. The group was able to raise Kshs 600,000 after the auction which attracted more than 300 community members.

The group also complemented the funds raised from the conservation money they receive from the nearby Maasai Mara Game Reserve, as most of the land surrounding the park has been converted to conservancy land to promote tourism while mitigating human wildlife conflict. Camps and lodges within the park also gave a donation of Kshs 200,000.

"We are very excited as a community to have the feeder school so close to our homes. I had sworn never to let my young children go to school as I was not ready to loose them to the wild animals. They also have to cross a river which can be extremely dangerous since the area is prone to flash flooding," says Charity Nkoitoi, a community member who resides close to the new school.

The school has been recognized by the Government though the Ministry of Education and will be a feeder school to Nkoilale Primary School, the only fully fledged school in the area. The group has also identified another area where they plan to construct another feeder school to reduce the distances covered by the young children. The project hopes to improve Early Childhood Education in the region which has largely been non-existent by using the feeder school as a center of excellence through adoption of child friendly concepts.



# GROUP PROMOTES CHILD PLAY IN MALINDI



Malindi is well known as a tourist destination characterized by sandy beaches while enjoying a rich heritage from the cultural groups that reside in the area. Due to the lure of money in the booming tourism industry, many children drop out of school before the ages of 12 to join the hospitality industry. Most of these young children end up as tour guides, drivers or casual laborers in the industry.

But the majority of the uneducated youths end up in the illegal sex and human trafficking business, many of them attracted by the false promise that one day, a rich 'Mzungu' (white man) will marry them and take them away to a far-away land where there is no poverty, and where all their dreams will come true. Nationally, Malindi ranks amongst the poorest performing regions academically.

It is against this backdrop that the Malindi Education & Development Association (MEDA), a local community based organization has its operations. MEDA has since 1997, worked to promote education in Malindi by providing scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds as well as improving the standards of education by providing support for learning materials and the training of teachers in the region.

“We realized that for our children to take full advantage of the value of education to transition to higher levels, we needed to focus on education from the elementary level. Through research, MEDA established that one of the reasons the children from the region performed poorly was because they lacked a strong foundation in basic education at the early childhood development stage of between 0 -8 years. Although they attended Islamic classes known as madrasa, aspects on childhood development were not very strong,” says Tsuma Barua, the Executive Director of MEDA.

MEDA thus saw the need to find a solution by working with the Government as well as the Muslim faithful to improve the education standards in the region with considerable success. Over the years, MEDA has managed to facilitate the transition of more than 10,000 children from ECD level to secondary level and beyond. But as this was happening, there was an aspect of learning that was not being addressed – PLAY. Due to the limited spaces available in the town

as a result of massive construction of tourist hotels and villas, there was no recreational facility in the entire Malindi area to cater for the children’s extra-curricular development.

MEDA came up with a comprehensive plan of developing a public playing ground to cater for the over 11,000 children in the area. From their projections, the proposed playground would require Kshs. 4 Million. The group approached different stakeholders and was finally allocated a piece of land belonging to a renowned philanthropist and business magnate, Mr. Naushad Merali.

After we got the piece of land, we had a good challenge, the challenge of raising resources to buy playing materials such as carousels, jumping castles and the like. We approached our long standing partner KCDF to partner with us in this project which they gladly accepted.

“However, we needed to raise half of the money (Kshs. 2 Million) for KCDF to match,” says Mr. Barua. The organization embarked on a fundraising initiative by raising money from their existing income generating activities as well as targeting corporates and individuals from the expansive town.

One of the strategies that MEDA has continually used with much success was to raise resources during the holy month of Ramadhan. MEDA organized a fundraiser in form of a dinner, bringing together community leaders and other Muslim faithful. MEDA was able to raise a total of Kshs. 4.1 Million, exceeding their target and able to embark on the project.

With completion of the project, the playground offers a safe space for the children to play with approximately 7,000 accessing the playground monthly at a subsidized fee.





## FOOD SECURITY

# FROM PASTORALISM TO AGRO-PASTORALISM

**F**or the pastoralist community in Kimana area of Oloitoktok, climate change is no longer an abstract notion, but a bare reality. Climate change has adversely affected their cattle, crops, access to food and fuel, their families' health and future prospects and, for many, it is simply a matter of survival.

In the Kilimanjaro slopes (Loitoktok), pastoralists still hold onto cattle for their cultural value. Their way of life for thousands of years

which has now fallen prey to the impact of climatic change, and many are too attached to the animals to think outside the tradition. Perennial, unpredictable and severe droughts have made pastoralists in the area travel further afield for pasture and in the process have had their herds decimated.

But, for others, change is welcome and they are taking up serious crop farming to sustain their pastoral way of life because they can't just stop being pastoralists.

"Pastoralists traditionally have moved around in search of pasture and water for their livestock. But with the increasing frequency and severity of the droughts, pastoralists land can no longer sustain them. Many have now embraced urban lifestyles," says Leonard Nemushai, the Project Coordinator for Noomaiyanat Community Development Organization (NCDO), a local Non-Governmental Organization that focuses on food security and environmental awareness in Kimana.

In December 2012, Noomaiyant Community Development Organization (NCDO) received a grant from Kenya Commercial Bank and KCDF to implement a community project that focuses on food security and environmental conservation. The project targeted the agro-pastoralist population in the community with the aim of transitioning them from the traditional furrow irrigation to drip irrigation.

Noomaiyanat started by implementing a piped water project aimed at providing access to clean and safe water for household use for 580 pastoral homesteads through laying of a 2.7 km water pipeline drawing water from Nolutsh Water pipeline.

“We first wanted the community members to have access to clean water for their domestic use and their cattle before we introduced the farming concept. Most of the community members in Kimana are migratory who travel frequently looking mainly for water and pasture hence the need to provide water for them to be sedentary and adopt farming,” adds Leonard.

As the project was rolled out at the community level, NCDO initiated a parallel pilot project in a local secondary school, Oloile Secondary School, to act as a demonstration plot on the effectiveness of drip irrigation vis-à-vis furrow irrigation.

“We planted maize on a one acre piece of land to supplement our

school feeding programme with considerable success. The bumper harvest realized is now feeding the 150 students population in the school. We are now able to make savings from growing our own food hence subsidizing the fees charged to the students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.” shares David Mashedi, the Deputy Manager of the School.

“We are now able to retain more students in school as there is

enough food for them. Initially, we had to send some students home because we could not meet the costs of sustaining all the students.” adds Mashedi.

Through the project, many farmers in the area have adopted the new farming method with their harvests being sold as far as Arusha in Tanzania as well as neighboring counties such as Machakos , Makueni and Mombasa



**Kimana AIC Church Group**

**Grace Babu** is the Chairlady of the Kimana AIC church group who have adopted the drip irrigation method. The group has adopted the new farming method after an exposure visit to the demonstration plot in Oloile Secondary School.

# YOUTH GROUP MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN TESO SOUTH

Unemployment continues to plague the Kenyan youth and accounts for 70% of the total of unemployed persons in the country. Ushirikiano Youth Group from Busia County is engaging the youth in innovative projects and enterprises that provides a steady income for them and elevates them from the poverty index. Having recruited twelve youth groups under the Ushirikiano umbrella, under the International Labour Organization- ILO funding in partnership with KCDF, these youth groups received training on entrepreneurship and business skills. Vincent Baraza Kaplon is the Ushirikiano youth group coordinator who has been taking lead in engaging the youth in the E-green project.

“We are making and selling fireless cookers and rocket stoves locally and business is picking up we want to upscale.” shares Vincent. These cookers are cutting the use of charcoal and wood fuel and its wastage by up to 75%. Women were targeted for the training since they are the most vulnerable, having to fetch firewood and exposing themselves to health risks such as eye cataracts and respiratory diseases. Of the total 74 youths trained, 60 were young women.

“Nine youth groups after training were able to apply and



businesses dealing with the sale of the stoves and also ventured into the agrovet market.” says Vincent. They also were trained by the Youth Enterprise Development Fund on the process of applying for funds and now the organization assists other youths to apply.

Lavina Barasa, a member of Ushirikiano and one of the beneficiaries of the training, is now a trainer herself, “We benefitted greatly as a youth group and we are now training other groups who are interested in the field of entrepreneurship.” Additionally, the groups have created linkages from other organizations from the networks they have. A good example is Hidden Treasures based in Nairobi that sells artifacts such as necklaces and handbags, where they want to exchange the goods they produce and create new markets for each other.

Emerging markets such as the local Naivas supermarket and Yako supermarket, restaurants and hotels in Busia town have shown great interest in selling the stoves. “We want to upscale the production of the stoves and meet the demand



since we have enough manpower.” adds Vincent. One rocket stove retails at kshs. 1500 while the fireless cooker goes for kshs. 800. Currently, the challenge for the group is securing a kiln for increased production. The group is still using the local method which consumes too much firewood.

Ushirikiano’s efforts and engagement with the youth has put them at the limelight making them recognizable at the county level. “Local media stations such as Citizen TV and KBC have come to tell our story and that exposure has brought its own rewards and as young people we really appreciate KCDF because we are a step ahead.” says Lavina. In the long term, the group aims to start a group SACCO where 70% of the profits will go to the entrepreneur members and 30% to their savings. This will in turn assist in giving loans to its members.

The youth group continues to find lots of opportunities for their businesses, influence youth positively and regularly engage with the District Development Committee in issues that continue to affect the youth in Teso South.





## MWANGAZA POA PROJECT

Monica Jesica\* proudly stands in her room in the informal settlement of Kibra to demonstrate her adoption of the solar lamps. From her humble abode with a modified tatters ceiling roof, hangs her solar lamp, one of the few in the large slum where most inhabitants prefer to use kerosene tin lamps locally known as koroboi.

Jesica, a grandmother of nine orphans aged between 5 – 14 years, lives with all the nine grandchildren in her single shanty house in Kambi-muru village of Kibra. Out of the nine children, Riziki Kenya- a local community group supports four children with all their basic needs while she has to provide for the remaining ones yet she has no formal employment and depends on casual domestic jobs as well as her small grocery shop to eke out a living. Her business hasn't been all that successful because of the big burden of taking care of her grandchildren.

Before May 2012, Jessica had only known and used the kerosene tin lamp (Koroboi) as the source of lighting in her household. One of the drawbacks of using the koroboi she points out is The emission of smoke fumes as a key health hazard. For the last ten years, Jessica has been on medication due to what she was later diagnosed as asthma - a chronic respiratory problem with difficulties in breathing.

“The smoke would have taken me to the grave early, my chest would be so congested that breathing became a problem. The only free thing we have in this slum is air and even that was a luxury for me due to the smoke that was produced by the kerosene lamps in the house. I developed asthma as I was later told by the doctors and treating it costs money, I had to part with atleast Kshs. 30 daily to treat the condition”. Jessica quips.

Other than dealing with her asthma, she was also forced to part with Kshs. 300 every month to pay for eye medication for her three grandchildren and herself due to the constant itching caused by the smoke. Her total cost for the month on recurrent medical bill associated with use of kerosene tin lamp translated to Kshs 1,140.

Jesica also had to part with Kshs 840 per month for purchasing kerosene for her two tin lamps one for her grocery kiosk and the other one for her grandchildren to use at home to aide in doing their school work. In most occasions, she was unable to buy kerosene and she her grandchildren to finish their school work at school or in some instances at her kiosk to the anger of her neighbours.

Jesica recently replaced the Koroboi with the solar lamp through Mwangaza Poa project, a joint collaboration between KCDF and Riziki Kenya.

“The arrival of the solar lamp in my house was a solution to a myriad of problems. I have made significant savings on cost of lighting, longer study hours for my grandchildren and improvement in hygiene and health condition at home are some of the benefits I have experienced”. Says Jesica.

The savings have had a life changing impact in her household in many aspects, for instance, she explains that the children had to bathe for only three days in a week. This is because she could not afford to buy enough water for all the household needs including bathing every-day. Today the case is different, out of the savings she is making from using solar lighting, she is able to buy enough water and the children can wash/bathe every day. This has improved their general hygiene. Her expenditure on her health problems in the subsequent months after her adoption of the solar lamp has also been minimal as her health and that of her grandchildren has significantly improved.

“With my asthma under control, my output in working has improved. I can bend for longer hours while going around washing clothes for a fee”. Jesica concludes.

## Economic Empowerment

KCDF partnered with Riziki Kenya in a project aimed at providing families from Kibera with clean, safe, affordable and bright light through a finance funding scheme to enable wide dispersion of solar lamps across Kibera. The project, dubbed ‘Mwangaza Poa’ benefitted 300 homes in Kibera.



# EMPOWERING WOMEN IN MIGORI THROUGH INNOVATION

Elizabeth Anyango\*, 31 years old and mother of two is a gold artisan and a community mobilizer for Goodwill Culture Group. When she joined Goodwill Culture Group in 2001, her husband had just passed away and matrimonial home had just collapsed. Culturally, she was not allowed to rebuild her house and no one would dare assist her for fear of the “Kadem” taboo which demanded that she be inherited by one of her husband’s brother. Elizabeth vehemently refused to abide by the culture leading to her being ostracized by her relatives. She was left homeless and that when she sought help from Goodwill Culture Group.

“When I lost my husband, people told me that my husband had died of ‘Chira’, (witchcraft) it is when I

went to Goodwill Cultural Group that I was made aware of the HIV& AIDS disease. After brief consultations with the group members, I was advised to go for Voluntary Counseling and Testing for HIV. As expected, my results came out positive with a very low CD4 count. I was immediately put on anti-retroviral drugs and advised on how I need to change my lifestyle and diet so that I could live longer and take care of my children.” Narrated Elizabeth.

Today when people see me, they can hardly believe it. I have become an example of one that has come back to life, from the face of death”.

“When I lost my husband, I was so thin. Today, when people see me,

they can hardly believe it’s me, I use my story to transform the lives of other women who are infected like me. Once they begin to live positively, they can live longer and healthier while developing themselves economically”. She adds.

The story of the Goodwill Cultural Group is one of Hope for a community once threatened to be wiped away by such cultural practices that promoted the spread of HIV. To the community, ‘chira’ – witchcraft was more dreaded than getting infected by HIV. Through the groups advocacy work, the community is slowly shunning away negative cultures such as wife inheritance and is embracing widows left behind.

Goodwill Culture began a rescue mission to assist women who had

been widowed and left infected with HIV in Migori, their goal being to utilize Luo/ Suba culture as a resource for community fulfillment.

The CBO offers temporary shelter and mediates between the widows and their husbands' families. Some of the interventions register success. For cases that are not amicably settled, Goodwill group assists the displaced families construct cost effective houses as well place the women in small revolving fund groups, which help the women set up small businesses from the funds received.

Goodwill Culture group has also ventured into gold mining as a way of raising revenue to fund its operations. The group currently has thirty widows actively involved in the gold mining industry. The group is also in the process of joining a Gold Miners Sacco - the Lake Region Community Development Programme, another KCDF partner. This is a first in the region as gold mining is considered a male orientated enterprise.

"It has not been easy to venture into this activity because of male chauvinism as well as the activi-

ty being extremely laborious. We however have stayed the course and we make a living from mining gold though the gold deposits are on a downward trend in the area", quips Elizabeth.

In order to increase the income generated from their enterprise, Goodwill Culture Group is in the process of raising resources to buy a modern old crushing machine worth Kshs 1.2 Million.

"We approached KCDF to assist us purchase the machine and the response was positive. We have been tasked to raise half of the amount and KCDF will match what we have raised. We are very ecstatic about this partnership as the machine will increase the quantity of gold that we get and also raise income from crushing gold for other gold miners in the local quarries", said Ochieng Asembo, Goodwill Culture Group's Coordinator.

"We hope that the revenue raised from the machine within a year will be adequate to purchase a concentrator which helps to hold the pieces of Gold together during processing. It will be the only such machine in the larger Migori County", concludes Asembo.



# KCDF HOSTS HAITI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

KCDF recently hosted a five member team from Haiti Community Foundation Initiative for close to 10 days as the steering committee sought to use this opportunity as a learning forum for the development of their foundation. The Caribbean country-Haiti has continuously received its share of negative news...a country branded to be impoverished in poverty, political turmoil, natural disasters and not forgetting a heavy dependency on foreign aid.

However, HCFI is breaking new ground by setting up its own local organization, borrowing a leaf from KCDF with similar principles and values with the aim of Haitians addressing and taking charge of their own development needs and process.

The team went through a comprehensive learning process of KCDF's structure, history and its operations as they met with the Foundation's Staff, Board, Trustees and grantees. The team had a chance to go to the field to visit and engage with two KCDF partner grantees; Regional Institute for Social Enterprise (RISE) and the Makutano Community Development Association (MCDA) where they witnessed the kind of partnership and working relation the Foundation has with community based groups.

Aspects of resource mobilization, capacity building and organizational development were key learning's during this experience. Additionally, KCDF's Community Day which is a networking event for community partners and the Fund Builders Forum, gave the team an in-depth ex-



perience of the construct and long-term impact of a community foundation.

"My visit to Kenya made a difference for me in how I feel as a person. I felt so connected; our human experience and roots being so similar, we could identify to all the issues at stake. I was also inspired by the refreshing level of humanity and strength of many of the people we met. In a world in which trends are often governed by superficial matters, we need such contacts in our fight for the prevalence of equity en justice. Being in Kenya was like being continuously watered in fountain of inspirational individual and collective stories." Caroline Hudicourt, HCFI Steering Committee Member.

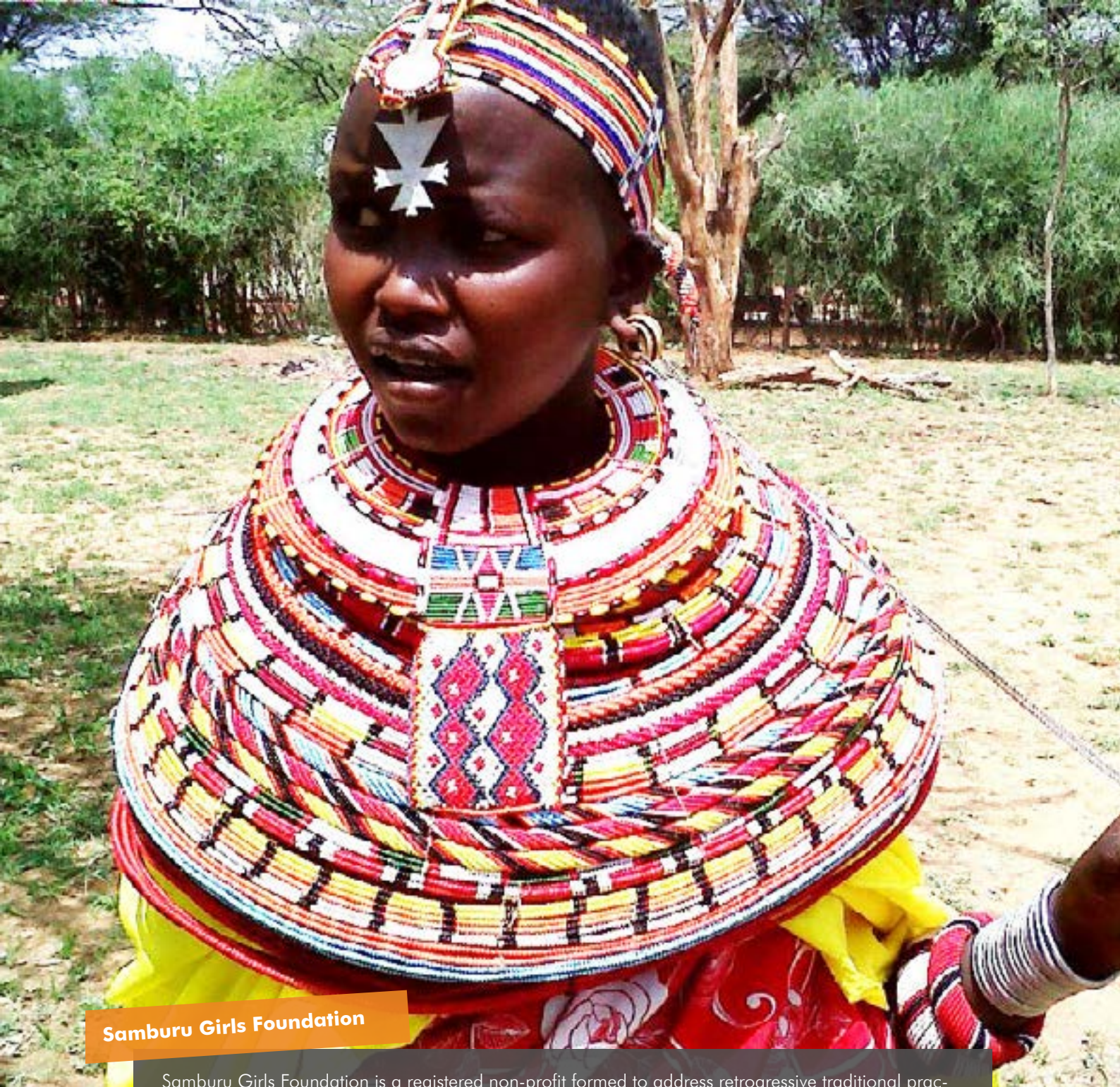
"In terms of development context and culture, Haiti is more aligned with Africa than it is with Latin America. Also, fifteen years ago when they started, KCDF had to deal with the same type of environment that we face in Haiti - a history of social division, an



unhealthy dependency on international aid, high levels of poverty, communities marginalized from their development process, little or no history of institutionalized philanthropy. They built an indigenous institution which adopted values and a structure similar to what we are looking at. Last year, at HCFI's Karibe Planning Forum in Haiti, when the resource group of CF leaders from Mexico, Brazil and from Kenya talked about their history, mission et al. People were at the edge of their seats when it came to Janet Mawiyoo's presentation. It was uncannily applicable to Haiti's situation. We needed to learn from people who have "walked in our shoes," says Marie-Rose Romain Murphy, Director of ESPWA, the facilitating organization for HCFI.

The team will be making a presentation to its Pilot Programme Committee on the lessons learnt and shared from the KCDF visit.





### Samburu Girls Foundation

Samburu Girls Foundation is a registered non-profit formed to address retrogressive traditional practices such as forced early marriages, female genital mutilation, domestic violence among others that affect the girl child among the nomadic pastoralist communities. The group also creates awareness to nomadic communities in the larger Maralal on the importance of educating the girl child and providing her with the freedom to make informed choices for her future.

Samburu Girls Foundation is partnering with KCDF on a shilling to shilling match to construct a Girls Rescue Center which seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the girl child in Maralal. The rescue center will have the capacity to host 80 rescued girls at a time. The centre will have the two dormitories, a kitchen and a dining area.



# FIGHTING THE BEADS OF BONDAGE

Visitors often marvel at the beauty of the colorful beads worn by women in the Samburu community. For Rampaini Letereuwa, however, the red beads that adorn her neck are a source of big trouble.

The 13-year-old is pregnant, and her relatives intend to kill the baby when it is born this month.

"I know my baby will be thrown away into the forest to die or be killed like many others who have been subjected to a similar fate," said Letereuwa, through an interpreter at her parents' home near ol Donyiro market in Isiolo district.

She has never been to school and, like some other girls her age or even younger, Letereuwa is a "child bride," having been temporarily married off to a Samburu warrior (moran) in a traditional practice known as aishontoyie saen (beading).

## Bead Colours

Once a girl is beaded, which literally means being adorned with necklaces by a moran, her parents build her a house where the moran, usually a relative, is allowed to engage in sexual activity with her.

Different beads carry different meanings. Engaged girls wear red beads. Girls who are not engaged and those who are married wear beads of mixed colors. White beads signify purity and health, black means hardship while orange plus yellow is a sign of hospitality.

When a girl is beaded, she is not supposed to become pregnant because she is not circumcised and our community believes that an uncircumcised woman should not give birth. The practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) remains prevalent within the Samburu community. The necklaces to bead the girls cost about Ksh.10,000 and are normally purchased in Nairobi shops.

## Samburu Moran

In the beading ritual, Samburu morans identify little girls as brides by making them wear a beaded necklace. Child rights activists in Samburu say that beading can happen any time a moran meets a girl, irrespective of her age.

"If he meets the girl out in the field tending animals, and decides, 'this one will be my bride', all a moran has to do is put the necklace on her," says Ms Josephine Kulea, a child rights activist and coordinator of The Samburu Girls Foundation, a local community based organization in Samburu.

"The morans do not even have to consult the girl's parents," Ms Kulea says. Once the girl wears the first bead, she is as good as married to the moran. Her parents, on noticing the necklace, immediately start making preparations to have her circumcised, in readiness for marriage.

During beading, morans are free to have sex with the innocent girls, many of whom are too young to recognise their supposed husbands, let alone attend to affairs of their matrimonial duties. And once the moran graduates to an age-group that allows him to marry, he simply pays 10 cattle to the girl's father, before whisking the girl away to the marriage bed, no matter her age.

This tradition has ruined the lives of many girls in Samburu, where decision-making is vested in

elders. Girls, unlike boys, do not attend school, despite free primary education. "He is free to do with her as he wills, she belongs to him, and him alone," Ms Kulea says.

As a result, an unknown number of girls end up getting pregnant as early as 12 years. Many die in the process, Ms Kulea says. "Last year we lost a 12-year-old who was forced out of school to get married, but she was too young to deliver her baby. She died together with the baby."

Although there are no official figures, officers in the region say the number of children being rescued from early marriages and female genital mutilation is huge. This is mostly between November and January, the early marriage and FGM season among the Samburu, according to Children's Department Officers.

## Cursed For Fighting Circumcision

Locals like Ms Josephine Kulea, who joined the war against underage marriage and female circumcision risk being cursed by conservative village elders, who view them as enemies of culture. For three years now, many villagers at

Kipsing, have been waiting for Ms Kulea to drop dead any time, after elders invoked the Ldeketa, a terrible curse reserved for cultural outlaws. Josephine and

"They told my mother to get ready to bury me, that after the curse I was as good as dead," says the 28-year-old registered nurse. But the nurse says she does not mind being cursed. Not as long as she snatches as many little girls as possible from the tight grip of harmful traditions like FGM and early marriages.

In her Samburu community, elders wield enormous power over the lives of ordinary villagers — from deciding who marries who, to quietly settling life and death disputes like rape, defilement and incest. In their court, many young men get away with rape and defilement for as little as one cow.

"The biggest hurdle for us is fighting the culture of beading which is deeply rooted in Samburu and additionally, the morans are not willing to let go of this culture hence becoming a challenge changing this perception," says Gladys Lesirma, Director of Samburu Girls Foundation. Nationalmedia.com





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# NEWS FROM KCDF

## Hope Trust Fund

Hope Trust Fund, a long standing fund-builder, formally handed over the management and grant making role to KCDF having administered the fund for 10 years. The transfer is intended to reduce the administration pressure from the fund's Trustees while engaging KCDF, whose core mandate is to administer similar grants alongside its various thematic programme interventions. Hope Trust provides education scholarships to over 20 children annually as well as income-generation support to over 126 families. This is a strong show of confidence in KCDF in managing community funds.



## KCDF feted for its Role in Environmental Stewardship

KCDF was recognized by Total Eco Challenge for its role in protecting and promotion of the environment.

The 2013 gala awards, held on 27th June, saw KCDF receive a silver plaque for mainstreaming environmental conservation practices in its programme interventions nationally.



Mr. Eric Mwandia - KAPS Group Chairman (left) and Mr. Anzeze Galo - Director (center) present a cheque of Kshs.50,000 to Janet Mawiyoo - KCDF CEO towards KCDF's Food Security Initiative dubbed Ustawi.



Angela Nyanjong' - Kimisitu Sacco Finance and Admin Manager (left) present a cheque of Kshs. 50,000 to Janet Mawiyoo - KCDF CEO towards KCDF's Food Security Initiative dubbed Ustawi.



## HOTPOINT APPLIANCES LTD supports KCDF's Education Scholarship programme

KCDF has entered into a partnership with Hotpoint Appliances Limited. The partnership valued at **Kshs. 2 Million** will enable KCDF to provide at least 10 students (five boys and five girls) in high school with education scholarships for a period four years.



## CHANDARIA FOUNDATION supports KCDF's Scholarship Programme

Mr. and Mrs. Hirji Shah – right, trustees of the Chandaria Foundation present a cheque of Kshs.8.5 Million to KCDF's Foundation Chair Ms Atia Yahya –left flanked by KCDF CEO Janet Mawiyoo (middle). The funds will go towards supporting disadvantaged secondary school students under KCDF's Education Programme.



## Philanthropist Supports Education Scholarships

Beco Properties Ltd Managing Director Mr. D.S. Devgun hands over a **Kshs. 500,000** cheque to KCDF Foundation Chair Ms. Atia Yahya. The funds will go towards supporting students from disadvantaged background access secondary education.

# FACT SHEET ON PBO ACT

## Objective of the Act

- The act provides for registration and regulation of Public Benefit Organisations (“PBOs”). The PBO Act seeks to provide an enabling environment for the establishment and operation of civil society organizations in Kenya.

## Definition of a Public Benefit Organisation

Public Benefit Organisation is a voluntary membership or non-membership group of individuals or organisations, which is autonomous, non-partisan, non-profit making and which is:-

- (a) Organized and operated locally, nationally or internationally
- (b) Is registered as such by the Public Organization Authority.”
- (c) Engages in public benefit activities

## Registration of a PBO

- a) It is mandatory for a PBO to be registered under the Act in order for it to enjoy the benefits set out in the Act and more particularly in the Second Schedule (Section 6(1)).
- b) No PBO can be registered under the Act while its registration under another law subsists. However, registration under the Act supersedes registration under any other law and the prior registration is deemed invalid
- c) No organization shall purport to be a PBO unless registered under the Act or been recognized as such by the PBO Authority
- d) An international NGO may be registered by simply furnishing proof to the Authority that it is a legal entity in another country and supplying the name and address of an authorized agent in Kenya .
- e) The constitution of a PBO must, among other things, provide that the organisation’s income and property are not distributable to any person except as reimbursement of reasonable

# THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ORGANISATIONS ACT 2013

- expenses or payment of reasonable compensation for services rendered
- f) The governing body of a PBO shall consist of not less than 5 persons, 3 of who must not be relatives
- g) The Constitution of a PBO to provide that upon dissolution any asset remaining after all liabilities have been met shall be transferred to another PBO having similar objectives
- h) The Authority to consider an application for registration and either register the PBO or reject the application within sixty (60) days (Section 9).
- i) Upon registration, a PBO is a body corporate and the certificate constitutes conclusive evidence of authority to operate throughout Kenya as specified in the PBO's constitution.
- j) International organisations – (an organization registered outside Kenya) can apply for a "certificate to operate" in Kenya. Upon receipt of such application, the Authority may either exempt the organisation from registration and grant it a permit to operate in Kenya if the organization does not intend to directly implement any programmes in Kenya or it may require the organization to apply for registration as an international organization .
- k) An international organization seeking registration must have at least one third of its directors as Kenyan citizens resident in Kenya and maintain an office in Kenya
- l) A PBO which has applied for registration may, after 60 days from the date of filing of the application, apply to the Dispute Tribunal for an order requiring the Authority to register it or communicate the reasons for rejection of application
- m) The Authority shall maintain a register of all PBOs and such register shall, among other things, include:
- (a) area of operation;
  - (b) officials;
  - (c) information presented to the Authority; and
  - (d) a detailed inventory of the assets of the PBO.
- n) The Register is open to public inspection and copies available at a reasonable charge
- o) The Authority can fine, suspend or cancel the registration certificate of a PBO which has failed to remedy a default under the Act within the time specified by the Authority
- p) The Authority can deregister a PBO if
- the PBO has violated the Act
  - is carrying on activities which are contrary to its constitution
  - has ceased to exist

## What are the benefits accorded to PBOs'

*PBOs are, by law, entitled to the benefits below:-*

- (a) Exemption from
- income tax received from membership subscription, donations and grants;
  - income tax from the PBOs income generating activities if the income is wholly used to support the purposes of which the PBO was established;
  - tax on interest and dividends earned on assets on the sale of assets:-
    - o stamp duty; and
    - o court fees.
- (b) Preferential treatment under the VAT and customs duties legislation in relation to the importation of goods and services.
- (c) Incentives for donations by legal and natural persons.
- (d) Employment tax preferences.
- (e) Special tax incentives for donations to form endowments, prudent investment policies, etc.
- (f) Indirect government financing e.g. budget subsidies, grants for specific purposes and contracts to perform certain work.
- (g) Preferential treatment in public procurement procedures.
- (h) Provision of information to PBOs.
- (i) Access to training offered by Government institutions.



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*For more information, contact:*

**The Chief Executive Officer, KCDF**

P.O.Box 10501-00100 Nairobi

Tel: +254 20 3540239/ 020 8067440, 020 8067441, 020 8067442

Office Cell: +254 722 168480/ 736 449 217

Fax: +254 20 8067440

[www.kcdf.or.ke](http://www.kcdf.or.ke)