

Turning Point Farm Project Information Sheet

The Turning Point Farm was established in 2007 with the vision to see single mothers who have little hope of changing their situations in Kibera moving out of the city with their children to a clean and safe environment to bring up their kids. The long term plan is to see these women using the farming skills they have learnt on the TP farm to set themselves up on their own land to become independent from organisations like Turning Point.



We have bought 30 acres of land in an area called Kinangop, about 120km outside of Nairobi towards the Aberdares. The mums progress through the following phases in steps towards independence:

Phase 1

The mothers firstly live together in community, sharing washrooms, a dining room and kitchen. During this time they farm a portion of the Turning Point community land. This community land serves as a training ground on which the farm manager teaches the mothers how to plant, harvest, maintain and manage their land. In the beginning stages the crops from this land are shared amongst and used to feed the community as they cook and eat together each day. Each mother also has their own half acre of land to plant and use as they wish. On this half acre the mothers can test out their new skills and see how much work they need to put in to get the amount of crops they need.

Phase 2

After a year living and farming in community, the mums and their families move into their own one-bedroomed house. Here, each individual family cooks and provides for themselves. They farm their own one-acre of land provided by Turning Point, which, if farmed properly, should produce enough crops for the mothers to feed their own children and sell some to make a profit. The mums stay in this phase for at least one year.

Phase 3

Once the mothers have proved they are able to farm their own one-acre of land with no assistance from Turning Point, Turning Point will purchase them their own acre of land and build them a house on this land. The mothers will have the title deeds to this piece of land and over a period of 15 years will gain total ownership of the acre. The cost of purchasing land and building a house for one mother was £3000 in 2011.

Throughout the 3 phase process, Turning Point slowly removes their support in terms of buying inputs for the farm such as seeds, fertilizer, hiring the tractor, paying for trees to be cut down for firewood etc. and gradually giving the mothers more and more responsibilities.

The Farm so far

So far we have successfully seen 7 mothers and between them their 17 kids through all 3 phases. They have moved from Kibera to a life independent from Turning Point, farming their own land and providing for their families.

In December 2011 we saw 10 more mums and between them their 38 children make the journey from Kibera to the community farm. They are currently in phase 1, learning to farm on the community land under Samuel's guidance.