



Health Education Africa Resource Team

Empowering the People of Africa to Survive the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

LAUNCHING OF THE GREENHOUSE PROJECT

Friday 8th October 2010 was a day like no other for the guardians of the Kids for school project in Gucha District. On this day, they gathered to witness the launching of the greenhouse project in the area. HEART was represented by HEART's Programs Manager Mr. Evans Masese and the Field Coordinator, Mr. Isaac Mzee while Larry Donahoo represented Lift Up Africa.

It was a happy day for them because not only were they seeing the first step come into fruition but also the first greenhouse in the county. "We have scored a first...people are coming and motorists stopping by to have a look some wondering what it is that we have erected here" said one elderly guardian a member of the group, referring to the many people that were also for the first time seeing the new farming technology in their area. The greenhouse which is set to benefit fifty members of the Kids for school support group in Gucha through enhanced farming techniques to boost production, will also serve as a source of income generation. It was not only joy that was evident on the faces of these guardians but also the enthusiasm with which they worked around the plot. "With this greenhouse we are now going to plant tomatoes for sale throughout the year," said Priscah Makori the group's chairperson. "That's why we had to dig the borehole so that we can have the much needed water year round" continued Priscah.



Gucha Local KFS committee chairlady, Priscah Makori giving her views on how to solve the issue of availability of water for use in the green house. The options explored during these lengthy deliberations included; ferrying the water from a nearby stream by project beneficiaries, purchasing a large capacity storage tank to be used in rain water harvesting, hiring of casual labour to ferry the water, and constructing a earth pan for harvesting both runoff water and roof catchment. Eventually the idea of sinking a well (borehole) was preferred and this has been successfully done by the enthusiastic guardians.

Addressing the guardians, Lift up Africa representative Larry Donahoo said they were happy to partner with HEART to lift up the living standards of the people through the greenhouse project. He commended them for the good work they had done in preparation for the installation and launch of the greenhouse. He reiterated Lift up Africa's support in future projects similar to this one. The Kids for School area Coordinator Pastor Ezekiel Momanyi was full of praise to HEART and grateful to Lift up Africa for "this new venture in the community". He said teachers from different schools in the locality were streaming by to see the model project. "They are even asking if they can be allowed to bring in students to come and learn about this new farming model in this area." said pastor Ezekiel. He said his community was more than ready to do anything at their disposal to make sure they are self sustainable especially on food security.



Putting heads together: Local KFS committee and some guardians discussing after touring the plot that was donated by one of the guardians for installation of green house

The plot on which the green house is installed has been donated by one of the guardians in the Kids for School Project. The width is almost the entire area that is occupied by the guardians in the picture above. It is characteristic of the small size of land in rural Kisii that has a low carrying capacity.

We left the area happy and glad that together with Lift up Africa and the community, we are working towards reducing economic household vulnerability to the caregivers in Kids for School Project by developing the capacity to mitigate against the same.



These guardians would not hide their joy and showed it by song and dance in praise of Lift Up Africa and HEART for providing them with a greenhouse.



HEART Program Manager address the guardians during the official launch of HEART's first ever green house project



Mr. Larry Donahoo, a trustee with Lift Up Africa, Rev. Ezekiel Momanyi Gucha Area Coordinator, Priscah Makori the Gucha KFS committee chairlady, Mr. Evans Masese HEART Program Manager and some of the guardians admire the work being done in the greenhouse.



Larry Donahoo, Lift Up Africa Trustee gives a word of encouragement and praise to the attentive guardians on their achievement in successfully launching the green house in Getumo, Gucha District.

THE AMIRAN FARMERS KIT TRAINING

This training was organized and delivered on 22nd October 2010, by Amiran's training department and facilitated by Mr. Silas the officer in charge of training and Emmah, an agronomist with Amiran. The training brought together 20 participants drawn from all over the country and is part of the package for all clients who pay for the complete kit. Apart from the supply of the greenhouse, Amiran provides installation services and agronomical support.

This training is critical since it enables farmers to embark on preparing the nurseries and consequent transplanting of seedlings to the greenhouses. It is expected that with this training they will be able to address the challenges they are likely to face in the adoption of this new technology with the goal of achieving the desired results.

The training in pictures



Gucha KFS Area Coordinator Rev. Ezekiel Momanyi receives his certificate after attending the training on how to operate the Amiran Farmers Kit. The training that was held at the Amiran Head Office, was attended by Mr. Leonard Mose of Manga, Mr. Moses Okumu of Nyakach and Rev. Ezekiel Momanyi of Gucha. HEART Programs Manager Mr. Evans Masese also attended the training to familiarize with the technology and therefore be able to follow through its implementation.

HEART has paid for three more representatives, one from each of the areas to attend training on 29th November 2010. This is to ensure that the two trainees from each area play a supportive role and help minimize on any risks associated with dependency on a single person. During this second round of training HEART will also have Mr. Isaac Mzee, the Field Coordinator attend the training to ensure we have a good back up and supportive plan for not only the three areas, but also in anticipation of a scale up.



Training in session: Understanding the Amiran Farmers Kit. This session was done using PowerPoint presentation with participants being allowed to ask questions to help clarify on the concepts. It laid the basis for going to the field for practical



Trainees pay keen attention as they are being taken through a demonstration on nursery preparation. This kind of nursery known as the Amiran Nursery is the most preferred due to its simplicity and effectiveness.



Mr. Leonard Mose (in black) a committee member of Manga KFS, one of the areas benefiting from the first three greenhouses sponsored by Lift Up Africa and HEART follows keenly the explanation on how to take care of the crops in the greenhouse

We look forward to having all the three areas start working on the nurseries in the first week of November 2010. Transplanting of tomato seedlings is expected as from the 23rd of November. The months of November and December are set to experience a bee hive of activities as crops planned for planting require a lot of care to continue growing and attain maturity. We hope to start picking the first tomato fruits in January 2011.

Report by: Evans Masese – Program Manager
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29th October 2010