



# FOUNDATION

| REPORT NO. 5 |

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## THE KISIMA FOUNDATION

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# EDUCATION

## The Gundua Primary & Secondary Schools

The Gundua Primary and Secondary Schools continue to provide a high level of education to many children in Buuri district. The Kisima Foundation is in the process of purchasing a 33 seater school bus and the new classrooms at the Primary School were complete in 2019..

In 2019 two students were awarded the Gundua Foundation scholarships to University. See below a table of all those students currently enrolled in universities on Gundua scholarships.

#	Name of Student	Year of Study	University
1	Mbaabu Bessy Kagwiria	1st Year	Maseno University
2	Morris Mwirigi Minyori	1st Year	Maasai Mara University
3	Winfred Ntinyari	2nd Year	Pwani University
4	Kevin Murithi	2nd Year	Technical University of Nairobi
5	Brian Gatobu	2nd Year	Pwani University
6	Kenneth Mwiti	3rd Year	Pwani University
7	Frankline Mutuma	3rd Year	Chuka University
8	Beth Wairimu	3rd Year	Masinde Muliro University
9	Dennis Kirimi	4th Year	Maasai Mara University
10	Peter Kiogora	4th Year	Maseno University
11	Christine Mutwiri	4th Year	Technical University of Mombasa
12	Nelly Gatwiri	4th Year	Maseno University
13	Douglas Muguna	5th Year	Masinde Muliro University

## The Gundua Foundation Entrepreneurship Project

The Gundua Foundation Entrepreneurship Project has continued over the last year with over 800 people enrolling in training. The program has created 612 small enterprises and over 600 jobs. The program is supported by Hand in Hand EA.

Between January and April 2020 the following activities were the focus of the program:

- Post Harvest Training. Increasing the availability of food is not only increasing productivity in agriculture but also lowering the losses incurred. The students focused on growing, harvesting and storage of potatoes.
- Value Addition Training. To increase farmers income and maximize on profit, 320 community members were trained on potato value addition. Farmers were trained on processing alternative potato produce such as chips, crisps and potato starch.
- Demo Farm Harvesting. Three demonstration farms were established at Mugumone, Pioneer and Maritati with the students comparing different techniques and practices from the various sites.
- Financial Inclusion. Through the Enterprise Incubation Fund members are able to obtain loans for their businesses. To date 141 members have accessed the fund to boost their enterprises with a total amount of Ksh 2,162,100.
- Covid-19 Response. Members have focused on countering social stigma surrounding the disease and engaging with community leaders. Two of the demo sites are now serving the community with potatoes. Some of the entrepreneurs have started selling soap, disinfectants, facemasks and running Covid-19 campaigns.

## Feeding Program

The feeding program continued to benefit more than 2,400 children from 6 schools early in the year. Although the schools are now closed and therefore official feeding programs have stopped, the Kisima Foundation has been arranging food handouts to families in the surrounding communities in the hope that many children will continue to benefit from the food.

We are grateful for the support of the Children In Need Foundation, the Wegbratt Foundation and the Gundua Foundation.



Food handouts to vulnerable members of the community



Tailoring students at the Gundua Skills Centre

## The Gundua Skills Centre

The Gundua Skills Centre has gone from strength to strength over the last year. The centre is now equipped with 10 sewing machines and 30 tailoring students were admitted in February 2020 to begin their training. Unfortunately due to the outbreak of Covid-19, their learning has been suspended. Computer work stations and desks were also installed. The purchasing of the computers will be done once learning starts again.



New playground facilities (pre-Covid 19)



# EDUCATION

## The Human Practice Foundation

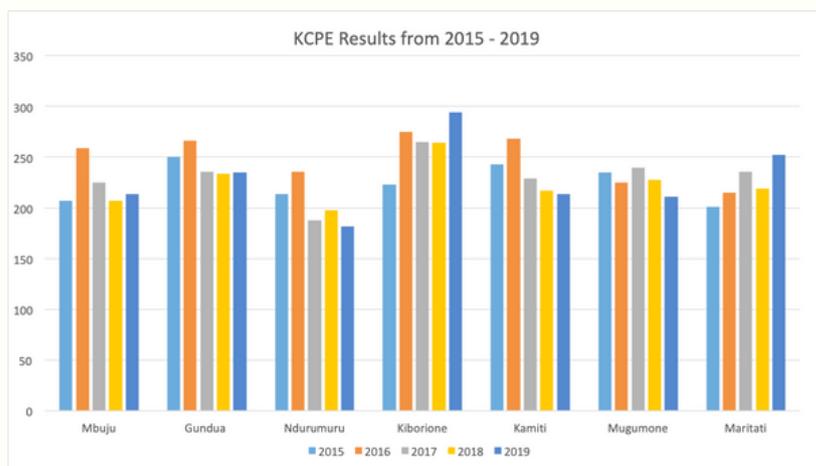
The Kisima Foundation with support from the Human Practice Foundation has continued to improve and transform primary schools in Meru County. The schools we are involved with are Karimba, Kianda, Maritati, Mugumone, Ntugi, Kibirione and Ethi Primary Schools.

At Kianda Primary School 3 new classrooms were built as well as a library and staff room. Over 100 parents joined in with the initial stages of the project to help dig the foundations for the classrooms and Borana Conservancy provided a JCB to assist on site. The renovation of Ntugi Primary School was completed - the floors were cemented, the walls plastered, a new roof and proper windows installed - this work was done on 7 classrooms and a school hall. At Mugumone Primary School 4 new classrooms were built to replace the wooden ones.

The permaculture gardens were continued at all the schools, providing vegetables for the students. Kibirione, Ethi and Maritati Primary Schools now have laptops in the school libraries and computer classes are now offered to the students.

One of the key projects over the last year has been installing playgrounds in all of the schools. Many thanks to the Kisima Forestry Department for their help in building the playgrounds.

Many thanks to the Human Practice Foundation for their support.



ICT lessons at Maritati Primary School (pre-Covid 19)



Ntugi Primary School before and after

## Covid-19 and the closure of schools

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, all schools were closed on the 15th March 2020 and may begin reopening in October 2020.

Although some documents are sent over Whatsapp or email, the majority of children do not have access to the learning materials and therefore the effects of not attending school for almost a year will have a huge impact on their learning and also on their social interaction. We will do all we can to support schools to address those challenges once they reopen.



*Gundua Health Centre*

## HEALTH

### The Gundua Health Centre

The Gundua Health Centre continues to provide quality healthcare services to surrounding communities. The clinic had 6,025 new patients and 4,163 patients revisited the clinic. There were a total of 10,188 people treated at the clinic in 2019 which is up by over 1,900 patients compared to 2018. A new ambulance was purchased which is better suited for off road terrain.

There was a significant increase in the number of people visiting the clinic for family planning contraceptives - the numbers increased from 201 in 2018 to 842 in 2019.

Maternity services also increased in 2019 and all maternity services are now being offered free of charge at the clinic for people registered with the government NHIF scheme. This has a great impact on expectant mothers in the Ex-Lewa community who no longer have to worry about a fee for maternity services, resulting in an increase in safer births. Pregnant women are encouraged to attend antenatal classes at the clinic. The 'Do Right' program also supported the Gundua Health Clinic in providing postnatal bags for women - the bags contain baby clothes, a baby blanket, a cloth nappy, nappy pins, vaseline, baby soap and a pamphlet.

The Gundua Foundation partnered with The African Girl Foundation and Bloomingdale Roses to distribute reusable sanitary towels to over 150 girls from the Gundua schools. The girls were educated on the use and care of the towels. Many girls miss school during their periods and therefore this will hopefully enable them to continue coming to school.

Many thanks to the Gundua Foundation, Apotek Hjartat and the Department of Health Services for Meru County for their support in improving healthcare in Buuri district.

### Dentistry

Dr. Lars Salonen visited the centre in October 2019 on his fifth trip to Gundua. Dr Salonen screened over 1,800 people for dental problems.

### Covid-19 and the Gundua Health Centre

The Gundua Health Centre increased their stocks of drugs and laboratory supplies in March and April to ensure they had enough stock in case of an interruption in supply. Personal Protective Equipment was purchased and issued to Gundua Health Centre staff.

There has been a reduction in the number of patients visiting the clinic since the outbreak of Covid-19. The containment measures put in place to curb the spread of the virus - hand washing, wearing masks, social distancing- have meant that there has been a reduction in the spread of other diseases. Another factor is that people are scared of contracting the disease at health clinics so they choose to stay away. This is something that is being seen countrywide.



*The Tippy Taps*

The Kisima Foundation, with support from the Forestry department, has built 40 hand washing stations which have been distributed around the farm and in all adjacent communities. A further 35 have been distributed to the schools around Kisima.

The 'Tippy Taps' are designed with a simple pedal to regulate the water flow and the 20lt water container is filled with chlorinated water and refilled twice a week.



*Dr. Lars Salonen screening pupils from Gundua Primary School*



Agri field day at the demo site

## AGRICULTURE

### Kisima Seed Potato

Kisima continues to be the largest supplier of seed potatoes in Kenya, working with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS), the International Potato Centre (CIP), the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) and HZPC. We produce over 2,000 tonnes of certified potato seed and currently grow 12 varieties.

Potatoes are the second most important food crop in Kenya, grown by 800,000 smallholders on 158,000 hectares and requiring 300,000 tonnes of seed per year. National certified seed production is currently less than 2% of the actual demand. Kisima meets 75% of this seed production, consequently playing a significant role in smallholder agriculture.

### Testimonials

*“I attribute the scaling up of my cabbage business from subsistence to commercial, introduction of poultry production and purchase of a sheep for milking to my increased revenue from production of Kisima Farm certified potato seed. Most importantly, however, is the ability to pay school fees for my grandchildren.”* **Beatrice Gikunda** - quoted in a Syngenta Foundation Report

*Joseph Mukiiri is a potato farmer from Maritati village in Meru County. In 2018 Joseph planted 36 bags of Kisima Certified Potato Seed (Unica variety) in 2 acres of land. He managed to harvest 240 bags of 70kgs each. His harvest coincided with low supply in the market and the crop earnings helped him to purchase a mini-van that helps him with his farming business.*

### Agri Information Centre

Smallholder agriculture field days continue to be held at the Kisima Agri Information Centre. As a result of Covid-19 a great deal of information is now being shared on social media platforms and via local tv and radio stations.

Over the last year the site has hosted about 1,000 visitors in addition to the 2,000 people who attended the two annual field days.

We work alongside the Syngenta Foundation, the Cereal Growers Association (CGA) and the Department of Agriculture for Meru County.



Joseph Mukiiri with his van



*Checking the WRUA reading*

## ENVIRONMENTAL

### Water

Kisima Farm plays a key role in the management and protection of the Kisima Spring which supplies over 20,000 people in Buuri district with water. Kisima supports the Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) and leads the way in adhering to water regulations and rationing.

The WRUA WhatsApp group has been set up for everyone who depends on the river and spring. Every Monday water level readings are recorded and then shared with everyone on the group to enable them to plan their water use.

### Sustainable Integrated Pest Management (IPM) System

Kisima Floriculture is committed to using environmentally friendly and sustainable approaches for the management of pests and disease. The following approaches are used as part of the IPM strategy.

- Trianium (Trichoderma Hazianum) and Real Trichoderma (T. Asperellum). Beneficial Fungi we use to control soil borne diseases in soil; an example being Fusarium wilt.
- Entonam (Steinernema feltiae). Beneficial nematodes which we use to control thrips by regurgitating bacteria into the host which eventually kills the pest. We apply both in soil and on crop foliage.
- Achieve (metarhizium Anosopliae strain 78). A strain of beneficial fungus which attacks spider mites.
- Prevail (Beauveria Bassiana). Beneficial fungi which are used to control whiteflies and thrips- applied as foliar spray.
- Campaign (Meterhizium anisopliae). Beneficial Fungi used to control thrips in roses through foliar spray.
- Regain (Bacillus Subtilis). This is a metabolite of bacteria and is used to control Powdery Mildew in roses as a foliar spray.
- Pheromones traps. They are specific to different types of moths; they attract males moths which then get stuck to the sticky paper inside thus stopping mating.

### Conservation

Kisima works closely with the Mt Kenya Forest Trust, supporting anti-poaching horse patrol teams, planting seedlings and fighting fires on the mountain. In 2019 over 234,000 trees were planted by the Trust and 60 firefighters were trained. Training is provided by an organisation called 'Working on Fire'. They provide management and firefighting training courses that enable governments, forestry operators and commercial landowners to protect, prevent and manage wild land and structural fires. The elite fire fighting teams are comprised of MKT, KWS, KFS, Rhino Ark, community members, and employees of Kisima Farm.

The Mt Kenya-Ngare Ndare Elephant Corridor runs through the farm, which is inhabited by many species of wildlife. The corridor allows the free movement of elephants and other wild animals between Mt Kenya and the rangelands to the north. A new study by the Wildlife Conservation Society found that the elephant population on Mt Kenya has remained relatively stable between 2016 - 2020. However, there was a 51% increase in other threats - logging, charcoal production and snaring.

We also work with the Ngare Ndare Forest Trust on conserving and protecting the Ngare Ndare forest. The Trust is run by the surrounding communities in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service. Since its inception the Trust has planted over 600,000 indigenous seedlings in the forest and over 2 million exotic seedlings on surrounding farms.



*Fire fighting training*