

# KIBERA FARM PROJECT



# THE KIBERA COMMUNITY



Kibera is a vast slum on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya. It is divided up into a number of villages largely based on the ethnicity of its inhabitants. It is believed to be the biggest slum in Africa and one of the largest in the world with possibly a million inhabitants. Each person has about 2 square metres of living space.



Photo: hris1johnson

A few standpipes provide water that is of very poor quality and there is just one toilet for every 1,300 people. Unsurprisingly disease is widespread with HIV and AIDS part of everyday life for many families. At any one time it is estimated that 50% of girls between the ages of 14 and 25 are pregnant so it is of little surprise that inadequately managed abortions are common.

Changaa (literally 'kill me quick'), a cheap alcoholic brew, is widely available. It is very strong (over 50% alcohol) often with a high Methanol content that can cause blindness. It may have embalming fluid or battery acid added to give it more 'kick'! It costs 15 Kenyan Shillings a glass (about 10p) and after a couple of glasses people become very drunk. For many it is the only way to alleviate boredom and dull the hopelessness of living in such depressing conditions.

About 70% of people live on less than £5 a week and almost 80% of the inhabitants are unemployed compared with a national average of 40%.

**RIVAL GANGS ROAM AROUND OFTEN CARRYING GUNS AND VISITORS TO KIBERA ARE WISE TO SEEK THE COMPANY OF AN ARMED GUARD**





## THE KIBERA ACADEMY

In the middle of this vast slum is a small primary school, **Kibera Free Methodist Academy**, with about 260 children and seventeen staff.

The school seeks to educate the children in very basic conditions. Food at home is normally in short supply so for the last few years the school has tried to provide a meal each day – usually maize porridge supplemented by fruit a couple of times a month when funds allow. When food is in short supply many children stay away from school.



## THE KIBERA FARM PROJECT

Pressure upon the Kibera landscape means that food cannot be grown in the vicinity of the school. The introduction of the 'school farm' in other parts of Kenya has meant that some rural schools can supplement pupils' diets by growing small quantities of maize, vegetables and fruit and raising livestock, but that would not be possible in Kibera.

Little more can be done about the school site, except to help maintain and improve the physical infrastructure. Food could, however, be produced on land within reasonable distance of Nairobi,

**School Farms Africa** hopes to break the chain of local poverty through the '**Kibera Farm Project**'.

# THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABILITY

For many years, development in the Majority World has depended on financial help from wealthier nations, but that support dwindled after the financial crisis of 2008 so locally sustainable programmes have become more important.

The Kenyan government views Kibera as an illegal settlement so little help from official channels is available. A few charities work there but with limited effect on the community as a whole. To develop locally sustainable programmes takes time, and most communities are poorly prepared.

**School Farms Africa** expects the **Kibera Farm Project** to become self-sustaining within 10 years.

Photo: CIAT



## TARGETS

### PHASE ONE

**School Farms Africa** hopes to raise £65k in its first year (2014) and £75k in 2015. This will allow the charity to purchase up to 10 hectares of land within reasonable distance of Nairobi, appoint staff, purchase necessary equipment and begin planting. It is hoped that early in the project part of the land can be developed for recreational purposes.



Photo: CIAT

### PHASE TWO

In late 2016 an additional larger area of farmland will be sought (up to 25 hectares) possibly in the Trans-Nzoia area of the northern Rift Valley where land costs less, but is good for a variety of agricultural purposes. Maize, wheat and beans will be cultivated to supplement the first farm and excess produce sold to support the Academy.

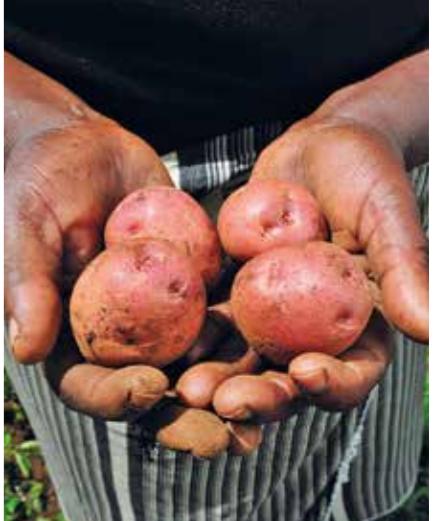


Photo: CIAT

### PHASE THREE

Within 10 years, it is anticipated that the farms will become self-sustaining allowing **School Farms Africa** to develop other projects in the region.

# ABOUT SCHOOL F FARMS AFRICA



**School Farms Africa** is a new Guernsey Charity whose primary aim is to alleviate some of the problems associated with the extreme poverty experienced by children in Africa by developing sustainable farm projects. **The Kibera Farm Project** is the first such initiative.

The Charity is registered in Guernsey with a Board of 5 locally based people and will seek support primarily from within the island.

The Kenyan operation is managed by a newly formed Board of Directors pictured above. With Peter Sarl (right) is Andrew Sava (Headmaster), Rev Elly Kisala, Vickie Reynen, Caroline Ayuya and Rev Daniel Shanzu. Not in the picture is Bishop Nixon Dingili.

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