N2K WALK 2013

Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya

PROGRESS REPORT - UPDATED NOVEMBER 2014

Working in partnership with:

THE
**WORLD
FEDERATION**
OF KHOJA SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

Africa Federation

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT PROJECT: NORTHEAST KENYA

OVERVIEW

In December 2013, individuals from around the world joined the N2K Team to walk from the Holy City of Najaf to the land of Karbala during Arbaeen 1435 to raise funds for The World Federation's 'Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya'.

This initiative is a joint venture between The World Federation and Africa Federation which aims to provide long-term, sustainable solutions to uplift communities in Kenya's drought affected areas and take them out of poverty.

The N2K Team raised almost £40,000 GBP of the £60,000 allocated for this project. The project comprises 9 different initiatives. This progress report provides an overview of completed projects to date.

The World Federation takes this opportunity to thank each and every member of the N2K 2013 Team for supporting the Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya and all of the donors who so generously contributed to their fundraising efforts.

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT PROJECT - NORTHEAST KENYA

PROJECT	DETAILS	TOTAL COST (£GBP)	STATUS
1. University Courses	To sponsor deserving students for university courses	£6,667	*in progress*
2. Construction of Classrooms	To build additional classrooms in schools in Wajir	£14,815	*in progress*
3. Greenhouse, Irrigation & Farming System	To set up a greenhouse, irrigation and farming system in AliKune village (Garissa County)	£8,889	*in progress*
4. Kitchen Gardens	Training program to develop 100 kitchen gardens in Wajir County	£7,407	*completed (October 11, 2014)*
5. Tree Planting	To plant 5,000 trees in Wajir County	£11,111	*completed (June 30, 2014)*
6. Water & Sanitation Projects	To build water and sanitation projects in schools	£3,333	*in progress*
7. School Books	To provide books to schools in Wajir	£3,333	*in progress*
8. School Desks	To provide 120 desks to Alikune Primary School in Garissa County	£3,333	*completed (April 2014)*
9. Conference	To organise a conference for students - 'Education & Community Development'	£1,111	*completed (March 1 - 2, 2014)*

TOTAL COST   **£59,999**

KITCHEN GARDEN TRAINING PROGRAM: WAJIR COUNTY

As part of the nine initiatives that comprise the 'Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya', a training program to develop 100 kitchen gardens in Wajir County was completed on October 11, 2014. This project was organised in collaboration with Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture.

A 'kitchen garden' is the establishment of an agricultural farm to produce fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs for personal consumption or commercial purposes.

Over the past several years, Kenya has experienced severe drought where many of the local people living in the countryside lost their livestock; these domestic animals were their main source of income. Now, they have become financially dependent on others. In an effort to help uplift these drought victims, the 'Kitchen Garden Training Program' aims to:

- Create an alternate livelihood opportunity
- Increase food production by region
- Improve the quality of life of the local people
- Help these new farmers become financially self-reliant

5-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM

A 5-day hands-on training program was provided to each of the new farmers on 'crop production management' using available water from shallow wells. The sessions were divided into different modules which were easy to understand as most of the participants did not have any previous education.

Some of the key challenges of this program were:
- Threat of wildlife
- Pests and diseases
- Most farmers were older in age
- Some farmers had more drive than others

After the training program, 100 farmers were provided with seeds to start their own kitchen gardgens. Officers from the Ministry of Agriculture will carry out site visits to these new kitchen gardens every two weeks until the first crop is harvested.

TRAINING SESSIONS	
Day 1	• Introduction to farming • Role of agriculture in Wajir County • Importance of a stable livelihood • Land preparation, bush clearing, digging, harrowing, marking planting holes • Using organic material • How to select/buy optimal seeds • Planting seeds • Spacing between crops
Day 2	• Proper planting of rain-fed seeds • Seed selection • Planting seeds for successful crop • Types of soil • Role of manure in farming
Day 3	• Water conservation methods • How to create troughs
Day 4	• Fruit & vegetable production • How/when to set up nursery beds • Pest & disease control
Day 5	• Distribution of seeds to all of the new farmers to start their own 'kitchen gardens'

DAY 1

Demonstrating spacing

KITCHEN GARDENS TRAINING PROGRAM: WAJIR COUNTY

DAY 4

Marking planting holes

How to make a nursery

DAY 2

Successful seed planting demonstration

Planting seeds in a nursery bed

DAY 3

How to make a trough

DAY 5

Young mothers presented with seeds to start their own Kitchen Gardens

TREE PLANTING: WAJIR COUNTY

As part of the nine initiatives that comprise the 'Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya', a tree planting project was completed on June 30, 2014 in Wajir County.

The 'Tree Planting' project aims to improve the community's environment where 5,000 trees were planted in various schools, institutions and nearby wells.

LOCATION OF TREES PLANTED

LOCATION	NO. OF TREES
Furaha Primary School	600
Sabunley Secondary School	700
Jugbaru Primary School	330
Kalkacha Primary School	100
Mau Mau Primary School	200
Waberi Primary School	300
Kilkiley	200
Wajir - secondary school for the deaf	100
Wajir Girls Integrated Primary School	300
Wagalla Memorial Secondary School	300
Arbaqeramsa Primary School	300
Leheley Secondary School	200
Lanbib Primary School	300
Jogoo Village	120
Balad Amin Primary School	50
Barwaqo Primary School	300
Barwaqo Secondary School	200
Ahmed Liban Village	200
Hudhile Village	200
TOTAL TREES PLANTED	**5,000**

SCHOOL DESKS: ALIKUNE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GARISSA COUNTY

As part of the nine initiatives that comprise the 'Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya', 120 desks were gifted to Alikune Primary School located in Garissa County.

Many schools in Kenya are physically run down and do not make for a positive and healthy learning environment. Lack of classroom furniture is one main problem in the schools of North Eastern Kenya where students are forced to sit on the floor or share desks. During the 2011 famine, the President of The World Federation visited Alikune Primary School and saw first hand the need of proper desks.

CONFERENCE: 'EDUCATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'

As part of the nine initiatives that comprise the 'Community Upliftment Project in Northeast Kenya', a 2-day conference was held on the 1st and 2nd of March 2014 with the theme - **Education and Community Development** in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Conference was held at the Nairobi Jaffery Sports Club where 30 participants attended. Participants included students and alumni, academicians from various universities in Nairobi, senior managers of NGOs and members of the public.

GUEST SPEAKERS

The event was officially opened by Professor Charles Omwandho, the Dean of Medicine at the University of Nairobi who advised students to be humble and to remain focussed on community service as they pursued their studies. Other speakers included:

• Professor Mohammed Karama (Kenya Medical Research Institute) - spoke on the importance of education and encouraged students to network, excel beyond their core education, and uplift themselves and their communities
• Mohammed Abdinoor (Catholic Relief Services)
• Dr. Steve Nigel (Medical Society for Action) - emphasized the importance of community service and demonstrated the high potential of major impact giving
• Dr. Duncan Matheka -(Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network) - spoke on the role of young professionals in development and demonstrated the capability of youth in positively changing societies
• Miss Sophie Lo (expert on Diplomacy and International Relations) - shared her experiences in community service
• Taseer Firoz (Muslim Students Association of University of Nairobi)
• Dr. Muhsin Sheriff (Centres for Health and Education Programmes) - outlined various community projects undertaken by the students and encouraged them to excel in their studies as well as develop an attitude of service

CONFERENCE: 'EDUCATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

The conference provided an opportunity for students to present and discuss various projects where ideas for viable community service initiatives were generated. As well, discussions were held with representatives from different organizations to explore the possibilities of partnerships and collaborations.

More than ten presentations were made by the students on a variety of interesting community projects which they themselves had undertaken. These presentations included:

	STUDENT	AREA OF STUDY & INSTITUTION	PRESENTATION TOPIC
1	Noel Mudibo	Bridging Program - *Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology*	"A campaign to restore the vision of thousands of blind people"
2	Luqman Mwinyi	3D Animation - *Newbreed Academy of Digital Arts*	"Computer training as a means to combat social challenges in the youth of Kawangware slums"
3	Fatma Khalid	Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery - *University of Nairobi*	"Educating the youth to fight poverty"
4	Ali Adan	Animal Health - *Ministry of Livestock Development*	"Animal welfare in Wajir County at Giriftu district"
5	Linzy Nyamboki	Masters in Developmental Studies - *University of Nairobi*	"Household energy use in rural areas and its implications on the environment"
6	Abdihakim Osman	Bachelor of Arts - *University of Nairobi*	"Placement of refugee youth in private adult language schools in Eastleigh suburb of Nairobi.
7	Khadija Ahmed	Bachelor of Law - *University of Nairobi*	"Educating the girl child in North Eastern Province as a means of bringing development to the community at large"
8	Katra Dahir	Bachelor of Science - *University of Nairobi*	"Tree plantation to improve the environment"
9	Yusuf Nur	Nutrition and Dietetics - *Kenya Institute of Developmental Studies*	"A longitudinal study of food insecurity on obesity in preschool children"
10	Abdulrahman Abubakar	Bachelor of Law - *University of Nairobi*	"Education as a beacon of hope to the youth of Kawangware"

CONFERENCE: 'EDUCATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'

AWARDS

Certificates of participation were presented to all attendees. At the end of the event, 4 awards were presented to reward and motivate students. Winners included:

	WINNING STUDENT	CATEGORY	WINNING PROJECT
1	Abdirahman Abdullahi Abdi	2013 Best Academic Performance	For scoring 10 A's, 2 B's and 1 C in his first year of study
2	Katra Dahir	2013 Best Community Service Project	Tree planting project in Garissa
3	Noel Mudibo	Best Abstract Award	For his campaign to restore the vision of thousands of blind people
4	Fatma Khalid	Best Oral Presentation	"Educating the youth to fight poverty"

EVALUATION

Participants completed an evaluation form at the end of each day of the conference. Recommendations and feedback included:

1. The conference to be an annual event
2. Should be open to students nationwide
3. Publish presentations in an academic journal
4. Support of presented projects to grow and impact on community
5. Invite more professionals and academicians
6. Facilitate discussion of ideas and possible community projects and solutions for community problems
7. Allocate more time to Q&A after presentations
8. More interactive activities and sessions
9. More topics of discussion
10. Creation of a social media fan page or group

FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES

- *'I am leaving the conference today, a rich woman full of ideas of writing professional documents'*

- *'This conference and workshop should be held annually'*

- *'Things were done as per schedule. That was fantastic. Quality of presentation was superb'*

- *'I liked the various ideas and the community projects the students came up with'*

- *'I liked the organisation (of the conference) in terms of time management and, more importantly, the workshops'*

- *'Organising of the conference, being the first, was very impressive'*