

THE IMPACT

ROD
Kenya

RESOURCES ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES
(RODI)



HIGHLIGHTS

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Resources oriented development initiatives(RODI) Kenya is a Non-Governmental Organization registered in 1999. RODI mission is to promote human dignity among communities in Kenya and other Eastern African countries by enhancing food security, health and crime prevention. Currently, RODI Kenya actively works across Kenya with 28 schools, 5 community groups, 22 police stations and one refugee camp.

Over the past six months we have made significant strides as an organization. In empowering the target community.

In the period of January to March 2024 through a grant from GIZ RODI Kenya was able to reach farmers in Nzambani and Githunguri where we trained over 1500 farmers on agroecology and making of bio fertilizers.

In 28 prisons we also trained 750 inmates on agroecology, making and use of biofertilizers, disinfectant making, life skills, agro processing and value addition. We have managed to plant over 300,000 indigenous trees in various counties such as Nyeri and Kiambu through the tree growing.

RODI Kenya has also been able to conduct a women ex-prisoners psychosocial support workshop which included trauma healing after realizing the gap in aftercare of 35 women ex-prisoners.

RODI has expanded its networks and successfully participated in the Agricultural Show of Kenya, Eldoret, where showcased bio products and demo farms. RODI also participated in networking conferences including the United Nations Civil Society Conference and the African Fertilizer Conference at KICC just to mention a few in May 2024.

The end of these six months has also seen us bid farewell to the KICTB group which successfully diagnosed over 1088 People with TB in two years in Kiambu & Nairobi supported under Global fund through Amref Health Africa.

I appreciate all the RODI Kenya staff who have worked tirelessly to make these projects a success. The planning implementation and reporting has been commendable and we look forward to using our learnings for a better future.

To our partners and donors, we appreciate the support, funding, guidance and direction; we look forward to a more fruitful partnership in the future.

To RODI Board and Management, I appreciate their guidance and oversight of all the project activities in RODI Kenya all these would have not happened without them.

Moving forward as an organization, we press forward for a just society and healthier community.



THE POWER OF EMPOWERED WOMEN

All over Kenya, women are stepping up to help cater for bills in their families. This is mainly attributed to the hard economic times. With the difficulty of acquiring loans due to lack of collateral and irregular income for banking, table banking has become a good resort for groups to save money, borrow and repay it over a stipulated period of time. Table banking benefits an individual and helps them acquire funds to either start a business, pay for essentials or begin a project.

Table banking was initially developed by the Poverty Eradication Commission (PEC) under the former Ministry of Planning and Vision 2030, targeting Millennium Development Goals eradicating abject poverty especially in the rural areas in Kenya (soft-kenya.com).

Table banking's objective is to bring financial services to the low income, particularly the women who have no bank accounts. This helps them fight poverty and stay profitable.

It's on this backdrop that RODI Kenya has embraced the practice and is working with 36 groups targeting over 500 women.



The women groups are trained by RODI Kenya on economic literacy where they learn skills which have become beneficial to them , these skills include book keeping , marketing , packaging of goods, detergent and soap making , tie and dye and organic farming.

The table banking project has supported women in self employment and enabled them to invest and cater for costs such as school fees, healthcare , farm inputs, thus improving their livelihood.

Mary, a resilient and determined woman from Ithanga, has always had a dream of starting her own business. However, limited opportunities and resources made this dream seem distant. Her life took a transformative turn when she joined a table banking group facilitated by RODI Kenya in her community.

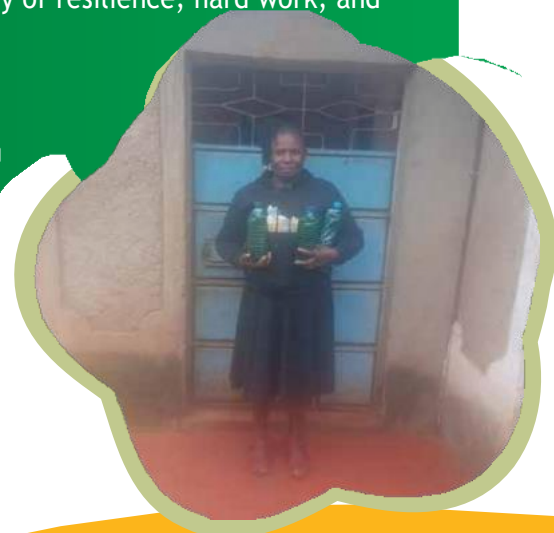
Through RODI Kenya's initiative, Mary received comprehensive training in shampoo making. This training was not only about acquiring a new skill but also about empowering women to become self-reliant and entrepreneurial. Mary, with her keen interest in learning and a passion for making beauty products, excelled during the training sessions.

Equipped with the knowledge and skills gained from RODI's program, Mary decided to turn this opportunity into a small business venture. She started by experimenting with different formulas and perfecting her shampoo. Her dedication and hard work paid off as she developed a high-quality product that quickly gained popularity in her local community.

Mary's shampoo, made with natural ingredients and tailored to the needs of her customers, became a favorite among the local salons. She began supplying her shampoo to several salons in Ithanga, filling a gap in the market with her reliable and affordable product.

Through supplying shampoo to various businesses, Mary has increased her share capital in the table banking group and also chip in paying her daughters school fees.

While her business is still growing, Mary is hopeful and determined to expand her venture further. Mary's journey from a trainee to a budding entrepreneur is a testament to the power of empowerment and community support. Through RODI Kenya's training program, she has transformed her life and continues to inspire others with her story of resilience, hard work, and determination.



AGRO-ECOLOGY FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

RESTORING OUR SOILS

The introduction of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and monoculture to African soil has gradually depleted the bio-nutrients in our soils. Instead of the chemical fertilizers increasing the yield with consistent application, it depreciates the yield because the micro nutrients that are needed have been killed. Consequently, the soil becomes dusty and poor due to reduced carbon and organic nutrients. This can be corrected by adding bio-nutrients back to the soil.

Bio - fertilizers are made from natural sources that are rich in organic matter, carbon & micronutrients;

Bio - fertilizers made out of these natural materials, increases micronutrients in the soils leading to improved productivity of crops . The biofertilizers

not only acts as a fertilizer but also as an inoculant, releasing the locked nutrients in the soil like phosphorous.

Benefits of consistent use of biofertilizers

1. It improves the soil quality.
2. It increases productivity of healthy and safe food
3. It improves carbon sinking and retention in the soil ; reducing the heat.
4. It helps in water absorption and retention
5. Increases the microorganisms in the soil.
6. The crops are more resilient to pests and diseases
7. The flavor and the taste of food is better

Bio fertilizers perform well in a food forest ecosystem. Food forests means planting different crop species on the same piece of land. We encourage farmers to practice permaculture, which creates a balanced system, that acts as a holistic system completing all the principles of agroecology.

“The use of bio-fertilizers has reduced the acidity in vegetables and now those who suffer from acidity are able to consume sukuma wiki”
- a farmer from Githunguri

"When I was using chemical fertilizers and herbicides, I used to harvest tea for 8 months a year and two rounds a month when the weather was conducive and the soil then was shallow. With use of bio-fertilizer and weeding, the soil is deeper and more moist and I am able to harvest tea all through the year and three rounds a month. The production has also doubled. I am one person who has tested and can attest that the

“in my farm I have noticed there are more birds, bees, butterflies, locusts and insects; this shows how healthier the soil and the environment has become”
- a farmer from Mangu

bio fertilizers are good and they work." - Esther Bett-tea farmer, Nandi county In future , I hope the government will subsidize the cost of bio- fertilizers ; this will lead to increased productivity and healing of the soil.

Since soil is one of the biggest filters of water I look forward to cleaner and safer water. Moreover, I expect to see a healthier society with reduced lifestyle diseases and a longer lifespan.

Agro-ecology considers the medium - and long-term effect of agricultural interventions on the Agro-eco-system. It aims to produce food while establishing an ecological balance to improve soil fertility and mitigate pest problems.

Agro-ecology takes a proactive approach as opposed to treating problems after they emerge.

In the midst of the scandal surrounding the fake fertilizers, in February - March 2024, farmers have had no alternative. At the beginning of the year,

RODI Kenya in collaboration with GIZ (Water ,food and energy program) embarked on a journey to train farmers on organic farming methods. Cumulatively, a total of 1521 farmers from Machakos and Kiambu were trained in 31 onsite workshops.

During the trainings they were able to make organic fertilizers such as Bokashi , foliar bio fertilizer (super-magro) and bio pesticides (ash brew) . The main goal of these trainings was to provide farmers with an alternative for chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides . As a result, farmers are able to produce healthy food and in return become more heal



Training on making of Foliar Bio-Fertilizer



“The leaves for my coffee plantation were turning yellow but once I sprayed the foliar we had been taught to make they are back to normal and my produce has been good. The beans are uniform and mature evenly”

- Mr. Walter Wanyoike a coffee farmer



‘RODI Kenya brought bio fertilizers as an experiment and they left around 20 bags. The bags were sold out in two days and the farmers have been demanding for more. The farmers have testified that their crops have been doing so well’

These products are made and are available and the RODI Centre in Ruiru on the Eastern by-pass



Theory training sessions for farmers in organics Fertilizers

YOUTH EMBRACE THE POWER OF LOCAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



Africa has a population of almost 200 million people aged between 15 and 24 years. This category makes up 40% of the workforce, and 60% of the unemployed active labour force. This number is expected to double by 2045, bringing a big challenge on African economies since high youth unemployment is an impending threat to stability in Africa. This is a problem that the continent must address to avert uprising and therefore maintain peace to attract investment and create wealth and the much needed employment.

Although the overall unemployment in Kenya is at 12.7 percent, Youth (15 - 34 year olds), who form 35 percent of the Kenyan population, have the highest unemployment rate of 67 percent. Over one million young people enter into the labour market annually without any skills some having either dropped out of school or completed school and not enrolled in any college. - statistics from the Federation of Kenyan employers

The Nzambani youth project originated from the realization that numerous youth were unemployed and had no sustainable sources of income. This led them to venture into illegal activities resulting in retrogressive growth and development.

RODI Kenya carried out a participatory situation analysis and needs assessment targeting youth in Nzambani. They were taken through an awareness raising and capacity building onsite workshop on resource mobilization & entrepreneurship. Thirty (30) youths were identified and they proposed to be trained on poultry farming as an income generating activity.

They mobilized resources to cover the training cost and RODI Kenya project officers conducted the training.

The poultry farming training involved how to build improved poultry houses, pest and disease management, feeding and marketing.



Demonstration of construction of an improved poultry house

REACHING THE UNREACHED THROUGH TB SCREENING



Screening station at police stations

Kenya Innovation Challenge Tuberculosis (KIC-TB) project is aimed at finding missing people with TB around the country. RODI Kenya is implementing this in 22 police stations in Nairobi and Kiambu county. So far over 1000 positive TB cases have been identified and treated for Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis has been ranked as one of the prevalent contagious diseases in Kenya by the World Health Organization (WHO)

Gitonga's story is evidence of the benefits of early detection and proper treatment for TB. Gitonga's 1st encounter with RODI Kenya was in Kiambu police station while on remand he was experiencing dry and persistent coughs. During a regular TB screening in the police stations a diagnostic test for TB was conducted which turned positive.



Lawrence Gitonga -TB survivor

Gitonga is just one of the thousands of people who had TB and didn't know. In this first quarter of the year alone, we have managed to screen 5,169 people of which 62 cases came out positive. These screenings don't only raise awareness but in the long run save lives.

As RODI Kenya, we continuously aim to provide awareness on TB screening and treatment.

After the test he was put on medication and his family got screened and put on TB preventive therapy (TPT).

"I have observed that since my son started his treatment he has gone back to his usual daily activities. He also appears physically stronger and healthier." -

Gitonga's mother

Gitonga noted in an interview done that if it was not for the screening officer, he probably would have died.

**If not for her,
hii ugonjwa
ingeniua"
- Gitonga**



NEW DAWN

The Restorative Prisoner Rehabilitation and Re-Integration project aims at supporting Offender rehabilitation and Reintegration with a primary focus of equipping prisoners with vocational and life skills to help enhance their self-esteem, hope in life, self-support and to appease and endear ex-prisoners to the

community besides enabling them to contribute towards community and national development. The project continues to contribute to a reduction in the re-offending rates among ex-offenders, improved livelihood and community development.

Feature Story

Bernard Wafula, an ex-prisoner from Eldoret main prison , who is popularly known as 'masabuni' is a story of resilience and second chances. Once an inmate in Eldoret main prison, he has become an example of hard work and its rewards.

Bernard attended RODI Kenya's training in prisons and learnt various skills including agro ecology, value addition, soap making and baking.

Upon his release after serving 10 years, Bernard ventured in soap making business through the support of RODI Kenya. Bernard makes and sells liquid soap, bleach, disinfectants and shampoo.

Bernard begun this business as a means to generate income after he left prison because he did not have a parcel of land for agriculture . His business gained popularity within the community and he is now the supplier of soap in the area hence the nickname 'masabuni' which loosely translates to the one who sells soap.

Through this business he has accumulated enough capital to start a 'mitumba' business for his wife and educate his children.



HEALING AND GIVING HOPE TO WOMEN EX- PRISONERS



Women ex-inmates suffer a lot of rejection, stigmatization and trauma in and out of prison. The challenges they face upon release from prison range from; homelessness, harmed children, denial by spouses, loss of loved ones , loss of property and immediate demand for care and support for their children. They experience abuse, mistrust and lack of employment.

In June 2024, RODI Kenya organized a seminar for women ex- inmates who interacted with RODI staff while in prison. The seminar brought together 34

women ex-inmates for a session on trauma healing and restorative exercise, giving them a platform to speak up for themselves and an opportunity to be heard.

The two-day conference aimed at giving them psychosocial support and helping them see potential opportunities for growth and self development. During the seminar, RODI got a better understanding on how best to help them recover from the trauma they underwent during their sentence and after their release.

"after this session, I feel like all my burdens have been eased up. I feel more light and I feel excited about life and anything I am doing."

-Joy Triza , an ex- prisoner





TREE GROWING FOR A GREENER SOCIETY

Tree growing in various counties is a major activity undertaken by RODI Kenya. The aim of this is to grow trees all over the country and restore the degraded lands. The initiative targets to plant and grow 400,000 trees annually. These trees are grown in public spaces and communal land to contribute to global reforestation efforts, restoring lost forests, repairing damaged ecosystems and mitigating and adapting to climate change among communities.

RODI Kenya works with community members within identified sites to raise the tree seedlings, harvest the locally available seed and treat it. The tree planting is done by local community members to enhance local ownership in the care of the growing trees. Local site attendants have been engaged to support tree natural regeneration, weeding, pruning, replanting and protection of planted trees.

RODI Kenya distributes trees to schools, community groups and public spaces including; Oldonyo Sabuk, Kimakia Forest, Nyeri hill, Karimenu, Kiserian dam, Nyang'ori hills, Nzambani and Machakos.



Tree planting activity at Kimakia forest

This is a continuous process in which RODI Kenya collaborates with stakeholders such as Kenya Forest Service, Athi Water works, Kenya Wildlife Service, National water harvesting and storage, Kilimambogo teachers college and many more. This initiative is supported by members of the public who show up in large numbers during tree planting.

We also managed to plant trees in schools; this teaches the children how to conserve the environment and also enhances their learning environment, promoting ecological awareness.

The distribution of trees by RODI Kenya is one way to empower the society and motivate them to grow more trees, benefitting the society and preserving the soil for generations to come.



RODI'S PRESENCE

RODI Kenya is actively expanding its scope by reaching out to diverse communities and establishing a stronger presence through various initiatives. We conduct comprehensive training programs, engaging sessions, diligent follow-ups, and participate in relevant

impactful conferences.

These efforts are designed not only to impart knowledge and skills but also to foster meaningful connections, networks and collaborations.

UN CONFERENCE

RODI Kenya's staff participated in the United Nations Civil Society conference, May 2024 attended by over 1400 people from across the world. During this conference, key issues such as climate change, youth

inclusion, leadership and gender equality were discussed. The two day conference took place to pave way towards the Summit of the future taking place in September at New York.



AFRICA FERTILIZER CONFERENCE AT KICC

RODI Kenya participated in the bio-fertilizer exhibition during the Africa Fertilizer Conference at KICC in May 2024. We were able to showcase a wide variety of our products such as Bokashi, Super-magro and Ash Brew.

The exhibition brought together a wide range of farming experts and they were able to speak more about the products they have and their uses. It was a great avenue for networking and learning.



AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF KENYA

RODI Kenya participated in the Agricultural Society of Kenya show that took place in Eldoret and Kakamega. During the show, RODI Kenya's representative in each region showcased the work done in prisons, schools and in the community.

The show also provided an opportunity for school children and members of the farmer community groups that RODI Kenya works with to learn. Ex prisoners were also able to participate and display their income generating projects.



GREEN LIGHT FORUM – KENYA LEARNING VISIT TO UGANDA

RODI Kenya is a member of the green light forum which is a consortium of organizations supported by GLS Future Foundation for Development. In May 2024, RODI Kenya's staff joined 23 staff from 11 organizations for a learning visit to Uganda hosted by the

green light consortium - Uganda. Key learning areas were in income generating activities, animal welfare, management of sacco's and joint implementation of projects



NETWORKING CONFERENCES

RODI Kenya is a member of PELUM- Kenya, KOAN, BIBA- Kenya , Stay alliance, SCOPE -Kenya, Prisons reforms working group and Green light forum - Kenya.

We maintain collaborative efforts through networking with like minded organizations.

In June we attended a symposium themed agroecology for climate resilient communities, the exhibition was done in Nakuru, Maasai market.

During the two symposiums RODI Kenya showcased its strength bio fertilizers and pesticides training, production and marketing.



REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH KENYA PRISONS SERVICE CENTRAL REGION



In strengthening our collaboration and partnership with the Kenya Prisons service, regional meetings are held to bring together the regional commander and the officers in charge of the prisons where RODI is doing its activities.

This forums are used to create awareness on RODI Kenya's work in the specific prisons and the after-care of ex inmates from those prisons.

The meetings are also used to plan for better implementation of projects in the future.

In June 2024, officers in charge from Nyeri women, Nyeri Medium , Nyeri Main , Maranjau Farm prison, Thika Men, Thika Women and Ruiru Farm had a one day learning and experience sharing forum graced by the the regional commander, Ali Athman at Nokras Riveriene, Muranga.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

RODI Kenya has raised its presence in the media. This has been through interviews by consistent posting on social media platforms increasing the awareness of work done all over the country.

EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE



RODI Kenya is committed to its service to the community by building the capacity of its 34 staff members. By investing in comprehensive training and interactive sessions, we ensure our team can deliver high-quality training and reliable support to the communities we work with.

This approach not only improves the skills and knowledge of our staff but also significantly enhances the impact and effectiveness of our community programs. Through these continuous development efforts, we are dedicated to fostering a more empowered community.

TRAINING ON MAKING PACKAGING BAGS

As RODI Kenya we aim to continuously equip ourselves with new skills that we can then share with the community. It is against this background that eleven(11) staff members were trained to make envelopes, gift bags and packaging bags.

The aim of this is to share the knowledge with others and also use the skills to brand and create our own products.

PLANNING AND REVIEW MEETINGS

RODI Kenya aims to grow and make the activities we undertake extremely beneficial to the community; in this regard we have conducted planning and review meetings to assess the work done from previous activities and plan what to do better moving forward.

RECRUITMENT AND INDUCTION OF NEW STAFF

RODI Kenya, has initiated a new project in Nyeri, on organic farming supported by BMZ through GLS Future Foundation for Development. The Project objective is to improve food and income security of coffee farmers in Nyeri County through crop diversification, improved water access and management, introducing agro-ecological farming practices, improved coffee management and marketing. In addition, it aims at supporting youth with start up capital for job creation and training them in entrepreneurship.

RODI Kenya has onboarded five new staff who will support in implementation ensuring attainment of the project goal & objectives.

RODI TRAINING, CONFERENCE AND ACCOMODATION FACILITIES

RODI Centre hosts a large and spacious conference facility, fitted with modern equipment perfect for your large and small group gatherings and meetings.

The center offers trainings in ;

1. Bio fertilizer production (Bokashi, super magro and ash brew).



2. Hygiene and sanitation products such as disinfectants, bar soap, bathing soap and shampoos.



Contact Us: +254 743 627329

3. Agro- processing and value addition - yogurt,jam , honey , dried products



RODI Centre grows its own organic vegetables and tree seedlings which it sells to the community at an affordable price.





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