



Shitungu Rises

Empowering Dreams - Building Futures

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

12/2024

Dear Friends;

For many of you this letter is an introduction to the newly formed **Kenya Village Empowerment Organization (KVEO)**. This young nonprofit is dedicated to supporting the residents of Shitungu as they strive towards self-sustainability.

For the previous three years, I (Joyce Lisbin) and a small group of generous friends have responded to the priority needs *as identified by the community*. The Community Organizer, Rebecca Owano and I met in 1999 when she arranged for me to provide peer education on sexual health to students at Moi University, in Eldoret Kenya. We have supported 200 villagers and donated funds to:

- construct a well with a pump,
- purchased solar batteries for 20 families,
- aided with tuition assistance for the village children
- provide seed funding for soap production.



Community meetings



The Well



Soap production

In June, 2024 the Board of Directors adopted the following mission statement:

Mission Statement

The Kenya Village Empowerment Organization is dedicated to providing financial and structural support for the goals and objectives prioritized by members of the Shitungu community. This organization is committed to fostering sustainable development, educational opportunities, collective growth and economic independence.

The community of Shitungu, as well as the entire country of Kenya, is facing food shortages, inflation and unemployment resulting from a year of political unrest and natural disasters. Families are struggling to provide food and find work. Your donation will directly reduce the burden of these challenges.

The joy of the holiday season includes embracing the challenges of the future. KVEO's Board with the Shitungu villagers are focusing on *fundamental* priorities in 2025:

Addressing hunger: KVEO will continue to send funds to purchase emergency bulk foods for distribution. Your donation of \$5.00 will cover the cost of 20 basic meals!

Providing tuition support: There is no free public education in Kenya. A donation of \$30.00 will cover the tuition fees for one year of primary education and \$116.00 is the annual fee to attend High School.

Growing self-sustaining businesses: As the soap production/sales becomes established, the community will explore other business opportunities.

KVEO is carefully designing a website that will be user friendly to Africans and Americans. The website will be the springboard to expand our visibility in Kenya, in the United States and in the influential world of social marketing. Stay tuned for those announcements and links.



The KVEO Board and residents of Shitungu wish you **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** and a healthy and successful 2025.

CHEERS!

Joyce Lisbin
Executive Director, Founder

Please share this letter with others who care!