



ENTRENCHING LOCAL GIVING

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Dear Friends,

The Pamoja4Change newsletter is a platform for showcasing communities' efforts in initiating and sustaining their own development interventions by using innovative ways of locally raising both financial and human resource capital and sharing their experiences with the aim of encouraging other communities to adopt similar approaches.

The Pamoja4Change programme is a KCDF administered competitive grant scheme for qualified civil society organizations with unique project ideas for community development. The main objective of the grant is to promote, through local philanthropy, sustainable community driven projects which in turn build self-reliance and encourage positive development processes.

Qualified organizations in the initiative are required to raise at least 50% of the funds needed for the project through community actions and KCDF matches the other 50%. The project is supported by Wilde Ganzen, a Dutch Non-Governmental Organization.

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 KCDF in delivering change. These stories of impact featured speak volumes of the transformation communities have undergone.

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

We invite you to read more by visiting our website on www.kcdf.or.ke and also find out how you can be part of the change.

We look forward to a great year; one of opportunities and growth. Best wishes to you for an equally successful 2016.

Melvin Chibole
Communications Manager

Natasha Murigu
Communications Officer



Community dispensary brings treatment to patients doorstep

"This **dispensary** is god-sent. I only wish it could be **operating full time** but the stress of accessing health care has been reduced tremendously."

Good healthcare is a fundamental right for every Kenyan. Research shows that the healthcare needs of individuals living in rural areas are different from those in urban areas with rural communities lacking access to quality healthcare.

Nyatike Sub County in Migori County is no exception when it comes to inadequate health facilities. For the 56,000 residents of this semi-arid region, where the average household income is KES 3,000 per month, spending KES 300 on transport fare to access health services is equivalent to spending a month's wage to get medical attention. These are the challenges that the residents of Ogongo Village in Nyatike have been facing over the years. This challenge is further compounded by poor roads in the region making access to the main healthcare facility almost impossible especially during rainy seasons.

Fortunately, things are taking a positive turn after Kared Fod Women Development Group, a local NGO in Nyatike, partnered with KCDF to complete Ogongo Community Dispensary that the NGO had started building but could not finish due to lack of funds.

It's midday and there is a beehive of activities at the dispensary. Women with children tied on their backs as well as elderly men have lined up to see the only two doctors at the dispensary. The residents have to contend with having a small window of five hours to seek medical attention from the two available doctors before the doctors' move to neighboring Macalder Sub-District Hospital where patients are also eagerly waiting for them.

The government medical personnel have to be facilitated by Kared Fod to attend to patients at Ogongo Community Dispensary once a week for only five hours as there are not enough medical personnel to run the two facilities simultaneously.

Pamela Atieno, 42, is among the patients who have come to Ogongo Dispensary for treatment. She has been diagnosed with malaria and given the requisite drugs to manage her sickness.

"I am glad that this dispensary is now operational even though only once a week. Many people have succumbed to such small ailments in the area due to limited access to healthcare attention. Ordinarily, I would have spent KES

400 to go to Nyatike, for treatment but I get to save that money for other household needs as the dispensary is only a stone's throw away." Said the elated mother of 10.

Although Atieno is happy that she can access medical care, she is mourning her brother-in-law who passed on a few days ago from Tuberculosis. He was physically challenged and could not afford the KES 300 transport fare to go to Nyatike for treatment in good time. The TB strain became resistant before he could get medical attention and by the time he went to Ogongo Dispensary, which had been opened two days earlier, it was too late.

The dispensary however did not come easy. When the community was informed of a partner who was willing to make their dream of having a dispensary come true, they all jumped at it. But their celebration was short lived when they were told that they had to raise half of the amount to complete the dispensary which stood at KES 661,555.

Initially, the community members couldn't understand why they were being asked to contribute towards the project as they were used to being granted the full amount for any of their development programme. There was some slight acrimony from the communities of the funding prompting officials at Kared Fod to act fast to explain to them the concept behind the Entrenching Local Resources (Pamoja for Change) match grant model. The community later embraced the model partly because they were tired of the endless trips to Nyatike whenever they fell sick as well the prospect of owning the project.

"Many of the people in this community are used to being given things for free. They could not understand why someone would volunteer to help them and then ask them to contribute too," said Roses Akinyi, the Project Coordinator for Kared Fod.

The community embarked on a fundraising drive to raise

their share of the match. The community through Kared Fod successfully held two fundraising events bringing together both the political leadership of the area as well as the community members to raise the requisite KES 661,555. Part of the funds was raised in kind; community members who did not have cash contributed 50 bags of maize which was later sold and the money directed to the kitty. Other ingenious ways the community used to raise money was through providing labour in construction of the dispensary while contributing their daily wages towards the project. The two fundraising drives were attended by community members who reside in the area as well as the political leadership of the area.

"We were very encouraged when the community members got fully engaged in raising the resources; it's a phenomena that has not been witnessed in this side of the country before. It was by no means an easy endeavour but it has motivated the community to come together to do even more projects that will benefit them. The community fully appreciate that they have enough resources amongst themselves and can chart their destiny as far as community development is concerned," added Roses.

Once the money was deposited into the KCDF account and the first batch released, construction of the dispensary started in earnest. The second tranche of the money was used to equip the dispensary by stocking examination beds, baby coats, Intravenous delivery pans, blood pressure machines and weighing scales among others.

"This dispensary is god-sent. I only wish it could be operating full time but the stress of accessing health care has been reduced tremendously." Quips Pamela Atieno.

But it's only a matter of time before the facility starts operating full time. The Ministry of Health has already factored the dispensary in the deployment of medical personnel in the coming year.





Community Embraces Local Giving to Transform Education standards in Nyando Sub-County

While some pupils enjoy taking their lessons in newly built classrooms, their colleagues on the other side of the compound are either learning in dilapidated classrooms or under trees. That's the stark contrast one is greeted with when they visit Rabuor Primary School in Nyando Sub-County. The Public Department of Health, for obvious reasons, has condemned the dilapidated building which also houses the school's administration block.

The school, started in 1938 accommodates approximately 1000 pupils most of them being orphans. The population of the school has continued to strain the existing facilities over the years with the introduction of free primary education making an already bad situation worse.

"The dilapidated state of the classrooms is beyond what we, as a public school, can attempt to salvage due to limitations of resources. We have a high enrollment com-

pared to the available infrastructure to meet that demand which has affected the quality of education in the school," says the school's headmaster, Mr. Charles Odida.

But even with the inadequate facilities, the pupils' spirit has not been dampened. Their performance in both academic and extra-curricular activities is stunning as demonstrated by the many trophies that are placed on a table behind the headmaster's seat. Of the array of trophies displayed on the shelf, one sticks out - the Scottish dance trophy. The school has won the trophy twice in a row, in 2013 and 2014 for emerging as the best Scottish dancers in the entire Nyanza region.

"We are happy of this achievement. Despite being a public school that serves a fairly poor constituent, we keep winning the competition that draws mostly private and high cost schools from the region. If we win it this year (2015), it will be ours to keep," boasts Mr. Odida.



The new classrooms spotted in the school however did not come easy. Upon the realization by the school back in 2012 that the facilities in the school were being stretched beyond its capacity, the school management began an awareness campaign targeting parents in rallying them on the importance of coming together to raise resources to expand and renovate the facilities cognizant that the government allocation was hardly enough.

After many false attempts, the school was able to renovate a few classrooms through parents' contributions but this was hardly enough to make an impact. It was during this time that the school partnered with a local community organisation that focuses on improving education access called Kidi Luanda to explore ways of improving Rabuor's school environment.

Kidi Luanda introduced KCDF's matching grant concept dubbed Entrenching Local Resource Mobilization (Pamoja 4 Change) to the school. The grant seeks to encourage local communities to come together and fundraise half the cost of whatever project they would want to implement with KCDF matching that amount a shilling for a shilling. The concept essentially aims to encourage community giving while giving communities the confidence to address their own community challenges with minimal "external" support as a sustainable way of community development.

"When we first introduced this concept to Rabuor's Primary School's leadership, they were very unenthusiastic about it. One of the reasons they gave was that the catchment community was fairly poor as well as the false starts they have had in the past in raising resources to renovate the classrooms," said Malin Akinyi, Kidi Luanda's Coordinator.

After a lot of convincing and consultation between the school's leadership and the parents, the school came on board and embarked on raising resources to build four Early Childhood Education classrooms at a cost of KES 700,000.

"We agreed to be part of the programme after a lot of introspection and consultation. Parents are very sensitive to hiking of school fees and we had to reassure them that the fees, which was already a burden for them, would not be increased. We also had to reassure the parents that they could entrust their money with KCDF although in retrospect I was not fully convinced" says Mr. Odida.

The school decided to hold fundraising events as opposed to increasing the fees since that required clearance from the Ministry of Education. The first fundraising event, which involved parents and took place in 2012. Each parent was asked to contribute KES 1000 and the school was able to raise KES 300,000.

Encouraged by the first fundraising event, the school held another fundraiser which involved reaching out to friends of the school such as the alumni's of the school as well as the local leadership. After the event, the school was able to raise the requisite KES 400,000 unlocking the KCDF match. The school constructed the four ECD classrooms which currently accommodates 200 pupils.

"The construction of the ECD classrooms at Rabuor however opened a

pandora's box for Kidi Luanda as many other schools from the region realized that they too could fundraise for their infrastructure projects," says Malin.

Kidi Luanda in partnership with KCDF also supported Alendu Secondary to construct two classrooms. The school fundraised KES 1.2 Million which was matched by KCDF and they put up two classrooms that accommodate 100 pupils leading to improved performance of the students.

"It was fairly easy to convince the community to give because they knew they were contributing money towards a project that benefitted their own children. The school had also utilized their allocated resources prudently and the parents had full confidence of the school," quipped Mr. Andreucus Oluoch, the head teacher of Alendu Secondary.

At Masogo Mixed Secondary School, the school enlisted in the Pamoja4Change project and they put up a new dormitory at a cost **KES 1.2 million**. The dormitory accommodates **103 boys** who initially put-up in an iron sheet dormitory that became very cold at night and very hot during the day posing a health hazard to them.

Other projects supported by Kidi Luanda with support from KCDF include: two classrooms at Rongo Primary

School at a cost of **KES 900,000**, one classroom at Ranjira Secondary at a cost of **KES 415,000** and two classrooms at Nyamware Primary School at a cost of **KES 830,000**.

The Pamoja4Change project has, beyond improving the lives of the communities in Nyando Sub-county, encouraged the communities to take control of their developmental destiny by looking inwards for their development solutions.

Amount Raised Locally

KES 1.2 Million

Total Project Cost

KES 2.4 Million





Dormitory provides secure home for rescued girls

“As the **number of girls grew** by the day, we realized we needed to go a **step further** and **provide** girls with a place where they could **get psychosocial support, food and education** to prepare them for a **bright future.**”

Poverty, disease and negative cultural practices continue to deny girls their right to access quality education. Girls with little or no education are far more likely to be married as children, suffer domestic violence, live in poverty, and lack a say over household spending or their own health care. However, the government and the civil society are at the forefront of making girls realize their dreams.

In the predominant pastoralist regions of Pokot and Samburu, over 50% of girls between the ages of 10 and 21 years have been subjected to FGM. A further 80% of the girls born in these areas either do not join school or drop out prematurely after undergoing FGM, as girls are often married off immediately after the procedure.

*Mercy Larimpai** from Samburu had to escape from her home due to an imminent threat of being circumcised while still very young.

“I had to make a quick escape from home to avoid being circumcised. In our culture, circumcision is a precursor to marriage and I knew that I would be married off to an

old man from our village. I love school and I wanted to be given a chance to advance my education, a dream that I hold dear hence my resolve to seek assistance from a rescue centre almost 600 kilometers from home,” says the 15-year-old shy girl.

Eagle Rise Christian Church in Makueni County has established the first rescue centre in the larger Makueni County. Concerned about the number of girls that were dropping out of school either because of early marriage, female genital mutilation or poverty, Eagle Rise Christian Church felt that they needed to do something.

“As the number of girls grew by the day, we realized we needed to go a step further and provide girls with a place where they could get psychosocial support, food and education to prepare them for a bright future,” says Rev Leonard Wambua, General Overseer at Eagle Rise Christian Church.

Armed with a 10-acre piece of land in Makindu - Makueni County and only KES 30,000, the journey to build a rescue center to offer needy girls a home and an education

as an alternative path in life to FGM and early marriage as well as access education in a peaceful environment. The project began with the construction of five classrooms with donation from friends of the church. Without enough money to finish the classrooms, they had to look for partners to help them finish.

As they searched for an organization to partner with, they came across Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF). After a series of meetings, KCDF invited a few officials of Eagle Rise for a resource mobilization training session on how they would raise resources for their project.

"Even before we received money from KCDF, the training that we went through started bearing fruits because our eyes had been opened to local resources that existed within the community enabling us to complete the five classrooms," says Wambua,

As soon as the five classrooms had been completed, Eagle Rise wrote a proposal soliciting for an additional KES 4 million to scale up the project by constructing a girls' dormitory. The group was tasked to raise 50 per cent of the grant requested - a tall order for a Community Based Organisation that is associated with a fairly low income population.

The group engaged in a comprehensive fundraising drive to raise the money. The group used churches as their focal points to raise money and after four grueling fundraising drives popularly known as harambees, Eagle Rise was able to reach their target of KES 2 Million in only seven months.

"We were astounded by the progress we made in raising the money. We had reservations on our likelihood to raise the KES 2 Million but we trudged ahead. It was not easy due to mistrust from the people we approached based on the harambee spirit that was abused years ago and was used to enrich a few people at the expense of the

community. The situation was worsened by the community's perception of being destitute and they were meant to be supported fully as opposed to them raising half of the amount in line with the Pamoja for Change model of fund matching". Wambua says.

And so, with the KES 4 million secured, the ground breaking ceremony begun and within eight months the building was complete opening its doors in May 2014 to 20 girls who were initially sleeping in one of the five classrooms built earlier. The money also went into equipping the dormitories with beds and mattresses.

Unlike most dormitories in the area, the institutions dormitory is unique in that it has inbuilt lavatory facilities which guarantees safety of the girls residing in the dormitory especially at night.

Seventeen year old Catherine Anyango* is one of the beneficiaries of the dormitories. *"My life was troubled because after my father abandoned us, my mother could not afford to pay my school fees. I decided to do menial work to supplement my mother's income until a good samaritan offered to pay my school fees. That's how I landed here. I am glad I came to this school. If I hadn't been brought here, I wouldn't be in school,"* says Catherine who was plucked from the sprawling Kibera slums in Nairobi.

Currently, the dormitory can accommodate upto 80 girls and there are plans to bring in a lower age bracket of 7-13 year olds to join the current 12-18 year-olds. "We want to rescue girls when they are still young to enable them have a secure place to study, sleep without any worries and develop valuable life skills," says Fidelis Ndonge, Head Teacher of Eagle Rise Girl's Rescue Centre.

Beyond protecting and offering educational and vocational training opportunities to the girls, the rescue centre also tries to reconcile the girls with their parents and communities.

Amount Raised Locally

KES 2 Million

Total Amount Raised

KES 4 Million



ECD Centre to cut care time and increase soap stone production

“Artisans will concentrate on production instead of taking breaks to check on their children.”

Tabaka in South Mugirango, Kisii County is known for soap stone carvings. In fact, the carvings are the economic mainstay of many residents of Tabaka. But for many years, the trade was a preserve of men.

Josephine Akinyi, a member of Smolart self-help group, is among the few women who have braved the cultural barrier and ventured into the lucrative trade, to the chagrin of some male chauvinists.

Established in 1989 with the objective of improving the lives of member carvers through marketing and logistical support, Smolart works with 200 producer members, each of whom is a stakeholder. Each member works with several home-based artisans, for a total of some 1,000 carvers, thus creating job opportunities while also allowing artisans to be closer to their families.

The group's mission that goes beyond providing a fair wage to artisans, seek to eradicate poverty among members, promote fair trade, oppose discrimination, and support community efforts and to manage resources sustainably.

But life has not been easy for women artisans especially those with toddlers. “We realized that women artisans did not have a place to leave their children thus affecting their productivity,” says Moses Ongesa, Smolart's Board Chair.

After several deliberations, members agreed that a place was needed where women could leave children as they worked and the best option was to come up with an ECD center. After looking for partners to assist in realizing the project, Kenya Community Development Foundation was identified and a proposal submitted for consideration.

The total cost of the project which entailed constructing and equipping an ECD center was estimated to be Ksh 1.6 million of which Smolart was required to raise Ksh 800,000 according to KCDF's Pamoja for Change which seeks to promote, through local giving, sustainable community driven projects which build communities' confidence to take charge of their development process by requiring them to raise 50 per cent of the total project cost while KCDF matching the amount raised.

The organization had to explain the idea of 50/50 giving to the community because many did not understand why they were being asked to contribute yet a donor had been

found. But after several meetings and deliberations, they understood the concept and the benefits the project would bring to the community and accepted to give towards the project.

"Women embraced the idea first because they knew they would benefit the most. The fact that members contribution was time bound also made them work hard to meet their target," says Akinyi.

A funds drive was then organized and local leaders, schools and churches invited. However, the funds drive only raised 80 per cent of the required amount leading to members being asked to top up with Ksh 3000 through their earnings. Of the 200 members of Smolart, 60 per cent are women and 40 men.

After raising the Ksh 800,000, members had to grapple with another challenge. *"We were asked to deposit money into KCDF's account something that terrified us"*, says Ongesa, adding, *"We decided to take a risk because we are used to taking risks whenever we send our artifacts to international markets without having seen the buyers with our eyes. Fortunately, we breathed a sigh of relief when the money was matched"*.

The project which involved putting a wall, roofing and furnishing an already existing structure within the Smolart premises, will start with 20 children and will not only cater for artisans' children but also children from the community around where Smolart operates. The children will be required to pay a subsidized fee which will be used to pay the teachers.

The ECD center, the first of its kind in the community, will cut the care time and increase volumes for production and sale because the artisans and even the community at large will be able to concentrate on their work since they will be assured that their children are in a safe environment learning.

"Artisans will concentrate on production instead of taking breaks to check on their children," says Jim Kenyanyi, Smolart's Marketing Manager.





Right to Play, ECD Resource Centre Improves Performance in Schools

“With the **two project complete**, the **performance** of the over 14,000 children in Malindi Sub-County has **improved tremendously.**”



The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights recognizes play as a fundamental right for every child due to its importance for optimal child development. Malindi Education and Development Association (MEDA), a local NGO in Kenya's coastal town of Malindi knows this too well.

Through research, MEDA established that one of the reasons why 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. Due to the limited spaces available in the town as a result of massive construction of tourist resorts, no recreational facility in the entire Malindi area existed to cater for the children's extra- curricular development. This meant that the only place children could spend their leisure time was the on the beaches which had its own negative traits such as child prostitution, child trafficking and perpetual begging.

Concerned by this trend, MEDA decided to address this challenge head on by looking for partners who were willing to support them implement the “*Right to Play Project*” to cater for the 11,000 children in Malindi, Kilifi County.

The group approached different stakeholders and was finally allocated a piece of land belonging to a renowned philanthropist.

After acquiring the piece of land, MEDA had to contend with the challenge of raising resources to purchase playing materials such as carousels, jumping castles among many other play materials all valued at KES 4 Million.

"We looked for different partners to raise the money but most of them shied away due to the enormity of the project. We finally went back to our long term partner Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) to assist us with raising the funds which they gladly accepted but gave us a challenge; a challenge to raise half the amount to implement the project through a project dubbed Pamoja for change which loosely translated means Together for change." Said Attas Ali, MEDA's Chief Executive Officer.

This being a new concept of raising resources for the group from the conventional 100 percent grant development grant, MEDA had to have many consultative meetings with its stakeholders as well as the community at large who supported the play-ground project. Fortunately for the group, they had demonstrated financial prudence and integrity in all their projects and the community came on board fairly quickly. MEDA developed a fund raising strategy after several trainings by KCDF to guide them in raising their 50 percent match.

The organization embarked on a fundraising initiative by raising money from its existing income generating activities as well as targeting corporates and individuals from the expansive town. Another strategy that the group has also continued to use with considerable success was a fundraiser targeting the Muslim community who constitute close to 80% of the population in Malindi Sub-County during the Holy Month of Ramadhan.

"We had raised slightly over KES 1 Million in the previous year and though we were confident we could repeat the same feat, KES 2 Million was an overstretch for us. We planned the fundraiser dinner inviting as many community leaders, business people and the locals that we had networks with as we could. Close to 800 people graced the occasion raising a staggering KES 4.2 Million in three hours," adds Attas.

This was a highlight not only for MEDA but also for the community at large who developed the confidence of solving their own development needs without necessarily looking for "outside help". The group deposited their KES 1 Million contribution which was matched by KCDF and

within a year or so, the play-ground was operational attracting over 200 hundred children a day. This number doubles during holidays and festive seasons. The children pay a highly subsidized fee to access some of the games in a bid to generate revenue to keep the playground operational.

"Parents who used to lock in their children now allow their children to go to the playground to interact with other children as they learn other motor and life skills. There has also been a steady decline of societal vices that come with the tourist industry such as child labour or early prostitution as there is very little contact between the children and the perpetrators of this vices," says Attas.

Encouraged by the response to the "Right to Play" project, MEDA initiated another project on constructing an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Resource Centre in the area, the first of its kind in the Sub-County, after realizing that poor performance of pupils in Primary School level was as a result of limited access to Early Childhood Development schooling as well as lack of ECD related resource materials.

The community was able to raise another KES 1 million the next year through the matching model to support an ECD project. The project entailed construction of a two-roomed facility with accompanying ECD learning materials as well as conducting refresher courses for the many untrained teachers. ECD teachers in Malindi who cannot access ECD books also find the center useful as they can access reference material.

With the two projects complete, the performance of the over 14,000 children in Malindi Sub-County has improved tremendously but a bigger victory has been the community's ability and confidence in addressing their development needs through community philanthropy.



Providing water and sanitation keeps girls in school

“The school can now cook without fear that the **available water** will be depleted and the pupils have **plenty of water** to wash their hands whenever they visit the toilets which has greatly improved the general **hygienic condition** of the school.”

Globally, over 780 million people lack access to safe drinking water and 2.5 billion people lack access to sanitation. Projections are that by 2025, two-thirds of the world's population could be living in severe water stress conditions. Lack of sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools has been found to have a more negative impact on girls than on boys. Girls need safe, clean, separate and private sanitation facilities in their schools.

In Mombasa, inadequate drinking water and poor sanitation in some schools is one of the major hindrances to quality education. To address these water related challenges, Eco-Ethics, a local Community Based Organisation in Mombasa, under its Maji ni Uhai programme, carried out a survey in Kongowea area and found that clean water and sanitation was indeed a big challenge. The survey indicated the high drop-out rate in schools as well as poor health was associated with poor sanitary conditions.

“We decided as Eco Ethics based on the survey, to do something to bring clean water through water harvesting to some of the schools in the area with the aim of improving the learning environment leading to improved perfor-

mance while minimizing the the drop-out incidences in girl's schools,” says Anthony Mwaniki, a Project Officer at Eco Ethics CBO.

Rainwater harvesting is used around the world, especially in areas that are dry or have minimal access to water. A collection area such as a roof combined with collection systems such as a rain gutter, a storage tank and a system to distribute the water is needed to harvest the run-away water.

As Eco Ethics was looking for organizations to partner with in purchasing four 10,000 litre water tank for the schools in the area most affected by water scarcity, they came across Kenya Community Development Foundation. After learning of KCDF's match-funding programme known as Entrenching Local Resource Mobilization which has been dubbed Pamoja for Change (P4C), the group was somewhat convinced that this model would work in their area.

“We were very skeptical about this kind of funding but we dared not tell KCDF. Raising local resources from a predominantly poor community was almost impossible and we would still have the herculean task of convincing the



community that indeed their money would not be lost to such an arrangement which had been used previously to fleece the public". Quipped Anthony animatedly.

Under the grant agreement, Eco Ethics was meant to raise KES 228,870 being half the total project cost of KES 457,740 to purchase the four water tanks as well as construction of latrines in four schools.

Eco Ethics organized a community meeting to convince them of the P4C model as well strategize on ways of raising the money. The community members narrowed down doing small local actions such as fundraisers as well as approaching corporates that had a presence in the area. Civicon, a construction company was one of the companies approached and they readily pledged to give Eco Ethics the four water tanks. Another organization that also came on board was National Environment Management Authority that gave technical assistance with the community providing labour.

Maweni Primary School with a population of 1100 pupils was one of the beneficiaries of the water tanks and gutters for collecting water. The school, despite having a well that was powered by electricity to pump the water to a 10,000 reservoir, the water was hardly enough.

"I always agonized over where to get money to pay for the high cost of electricity to pump water because the small 10,000 litre water tank was not adequate for the more than 1000 pupil population. Water had to be pumped

three times a day which increased the cost of electricity to about Ksh 5000 per month. That is not small money for a school like ours." Lamented Mr Amos Shikumbe.

With one extra tank through the Eco Ethic's project as well as rehabilitation of the water gutters, life is more bearable for the school. The school is now able to supplement the water from the well with rain water reducing the cost of electricity and consequently school fees that the parents had to foot.

"The school can now cook without fear that the available water will be depleted and the pupils have plenty of water to wash their hands whenever they visit the toilets which has greatly improved the general hygienic condition of the school. Girls who would have preferred to stay home during their monthly menses can now attend all classes without fear of stigma," says Shikumbe.

While the gutters were only meant to collect water, it has brought with it unforeseen benefits such as reduction of flooding in the school during the rainy season due to runoff water - a situation that the head teacher says made it impossible to access the school compound during rainy seasons.

Kongowea Primary School, with a population of 1500 pupils, is another beneficiary of the water harvesting project and construction of latrines. The school's only source of water, a run-down well had dried up forcing the school to purchase a water tank. The 10,000 litre water tank was hardly enough to cater for the school's need which included water for cooking meals as well as for general hygiene.

"Before the tanks were donated, the school used to buy water in 20 litre containers each going for KES 10, a cost too exorbitant for the school vis-à-vis the KES 5 government allocation per child per term for Electricity Water and Conservancy (ECW) capitation. The pupils were also forced to carry with them from home drinking water as the water purchased was not fit for consumption," says Mercline Obunga, the Headmistress for the school.

With the water harvesting initiative as well as construction of the pit latrines, the four schools have seen an increased admission and retention rate even as the schools struggle to create a conducive environment for the learners.



Feeder School Promotes Education to Wildlife Threatened Pupils

“The **community** has realized they hold **solutions** to their own **development** challenges and that their **destiny** is in their own hands.”

Every year, over two million animals migrate from the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania to the greener pastures of the Masai Mara National Reserve. Nowhere in the world is there a movement of animals so spectacular as the wildebeest migration; providing some remarkable game viewing that attracts thousands of tourists to the Mara.

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 thanks to infamous wildebeest migration.

But amidst this spectacular viewing, hundreds of children in Nkoilale, Narok County, have been unable to go to school due to the menace of wildlife in the adjacent game park. 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 wildlife 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.

Younger children are more disadvantaged as they are forced to stay out of school until they are old enough to walk the 10 Kilometers stretch resulting in late entry to schools compared to their counterparts in other parts of Narok County.

“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 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**, Programme Coordinator at NCDO and Headmaster of Nkoilale Primary School.

When the community, with support from partners, put up a boarding facility to host girls rescued from early marriages at Nkoilale Boarding Primary School as well as some additional classes to accommodate the increased number of pupils- the unexpected happened. Parents realized that girls who were boarding performed better than those who were day scholars and that majority of those who boarded completed class eight and transitioned to secondary school level. This pushed the demand for enrollment further, leaving teachers strained and overworked.

It's against this backdrop that NCDO teamed up with Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) to address some of these challenges with the aim of improving education standards and reducing crowding of students in the few accessible schools. The plan was to put up feeder schools through a matching fund arrangement with KCDF to construct two classrooms to cater for pupils who would not otherwise be accommodated in Nkoilale Primary School.

"In line with KCDF's match grant fund christened Pamoja for Change (Together for Change) concept, we informed our community that we had found a partner who was willing to help but we were tasked with raising half of the amount of KES 1.5 Million to unlock the grant. The KCDF model was a surprise to the community because they were used to projects being supported 100 per cent by external donors," says Jacob.

All the same, the community agreed to proceed because they were eager to see their children excel in school. To kick off the process, some officials of NCDO were taken through training by KCDF and given skills on how to raise funds locally. They were also taken through case studies of organizations that had succeed in using the matching model.

"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. 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 donated by the community were confined in Nkoilale Primary School compound, which was accessible to all and the heads of cattle were fattened so as to fetch a good price when selling in their weekly auction. After fattening for two months, the heads of cattle were auctioned in the local market and the funds raised promptly matched by KCDF leading to the construction of six feeder classrooms. The raised funds was also used to put up water gutters to collect rain water during the rainy season as well as to plant trees to conserve the environment within the school compound.

"The community feels they own the projects; when they look at the classrooms, they see their cows in the project and feel proud of their participation. It's very different from other projects where partners have done everything

for the community without allowing the communities to participate," says Losikany.

After being w equipped with fundraising skills acquired through numerous training by KCDF, the community confidently approached KCDF yet again with another proposal of constructing two more classrooms and an ablution block at Nkoilale Health Centre. Using the local resource mobilization skills and the trust they had built within the community over time, NCDO was able to raise KES 1 Million through the local community members who included parents, the local conservancies as well as the lodges in the Mara which KCDF matched.

Through the two projects, the community has realized they hold solutions to their own development challenges and that their destiny is in their own hands. The aspect of community philanthropy is clearly manifest in the projects that they have successfully implemented. The community through NCDO applied for a third grant to construct a maternity wing valued at KES 6 Million at the local health centre which will serve more than 2000 women.

"Just like the schools, health centres with maternity wings are very few and far between. The mortality rates for mothers and infants is extremely high as most mothers prefer to seek services of traditional birth attendants because of the long distances that mothers have to cover to get to hospitals. The closest maternity centre is located close to 70 kilometers away from Nkoilale. The human wildlife conflict also compounds the situation further". Said Joseph.

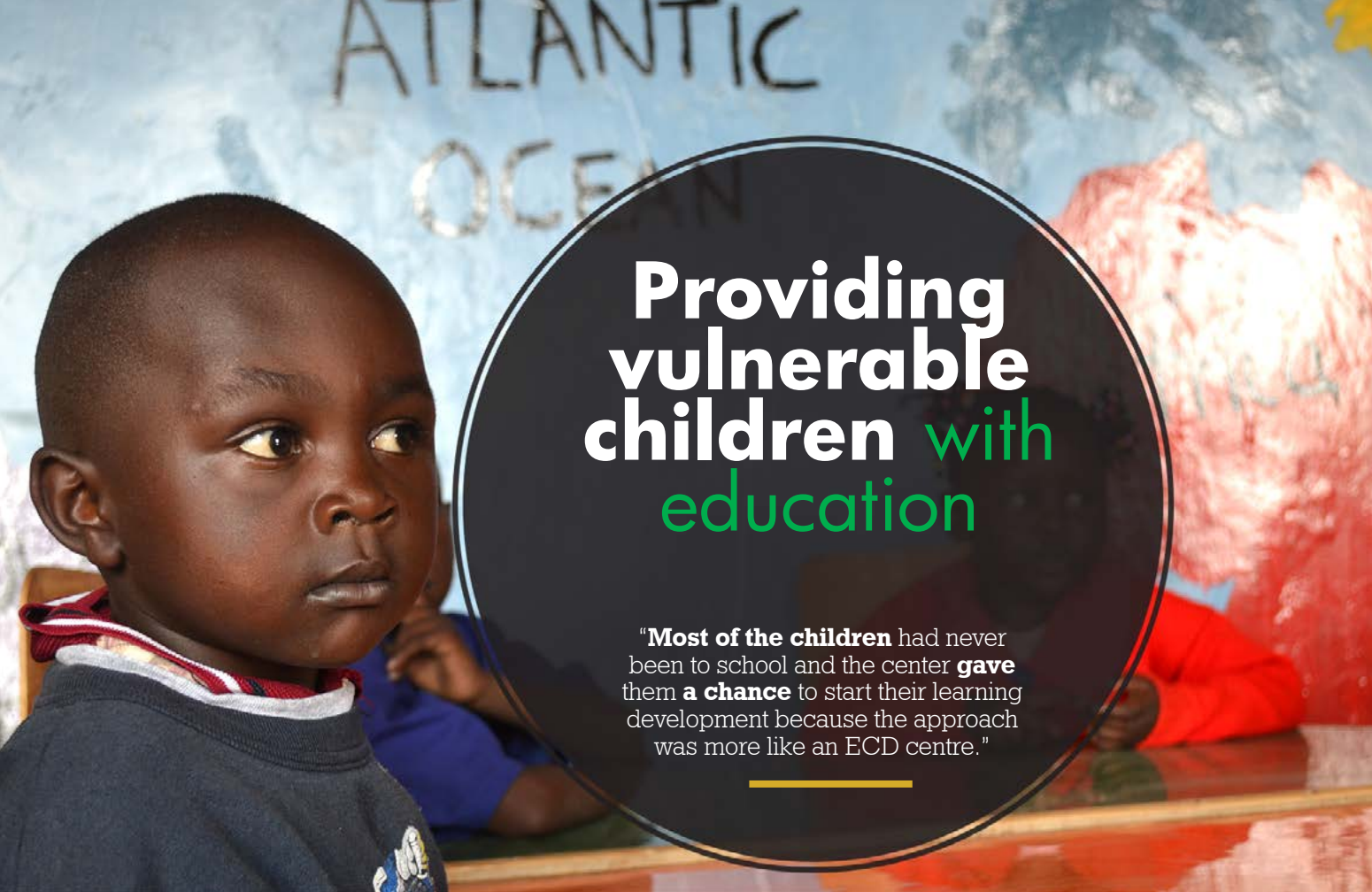
After successive resource mobilization of KES 3 Million, the maternity wing is nearing completion and it envisaged that it will encourage women to give birth safely at the hospital.

Total Amount Raised

KES 750,000

Total Project Amount

KES 1.5 Million



Providing vulnerable children with education

"Most of the children had never been to school and the center **gave** them **a chance** to start their learning development because the approach was more like an ECD centre."

Resource-poor nations, especially those within Sub-Saharan African (SSA) bear the brunt of the HIV pandemic, with 90% of infected persons live in SSA.

According to Kenya's National AIDS Control Council, Kenya has 1.4 million adults and 200,000 children living with the disease. The October 2014, British Journal of Education, states that orphaned learners are more likely to drop out of school than non-orphans.

A social worker by the name Mary Wanderi, realized that there were many children in children's homes yet their parents were alive. Upon visiting the children's homes, she found that most of their parents were bed ridden suffering from HIV and AIDS and had no drugs and money to take their children to school.

"I decided that the best thing to do was to treat the root cause of the problem and not the problem," says Wanderi, the Programme Coordinator of Living Positive Kenya. She therefore started an HIV intervention programme to ensure that the parents were healthy enough to take care of themselves and take their children to school.

The three pronged programme, therefore, focused on having more women enrolling for HIV treatment and adherence programmes, building a support group for the women to help in psychosocial support and lastly to empower them economically to cater for their needs. But the project could not work well because the parents had children to be taken care of.

But along the way, the management realized that a day care center for the children to support the three programmes was required to allow the women to go to work and visit the support groups while having children in a safe haven. She approached the local chief who donated a dumping site. The project then began with the clearing of a dumping site and construction of semi-permanent structures for the five initial children. The children had found a place where they could have tea and lunch and return home in the evening allowing their mothers to concentrate on other chores.

"Most of the children had never been to school and the center gave them a chance to start their learning development because the approach was more like an ECD centre," says Wanderi.

As the centre became popular, the management realized that they needed a school for the children. One of the Living Positive Board Members introduced the management to Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) and KCDF accepted to partner with Living Positive to work on the project.

"But they were taken aback when they presented the proposal and were told that it will be 50/50 partnership. The management then went back to the drawing board and organized activities such as selling products from the members and a church dinner, which helped raised Ksh 713,000, fifty per cent of the total cost of Ksh 1,427,000.

"That's the first time we were collecting funds locally and it has helped us to be known in the area since we had to go to churches to raise funds," says Wanderi, adding that, "We are now confident on raising funds locally."

The money has enabled the construction of a new classroom and a better toilet. *"We are now able to take in more pupils on top of the current 120. The new latrine is also more hygienic,"* boasts Wanderi.

With the children now in school, the parents are now able to do their business and raise money to feed their families.





Rain dust but not a drop of water

“The **community used to pay Ksh 100 per month** per household which was only enough to buy fuel but not to pay the caretaker and maintenance of the pump.”

Water scarcity is not a new problem in Isiolo County. But of late residents of Ngeremara in Isiolo are a worried lot because rain has become more erratic and it takes long to rain.

“There has been no rains and the last drop from one of the water tanks fed by a rock catchment is just about to stop,” says Francis Lowa, Chairman of the Ngaremarara Water Committee.

For ten years, the Ngaremarara community was relying on a bore hole that was dug by the Catholic Church and they had no water problem until the borehole was handed over to the community to run it. The water was initially pumped by wind but the wind mill got spoilt and the community was given a generator by DANIDA that they use to date. But that too is not devoid of problems due to the fact that it needs diesel and maintenance which is hard to get from the community.

“The community used to pay Ksh 100 per month per household which was only enough to buy fuel but not to

pay the caretaker and maintenance of the pump,” says Lowa. The pump runs for four hours a day using Ksh 8000 worth of diesel per month. At times the County Government donates fuel but this is not regular.

Water from the bore hole is stored half kilometer away and the 20,000 litres tank serves 2000 people. The water is pumped after every two days but that's not even enough because it is only meant for domestic use. The fact that the water is salty has made it difficult for the committee to install water meters because salty water can block the meters hence making it hard to collect revenue from the community members.

Another tank of 100,000 litres lies idle because the community feels it's too expensive to fill. *“We have been using the 20,000 litres tank due to the problem of finances,”* says Joseph Ekiru, Chairman of the Ngaremarara CBO. Adding that their plans are to reach 3000 people with 160,000 litres. We want the animals to benefit too.

To address the perennial water problem and the expansion plans, the community has decided to install a power



house to enable them use the 100,000 litres tank. They are also gearing up for management change and form a water committee to run the water project properly.

The community is targeting to raise Ksh 550,000 to connect power and lay a one kilometer line and install three other tanks of 10,000 litres each. A funds drive is the only way to help meet their needs.

As the fundraising draws near, community members are optimistic that they will raise half the money to match Kenya Community Development Foundation's Pamoja for Change contribution. KCDF's Pamoja4Change seeks to promote, through local giving, sustainable community driven projects which build communities' confidence to take charge of their development process by matching what the community raises hence the community's requirement to raise half the project cost.





Village Adopts Renewable Energy through Community Resource Mobilisation

"We want to **ensure that girls** have time to **study just like boys** and at the same time **saving the environment.**"

Biogas energy saves trees, money and reduces greenhouse gas emissions while preventing health problems such as upper respiratory infections and eye ailments among others. However, the initial cost of installation has been a deterrent to many who are willing to switch from wood fuel to biogas.

The cost of setting up a biogas digester ranges from KES 50,000 to KES 150,000, a cost that is way above what most people in the rural areas who earn less than a dollar a day can afford.

Boosting Young Entrepreneurs Foundation (BYE) a local Community Based Organization based in Muranga County partnered with Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF) to provide loans to enable communities in Muranga County to construct biogas installations. BYE realized that many people in Muranga wanted to have biogas plants as an alternative to using firewood and paraffin but only a fraction could afford, yet majority of families owned manure producing cows - a prerequisite for biogas production.

BYE's Kigumo Green Development Project (KIGDP) was established to protect the environment from deforestation by offering families a chance to neutralize their carbon

emission by building biogas installations as well as promoting the shift from firewood to sustainable biogas. The project also sought to release young girls from the household chores of collecting firewood thereby stimulating their school attendance.

A research conducted by BYE on the performance of girls versus boys showed that girls are needed at home earlier than boys to fetch firewood, water and perform other domestic chores. Most girls alluded that when they are in class in the afternoons, their minds revolve around what time they will get home to begin on their household chores; a factor that contributes to their dismal performance in school.

"We want to ensure that girls have time to study just like boys and at the same time saving the environment," says Gerald Kinuthia, Executive Director at BYE.

Most households in Gakoeini Village in Muranga County also don't have the luxury of being connected to the electricity grid. However, at one woman's home, beams of light can barely be seen through the thick fog of Gakoeini village. Lydia Muthoni Kamau is one among eight farmers in her village who are running mini biogas plants to supplement their energy needs.



"Yes, the light you are seeing comes from the gas produced from my small biogas plant," says Muthoni as she inches closer to the light source dangling from the ceiling of her two bedroom house.

"Cooking is now stress free as I can now cook in a smoke free kitchen in the shortest time possible. The time I would have spent looking for firewood is now used in doing other house hold chores. I am also happy because I am contributing to conserving the environment," concludes Lydia as she stirs a mixture of cow dung and water using her bare hands.

Murang'a is often wet contributing to frequent power outages. The biogas project, has provided community members like Muthoni with alternative options of lighting up their households during these outages. The installation of Muthoni's biogas 'factory' cost KES. 75,000 through a pay forward model where the money is advanced to the beneficiaries and upon completion of the project, the recipients pays a monthly installment of KES. 5,000 per month within a period of 18 months. This arrangement facilitates more beneficiaries to be part of the project as the installment comes from savings accrued from not buying paraffin or firewood.

A ten-minute drive away from Lydia's farm, Mzee David Kimani, a septuagenarian is also a beneficiary of the biogas project. Before installing the biogas plant, Kimani had been spending quite a bit of money buying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Every three months, he would spend close to KES 3000 (USD 34) to refill a 13kg gas cylinder. Today he considers himself unshackled from this expense.

"Bringing this project home has saved me from buying gas or using paraffin. After carefully researching on the project, I jumped on board and I have never looked back as the project has been a blessing to me and my family" Says Kimani.

When BYE CBO was introduced to the project (Pamoja4Change), they were hesitant that the matching fund approach would not get buy in from the community as most were not financially endowed. But even with such challenges, BYE's aggressive campaigns on educating the people of Muranga on the principles of local giving as well as the benefits of biogas energy - the efforts have paid off as more and more people have now embraced the technology as testified by the number of biogas installed to date which stands at 40.

"We shared the concept in our regular meeting and we were surprised with the reaction from most of the members. Members took up the challenge and gave various suggestions on how the funds would be raised," quips Gerald.

BYE CBO was tasked to raise KES. 450,000 with KCDF matching the fund to initiate the pilot project which would act as a demonstration plot for more members to learn and take up the project. The group was able to approach tea factories in the area, held football matches as well as getting contributions from members and the set target was reached.

"The interest from members in the project has increased tremendously after the pilot and members are now coming together to support each other to construct their biogas plants and we hope to see a cleaner environment as well as improved living standard from the community," Gerald adds.

Some of the spin offs from the biogas project is generation of organic fertilizer which reduces the need to buy commercial fertilizers which is costly for the rural folks. A 50kg of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) retails between KES. 3,500 and KES 3700.

As the biogas project spreads in homes in Muranga County, a drive to have biogas plants installed in schools to supplement their energy needs is in the offing. Njiiri High School was chosen as a pilot project with a total project cost of KES. 368,408. And as with all Pamoja4Change Projects, BYE facilitated a funds drive to raise their match. The student community was able to raise KES 133,000 from their parents and teachers while KES 60,000 was raised from Njiiri's Old Boy's Association.



Community Embraces Green Energy to Check Environmental Degradation

The wider Narok County has witnessed its fair share of drought and famine due to changes in the climatic patterns of the area caused by massive deforestation and environmental degradation of the Mau Forest.

Narok, once considered a water tower with a forest cover of more than 76 percent 20 years ago, currently has a forest cover of less than 33 percent caused by a number of factors with the major ones being charcoal burning and large scale wheat planting as well as an upsurge in settlement schemes in the forest.

As one approaches the somewhat dusty terrain of Narok town, one can't help but notice the maasai women adorned in the famous maasai attires of wrap around (shukas) and beads dangling on their necks as they carry logs of firewood on their backs while precariously balancing their children on top of the logs. The spectacle is characteristic in the wider Narok County as most homesteads still rely on firewood energy for cooking.

Norparakwo Koriata has been a stern devotee of firewood energy which she has used for over 30 years in cooking for her seven member nuclear family as well as another eight members from her extended family. It's only recently that

she adopted a cleaner and more efficient way for cooking and lighting at her makeshift home, made of soil and plastered with cow dung which is commonly referred to as manyattas.

"When it came to preparation of meals, it was a big challenge for me as the smoke that filled the room was not only uncomfortable for us, but also a health hazard to my family. Most of my children developed respiratory problems as the kitchen which also doubles up as the bedroom is filled with soot. It was even worse when it rained as the logs were drenched making it difficult to burn," says Koriata as she carries her five year old baby.

"She was the most affected of my children by the smoke and I have had to make several trips to the local health center to seek medical attention due to her wheezing as well as eye irritation," adds Koriata.

KCDF through a match grant dubbed Pamoja4Change was awarded to Nguzo Africa, a Community Based Organization in Narok a grant to provide clean energy for cooking and lighting to the residents of Narok as well improving the learning environment of children by planting 5000 trees in three schools with a secondary objective of influencing other schools to replicate the model.

Entrenching Local Resource Mobilization project better known as Pamoja4Change seeks to promote, through local giving, sustainable community driven projects which build communities' confidence to take charge of their development process by matching community's resources.

"As an organisation working in the expansive Narok County for slightly over a decade, we have witnessed the adverse effects of climate change as a result of environmental degradation. We had consultative forums with community members residing in Narok who largely practice pastoralism and there was a concern that their mainstay may be eroded due to deforestation in the area resulting to poor rainfall. Nguzo decided to embark on an environmental conservation project at the household level and gain traction progressively to the community level." said Nguzo Africa Director Elizaphan Ogechi.

Under the match grant, Nguzo Africa was tasked with raising KES. 1 Million. This being a new concept of funding for community projects, Nguzo Africa successfully fundraised from their group members, the community at large as well as proceeds from Nguzo's income generating ventures.

Other than the biogas project, Nguzo also pioneered a solar lighting project for the residents of Narok South with the same concept of getting the lanterns on credit.

Under this arrangement, one pays a deposit of KES. 2,500 (USD 28) and pays a daily installment of Kshs.40 (less than

half a dollar) for a period of one year through the M-Pesa mobile platform. The comparative cost of the solar lantern which also comes with a transistor radio and a mobile charging unit is much cheaper than what residents would use to buy paraffin for their kerosene lamps as well as paying mobile phone charges daily.

For years, life in the remote manyattas of Narok used to grind to a halt as soon as darkness crept in. Community members also had to rush home early to avert wild animal attacks in the cover of darkness. The arrival of the solar lantern has made life better because children can study for longer hours while parents can continue doing their income generating ideas way into the night.

"The uptake of the solar lanterns has been phenomenal and we have been able to reach some 500 households within the first phase of the project. We hope to reach as many residents as possible in the next phase," said Mr. Ogechi.

As those who have planted trees wait for the benefits, some have been lucky to reap the benefits sooner than expected as witnessed when a strong storm blew off iron sheets from a classroom at Ololunga Primary School sparing the side where trees had been planted. *"This incident showed them a practical experience of the benefit of trees,"* says Ogachi.

Nguzo Africa and the residents of Narok South are a perfect example of how local philanthropy works. They have come together with a common need; environmental conservation and have gone ahead to raise resources locally to address the issue at the very level where it affects them most.





Community finds solace from huge rocks

“The **rock** has over the years been good for **harboring wild animals** and snakes but soon it will be our **source of water.**”

Tharaka Nithi just like many parts of Kenya's Eastern Province is characterized by extremes, alternating between floods and long periods of drought. When rains are scarce, wells and river beds dry up, forcing people to walk up long distances in search of water.

Endowed with rocks but with little water, especially during the dry season, the residents have seen their help from unlikely source, the huge rocks that dot the area. They are looking forward to harvest rain water from the rock outcrops rather than trek for kilometers in search of water.

A local community based organisation, Tunyai Children's Centres' quest to provide water was informed when it realized the burden of fetching water fell on women and girls forcing them to spend in excess of six hours fetching water. *“Water has been a big challenge in the area because there are only a few rivers, most of which are seasonal,”* says Julius Mugeni, Director at Tunyai Children's Centre and the Secretary of the fundraising committee.

In partnership with Kenya Community Development Foundation's (KCDF) Pamoja for Change (P4C) program, the CBO seeks to provide water by using a giant rock to col-

lect 225,000 litres of rain water in Gakurungu sub-location. The identified rock is among 19 others earmarked for water harvesting. The process of making the rock a catchment area involves filling holes on the rock to create a vast, bare and exposed natural rock situated on a slope. When it rains, the water that falls on the rock drains into the 225,000 litres water storage tank, strategically placed below and connected to small drainage pipes that lead to water kiosks.

The project that costs Kshs.2.1M has to be shared between the community and KCDF according to P4C's model where sustainable community driven projects which build communities' confidence to take charge of their development process came in with the concept of match grants that require the community to raise 50 per cent of the total project cost while KCDF matches the amount raised-a shilling for a shilling.

The community has formed a fundraising committee that is coordinating the fundraising process. *“We decided to involve the community to add value to the cause and involve those with credentials who can access influential people in the community and give towards the project,”* says Mugeni.

Two committee members of the group attended a KCDF training where they learnt skills on fundraising and how to mobilize funds. So far the community has raised Ksh 508,000 through a fundraising meeting that was attended by politicians and the community. The community gave in kind.

"The problem of water has brought us together and we are determined that we will raise the Ksh 1,050,000 to match a similar amount promised by KCDF," says Doris Njeru, the treasurer of the group and a teacher at Materi Boys Secondary, who as a young girl had to walk for over 10 kilometers searching water. The community is now planning for another fundraising to bridge the gap.


"Though heavy for us, we feel it's a worthwhile project that will be owned by us because it will reduce the daily water burden for women and children who sometimes spend nights at the caves searching water," says Salesio Kabete, Assistant Chief of the area.

The rock catchment is an innovative example of how a community can use locally available resources to solve their problems.

"The rock has over the years been good for harboring wild animals and snakes but soon it will be our source of water," said Doris who remembers as a young girl having food but no water to cook the food.

Once the project is complete, the people of Gakurungu sub-location, near renowned Meru National Park will no longer walk miles in search of water. The rock catchment is expected to provide clean water for over 140 households living in the area. Already nine other rock catchments have been constructed and helping communities in other areas around Gakurungu. *"The project will make life for us a lot easier,"* says Doris.





Water Improves Learning Environment in Rural Schools

"We want to **ensure** that girls have time to **study just like boys** and at the same time **saving the environment.**"

It is estimated that 88 per cent of diarrhoeal diseases is caused by unsafe water supply and inadequate sanitation and hygiene, yet most rural schools lack drinking water and sanitation facilities exposing children and staff to environmental health hazards.

Children's ability to learn in such schools is affected through infections leading to absenteeism from school which eventually lead to poor performance.

Akoko Secondary School in Western Kenya's town of Bondo, Siaya County is one among the many rural schools that have been grappling with water scarcity over the years. The school, that is only 10 kilometres from Lake Victoria—the world's second largest lake, receives piped water for less than ten minutes once a week. For a school with a population of 455 pupils, the water is hardly enough to meet the needs of the school.

"The water problem has, over the years, affected the school's enrolment as well as led to massive dropout of students. The inconveniences of either going without water for cooking and lavatory use as well as the burden the pupils are forced to endure in carrying water for long dis-

tances to the school has negatively affected the school," says Angiela Daniel, the School's Principal.

Due to the acute scarcity of water, the school allocates each pupil a ration of 20-litre to last them for two days. "We buy 10,000 litres of water for KES 10,000 which only lasts for two days. This is a very expensive venture for the school hence the need to conserve the little we get. The parents are also not in good financial position to contribute extra school fees to buy water," added Ms. Angiela.

But the situation in the school could be worse if not for the support of Participatory Research and Development Program (PRDP), a local community based organisation in Bondo. PRDP was started in 2005 as a self-help group to mitigate climate change and enable people to adapt to climate change in areas prone to drought. From their interventions in the area, PRDP identified water scarcity as a big hindrance to access to quality education in Bondo Sub-County.

The organisation approached KCDF after learning of KCDF's match grant dubbed Pamoja4Change that seeks to promote pooling of community resource.



"We decided to partner with KCDF to ensure that schools have access to water and proper sanitation and also to provide solar power as an alternative energy source for those far from the national grid," says Joseph Gogo, PRDP Director.

Under the match grant, PRDP and The Akoko school community were tasked to raise half of the project cost of KES 1.8 Million. The money was to go towards building latrines, installing solar panels in the school, buy water tanks and start a tree nursery.

Being the first time to encounter the matching fund concept, two directors and a field officer from PRDP were taken through training on local resource mobilization, report writing and financial management.

"The training came in handy because we were able to learn from other participants who had an idea of the concept of match funding as well as valuable strategies for raising resources locally from our stakeholders. The training was also important as it gave us extensive knowledge on how the match-fund works which made it easier for us to explain to the community why we raising money from them," says David Owiti, a PRDP field officer.

PRDP then went into high gear of coming up with local actions that would raise the requisite money to unlock the match. After extensive consultation with the leadership of the area, PRDP held a series of fundraising events that included a dinner, a music extravaganza, county contribution and income from PRDP's income generating activities which realised KES. 547,000.

Raising the KES 547,000 was not easy but we had expected to raise more. We had to convince the community members that the money raised was first, going to be matched by KCDF and secondly, it was going into good use. This being the first of its kind, the message was not fully taken in by the community. The fundraising effort was also negatively affected by the impending national elections with many people being suspicious that the fundraiser was aimed at achieving political mileage. Said David.

The money raised was used to purchase four 10,000 litre water tanks. Two tanks were given to Akolo Secondary School with the remaining two going to Nyangoma Boy's School and Thim Health Centre respectively.

"With the two water tanks, we can now tap the rain water to complement the water that we buy reducing not only the resources we use to buy the water but also the inconvenience the students faced in carrying water to school. The school environment is also cleaner and this led to a marked improvement of the student's performance," says Angiela, the Head master of Akoko Secondary.

The balance of the money raised was used to buy a solar lighting system for Nyamonye Girls School, an e-learning centre in the area. The lighting system acts as a backup whenever there is a power blackout reducing interruption whenever the girls are accessing the computer laboratory. To reassure the community that the matching model was indeed genuine and to buy political goodwill from the leadership of the area, the County Deputy governor was invited to preside over the handover ceremony of the tanks.

Two other fundraising activities have since been conducted raising KES 347,000 and KES 300,000 using the same strategies. The money was used to put up latrines in four schools, install water tanks in three other schools as well as establishing a tree nursery that is being run by PRDP.

"What has been the most positive occurrence with the matching model has been the attitudinal change of the community in addressing their own development challenges. Parents from the school have seen a reduction in the school fees they pay as a result of the completed projects. The community at large see this model as a more sustainable way of doing developmental projects even as they seek to be completely weaned off external donor funds," concludes Joseph Gogo.



Helping Youths Make Right Choices in Life

"I have gone through the **life skills training** and I must say I have learnt a lot. I have been taught that early pregnancy has its own challenges and that I must **avoid bad company** and **never give in to peer pressure.**"

The Kenya Population Situation Analysis report of 2013 shows that 103 in every 1000 pregnancies in Kenya is attributed to girls between the ages of 15 and 19. It is at this age that social factors such as poverty and early marriages contribute to teenage pregnancies especially among vulnerable populations living in rural areas and urban slums.

The Kenya Youth for Christ Organisation, a faith based organization started a program promoting abstinence to check the spread of HIV as well as early and unwanted pregnancies among targeted youth in high schools and churches in Nairobi, Meru, Kisii, Eldoret and Nakuru. The programme, christened Worth the Wait, uses the services of peer educators to facilitate teachings and discussions on sexuality as well as equipping youth with life skills and knowledge to inform their sexual behaviours in a godly manner.

When KCDF accepted to partner with Youth for Christ under the Entrenching Local Resource Mobilization Programme dubbed Pamoja for Change (P4C), they were confident that they would easily marshal their 50% match grant to unlock KCDF's share as they had many partnerships with organizations and individuals overseas.

When KCDF clarified that the money had to be sourced locally in keeping with the objective of the P4C programme of promoting local giving among communities, they were lost for words and had to go back to the drawing board. The group did a resource mobilization strategy which involved mapping out all possible donors within their operating environment. Being a Christian outfit, their first port of call was churches but the fundraising drive was not very encouraging.

"The response from churches was not very positive with only one church responding positively. We had hoped that since our interventions were premised on Christian's values, the church would easily identify with the cause," said Anna Mumbua, Youth for Christ's National Director.

The organisation had to re-strategize on how they were going to raise their match and started making appeals to individuals rather than appealing collectively to churches. The group did a series of convenings which eventually culminated into a dinner.

"We were able to raise KES 800,000 from all the fundraising activities that we had organized with the dinner being the major fundraising event," said Mumbua.



With the amount raised, the programme took off. The project, targeting 48 secondary schools and reaching 5300 students, focused on reproductive rights and broader sexually-related issues experienced by students in schools.

"We intended to work with schools for one year because behavior change doesn't happen overnight but over a long period of time and we believe that the lessons help them to abstain from sexual activities. During the programme, youths are advised to take purity pledges which are used as yard sticks to gauge the success of the programme. Some just come to us by their own volition and pledge that they want to abstain," says Mumbua.

The programme has been running in Pumwani Girls and St. John's High School which are located in the informal settlements where drug abuse, poverty and lack of parental care is the norm, thus affecting the destiny of many young people if not nipped in the bud.

"I have gone through the life skills training and I must say I have learnt a lot. I have been taught that early pregnancy has its own challenges and that I must avoid bad company and never give in to peer pressure," says Rabia Raffer, a form four student at St. Johns High School.

The program is preparing the youth on how to face the future once they are out of school.

Pamoja4Change Programme

The programme seeks to promote, through local giving, sustainable community driven projects which build communities' confidence to take charge of their development processes. The programme is informed by the fact that communities inherently have unlimited resources amongst themselves that can be harnessed to promote development.

The programme, courtesy of a unique partnership with a Dutch Non-Governmental Organization Wilde Ganzen, is administered through a competitive grant scheme for community groups who show unique and innovative project ideas for improving the development and general welfare of a community. Communities groups are required to raise 50% of the total project costs with KCDF matching the amount raised.



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