



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

International Service Committee Report Economic Development for the People of Kokwa Island



This Project was first started when our club obtained a Rotary International matching grant in the fall of 2014. Originally, it was intended to be completed over a three-year period but has had some setbacks that have caused delays. Nevertheless, the project has moved steadily and successfully forward and has only one piece remaining to be completed.

This is a complex project, comprised of several parts

1. Community and civic education
2. Fence and tree planting at an elementary school
3. Development of a school and community library at an elementary school
4. Startup of a dairy goat milk cooperative
5. Ambulance boat for dispensary
6. Furnishings to provide for a delivery room at the dispensary
7. Tourist toilets and huts for craft sales
8. Water purification system
9. Upgrade to water system at a community health center in Meru, Kenya (part of our international partner's large-scale project).

The first part of the project completed was education of the local community in civics and government, training for the groups that are to manage the dairy milk cooperative and the school library and computer lab. This training also included group organization and management as well as project tracking and record keeping.



107 adults were trained in civic rights and responsibilities, access to the services and resources of the County government and other governmental agencies.

208 adults participated in training in the importance of educating boys and girls about the danger of genital mutilation and early marriage for girls. In addition, 80 youth were informed about HIV/Aids, dangers of premature sex, drugs and substance abuse. They also received guidance on making informed choices on careers after school.

55 children who attend Kirepari nursery school are protected from the danger of wild animals now that fencing has been installed around the school perimeter. This also allows teachers to watch children more closely. The trees provide shade for outdoor classes and recreation. The dairy animals are housed in an additional compound within the school yard, so they are also protected from wild animals and cross breeding with wild goats. This facilitates the work of the women's group who manage the dairy project.

320 children and some 50 plus adults in the Kokwa school area benefit from the development and furnishing of the school library and computer lab. 3 teachers received instruction and now can train others in basic computer use and internet technology.



60 community leaders learned skills that helped them create organizational structures, formal group registration, constitution or bylaws formation, conducting meetings, planning, budgeting and record keeping.

46 community leaders learned about the benefits of hydroponic fodder, growing and using the fodder. 15 members have successfully grown 2.3 tons of hydroponic fodder and fed dairy goats since 2016. 40 members of two other groups were successfully trained by this women's group in hydroponic farming and have started their own systems. The 45 women were also trained in caring for dairy goats and cows, housing, breeding, feeding, pest and disease control. So far, the group has sold 1 male calf and 4 male goats for breeding. 3200 liters of milk have been produced over the 2016-17 period which has increased the availability and consumption of milk on the island and provided income and purchasing power for the women.

436 community members benefit from the proximity of a fully equipped ambulance boat and have also received training on hygiene and water borne diseases. They also have access to clean drinking water with the installation of the high powered solar submersible pump. The water is pumped from Lake Baringo to a 10,000-liter reservoir which is 14 feet about the lake level. The pump delivers 5600 liters of clean water every 8 hours. Not only do the population have clean water but women and children avoid being attacked by crocodiles at the lake edge when collecting water. The 7-person water management committee sell the water for a small fee and save the funds for future maintenance. 7 committee members were trained and are managing the newly installed water system.

A room near the dispensary has been furnished as a delivery room and has been in use since August 2017. So far 43 babies have been safely delivered in the better equipped facility. A new, larger dispensary is under construction and the delivery room will be relocated at that time.

The installation of water storage tanks at the Uruku community health center was completed early in 2015.

The one remaining task is the installation of tourist huts and toilets. An alternative site needs to be located as, just like the original plan of the water purification system, the original site is now under water due to the rising level of Lake Baringo.

