



These are indigenous chickens (Kienyeji) raised by Sustainability Program for commodity trade.



Moringa powder

This is a powder made from Moringa tree leaves, which are shaded and dried then powdered. Afterward, fine sieving and packaging are done. Moringa contains nutrients which boost immunity.

NYUMBANI

A Village of Hope in Kitui

Nyumbani Village, a Children of God Relief Institute (CORGI) Kenya project, sits on an expansive 1000 acre farm located in Kitui, Eastern Kenya about 180 Km from Nairobi. Initial funding for the Village came from the Vatican, Lazio Regional Government, and the John Noel Group. Since then, many donors have contributed including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Kenyan government, and thousands of individuals from around the world.

The farm provides a model bio-friendly and self-sustaining community serving orphans and elders who have been left behind by the "lost generation" resulting from the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Father D'Agostino and Sister Mary Owens developed plans for the village concept to serve as a model for future initiatives where Western technology is used to improve self-sufficiency while also maintaining Kenyan culture.

An extensive sustainability program is in development at the Village. Each home is allocated a half-acre of

land and access to water in order to encourage self-reliance. Nyumbani Village is a complex, pioneering settlement incorporating local cultural values in its operation and implementing steps to empower these local people to embrace self-reliance, and create a more secure future. The Village reaches out to the surrounding communities as well to provide education, medical help, jobs, and trade.

The Concept

The farm has amenities built to aid the grandparents and children which include:-

- Community Center used for functions and Sunday Mass.
- Health Center containing all the necessary facilities to deal with medical emergencies.
- Nursery and Primary School: Hotcourses Primary School
- Secondary School: Lawson High School.

- Three units of the Polytechnic: Tailoring, Carpentry and Mechanics.
- Administrative Police Post
- 100 family houses each built for 10 children and one adult
- Staff houses for teachers, medical support, and administrators
- Guest House for visitors and volunteers.
- Construction of a Convent is currently underway.

It is the Village project's cardinal principal to use locally available resources. With the exception of steel sheets used for roofing and glass for windows, the materials used for construction are locally sourced and manufactured on site by local labor. This has led to creation of employment, transferring of technology, instilling a feeling of achievement and fueling the local economy.



MeliaVolkensii seedlings. Melia is a hardwood, termite free, drought-resistant tree for timber which can tolerate harsh climates.

The Village comes alive

The first families comprising 19 orphans and 2 grandparents were welcomed to the Village on November 28, 2006. Almost at capacity in 2012, the Village is planned to have 1,000 children and 100 grandparents. Nyumbani Village is successfully showcasing an innovative and replicable model of care for orphans through several achievements:

- Strong family relationships have been achieved through our counseling and emotional support
- Education at Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level is in place
- Hotcourses Primary School and Lawson High School have an enrolment of hundreds of students, and a

number of students are attending the Polytechnic

- Seminars and peer counseling groups have helped to build self-awareness and self-esteem among the teenagers
- Nearly all the families now have kitchen gardens providing them with vegetables and fruits
- A large drip-irrigated farm and livestock unit supplements the families' sustenance
- 500 acres of land have been planted with melia trees for both income generation and environmental protection. 50 new acres of trees will be planted every year to create a continuous cycle of renewable growth and harvesting.
- The local community is gradually becoming



Seedlings of the Leucaena species. These are fed to livestock goats and cows- to increase milk production.

empowered with small plots of land, training, water, and seedlings to help them grow their own vegetables.

Volunteers and guests both local and international, are welcome to share in this pioneering, compassionate outreach to the two 'left behind' generations of the HIV pandemic. (<http://www.nyumbani.org/nyumbani-village-hope-future>)

Trees 4 Children Initiative

Trees 4 Children is a non-profit organization growing and processing trees for lumber to help contribute to the financial self-sustainability of Nyumbani; a village with over 1,000 HIV/AIDS affected children and elders. Founded in 2008, the organization has secured support from USAID and other global partners to help plant 30,000 melia trees per year which will be propagated and harvested for the long term value of its timber. Meliatrees, and indigenous fast-growing relative of mahogany are fed with collected rain water by solar pumps and a drip irrigation system from below the earth. The rows of Meliatrees also provide the much needed relief from the sun allowing villagers to farm organically by planting and growing a variety of fruit and vegetables including root vegetables, lettuce, tomatoes and sunflowers. Vegetables provide the village with a continuous and balanced diet and sunflowers are turned into vegetable oil for cooking and as biodiesel. Extra oil can also be used to make bathing soap

and laundry soap sold for additional income.

Upon completion of the project, 300,000 trees will be planted across 500 acres and produce enough revenue to care for 700 children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The reforestation of the dry land area will also offset carbon emissions already improving the microclimate of the surrounding area. (<http://www.trees4children.org/#aboutus>)

The Ecotourism Center

This is a work in progress. An ecotourism complex is being constructed to promote touristic activities within the village where interested visitors can enjoy sights of different technological farming activities within the village including permaculture and agroforestry practices.

Farm Products

Other different projects that have been established on the farm including poultry farming, tilapia farming, dairy cattle and goats. There is also the production of 'Moringa' powder from the plant species 'MoringaOleifera' whose seedlings are nurtured at the farm in well prepared nurseries. Nyumbani Also produces high quality honey that retails for KES 300. Moringa powder retails between KES 150 and 200 depending on size.

(<http://web.missouri.edu/ikerdi/papers>)

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