

Message from the National Director

Moving Forward

Welcome to my first message as the new National Director of Habitat for Humanity Kenya and to this issue of **Tujenge Nyumba** Newsletter. As I take over the helm of the Kenya program, I am acutely aware of the housing need in our country. Millions of Kenya's low income families continue to live in deplorable housing conditions due to lack of funds to enable them construct houses that can offer them the much needed warmth and restore their dignity.

I am fully aware of the central role that Habitat for Humanity plays not only here in Kenya but also globally. This is a mission that I hold dearly as I embark on catapulting the organization to even greater heights. Therefore, I am certain with my dedicated team of staff and the support of partners who over the years have graciously supported us, we shall realize our goals.

The last few months have been very busy for us as we worked hard to respond to the ever increasing demand for decent housing in the country. During the just concluded fiscal year 2012, we managed to enable 1,300 families access decent and affordable houses. However the majority of Kenyans are still in need of decent housing and I cordially invite you to help us cover the challenge that lies ahead.

Recently, we managed to complete construction of the remaining 25 houses at the Maai Mahiu IDP camp, thanks to the support from Dow Chemical Limited. Today, the 335 families who were displaced following the disputed 2007/2008 general elections are now proud owners of three roomed durable houses, thanks to the support of partners who heeded to our call. Plans are underway to invite all those who donated towards the project to come and officially handover during the grand celebrations which will be communicated to you in due course. Similarly, I am also pleased to inform you that, the Mt. Elgon project has come to an end and on 22nd November 2012 we will officially handover the keys to 94 families who benefited from this initiative between HFH Kenya and Mt. Elgon Orchards.



As we embark on the 2nd Quarter of our fiscal year 2013, we are determined to strengthen our Housing Micro Finance program and building new partnerships with like-minded organizations with a view of serving more families.

I wish you a good read and look forward to a continued partnership in the years to come. On behalf of the families we serve, my staff and the entire board of HFH Kenya, I thank you for your generosity and support over the years!

Robert Karanja
National Director, HFH Kenya

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Home at Last!

Dow Chemical restores hope for the Internally Displaced Families

Tuesday September 25, 2012, marked another important milestone for the families of Maai Mahiu Internally Displaced camp as Dow Chemical and Habitat for Humanity Kenya officially handed over keys to 25 families', beneficiaries of Dow Chemical's donation.

Dow Chemical Kenya Country Leader, Ahmed Dualeh and his commercial team as well as the Habitat for Humanity Kenya team graced the occasion. During the ceremony, Mr. Dualeh noted that the handing over of the 25 houses was the beginning of a long term relationship between Dow Chemical and Habitat for Humanity Kenya. "I am happy to see, what we started some few months ago, has finally yielded fruits. The strong walls and floors of these houses symbolize our great commitment towards HFH Kenya of enabling many families access decent shelter", said Mr. Dualeh.

On his part, HFH Kenya National Director, Robert Karanja thanked the Dow Chemical team for taking part in this great initiative. He commended the Dow team and all organizations that responded to the plight of the 335 families and urged them to join hands with Habitat in its efforts of eradicating poverty housing in the country.

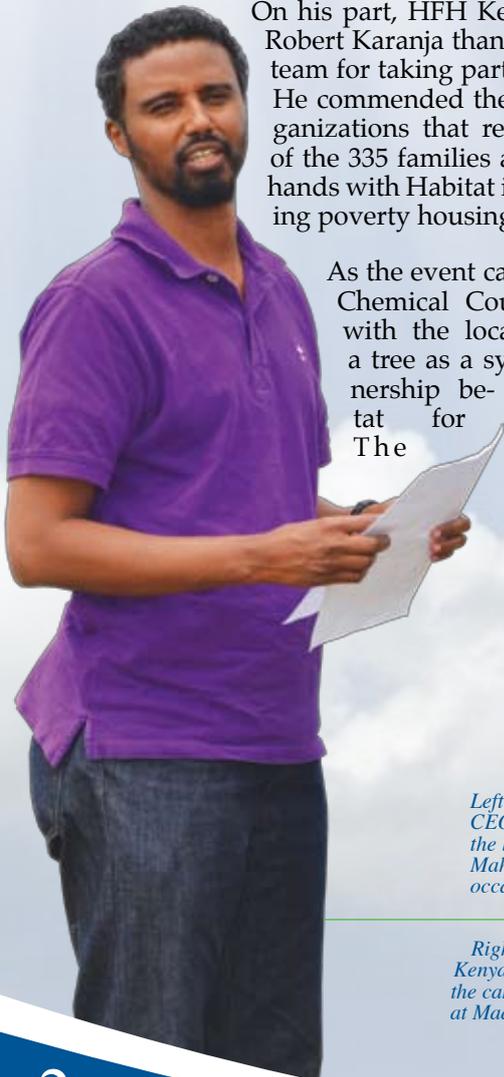
As the event came to a close, the Dow Chemical Country Leader together with the local community planted a tree as a symbol of the new partnership between Dow and Habitat for Humanity Kenya. The community thanked



Dow Chemical staff Leornard and HFH Kenya Director Robert Karanja cut the ribbon for Samuel Kariuki's house during the handover of 25 houses built by Dow Chemical

the two organizations and all well wishers for helping them rebuild and restore their lives.

In recent years, both Dow Chemical and Habitat for Humanity have established a global partnership that has enabled both organizations to address housing issues around the world.



Left: Dow Chemical CEO Ahmed address the locals of Maai Mahiu during the occasion

Right: Dow Chemical Kenya CEO Ahmed cuts the cake during the event at Maai Mahiu IDP camp





Partnering For Progress Gv Teams Help Build It!

Melinda USA Global Village Team in action in Kisii region

Never depend on single income. Make investment to create a second source “those are the words of Warren Buffet a business tycoon.

Enock and Emily Nyabwari is such a determined young couple. Being a young man, Enock has purposed to beat the odds and positively transform the life of his family from living in a mud-walled house to a two-bed roomed brick house. He is a quarry man and supplements his income with taxi business.

During their visit to the country, the Global Village group of volunteers led by Melinda Harvey brought hope to Enock’s family by helping build a house in Bomatara village, Nyamatara location in Kisii County. Being their first time in the country, most of the volunteers were inspired by the noble act of positively transforming Enock’s family from deplorable housing conditions to a decent and durable home. “When I participated in my first gv trip to Kenya last year, I was touched by the deplorable housing condition that many families live in. I made a resolution to take an active role in Habitat’s global build trips not

only to learn about other cultures but also serve families in need of decent shelter. I am happy to be here in Kisii together with this exciting group to build hope to the family of Enock, said Jamillah.

Habitat for Humanity Kenya has this year hosted 18 teams. These international volunteers have dedicated their time and resources to support efforts in our various operational regions. Together, their work has helped over 20 families realize the dream of owning a decent house whilst raising awareness on the need for decent and durable shelter.

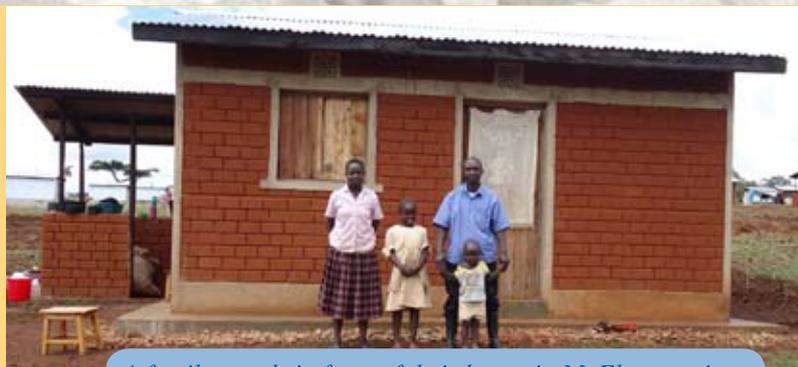
Quoting the words of Habitat for Humanity International founder Millard Fuller “The goal of this organization is to make sure that all families have a good place to live. To accomplish that ambitious goal, decent and good housing must become the heart’s desire of committed and generous people. Sub-standard housing must become socially, religiously, morally and politically unacceptable.”

Thank you Melinda’s team and all 2012 global teams to Kenya!

Brighter Times Ahead! 94 Families benefit from HFH Kenya and Mt.Elgon Trust Partnership Housing Project

In 2010, Habitat for Humanity Kenya joined hands with Mt. Elgon Trust, a charitable arm of Mt.Elgon Orchard to build decent and affordable homes for the farm workers and the local community of Chepchoina village in Mt.Elgon region. The initial goal of the project was to construct 120 housing units of 2-3 bed rooms each, develop an affordable loan product and resident association for the target families. However, this could not be actualized due to limited space to construct all the 120 houses.

Today, 94 housings units have been completed and preparations for official handover of the houses to the 94 families are in their final stages. The event is planned to take place any time before the end of the year and key dignitaries among them HFH Kenya’s Board Chair Mr. Koombe Kiragu, National Director Robert Karanja, and the Senior



A family stands in front of their house in Mt.Elgon region.

Management staff are expected to grace the occasion.

The project which is a brainchild of Dr. Bea Anderson was made possible through the funding of DEB bank and the active participation of the local community members.

Habitat for Humanity Kenya congratulates Mt.Elgon Trust for enabling the local community of Mt.Elgon have access to decent and durable shelter and look forward to a continued partnership in the years to come!

HFH Kenya participates in International Observance of World Habitat Day 2012

This year International celebrations for World Habitat Day were held in Embu town, Kenya on Monday 1st October 2012. The event was hosted by the Government of Kenya courtesy of Ministry of Housing at the town's municipal stadium.

The United Nations Under-Secretary –General and Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos; the Assistant Minister for Housing Hon. Bishop Margaret Wanjiru and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Housing, Mr. Tirop Kosgey officiated at the celebrations. Other key dignitaries at the event were Ambassador George Owour, Permanent Representative of the Kenya Mission to the United Nations office in Nairobi (UNON) and the Mayor of Embu Councillor Mr. Peter Muriithi Nyaga.

Under the theme “Changing Cities, Building Opportunities”, the event provided an opportunity for Governments and stakeholders within the housing sector to reflect on the state of towns and cities globally, the basic right to adequate shelter, basic urban services and urban mobility. The day also was a reminder to the world on the need for a collective responsibility for the future of human habitat.



HFH Kenya staff Peter Barasa explains a point to participants during the WHD 2012 celebrations, Embu

During the celebrations, Habitat for Humanity Kenya's stand attracted a lot of attention from potential clients and participants who took interest in the organisation's affordable housing solutions and services. Over the years, HFH Kenya has been a significant contributor to the housing needs of the low income families in the country who have endeavoured to transform their current poor state of housing into decent and durable homes. To date, the organisation's housing micro finance program, has enabled more than 6,000 families realise the dream of owning decent and affordable shelter.

The venue of the event was also significant to HFH Kenya bearing in mind that Runyenjes which is approximately 15 kms from Embu town is one of the oldest affiliates in the organisation's history.

Thank you for Supporting us

INDIVIDUALS

Christy Dueck
Cyrus Watuku
Fan Randy Wilber
Henry & Norma Leonhard
James C. Mosier
James Fan G Plackis
Jeanette & Megan Scott
Keith A. Levi
Wilbur N. Moulton

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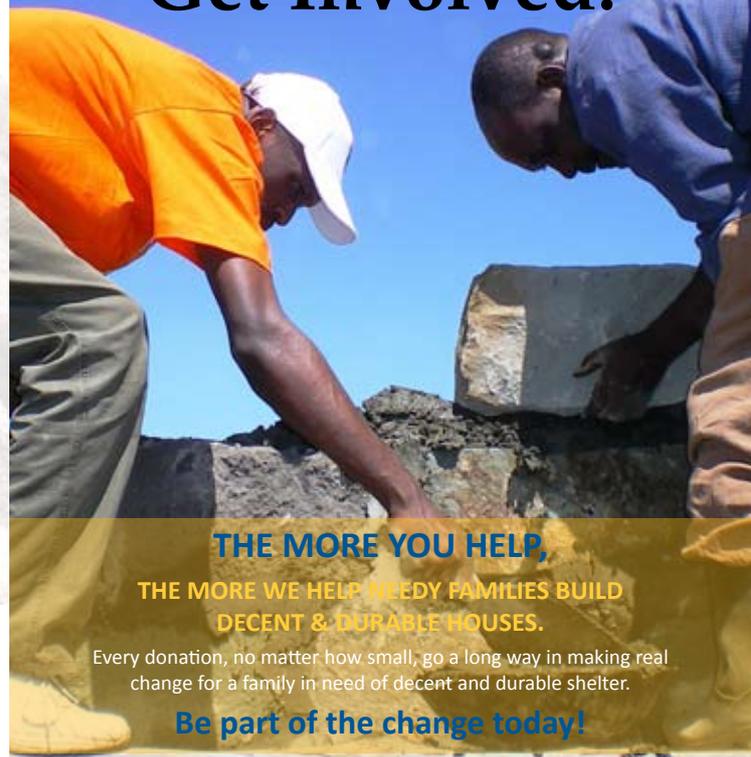
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Our Partners:



Get Involved!



THE MORE YOU HELP,

**THE MORE WE HELP NEEDY FAMILIES BUILD
DECENT & DURABLE HOUSES.**

Every donation, no matter how small, goes a long way in making real change for a family in need of decent and durable shelter.

Be part of the change today!

Habitat for Humanity® Kenya

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