

# OGIEK PEOPLES'

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# DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM(OPDP)

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## **TITLE:**

**Improving the livelihoods of Kenya's indigenous Ogiek women**

## **SUMMARY:**

To support Kenya's indigenous Ogiek women to improve the livelihoods of their family by investing in training, equipment and skills for dairy farming. With support of \$20,000, and an aim to reach 200 women, the project will purchase hybrid cows, freezers, construction of a store room, pots for storing milk and glass bottles for packaging yoghurt and training on adding value to milk marketing and networking.

## **PROBLEM:**

The Ogiek people, who number around 45,000, remain some of the poorest people in Kenya, suffering from high rates of landlessness and joblessness. Ogiek is an indigenous minority community in Kenya which since the colonial period has been subjected to marginalization. A 2016 study by National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) and which covered all areas of community's residence showed high levels of illiteracy and poverty among the Ogiek.

Traditionally, hunter-gatherers, the majority live across seven counties namely Nakuru, Narok, Baringo, Kericho, Nandi, Uasin Gishu and Bungoma. They were evicted from their traditional home of the Mau Forest Complex, which runs across the counties mentioned above, in the 1930s. While some live in makeshift homes, others stay in rented houses and typically engage in menial jobs to survive. If they can find menial jobs, they earn on average USD\$2 a day, which is equivalent to one kilogram of sugar, a loaf of bread and a quarter litre of milk.

The communities live in remote areas where gravel roads impassable during wet season. They tend to have limited access to clean water; health centres are ill equipped; and schools can be located more than 10 kilometers away from their homes.

Having experienced evictions, landlessness, poverty and lack of adequate social services and poor infrastructure, an estimated 90 percent of the Ogiek are illiterate; subjecting them to further marginalization.

Women suffer the most and are subjected to multiple duties ranging from working in farms to walking long distances to fetch firewood and water. Since women lack resources to allow them to make independent decisions, they often experience the impact of harmful traditional practices such as female genital cutting and early marriage.

## **SOLUTION**

OPDP seeks to change the lives of Ogiek women by giving them an opportunity to become financially independent and empowered. We are seeking to raise \$20,000 to assist 200 women start dairy farming. This will involve purchase of hybrid cows, freezers, construction of a store room, pots for storing milk and glass bottles for packaging yoghurt and training on adding value to milk marketing and networking.

## **LONG-TERM IMPACT**

By giving Ogiek women an opportunity to improve their livelihoods, not only would individual household opportunities improve but so could the vicious cycle of poverty be overcome. Households would be better able to confront hunger, illiteracy, teenage pregnancy and environmental degradation.

## **BACKGROUND ON OPDP**

Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) vision is to empower the Ogiek community and be part of a Kenyan society that embraces equality and diversity. We believe we can achieve this vision by promoting and advocating for the participation, self-determination and human rights of the members of the Ogiek community.

OPDP first began as an association in 1999 constituting of Ogiek elders, opinion leaders, farmers and professionals who consolidated ideas on how to empower the Ogiek community from oppressive laws, policies and deep seated discrimination and exclusion.

In 2001 OPDP was registered as a non-governmental organization. We now focus on land and natural resources rights, strengthening good governance & institutional capacity, building community identity & active participation as well as increasing gender and youth empowerment. While the head office is in Nakuru town, Nakuru County, our presence is felt beyond the county. We work in six other counties namely Narok, Baringo, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Kericho and Bungoma<sup>1</sup>

The passage of Kenya's new Constitution that was passed in August 2010, recognized for the first time the needs and identify of minorities and marginalized groups and introduced clauses intended to foster their development. It has sought to address these social injustices through affirmative action programmes tailored towards participation and representation in governance and other spheres of life of minorities; provision of special opportunities in education and economic fields; provision of special opportunities for access to education as well as equitable access to water, health services and infrastructure as provided in Article 56 of the Kenyan Constitution<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ogiekpeoples.org/index.php/about/who-we-are>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.klrc.go.ke/index.php/constitution-of-kenya/113-chapter-four-the-bill-of-rights/part-3-specific-application-of-rights/222-56-minorities-and-marginalised-groups>

While we celebrate the shift, especially the fact that it recognized these communities have suffered from marginalization due to previous policies and practices, we believe there is a lot more work to be done to undo the decades of damage done and discrimination experienced. As the Ogiek are a relatively small minority, continued efforts to address discrimination and exclusion are needed so they can have equal access to their rights.

For the past 16 years OPDP has worked with this community continuously involving members to get out of extreme poverty and work towards social justice. OPDP is committed to these communities and will continue to work to champion for sustainable management of the natural resources and advocate for the rights of indigenous women in Kenya.

## Project Budget

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Estimated milk production per day per cow	Milk capacity per cooler
<b><u>Establishment of Dairy Farming</u></b>					
Ayrshire heifer	6	1,000.00	6,000.00	@ 24 liters	
Milk cooler	2	2,500.00	5,000.00		@ 150 liters
Milk pot	18	27.90	502.20		
Packaging bottles	144	3.50	504.00		
Construction of store room	2	1,000.00	2,000.00		
Sub Total			<b>14,006.20</b>		
<b><u>Training</u></b>					
Conference (8 hours)	200	10.00	1,500.00		
Consultation	2	250.00	500.00		
Sub Total			<b>2,000.00</b>		
<b><u>Extension services</u></b>					
Veterinary	1	1,200.00	1,200.00		
Livestock Production Expert	1	1,200.00	1,200.00		
Field Officer	1	1,600.00	1,600.00		
Sub Total			<b>4,000.00</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b><u>20,006.20</u></b>		

