

Generous in enlarging others



MARY KAMORE

"What vision do you have for your business and where do you see it 10 years down the line?" I asked Hellen when we visited her school, Helma Excellent Educational Centre in Kayole two weeks ago. Hellen has gone through the EPTF Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP); first the Entrepreneurship training, followed by 6 months mentoring and now the subsequent support services.

"Mine is not just an ordinary business, it's a school with a difference. These children you see here I reach out to their parents as well. When parents come here with issues I counsel them so that they are able to keep their children in school. I have helped some of the parents to start a table banking group so that they are able to save money regularly for school fees and other needs. 10 years down the line I want this school to be on my own land, not a small rented premise like where we are now. I want us to have enough space for these children to play and learn. I want enough space for me to meet with the parents and hold seminars for them. Right now I have 85 children I want to have 100 times more. This will be my school 10 years down the line".

"My vision? That is not an easy question to answer but I have this picture in my mind; children in the low income areas (call them slums) accessing quality education and other learning facilities that will enable them become the best that God created them to be. I see these children growing to influence others positively in the society"

Our vision of 'Empowered Kingdom Minded Entrepreneurs Transforming Communities' cannot be demonstrated in a better way. We desire to develop and nurture many "Hellen's" who will do what we cannot do and reach where we can't reach. Who will not only be focused on building profit making ventures, even when they have an opportunity to, but will instead appreciate that a business can only grow as fast as the society that accommodates it.

This year my prayer for Hellen and all our entrepreneurs is 2 Corinthians 9:8-11;

"8.And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."[a]

10.Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

11. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

As we empower many; both in the urban and in the rural, as we go far and wide in this country to enable Kenyans not only put food on the table but increase their incomes for improved livelihoods—my prayer is that for these Kenyans 'the harvest of their righteousness will be enlarged so that they can be **generous in enlarging others**'.



EPTF's CEO Mary Kamore and EPTF Board Chair person Margaret Karan-gatha planting a tree.

Sustainable Agricultural Practices Launch

Wednesday, 7th February, 2018 saw the launching of a new project -- Sustainable Agricultural Practices (SAP) in Moiben -Simatwo Catholic Church in Uasin Gishu County.

The Sustainable Agricultural Practices (SAP) project's main objective is to ensure poor and marginalized farmers have improved farm productivity and profitability. This will be done through the formation of a farmer-led producer association and stakeholder's forums championing for improved agricultural support services and policy impact along the poultry, market gardening and bee keeping value chains.

EPTF will ensure regular agribusiness trainings of the registered community members in groups of 10-20 to reach 200 farmers and households in Moiben sub-county (Tachasis, Sessia, Manyatta and Simatwo). The training is aimed at helping these farmers independently make wise agribusiness decisions regarding farming practices that will eventually empower them and their communities.

Invited guests included; officials from the Uasin Gishu County government, Church representatives, Community members and EPTF partners.

Climate Resilient & Adaption Livelihoods Launch in Mwala, Machakos

The Climate Resilience and Adaptability Livelihoods project was launched at the AIC Kanyuuku-Mwala, Church grounds. The project's main objective is "to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural poor to climate change."



Pastor Ndola of AIC Mwala Church addressing guests at the EPTF CRAL launch.

Green Communities for Climate Change Control - CRAL project launch, Kuresoi North—Nakuru.

EPTF's Climate Resilience and Adaptability Livelihoods project launch in North Kuresoi, Nakuru County -- Friday 09/03/2018. It was graced by government officials, farmer producer associations and stakeholders from the environmental bodies.

Now, imagine a few years back when tilling the land/farming. . . . The soils were great, rainfall adequate and yields more and better. We had plenty to eat, plenty to sell and use its proceeds to educate our children.

That is no longer the case. Rivers and water levels are drying up, soils are infected, yields are low, farmers are no longer getting profits and Kenya's food security is threatened. But imagine how the situation will be in a few years to come.

Grassroots communities have the power within them to reclaim and restore productivity of our lands and ensure sustainability for our future generations.

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EPTF 's PRO .

That is why The EPTF's CRAL project objective is to "build the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural poor to climate change." This will be done through the formation of a farmer-led producer and stakeholder forums championing for improved agricultural support services and policy impact along the Mangoes, Moringa, selected vegetables and Poultry keeping value chains.

The agribusiness training for the registered communities' members will be aimed at demonstrating relevant adaptive measures, approaches and interventions that will contribute towards building resilience of the vulnerable communities in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem, reducing their vulnerabilities to climatic shocks and securing employment opportunities through food and income.



Mary with the Starlight Producer Association officials planting a tree.

EPTF's Seed Capital token to Jibidische Self Help Group in Kinango, Kwale County



Jibidische Self Help group on their farm.

A tremendous milestone was marked as for EPTF and the Jibidische Self Help group -- a table banking group that was registered in the year 2014 and has since made great strides in working together to raise money towards agri-business and fresh water supply.

The event saw the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, (MoU) on the 28th February, 2018 and issuing of seed capital to the table banking group.

The Jibidische Self Help group is based in Kinango Sub-County, Kwale County and is beneficiary of EPTF's entrepreneurship and table banking training.

Kwale County at one point recorded a poverty index level of 72-75 percent, compared with the national average of 45 percent. In 2013 a CS then allocated Kinango constituency the lion's share of CDF because it was 'the poorest constituency in the country'.

Mary Kamore – EPTF CEO.

94 women from Kibera Slums - Kenya, graduate in Entrepreneurship and Business Creation training .

The 94 women from Kibera slums graduated in Entrepreneurship and Business Creation 10 module training implemented by EPTF and Association of Sisterhoods in Kenya (AOSK).

The graduating class had an opportunity to share what the training has meant for them and how their lives have been transformed.

“I used to spend money meant for business however I saw fit because it was mine anyway but I have now learnt that I need to keep records of the money to help me manage it well. I have also learnt that I need to pay myself so that I can meet my personal needs.” said Claire, group leader of one of the groups. “

The invited guests who included Sr. Margaret Katua - Coordinator, AOSK and EPTF's CEO, Mary Kamore urged the alumni to put Christ first because He is the one who gives people the power to make wealth and to go out, multiply what they had learnt by putting their knowledge into practice.

What next after graduating? The alumni will go through a 7 months mentorship program facilitated by EPTF where they will be divided into groups of 5-10 women. Each group will be linked to a mentor who will walk with them for seven months to help them in their personal lives and business.



AOSK Co-coordinator Sr. Margaret Katua awarding a certificate to Everlyne Adhiambo.

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Claire, Group leader.

Economic Projects Transformational Facility

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The Economic Projects Transformational Facility [EPTF] was founded by The Navigators Kenya with the objective of spurring enterprise development as a panacea to the high rates of unemployment among the youths and the ensuing poverty. EPTF takes a comprehensive and integrative approach to promoting entrepreneurship development and has adopted a holistic approach that involves training and business development support services [BDSS].

EPTF's entrepreneurship training addresses unemployment and poverty by supporting the creation and expansion of business enterprises. The training seeks to challenge existing mind-sets of many young people who believe that formal employment is the only way to generate income. At the end of the training, many young people become job creators as opposed to job seekers.

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