

KWIMINIA CBO (COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION)

Report #K20

ABSTRACT

Kwiminia CBO was founded in 2006 by Millicah Mwaka and is currently in 5 locations with 510 members. Their main work is in the environment, empowering people with practical moneymaking skills and leadership skills. They have also been able to help the population with access to water with dams and have taken tanks to schools. They write proposals to different donors both foreign and domestic and they are open to working with every organization as long as it does not have a political agenda. To be a leader in the organization, they accept everyone who wants to be a leader as long as they have been nominated and elected by the people in the CBO. Millicah comes from a Salvation Army background but is currently a member of the African Brotherhood Church. The CBO has partnered with local churches such as the African Brotherhood Church and the Redeemed Church. Internationally, they partner with the Lutheran church and Siduka Africa from South Africa.

HISTORY

Kwiminia CBO is a community-based organization that started from the grassroots level. It was founded in September 2006 by Millicah Mwaka. The founder went to Makueni in the Eastern Province of Kenya and learned about CBOs, but she saw that the distance was far. So they came to where she was in Kilisa and taught her how to build a CBO. She was able to mobilize her groups and register with the Office of Gender and Social Services. When they began, they had one group within three months. In the following seven months, they managed to create seven groups, and currently they have mobilized 24 groups within the CBO. Currently, the CBO is in 5 locations: Kiteta, Kiliu, Waiya, Kisau and Kalawa all in Mbooni East, Eastern Province, with the biggest location being Kiteta, which has eight groups. Kwiminia CBO has a management committee of which there are 7 of them. In 2006, they received funds from Lutheran World Relief and also Bethel Foundation to begin their work. In 2007-2008, they began to work with CDTF on different projects and have maintained that relationship until today. The CBO's main work is in the environment; it is what they do in Makueni. They constructed some service dams, sand dams, and planted tree nurseries. Additionally, they have facilitated the training of people on HIV and leadership. The groups are non-discriminatory, and any gender and age can join them.

They have gained 24 groups in 7 years with 520 members. They constructed 13 sand dams in 2006, and in 2007-2008, they constructed another 13. Currently, they have started another 4 and are expecting six before September. They have also brought water to school with 26 tanks currently in operation, and they are expecting to have a total of 28 within the next month. Additionally, the trees that they have planted in the reforestation project, they have saved 88% of the area.

MISSION/VISION

They would like to uplift every person's standard of living. In the next two years, they would like to be an NGO that moves out of Eastern province. They uplift the people's standard of living by giving them practical skills, which they can use to make money and also leadership skills.

When Kwiminia becomes an NGO, it will begin to expand geographically in the Eastern region. It will first reach Mbooni West before they consider moving out of the province. When they reach outside of the province, they desire to work with local governments to implement devolution so that each area can learn to sustain itself and that the headquarters will take a more administrative role than the inside role it has been playing. The headquarters will still be writing proposals but they will be of a broader scope and the field surveys conducted will be of bigger, more diverse projects.

They envision the NGO moving to other provinces, which would mean touching other ethnic groups in Kenya other than the Kamba. They already are working with a Kikuyu as a major stakeholder in the CBO. Eventually, they will move to have a more diverse group of people. Currently, they cannot help the status of their demographics as they are in the interior of Eastern Province, which is mainly comprised of the Kamba people.

The CBO has no boundaries when it comes to denominations and religions, and they are willing to work with anyone who does not have a political agenda, which will incite the CBO members. Already they are working with every denomination in the CBO in major roles. There is a member of leadership who is a Salvation Army member and a personal adviser to the founder is a Jehovah's Witness. They also work with the African Brotherhood Church, African Inland Church, Redeemed Church and Lutheran. They also work with Siduka Africa, which does not have a church here in Kenya.

The main arena of action will be uplifting the standard of living by giving people practical skills such as making energy saving jikos and brick making and also implementing leadership skills in the members. They want to do with by increasing their proposal writing through the NGO and gaining more partners. They also want the people to take more responsibility for themselves and begin to teach each other without having Kwiminia CBO lead the trainings. Already they have begun to empower women to teach other women who live too far away to work with the CBO. They want to serve the youth, and men and women regardless of age and/or marital status. The youth will continue to be given skills that will help them make a living. This is vital in the community where people get married young but also come from families that can barely afford secondary education. The men also will be served, and it is the hope of the founder that more men get involved in the CBO and take charge of their standard of living. Women will continue to be served by the empowerment that the trainings have been giving them. The CBO wants to teach members not to alienate those who might be widowed/widowed because they need love. Lastly, the children will also be served because the projects generate money not only for food but also for school fees so that they may have hope for a better future. It is the founders hope that those children who are educated because of the CBOs work will come back, and they will be the ones who will support the CBO and the community, and the cycle will continue.

They mainly write proposals for different projects that the people want to undertake. The main focus seems to be access to water and practical moneymaking skills. For example, they have constructed sand and service dams so that the people can have access to piped water. They have put into place programs where the people are learning to make energy saving stoves, lines, rocket stops and brick making. They also work with the government offices, particularly with the Gender and Social Services department in teaching leadership skills. They also ally with the District Commissioner, Divisional Officer, Chief, Sub-Chief and village elders to mobilize the people to come for the meetings.

As a CBO, they have decided not to engage in politics. They have realized that politics hinders development and that will hurt the CBO. So they do not discuss political affairs in the meetings, but they are free to discuss in their own time. This has been put in place to protect the name of CBO, the management committee, and the board. They also do not alienate people because of what their circumstances are. They have made it a point that they accept widows/widowers, which is a population that is usually neglected in their culture. They also do not discriminate on education because every member comes in as an equal and they do not have graduated skill classes for their members. Each class is taught afresh, from the beginning so that not one member is left behind and if there is a new member who joins in and everyone else has taken the training, the group will retake the training for that person to catch up with the rest of them.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR FOCUS/MISSION

They have gone to visit other CBOs in the country and in the East Africa region. They have found that Tanzania is doing efficient things in banana planting, harvesting and processing and beekeeping, and they were able to learn those skills from them. They also learned servant leadership from a District Commissioner in Tanzania who volunteers his time to sweep the roads. In Uganda, they found leaders working who had given up everything because of the war to help people.

The stark contrast that they found in the different CBOs that they visited is that Kwiminia has a high level of volunteerism. The founder reports that people are surprised to find that she is not paid for her work. She has found that other CBOs have leadership who expect to be paid for their work and would not do their work pro bono. But for Kwiminia CBO, none of the staff gets a monthly salary. They hold a meeting twice a month, and that is where every single member of the staff gets transport and lunch, and this is done through allowances, which are handed out in the same meeting.

CURRENT LEADER

Millicah Mwaka is the current leader and founder of Kwiminia CBO. She has been in this role since the organization inception in 2006. She was born in Machakos into a family of 8. She is the last born of 3 brothers and two sisters. She got married after form two, where she moved to Makueni to be with her husband. They have six children and three grandchildren. She makes money from her kiosk and her shop, and she hires people to work there so that she can find time to work in the CBO. The founder of Kwiminia CBO also serves as the secretary on the board, and she went to Matuk ATTM, in Nyata Machakos for her primary education. Then she went to

secondary school at Mbooni Secondary School, which is also in Matoo. There she reached Form 2 and had to stop because she got married. From there she experienced the outside, through trainings and meetings. Millicah started her leadership in church, where she learned the value of volunteerism. She also was a leader in school, especially in the debate team. A church singer who taught her to use the little that she had, her physical capabilities to the glory of God, mentored her.

BOARD STRUCTURE AND COMPOSITION

The board has seven members all of who are of Kamba ethnicity and come from Eastern Province. There is a majority of males over females with four male and the three female members. The women outnumber the men in administrative duties with one being a secretary and the other being the treasurer. The third female member has no title and helps the board plan the proposals and allocation of resources. There is a male chairman on the board and the other three male members also help plan and allocate resources. The people for the perceived strength that they bring towards the job have elected each member.

According to the founder, the strengths of the board are that they are very active members. Despite the fact that they are not paid to be on the board and that they live far away from the offices of Kwiminia CBO, they always attend the board meetings. They also have to call urgent meetings at times to get a project going or to reassess the status of a project if it looks like it is not going well, and not one member has ever declined to attend. Despite their other responsibilities, they have shown a commitment to Kwiminia CBO and have fulfilled their obligations beyond what they are expected to do. Another strength is that the board is also financially supportive of the CBO and its members if they need to accomplish a task. For example, if the CBO needs to attend the local chow where they showcase different projects in the county and job opportunities, the CBO board members will contribute money for people to go. They will also contribute money so that even fellow board members who might not be able to afford it might go.

The weaknesses of the board are that most of them have jobs that take up most of their time and resources. It is very hard to make a meeting work because of the competing agendas in their lives. However, according to the founder, not one member has missed a meeting even though it might have taken a while to get a date that works for all of them. Additionally, the members are not centered in one location, so it is very hard for them to get to meetings. However, they have persevered and shown that Kwiminia will remain a priority even though their work might suffer. In terms of expertise, most of the board members are well-wishers in the community but there is one member who is an AMREF Director.

Every member of Kwiminia CBO is from Eastern Province and of Kamba ethnicity. There is no educational requirement to sit on the board and therefore, the founder does not know what their educational background. The secretary who is also the founder of the CBO has a form 2 level of education. The board members are free to attend the training and meetings if they would like, but they are not mandated to do so.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

The staff is mostly self-governing within their own groups. There are leaders within each group, but most groups are comprised of all women, so their gender is slanted in their favor. The groups are also in Mbooni East, making them of primarily Kamba ethnicity. In the main office, however, the accountant and manager are male, and the founder is female. To join the staff, no specialized training or expertise is needed because they will work with whoever shows leadership qualities. Apart from accounting, it was expressed that anyone who wanted to join can join the group then be nominated and elected as part of the staff. Thus, when a person joins the group, they will receive specialized training from an officer from Gender and Social Services on leadership and practical skills either from the government officer or a TOT, who is the first person in the group to receive training. The skills that are provided are leadership and management skills as well as skills that are specific to the project so that the person can be an effective leader.

The strengths of this type of structure are that it is democratic, and no one feels as though they were slighted because the people choose. Additionally, no one in the group is left behind because they will repeat the training for everyone to get on the same level. In this way, new members have a chance to join in at any level of competency. The staff is also well connected with the Gender and Social services department, so getting an officer to come and train them is not a challenge, and all they are required to do is provide transport.

The weaknesses of the staff's gender inequality stem from the inactiveness of the males in the community. The founder expressed disappointment in their lack of involvement and wishes that they could participate more. The problem permeates every level, with even the youth groups having more female than male members.

The top leadership is the board of which there are 7, and they come from the different areas of the CBO. Below that there is the project management committee where there are eight people from each of the locations, 3 of which are from Kiteta. Then there is the committee of government officers who give the board and the committee advice, which has seven members. There is then a support person (termed an SP) and friends of the board who are also advisors, of which there are 7,

The board meets every three months to discuss the different projects and monitor progress. They also consider the funding and the direction that it is going. They have a chairman, and the founder is the secretary of the board. The project management committee is what is the core. Here is where the proposals are written, field visits are conducted, and other official documentation is filed such as minutes and auditing. Here, the founder serves as the chair lady of the CBO. The committee of government officials comes in when they are called to advise on a particular project as well as the SP. The advisory board is called upon once or twice per year where they come to view the work in progress and advise on the way forward. Their main concern is helping the different leadership groups move forward.

They train the youth and allow them to be their own leaders within themselves. The youth groups have their own chairpersons, secretary, etc. They only call the larger project management committee once in a while to consult with them on larger issues. However, there is no plan of

succession in place because all leadership positions are democratic, and so when the youth enter the groups where they are adults, they will need also to participate in the electing of new leaders. So in the case that there is a vacancy on the board due to death or resignation, the CBO holds a nomination session and elections after candidates have been selected by the CBO's members. No leadership position in the CBO is appointed.

BOARD AND STAFF RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

Board members are nominated and elected by the people every three years. There is a formal process that is overseen by an officer from the Gender and Social Services department. First, the person on the seat must officially vacate the seat. They then publicly announce to all the groups and its members that a certain seat has been vacated and that it is up to the people to elect the person who will sit in that seat. They call all the members of all the groups in the CBO to participate, and so far the process has been working with no objections.

STAKEHOLDERS

They have the community, which is the youth, the men, and the women, the government and the donors. The women are being uplifted in their standards of living, and they do not have to rely on their husbands. Their needs to make money are being met by being able to learn to make different items such as stoves that they can sell and put money on the table. They can also keep close ties within the community and empower themselves within their area. The youth can have skills to fall back on in case their secondary school fees are not being paid. They can make 6000 KES (\$71) in a few days by making bricks in which they only have to pay 5 cents for each brick to the CBO. That allows them to feed themselves and also their wives and their children. The men are also given an arena to be active by building sand dams and tending Napier grass to grow and feed grass. They can sell the grass for 50,000 KES or 60,000 KES (\$595-\$714) to pay for school fees and take care of their families. Kwiminia tries to ensure that members who take on these types of projects get their funding through proposals but also through each other. Not all projects are funded, and so Kwiminia board members and project management team must make judgment calls on who will get the funding usually through checking how much money has been used in the area before and the availability of the resources. This is usually done by an alliance with the people and the local government.

The government is also a stakeholder as the people are able to conserve the environment with the tree planting projects and sand dams. They work with the county representative, the assistant chief, councilors and other local administration to get the training and projects done. Specifically, they have worked with Jane Okianga, who is the railway's chairman. They also worked with Charity Ngilu, who is a member of parliament and also is connected with the Gender and Social Services department. Because of her work in the department, they have been able to receive the training and support that they need to see the projects through. Kwiminia responds to each of these by holding meetings with them and keeping them apprised of the projects. The administration usually needs to grant permits for the work but also local support to mobilize the people to see the worth of being involved in the project. They also help with the determining of where a project should be based such as when they are doing a survey of the land and trying to determine where they will put a sand dam. Local leaders will be able to tell them of

the specific need of the people and also the best places to survey. With the specific government officers mentioned, they are able to work with them to gain resources such as getting a stake in the railway construction in the area or getting education through the office.

The donors are also stakeholders because they offer their time and resources, and they can read the accounts and also audit them. Kwiminia ensures that they are transparent in all their transactions and that they can account for all the money they have been given. Leadership and staff members do not take a salary, and are only given allowances equivalent to what the donor has permitted them to be paid. They also have worked with Teresa Kimani who has a local company that has helped the women in the area.

FINANCES & OTHER RESOURCES

Domestically, the CBO gets its resources from its members, various NGOs and the government. Each group must pay 1,000 KES (\$12) as an annual membership fund. The CBO uses this money as a bridge until the next proposal is accepted or a donor gives money. Additionally, the groups must partially fund their projects in their proposals. So for example, if the proposed greenhouse is 180,000 KES (\$2,142), the group must provide 30,000 KES (\$357). The money is then paid to an account that is separate from the account that holds the money from the donors. The NGOs give education in terms of skills and leadership, and the government sends officers to do skills of leadership and practical skills. CDTF gives them money for specific projects.

Internationally, the CBO get money, materials and skills from NGOs and churches. Siduka Africa and Lutheran World Relief gives them money for projects. World Servants gives the materials and support to construct the project together. An accountant handles with different accounts and finances. The money that the members give goes to a separate account than that of donors. The money is then used by the group then accounted for. The separate account makes it easier for the donor to see exactly where the money went and what it was used for and that they are not trying to cover up disparities with the member's money.

The CBO writes proposals and from those proposals there is a budget. However, what they write as a budget is not what they always get. They write the proposals for monetary resources but the budget comes from the donors because what they give is what the CBO works with. The books are audited at the end of each project. The CBO prefers that a manager and an accountant comes from the donor group and works with the CBO's manager and accountant as they audit the books. The process takes 2 to 3 days, and this has helped them keep their partnerships. After the audit, they escort the donors to the field to see the work that has been done.

In the case of CDTF they give money towards a certain project and come and audit the books as the project is going along. So if they give Kwiminia money for a trench, they give the money and allow the CBO to plan and implement it. When a trench is done, they audit the books for two days and account for all the money, and they get more money. Additionally, if the CBO needs a bridge, for example, they have only completed 70% of the project, CDTF bridges the gap in finances, but they also have to account for the money. The CBO writes proposals that are geared towards money for materials but often the donor comes with materials after reading the proposal. Therefore, it is hard for them to gauge how the budget coincides with the income because the

resources that the donor brings can be either under budget or over budget because it is what they have. They can bring something of superior quality that the CBO could not afford, but they might have just happened to have it. But even with materials, the books are still audited, and the field surveys are done so that the donors can see where the materials were used. Also, managers are welcome to join in the project and see that their materials are being used in the manner that they should be.

PARTNERSHIPS/LINKS

They are not selective to working with different organizations. They work with domestic and international churches in various ways. Locally, the African Brotherhood Church, the African Inland Church and Redeemed Church in Eastern come in and preach to them and pray with them. In this way, they partner with them for moral and spiritual support. Internationally, they partner with Lutheran based organizations such as Lutheran World Relief and World Servants in financial support. Bethel Foundation and AEF give them materials. Siduka Africa partners with them in technical support and advice and Africa Racing provides them with skills

They do not look for specific benefits because they want the donors to come with what they have, and they work with it. They need technical advice for the group to grow and spread out. They look for financial support to fund the projects but are also open to working with partners who come with materials instead of money. For example, partners have come with cement, timber, and gardening tools, and they adjust their plan to accommodate that. They also work with organizations providing education so that their group members can leave with knowledge that they can apply to their fields. Even though they write their proposals for money, to the founder, all donors are equal, and they are welcome to come. For example, Ukamba Christian partnered with them and brought material and education that they were able to use. On the other hand, CDTF came with money for a specific trench project, and they needed to bring the accountant and manager on board.

As a CBO, they have taken a stand that Kwiminia is not a political group, and so they do not engage with any group that is political. They do work with government officers who belong to different groups, but they ask that their personal political views be pushed aside as they work together. Their role with the CBO is advisory and not to incite the members or try and gain votes. They also encourage their members not to discuss politics at the meetings.

SWOT: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

The strengths of Kwiminia CBO are that it has been able to give education its members who might not have received it otherwise. They also plan well because they have a specific committee in charge of that. Implementation is also a strength because they ensure that they monitor projects as they go along to make sure that they are moving. The CBO also makes sure that the members gain some skills where that can make money. The women seem to be very empowered in the area and are the most active members. Every project that they have undertaken, they have performed well in it. The CBO has been able to lift themselves and the environment that they are working in. For example, they have helped women learn how to make energy saving stoves to sell or using greenhouses to conserve water. They have taught young men how to make bricks

that can net 6,000 shillings in a few days. They also have created dams for water and saved forests by planting trees for wood. Lastly, they have taught people how to tend Napier grass to sell for 50-60,000 shillings for school fees.

The weaknesses of Kwiminia are that not all members think the same, so they have to be taught the skills over and over again, which makes the process take longer. In the CBO's desire that no one member be left behind, they have to repeat presentations until the last person gets it. That means that they have to keep calling back the Gender and Social Services person or the TOT until the last person finally understands. But the cycle never ends because there are always new groups joining and thus new members who need to be taught

The challenges that Kwiminia is currently facing stem largely from funds and involvement. The leadership needs to go to each group and teach the skills. They cannot ask the groups to come to them because transportation is an average of 600 (\$7) shillings for a round trip. The level of poverty is so low that members cannot afford to come for training. They only hire cars for special events such as launches. But even when it is just the leadership, or the Gender and Social Services person is traveling it is still expensive because they usually need to spend the night there. The infrastructure is so bad that the roads do not allow for a day trip into the interior parts of Mbooni. For field visits, they must use motorbikes because the roads are impassable. The bikes are more expensive than cars to hire and also more physically exhausting. Additionally, they have to pick and choose which projects they can do with the money that they have because there are more ideas in place than funds. This means that the dams are constructed where it is perceived the greatest need is, and people still get left out.

They are also facing impediments in expansion because Eastern province is big and the distance between towns and districts is vast. They have not been able to reach the inner parts of the province, but they have been trying to bridge the gap using their members. As they teach their members on how to construct various items for sale, they ask them to teach a relative or a friend in that area even though they are not members of Kwiminia CBO. In this way, they will be gaining the skills and education and can hopefully spread it to the area before the funds come to expand to those areas.

Additionally, there is a lack of male involvement in the process. They are being viewed as lazy because the women greatly outnumber the men in the groups. In the widowed/widowed group there are only two men. In the self-help groups, there are 20 women and eight men. This makes it hard for the CBO to complete some of the projects such as constructing sand dams. They need strong people, and usually, that is the men, who are lacking in the groups. So the women have just decided to do it for themselves.

Because of accountability of funds, there is a unique opportunity for sustainability of the projects that they undertake. They also teach their members on sustaining their projects, for example, they teach them on how to use tool bags. When they have a construction project, they bring the materials and the tools. Then for each tool, a member can give 10 or 20 shillings to use it so that if there is a broken tool, they can use that money to repair it. They can also use registration or renewing funds to sustain the finished project.

IMPACT/SUCCESS/ASSESSMENT

The CBO's greatest impact is the growth of the groups. They have seen the CBO grow from one group to 27 in the last seven years, and they are poised to receive four more groups before the end of the year. They also had no nearest water source in the area, and now they have piped water from the construction of dams, which is helping the population access drinking water. They have planted trees that have conserved the environment, and they gave the people in the CBO access to higher education through the training they provide. Overall, they have seen a higher standard of living since they started the CBO. In 2006, they constructed 13 sand dams and in 2007-2008, they constructed another 13 dams. Currently, they have started another four dams, and they are expecting 6 to be done before September. They also built 26 tanks of water for various schools since 2006 and are expecting to have 28 by the end of the year. They have also preserved 88% of the gazetted forest in Makueni.

There are written reports available in the office where they have documented the projects in writing and also in pictures. The audits are also open to being viewed, and they are readily available in the office. There are also reports available in the Office of Gender and Culture as well as the District Commissioners office. Reports are available at the Divisional Officers office for a fee. They have partnered closely with World Vision whom they can attest to the CBOs impact. The significant ingredient to the success of Kwiminia is the interaction with the stakeholders, government officer, local leaders, and administration. They make sure that they speak to the District Commissioner down to the village elder so that they work together to gain success.

TRAINING/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As an organization, they get training for the Gender and Social Officers who they call upon for training to come to the meetings. Additionally, they send a person to get practical training such as brick making and then the person comes back to teach the group members. They pay the people half while the other half is paid by the experience that they are gaining.

To join the organization, there is no specific training or preparation that is needed because the training is given through the government officers. The training is available in the meetings or if the CBO pays for a member to get training then come back to train the rest of the people. The people already in the CBO got training through the CBO or outside training that they did on their own. The quality of training is assessed by repetition until the person finally understands.

PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

The CBO has handouts where they have documented their projects all of which are available at the office. They also have an email address where they distribute information on the projects and donors. They also use the phone to distribute information on the upcoming events. They also advertise their work via the internet and also allow people to apply to the CBO through the internet from the baseline to the strategic plan.

They desire to have more computers and printers in the office as well as better internet access as service is very spotty or sometimes does not come all together. They also wish that they had TV monitors and screens to do their training for the youth especially. They want to use the internet to explain to people exactly what they do and be able to attract the youth. They also wish that they had phones with internet access and apps so that they may be relevant to the youth.

They have found that the internet and the cell phone have been the most helpful for Kwiminia. Especially for the founder, she has found that cell phone use has been most helpful because she can get better signal than the internet. When they are not able to reach people from the office phone, she has been able to compensate with cell phone access because she is usually away from the access.

FUTURE

Within the next two years, Kwiminia would like to be an NGO, with a CEO earning a salary of 30,000 KES (\$357) a month. When they become an NGO, they will have more money for projects, and also they can be able to pay their staff a salary. Also, they will be able to begin writing more proposals and begin to be funded. They have already started the application process with the District Commissioner's office and reporting to the other NGOs that they work with. They have also begun writing proposals as an NGO and they have saved 1.3M KES (\$15,476) in the bank to begin the process of becoming an NGO. They have plans to print and distribute, but they are just in the planning phase and not the implementation. A manual is in the works, but there are no specific details available. The teaching is already being handled by the organization.

The long-term sustainability has been taken care of with the CBO's plan to save money. They have the idea of a tool bag where someone has to pay money for each tool that they use so they can have a remainder to repair the broken tools. This requires every member that borrows a tool such as a wheelbarrow or a shovel to pay money for the tool each month. The money that is paid is determined by the vital nature and complexity of the tool in case something happens to it. They also use their projects to sustain other projects or themselves through profits of resources. For example, the trees from the nurseries are cut down to make paper, and they are sold at a profit. They then use the money to plant more trees and live off the profit. They also use the sand dams as a resource to sustain the Napier grass projects. The Napier grass is planted by the sand dams, and are cut down and sold for profit, and they do not have to spend time looking for a constant water source because it is there. They also have saved money to the sum of 1.3m so that they can be an NGO. The plan of an NGO will allow them to be more sustainable with the proposals and the funding.

REPORT PREPARATION INFORMATION

Peninah Kimiri and David Ngaruiya prepared this report. Peninah interviewed Millicah Mwaka on Friday, July 19th, 2013.