

Kenya Study Tour Participants Debrief and Share Thanks

The Heifer Study Tour participants concluded their tour of the Heifer Kenya Program and projects with a debriefing and a big thank you to the Heifer Kenya Program and partners.



Heifer International's 14 member study tour team concluded its busy nine-day study tour of the Heifer Kenya Program and projects with a feedback session to Heifer staff in its Nairobi headquarters on June 10, 2010. The study team managed to successfully visit the Maasai Animal Health and Livestock Marketing Project (MAH&LMP), Longisa Set Kobar Women Group Dairy Project, Future For AIDS Orphans Project (FUFAO II), Magare Kucheka Dairy Goat Project and Dago Village Development Group Livestock Project.

During the visit, the study tour team interacted with project partners who shared with them the transformation process they have experienced since they started working with Heifer International. The participants also had a firsthand experience on the strategies and models being used by the Heifer Kenya Program and its partners in projects to achieve sustainable livelihood. The team, through the study tour team leader, Tim Newman, Heifer's Director of Education Program Development, promised a more formal and comprehensive evaluation of the memorable tour as soon as they get back to the United States.

The team could not end their stay in Kenya without sharing a few acknowledgement statements. Some of the memorable comments included:



"There is need to focus more on ensuring that women do have the voice and play more stronger role in their families and community." - Louise Godici

"I have appreciated very much the partnership approach used by Heifer Kenya as a way of providing holistic services to the community and leveraging on resources. The challenge I have to myself from now on as an individual is what particular action I can take to support the development work being undertaken by Heifer International." - Frimmel Smith

"I noted that the communities we visited were open to each other because they wanted to benefit from the project together. Entrepreneurial spirit is evident within the communities we visited. The Heifer Kenya staff too showed their strength and excellent work experience with the community." - Mark T. Spears

"I was amazed with Heifer's depth connectivity with the community at the lowest level. Heifer staffs are very knowledgeable and know how to connect with the community. I will work closely with Heifer International to get the necessary resources to connect with women organizations from my country. I will work with

Heifer staff to ensure they interact well with potential donors to support Heifer's mission." - Sandra J. Storment

"We were warmly welcomed very much in all the communities that we visited. The tour was well coordinated by Regina Mburu, Heifer Kenya staff and study tour coordinator. Other Heifer Kenya staffs too are technically well informed. I will work with Heifer to ensure they get the right information particularly on technology transfer. I was amazed with the lifting of families from living under the one dollar a day mark! We will spread the message from what we saw and heard from the communities. We will present the various Heifer development models that we saw to others!" - Norm Doll

"I have been to four Heifer study tours. I also have a lot of theory which does not solve problems. From my experience during this tour, there is need to embrace bottom up approach as opposed to top bottom approach which does not work as it is always based on a lot of theory!" - Dawn Bowen.



"Many thanks to the brilliant and capable Heifer Kenya team for the wonderful work that you are doing in achieving Heifer's mission. Poverty has been there for a long period. I am amazed by the sincere effort being made by Heifer Kenya in moving people from dependency to helping themselves! Giving them the tools they need to help themselves and their people. I saw development models that can be scaled up. For the next 5-10 years, Heifer's focus on accountability and impact effectiveness will be critical. Not only will we capture impact from the stories but also proof with concrete evidence the movement of families higher up the dollar bar. Thank you study team for the role you played during the tour." - Charles Stewart, Heifer Interim President & CEO.

"Thank you for your timely feedback. Thank you for finding time to visit our Program and projects. We are happy to hear to hear that you enjoyed the stay with us. Am sure your comprehensive report will enlighten us further. We are happy to have gotten the opportunity to share with you our development approaches aimed at achieving sustainable livelihoods. You are most welcome to our program any other time." - Alex Kirui, Country Director, Heifer Kenya.

The team was shown a fifteen minute video of their tour (which is currently being fine tuned) for dissemination and shared learning. The team unanimously agreed to go back to the USA and spread the good message of Heifer's development models that have achieved sustainable livelihood. They say, "We have a firsthand experience of Heifer's work and impact with the communities in Kenya. We will tell everyone the story in every available opportunity!"

By **Reuben Koech**,
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