

Transforming lives and Transforming communities Across Kenya

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It is truly remarkable how much unity amongst the community can achieve. The amount of strength and purpose that the grandmothers and widows of Kericho region have been able to develop is a perfect testimony of community integration.

Over the past several years, grandmothers and widows across the Kericho County have formed a foundation where they are freely able to connect, grow and place past insecurities away; in order to achieve a better wellbeing for themselves and those around them. Currently over 200 grandmothers and widows from 4 regions of Kericho County (Kipsitet, Bomet, Nandi and Forternan) have been able to kick start various income generating and health initiative projects in their respective regions due to skill enhancement training camps, investment seminars and healthcare & hygiene workshops conducted in the Kipsitet headquarters.



Bomet grandmothers and widows group have been able to plant over 1^{1/2} acres of maize, and from the proceeds of the crop are able to meet basic and necessary expenses such as food, school tuition fees for their children and medical cover for themselves and their children/grandchildren. Income generating and investment planning seminars held in Kipsitet region have proved to be viable empowerment tools for the women of Bomet.

Nandi region grandmothers and widows group is one of the groups that have recruited a significant number of grandmothers and

widows over the past 6 months. They have been able to achieve this constant growth through their community service endeavors in the Nandi region. By attending workshops in the Kipsitet, these hardworking women have been able to acquire fundamental healthcare and personal hygiene skills that ensure their wellbeing and health security. This has been crucial due to the rising spread of the malaria pandemic in the region. The grandmothers and widows of Nandi have played a crucial role in ensuring that the community is aware of prevention and treatment procedures to take in order to curb this disease. Without these skills it is very difficult to maintain/sustain a healthy living in this region of Nandi.



Forternan grandmothers and widows have been able to secure several horticultural farming contracts in the area of Forternan. This is impressive considering the scarcity of farmable land in this area. Coffee being one of the main cash crops in Forternan, the grandmothers and widows have reaped richly out of their farming exploits. Currently, the grandmothers and widows group are in the process of acquiring a posho mill in the town of Forternan so as to further increase their income generating. Through ideas shared and connections solidified between the grandmothers and women in the Kericho County...activities such as these have opened numerous business opportunities for the women in the community.





Kipsitet region has been a hotbed of empowerment and comfort for the grandmothers and widows group in Kericho. Kipsitet has contributed considerably to the

success of the group. Due to its central position on the map of Kericho, it has become convenient for widows and grandmothers from different regions to converge and

participate in activities planned in Kipsitet. As for the grandmothers and widows of Kipsitet, they have been prime beneficiaries of training camps organized in the area. Out of all the four regions, Kipsitet has advanced significantly in terms of income generating projects. So far, Kipsitet group through the many training camps have been able to establish a tailoring shop, where various African regalia is made and sold. Aside of that widows and grandmothers of Kipsitet have mastered the art of necklace/earring and ornaments design through the use of beads. All these trades have made the Kipsitet Widows and grandmothers group a very influential and community changing group in the area especially in the church. The grandmothers and widows have achieved a form of financial stability because of these activities.

The testimonies of these women have inspired many more grandmothers and widows to join the group and make a difference in the society. The Kipsitet Womens Center presents to these women an opportunity to continue the good work that they have started, the only difference now will be that they would have a place that would enhance and facilitate their empowerment activities in a much more efficient manner. Having a roof over their heads while carrying out their skill camps, seminars and educational workshops goes a long way in making sure that the widows and grandmothers get the best out of their potential.

Project Progress

The Kipsitet Womens Center has come a long way since its inception in the year 2010. Currently the building's Phase 3 is coming to completion. Thereafter Phase 4 will commence which involves putting up the walls of the upper floor and finishing off with the roofing.

A considerable amount of time and resources went into the transition between phase 3(laying of the Slab for upper floor) and phase 4(walls and roofing). The slab level of the left side of the building has just recently been completed and due to the scorching sun in Kipsitet area, the chief engineer advised that the slab level and stairs should be constantly sprayed with water for 20 days so that it would be strong enough to support the first floor. Phase 3 is still ongoing with the right side upper slab yet to be completed.

I have attached pictures of the building from different angles for proper viewing.



