



## **CIVS INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMPS – 2024**

**JOIN US FOR AN  
AMAZING EXPERIENCE**



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## ABOUT CIVS

**CIVS Kenya** is a community development agency operating especially in the marginalized and poverty-stricken rural and urban areas of Kenya. We work with local Kenyan communities in order to help them realize their full potential through various projects we organize in different parts of Kenya.

We achieve this aim through its two program areas: International Voluntary Service (IVS) and Community Development

### INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is designed for people who want to participate in making a real difference in the fight against poverty and work with the local people to realize the much needed development. We organize short term, medium and long term and Weltwärts project attachments throughout the year for volunteers for them to offer their services as they learn, gain exposure and experience.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CIVS has established 3 functional Community Resource Centers in Ahero, Awach and Awasi, areas classified among the poorest regions in Kenya. We offer capacity building programs to the local people with focus on Food Security, Water & Sanitation, Vulnerable Children & HIV/AIDS, Vocational Training in ICT, Early Childhood Education, Good Governance and Emergency Relief in



### Our ECDE and ICT Programs

We have established an Early Childhood Development and Education Program where we provide free education and day time meals to about 150 children who are either orphans or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other socio-economic challenges. This has enabled us retain more children in school that could have otherwise turned into school drop outs or street children.

We also offer training in computer ICT and work preparedness to the local youth in order to prepare them for the competitive job market and improve their ICT skills.

## ABOUT KENYA



**Name Origin:** Named after Mt. Kenya by Kikuyu community  
**Capital:** Nairobi  
**President:** William Ruto  
**Total area:** 571,466 km<sup>2</sup>  
**Currency:** Kenyan Shilling (KES)  
**Geographical features:** Equator, Great Rift Valley, Mt Kenya and Longonot, Victoria and Nakuru, Indian Ocean  
**Climate and weather:** Changes by location and time  
**Urban population:** 28%  
**Food:** Ugali, Githeri, chapati, nyama choma, mukimo etc  
**Official Language:** English, Swahili  
**Population (million):** 47.6 M  
**Location:** Eastern Africa  
**Calling Code:** +254  
**Notable sites:** Maasai Mara, Tsavo, Diani beach, L. Nakuru flamingos, Mt. Kenya  
**Counties:** 47, Biggest is Turkana and smallest is Mombasa

Volunteering with CIVS will give you an amazing opportunity to explore Kenya during your mission. You will discover a new culture, the people, animals, beautiful landscapes, and local food.

**WELCOME TO KENYA!**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### INTRODUCTION

CIVS workcamps host between 8 to 20 international volunteers from different countries who come together to assist a local community with projects. Volunteers are 18 years of age or older while others may be under 18 years but have parental consent written to CIVS. Volunteers prepare meals, work, and relax together and with the local community. Living conditions are often simple and work can be strenuous but fun and rewarding.

Our camps are hosted by local communities and projects. We assign an experienced local facilitator to introduce volunteers to the local environment, help them adapt faster, and act as a point of contact between them and the local community.

### VISA APPLICATION

Kindly apply for an e-Visa atleast 1 month before your arrival via a dedicated portal at <http://evisa.go.ke/single-entry-visa.html>. **No** Visa is issued at the airport upon arrival. CIVS will send you visa instructions and an invitation letter at least 1 month before your arrival to Kenya.

Visa processing can take up to 3 days. If it takes longer, then usually there is an error on the side of the application details and you can contact us for help. Please note visa application costs USD 51.

### ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT

We will pick up all volunteers taking part in our workcamps from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or sometimes from Kisumu Airport upon request by the volunteer. CIVS will arrange accommodation before and after the workcamp in a host place that is about 20-40 minutes drive to and from the airport.

### WHAT TO CARRY

Volunteers are required to carry the following items for the workcamps: mosquito net, torch/flashlight, toiletries, first-aid kit, sleeping bag, sandals, sleeping mat, working gloves, and sunscreen. In addition to those, volunteers can also carry the following items for interaction purposes: pictures of your country, old clothes that are no longer in use, toys, books, pens, etc.

### LANGUAGE

English is the main language in the workcamp. There will be a possibility of learning Kiswahili and other local and international languages as cultural diversity is a major component in international service.

## **CAMP FEES**

Volunteers participating in our workcamp projects will be required to pay **300 Euros**. This cost will include:

- Airport pick up upon arrival & Airport drop off after the workcamp
- Up to 3 nights' accommodation before or after the workcamp
- Introduction to Kenyan life through a Nairobi City Centre Tour before the workcamp
- Workcamp Orientation at the CIVS office in Nairobi or the workcamp site
- Food (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Workcamp facilitation and mentoring of volunteers by an experienced workcamp leader
- Certificate of participation for the volunteer
- All administrative and camp preparation costs

### **The Participation fees do not cover the following:**

Excursion activities, local travels to and from the workcamp, leisure costs, personal effects, needs and wants, visa.

## **TOURS AND SAFARI**

CIVS organizes safaris to all the spectacular National Parks and touristic sites in Kenya, with the main attraction being Maasai Mara Game Reserve. Volunteers who wish to go on a safari should apply at least two weeks before arrival to enable us to make proper arrangements. The safari dates are as indicated in the workcamp program and the fee charged is all-inclusive of meals, transport, park entry, accommodation and tour guiding. The cost of a 3 days safari to Maasai Mara National Reserve with Serene East Africa Safaris is 390 Euros in a Tour Van and 470 Euros in a Tour Jeep.

**NOTE:** More of this information will be available in our specific project info sheets that we will send before your arrival.

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**CIVS/STV-01/2024 – COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS-VIRHEMBE**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Virhembe Shopping Center, Shinyalu, Kakamega County       |
| Orientation date    | Friday 05 <sup>th</sup> Jan                               |
| Start and end dates | 06 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan                    |
| Safari dates        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 04 <sup>th</sup> Jan                    |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Health and Environmental Conservation |
| No. of volunteers   | 10  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Community Health Volunteers (CHV) Virhembe is a community-based organization established in 2006 by Kenyan volunteers operating within Kakamega East District. The organization is situated at Virhembe Market and focuses on fighting HIV/AIDS and other health issues. The mission of this CHV is to spearhead implementation of community health and conservation projects in order to create a better life for communities in Western Kenya.

The organization pursues the aim of expanding capacities of the community in regards to dealing with HIV/AIDS. It seeks to design and implement quality HIV/AIDS interventions, as well as to support people living with HIV/AIDS by increasing access and improving the quality of healthcare and referral services for them through increased linkages with the Ministry of Health. The group also aims to promote safe sexual behavior and practice among youth and vulnerable groups. Community Health Volunteers in collaboration with DANIDA built a community hospital that is providing access to health in the entire area around the Kakamega rain forest. The hospital had wards, clinician consultation rooms, laboratory pharmacy and delivery room. The hospital has both paid staff and volunteers to provide medical services to patients.

**NATURE OF WORK**

- Assisting the local people to make bricks as a form of income generation
- Jiggers' eradication and treatment in local schools and in the homes
- Preparation of tree nurseries and planting new trees
- Home visits to community members and exchange programmes in local schools
- Distribution of sanitary towels to needy children in schools

- Volunteers with medical qualifications can assist in the dispensary

### **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be in a house closer to this workcamp and it is important that you have your own sleeping mat and a sleeping bag. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Drinking water is available but it is advisable to either boil or medicate the water before consuming. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening nature walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit Lake Victoria, and to view the equator line sign. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.



**CIVS/STV-02/2024– HAPPY ME HAPPY YOU CHILDREN PROJECT**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Project location    | Banja, Hamisi Vihiga County                |
| Orientation date    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb from 10.00 am          |
| Start and end dates | 03 <sup>rd</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb    |
| Safari dates        | 21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb     |
| Camp Theme          | Supporting orphans and vulnerable children |
| No. of volunteers   | 20   |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

‘Happy Me Happy You’ is a non-profit organization that was established in 2017 to empower children women, youth and men from vulnerable and poverty-stricken backgrounds to realize a sustainable community focussing on key areas of Education, Water, Health and Sanitation and Agriculture to improve their livelihood.

The organization is strongly focused on offering Early Childhood Development and Education to vulnerable children. It also runs a feeding program for needy children affected by hunger.

The project is working towards beginning to be involved in the following activities:

- Training small-scale farmers on modern/best farming practices to maximize their productivity, realize potential market and increase sales
- Training the community stakeholders on new technology trends through ICT to help them research, get informed and
- Training the community on financial management and leadership skills to enable them plan and budget well for their finances.
- They engage the community in\_table banking - a system that enables members of a community to access unsecured loans, from money pooled by other members of the community, and allows community members to invest in each other’s businesses and enterprises where members can apply for short- or long-term loans at low-interest rates.

## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Assisting with teaching of various subjects such as Creative Arts, English, Basic Mathematics in the nursery school
- Assisting the children with their homework
- General cleaning and maintenance of the project area and its surrounding: bush clearing, litters collection, making a disposal point, sweeping, landscaping, construction repairs and brick making.
- Planning and engaging the kids in extra-curricular activities like sports and games
- Engaging in health education and mentorship programs to the youth within the community alongside project staff
- Farm work which includes farming, digging, planting of various crops, weeding and tree planting exercise for environmental conservation

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at a shared house closer to the project in this workcamp and it is important that you have your own sleeping mat, mosquito net and a sleeping bag. This area is sometimes muddy therefore it's important to have working boots. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening nature walks, home visits, cultural meetings, and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit Lake Victoria, Kisumu Museum, the Crying Stone, the equator line, and a general tour in Kisumu city. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for an early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-03/2024 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Ahero Junction, Kisumu County of Kenya                        |
| Orientation date    | 7 <sup>th</sup> March from 10.00 am                           |
| Start and end dates | 08 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> March                     |
| Safari dates        | 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> March                      |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to Development |
| No. of volunteers   | 20  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

The Ahero Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2014 with an aim to build and strengthen the community’s capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources to develop the local community. The Center is providing diverse capacity-building programs such as:

**Early Childhood Education Program:** The centre runs a kindergarten with about 100 children aged between 3-7 years who are either vulnerable to poverty or orphans. The children get free education and meals at the school. In the evening they go back home where they stay with their caregivers or guardians.

**ICT and Business Training:** The center provides a community hub for access of free training in computer skills especially to the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology. The center has partnered with other stakeholders to provide Business training to the local people which is enabling them to start small business ventures to generate income.

**The Model Farm:** This is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation. This project encompasses greenhouses, open farm, poultry unit, fish ponds, etc.

**Water and Sanitation Program:** This project is focused on the treatment of tap water to become clean and safe for all domestic use in the community. The water is therefore connected in homesteads and sold at an economy-friendly and affordable fee as part of the income-generating activity for the center.

**Feeding Program:** Occasionally, the center runs a feeding program for a select group of needy children during school days by offering breakfast and lunch. This helps to improve the concentration of the children in the class, to motivate them to attend to school and also helps to improve their nutritional health. The efficiency of the program depends on the availability of food and support resources.

**Cassava Value Addition:** CIVS has set up a cassava processing and storage facility which also serves as a training section for agricultural value addition. Additionally, the project has installed a bakery facility where nutritious cassava cakes and bread are prepared to boost the children's feeding program and generate income for the project.

**Disability program:** The project supports People with Disabilities (PWDs) with few skills training like sign language, cloth making, agriculture, business training, ICT and work readiness, etc. as a way of promoting inclusivity in the community.

## NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering, harvesting and packaging.
- Maintaining and feeding the domesticated animals: rabbits, chicken, geese, turkey
- Assisting in cleaning the sheds for the domesticated animals
- Assisting in teaching the kindergarten pupils in subjects such as English, drawing, Environment Science and Creative Arts
- Assisting in training of computer and work preparedness skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center
- Organizing games and extra-curricular activities for kindergarten children as well as playing with them.
- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, repairing connecting water pipes in the greenhouse, and garbage disposal point

The work may change from time to time depending on the availability of individual programs at a particular time for example school holidays etc.

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

## CIVS/STV-04/2024 – MASOGO RESOURCE CENTRE

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Masogo Village, Kisumu County of Kenya                        |
| Orientation date    | 05 <sup>th</sup> April from 10.00 am                          |
| Start and end dates | 06 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> April                     |
| Safari dates        | 26 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> April                      |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to development |
| No. of volunteers   | 10  |

### PROJECT PROFILE

The Masogo Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2019 with an aim to build and strengthen the community's capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources to develop the community

The Center has been collaborating with the local community in various development fields through diverse capacity-building programs support and services they offer. The center provides a community hub for access of free training in computer skills especially to the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology.

Additionally, the Centre has a Model Farm which is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation.

### NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering and harvesting
- Assisting in cleaning the sheds for the domesticated animals
- Assisting in training of computer skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center

- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, and garbage disposal point

### **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at a host house in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-05/2024 – KUTH AWENDO RESOURCE CENTRE**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Kuth Awendo Village, Kisumu County of Kenya                   |
| Orientation date    | 9 <sup>th</sup> May from 10.00 am                             |
| Start and end dates | 10 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> May                       |
| Safari dates        | 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> May                          |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to development |
| No. of volunteers   | 10  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Kuth Awendo Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2019 with an aim to build and strengthen the community’s capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources to develop the community

The Center has been collaborating with the local community in various development fields through diverse capacity-building programs support and services they offer. The center provides a community hub for access of free training in computer skills especially to the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology.

The center runs a kindergarten with about 90 children aged between 3-7 years who are either vulnerable to poverty, orphans, infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. The children get free education and meals at the school. In the evening they go back home where they stay with their caregivers or guardians.

Additionally, the Centre has a Model Farm which s is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation.



## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering and harvesting
- Assisting in teaching the kindergarten pupils at Learn and Play Day Care basic subjects such as English, drawing, Environment Science and Creative Arts
- Organizing games and extra-curricular activities for kindergarten children as well as playing with them.
- Maintenance activities at the canter: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls and garbage disposal point

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-06/2024 – BADILISHA ECO VILLAGE**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Rusinga Island, Homabay County of Kenya       |
| Orientation date    | 7 <sup>th</sup> June from 10.00 am            |
| Start and end dates | 8 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> June       |
| Safari dates        | 28 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 |
| Camp Theme          | Permaculture and conservation                 |
| No. of volunteers   | 10  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Badilisha means “change” in Swahili. Badilisha Eco Village aims to bring change to the lives of people on Rusinga Island, who face challenges such as food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, lack of education among other pressing issues. It also seeks to inspire change in the general paradigms of local population towards a more holistic and responsible way. Badilisha Eco Village promotes permaculture farm design techniques and ethics: Earth care, people care and share of surplus. It is a model farm, or epicenter, for both sustainable agriculture and holistic community development. Badilisha successfully hosted a Permaculture Development Course in March 2011 and aims to become an International Permaculture Centre. There is a primary school also within the project that was established with an overall objective of providing education to the children around the community.

**NATURE OF WORK**

- Teaching of mathematics, English and creative arts subject in the school
- Home visits during the afternoon and assisting with general cleaning to the old and sick
- Weeding, slashing and clearing of bushes
- Permaculture which generally involves farmwork activities
- Soil conservation and planting of trees in the school compound
- Beach clean-up exercises to improve sanitation and hygiene around the community

**ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at a host house in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Rusinga hills, Mafangano Islands and Tom Mboya Mausoleum., which are not far from project Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-07/1/2024– HAPPY ME HAPPY YOU CHILDREN PROJECT**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Project location    | Banja, Hamisi Vihiga County                |
| Orientation date    | 4 <sup>th</sup> Jul from 10.00 am          |
| Start and end dates | 05 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> July   |
| Safari dates        | 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> July      |
| Camp Theme          | Supporting orphans and vulnerable children |
| No. of volunteers   | 20   |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

‘Happy Me Happy You’ is a non-profit organization that was established in 2017 to empower children women, youth and men from vulnerable and poverty-stricken backgrounds to realize a sustainable community focussing on key areas of Education, Water, Health and Sanitation and Agriculture to improve their livelihood.

The organization is strongly focused on offering Early Childhood Development and Education to vulnerable children. It also runs a feeding program for needy children affected by hunger.

The project is working towards beginning to be involved in the following activities:

- Training small-scale farmers on modern/best farming practices to maximize their productivity, realize potential market and increase sales
- Training the community stakeholders on new technology trends through ICT to help them research, get informed and
- Training the community on financial management and leadership skills to enable them plan and budget well for their finances.
- They engage the community in\_table banking - a system that enables members of a community to access unsecured loans, from money pooled by other members of the community, and allows community members to invest in each other’s businesses and enterprises where members can apply for short- or long-term loans at low-interest rates.

## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Assisting with teaching of various subjects such as Creative Arts, English, Basic Mathematics in the nursery school
- Assisting the children with their homework
- General cleaning and maintenance of the project area and its surrounding: bush clearing, litters collection, making a disposal point, sweeping, landscaping, construction repairs and brick making.
- Planning and engaging the kids in extra-curricular activities like sports and games
- Engaging in health education and mentorship programs to the youth within the community alongside project staff
- Farm work which includes farming, digging, planting of various crops, weeding and tree planting exercise for environmental conservation

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at a shared house closer to the project in this workcamp and it is important that you have your own sleeping mat, mosquito net and a sleeping bag. This area is sometimes muddy therefore it's important to have working boots. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening nature walks, home visits, cultural meetings, and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit Lake Victoria, Kisumu Museum, the Crying Stone, the equator line, and a general tour in Kisumu city. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for an early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-07/2/2024 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Ahero Junction, Kisumu County of Kenya                        |
| Orientation date    | 11 <sup>th</sup> July from 10.00 am                           |
| Start and end dates | 12 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> July                      |
| Safari dates        | 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> July                        |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to Development |
| No. of volunteers   | 20  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

The Ahero Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2014 with an aim to build and strengthen the community’s capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources to develop the local community. The Centres providing diverse capacity-building programs such as:

**Early Childhood Education Program:** The center runs a kindergarten with about 100 children aged between 3-7 years who are either vulnerable to poverty or orphans. The children get free education and meals at the school. In the evening they go back home where they stay with their caregivers or guardians.

**ICT, and Business Training:** The center provides a community hub for access of free training in computer skills especially to the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology. The center has partnered with other stakeholders to provide Business training to the local people which is enabling them to start small business ventures to generate income.

**The Model Farm:** This is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation. This project encompasses greenhouses, open farm, poultry unit, fish ponds, etc.

**Water and Sanitation Program:** This project is focused on the treatment of tap water to become clean and safe for all domestic use in the community. The water is therefore connected in homesteads and sold at an economy-friendly and affordable fee as part of the income-generating activity for the center.

**Feeding Program:** Occasionally, the center runs a feeding program for a select group of needy children during school days by offering breakfast and lunch. This helps to improve the concentration of the children in the class, to motivate them to attend to school and also helps to improve their nutritional health. The efficiency of the program depends on the availability of food and support resources.

**Cassava Value Addition:** CIVS has set up a cassava processing and storage facility which also serves as a training section for agricultural value addition. Additionally, the project has installed a bakery facility where nutritious cassava cakes and bread are prepared to boost the children's feeding program and generate income for the project.

**Disability program:** The project supports People with Disabilities (PWDs) with few skills training like sign language, cloth making, agriculture, business training, ICT and work readiness, etc. as a way of promoting inclusivity in the community.

## NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering, harvesting and packaging.
- Maintaining and feeding the domesticated animals: rabbits, chicken, geese, turkey
- Assisting in cleaning the sheds for the domesticated animals
- Assisting in teaching the kindergarten pupils at Learn and Play Day Care basic subjects such as English, drawing, Environment Science and Creative Arts
- Assisting in training of computer and work preparedness skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center
- Organizing games and extra-curricular activities for kindergarten children as well as playing with them.
- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, repairing connecting water pipes in the greenhouse, and garbage disposal point

The work may change from time to time depending on the availability of individual programs at a particular time for example school holidays etc.

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.



## CIVS/STV-08/1/2024 – JENGA VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Musoli area Kakamega county western Kenya |
| Orientation date    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Aug from 10.00 am         |
| Start and end dates | 2 <sup>nd</sup> –19 <sup>th</sup> Aug     |
| Safari dates        | 20 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> Aug    |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Development           |
| No. of volunteers   | 20  |

### PROJECT PROFILE

Jenga Village Volunteers is a registered non-governmental, community-based organization. Jenga means 'build' and it aims at community development due to the increase in poverty and illiteracy among the youths in the village as a result of disadvantage due to their economic, social, and cultural background. We work to help the community to realize and take action on what is important to them.

Since the Community shares the same challenges, we inform them that community development relies on interaction between people and joint action, rather than individual activity. We believe the communities we belong to play an important part in our personal well-being. It is the source and root of many creative ideas, solutions, wealth, and power, as well as the problems that arise often because of inequality in people's environment, resources, and opportunities.

The organization has a main aim of improving peoples' lives in the community especially the vulnerable as well as linking the community with other players in order to address the challenges faced by the local community. The mission of this organization is concerned with the well-being of orphans and vulnerable children, mistreated women, widows, widowers, men, women, people with disabilities, and youths who are disadvantaged due to their economic, social, and cultural backgrounds. The area faces various challenges, but many of them can be prevented at the village level. As the community becomes more and more developed, people will be exposed to less health, poverty, and illiteracy risks and enjoy a higher standard of living and, therefore higher quality of life.

## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Farm work which involves weeding, digging, and planting of crops
- Exchange programs with the community members through home and village visits
- Jiggers treatment and sensitization awareness within the community
- Engaging in sports activities as well as playing with the children
- Brick-making for community income generation
- Organizing life skill sessions in schools with the children around and playing with them
- Planting trees and taking part in the conservation of the environment

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available throughout. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

## CIVS/STV-08/2/2024 – ESIKOMA COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Project location    | Esikoma, Bumala Busia County           |
| Orientation date    | 8 <sup>th</sup> Aug from 10.00 am      |
| Start and end dates | 9 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Aug |
| Safari dates        | 27 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>nd</sup> Aug |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting community Health             |
| No. of volunteers   | 10                                     |

### PROJECT PROFILE

Esikoma Community Health Project was established by the Esikoma Community Health Self Help Group, which has been in existence since 2016. The project has constructed a community hospital which is now offering health services to local community since November 2022. The hospital comprises of doctor's consultation rooms, pharmacy, patients waiting bay and temporary wards. More facilities are still under construction.

The Self Help Group is comprised of volunteers operating within Busia County, with the mission of spearheading implementation of community health, environmental projects and development programs. The group focuses on Health and community development and other health related issues. The group received training on HIV/AIDS prevention, VCT Counseling, Community mobilization, and home based care giving and education from the German foundation for world population.

During the period, the trainees realized that there was a big health problem in their community. Apart from HIV/AIDS as the main problem, there were more health issues such as an increase number of orphans/ vulnerable children, and jiggers menace as a result of parents' death from HIV/AIDS. Most orphans were infected by jiggers, this was as a result of parental and guardian poor care. In general such children lack basic needs such as health care, shelter, education, and clothing among others.

Having realized all these problems within the community, the Community Health Volunteers decided to establish a group and named it as Esikoma Community Health Volunteers (ECHV). The group is engaging in activities like providing medical services, Jiggers eradication program, creating tree nurseries and planting trees, Health Education in local schools and Distribution of sanitary pads to schools. The profit generated from selling of the trees is channeled to the hospital project.

## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Assisting the local people to make bricks as a form of income generation
- Jiggers' eradication and treatment in local schools and in the homes
- Preparation of tree nurseries and planting new trees
- Home visits to community members and exchange programmes in local schools
- Distribution of sanitary towels to needy children in schools
- Volunteers with medical qualifications can assist in the dispensary

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at a host family in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-09/2024 – MIKONO PAMOJA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Rodi in Homabay County                  |
| Orientation date    | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept from 10.00 am      |
| Start and end dates | 6 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>th</sup> Sept |
| Safari dates        | 24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> Sept |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Development         |
| No. of volunteers   | 10                                      |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Mikono pamoja community development project is located in Rodi Homabay County. ‘Mikono pamoja’ means holding hands and it is based on the notion of people working together to do more. The project was started to help improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people including the youth, kids, widows, and the old. The main economic activity in the project region is farming and fishing.

Homabay County is among the counties in Kenya with high HIV prevalence, especially among the youth. This is somehow attributed to inadequate exposure to the outside world and a lack of employable skills. In addition, teenage pregnancies are on the rise among girls. The introduction of simple life skills could help reduce infection rates and teenage pregnancies. Life skills can also be extended to children when they are still younger to help them mature into responsible adults.

Old people mostly stay alone in the village since children have moved out to urban areas to seek employment. In some families, the old are widowed and therefore life has become a bit difficult for them. They have to bring water from the river and do other chores by themselves. The shelters are also not in good condition. This project presents an opportunity for volunteers to work with the local people, and learn the Luo culture as the people also learn from them.

**NATURE OF WORK**

- Farm work which involves weeding, digging, and planting maize, beans, and vegetables
- Assisting in Fetching water from the river or the tap.
- Engaging in sports activities as well as playing with the children

- Assisting in grazing domestic animals
- Digging farms and as well as harvesting for the old, widows, and the project farm
- Organizing life skill sessions in schools around the area with the children

### **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at a host family in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Rusinga hills, Mafangano Islands and Tom Mboya Mausoleum., Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-10/2024 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Ahero Junction, Kisumu County of Kenya                        |
| Orientation date    | 3 <sup>th</sup> Oct from 10.00 am                             |
| Start and end dates | 4 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct                        |
| Safari dates        | 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Oct                        |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to Development |
| No. of volunteers   | 20  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

The Ahero Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2014 with an aim to build and strengthen the community’s capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources to develop the local community. The Center is providing diverse capacity-building programs such as:

**Early Childhood Education Program:** The center runs a kindergarten with about 100 children aged between 3-7 years who are either vulnerable to poverty or orphans. The children get free education and meals at the school. In the evening they go back home where they stay with their caregivers or guardians.

**ICT and Business Training:** The center provides a community hub for access of free training in computer skills especially to the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology. The center has partnered with other stakeholders to provide Business training to the local people which is enabling them to start small business ventures to generate income.

**The Model Farm:** This is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation. This project encompasses greenhouses, open farm, poultry unit, fish ponds, etc.

**Water and Sanitation Program:** This project is focused on the treatment of tap water to become clean and safe for all domestic use in the community. The water is therefore connected in homesteads and sold at an economy-friendly and affordable fee as part of the income-generating activity for the center.

**Feeding Program:** Occasionally, the center runs a feeding program for a select group of needy children during school days by offering breakfast and lunch. This helps to improve the concentration of the children in the class, to motivate them to attend to school and also helps to improve their nutritional health. The efficiency of the program depends on the availability of food and support resources.

**Cassava Value Addition:** CIVS has set up a cassava processing and storage facility which also serves as a training section for agricultural value addition. Additionally, the project has installed a bakery facility where nutritious cassava cakes and bread are prepared to boost the children's feeding program and generate income for the project.

**Disability program:** The project supports People with Disabilities (PWDs) with few skills training like sign language, cloth making, agriculture, business training, ICT and work readiness, etc. as a way of promoting inclusivity in the community.

## NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering, harvesting and packaging.
- Maintaining and feeding the domesticated animals: rabbits, chicken, geese, turkey
- Assisting in cleaning the sheds for the domesticated animals
- Assisting in teaching the kindergarten pupils at Learn and Play Day Care basic subjects such as English, drawing, Environment Science and Creative Arts
- Assisting in training of computer and work preparedness skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center
- Organizing games and extra-curricular activities for kindergarten children as well as playing with them.
- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, repairing connecting water pipes in the greenhouse, and garbage disposal point

The work may change from time to time depending on the availability of individual programs at a particular time for example school holidays etc.



## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

## CIVS/STV-11/2024 – LUANDA COMMUNITY EMPOWEMENT

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Project location    | Ebusakami village Luanda Vihiga County |
| Orientation date    | 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov from 10.00 am      |
| Start and end dates | 8 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov |
| Safari dates        | 4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Nov   |
| Camp Theme          | Promoting Community Development        |
| No. of volunteers   | 15                                     |

### PROJECT PROFILE

Being a new project, the Luanda Community Empowerment Project is a local development initiative that aims to improve the well-being of the people. The project is located along the Kisumu Busia Road, 29 Kilometers from Kisumu City. The project is welcoming volunteers to learn about the local culture, live with the people, and interact and work with them. The project is based in the heart of the Luhya community, in Bunyore, and gives you a chance to explore western Kenya.

The project aims to empower the community to realize their potential through local initiatives like farming, brick making, environment conservation, community banking, childcare, informal education, and health and sanitation programs. The project region has a higher poverty level with the majority of residents engaging in small-scale crop farming and rearing of livestock and chicken at their small farms. Youth unemployment is on the rise with the diminishing opportunities for formal employment. This has led to a high dependency ratio and the inability of the few employed people to save and invest. Cases of drug abuse and insecurity associated with youth unemployment are on the rise.

Uneconomical sub-division of land, Poor land use system and ragged terrain are some of the factors for environmental degradation. Encroachment of wetlands and forest lands by the growing population has led to declining water volumes in existing water sources. Inadequate farming skills and small land sizes have affected agricultural production. Limited credit facilities, idleness among the youth, poor infrastructure, and poor implementation of pro-poor programs and projects are some of the notable challenges facing the community. Girls have higher school enrolment than boys because boys engage in manual jobs like tea picking, herding cattle, motorbike transportation and farm labour.

As a volunteer, you will provide invaluable assistance to the community and in return the warmth and affection of the community will for sure put a smile on your face. You will experience happy moments with the people, gain an understanding of what life is like in western Kenya and make

a real difference in the local community, and along the way you will make lots of new friends. Right at the equator line, you will interact with nature, have a nice view of Bunyore hills and valleys characterized by huge granite rocks and caves.

## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Helping in farming to increase agricultural outputs in the village ie tilling of land, slashing,
- planting and weeding of crops
- Helping the local people with brick-making for income generation
- Helping to fetch water from the stream for the old people
- Playing games and encouraging the development of children in the nearby Ebusakami Primary School
- Mentoring teenage girls in the nearby Secondary School
- Visiting homes for intercultural learning
- Helping to eradicate jigger infestation in some homes/ schools

The work may change from time to time depending on the availability of individual programs at a particular time for example school holidays etc.

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

**CIVS/STV-12/2024 – COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CODEP)**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Project location    | Sagalla, Voi Constituency, Taita-Taveta County            |
| Orientation date    | 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                            |
| Start and end dates | 28 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2024         |
| Safari dates        | 24 <sup>th</sup> November -26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 |
| Camp Theme          | Environmental Conservation and Social Work                |
| No. of volunteers   | 10  |

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Community Empowerment Development Project (CODEP) is located in Coastal Kenya in Sagalla, Taita-Taveta County. CODEP is a new project that has been started to empower the local communities to improve living standards in areas of agriculture, education, water, shelter, and environmental conservation.

Sagalla, located in south-eastern Kenya experiences a semi-arid climate, characterized by hot and dry conditions especially during the long dry seasons. The temperatures can often soar, and precipitation can be scarce. However, some highland areas exist, where the climate is more temperate, offering cooler temperatures and more favourable conditions for agriculture. This climatic variation creates distinct environmental challenges and opportunities for the conservation of plants and animals.

Conservation efforts in Sagalla are vital to preserve the rich biodiversity of the region. The county is home to several unique and endangered species, including the Taita Hills Weaver bird found nowhere else in the world, and the Taita Hills Purple Granular Frog which is critically endangered. To conserve these species, it's crucial to protect and restore their habitats. Afforestation and reforestation initiatives can help combat deforestation and soil erosion, safeguarding critical ecosystems. Moreover, implementing sustainable agricultural practices and promoting wildlife-friendly land management can strike a balance between human needs and wildlife conservation.

Community engagement plays a pivotal role in the conservation of Taita Taveta's natural resources. It's essential to work closely with local communities, providing education on the importance of conservation to the community. Volunteering in this project will help you learn

the local culture, learn new skills in agriculture and permaculture, gain experience of coastal rural life setting, make a positive impact on the environment and the community, and make friendships with the people.

## **NATURE OF WORK**

- Farm work: weeding, digging, and planting
- Fetching water from the local reservoirs
- Planting, watering and caring for trees in homesteads
- School visits: Participate in Sports activities, teaching, mentoring, playing and preparing meals for kids at local schools
- Renovating houses for the old
- Carrying out cleaning activities around their compound and locality
- Assisting the local's elderly with their daily chores like cleaning and cooking
- Control invasive plant species, care for native plants and monitoring rare species at the local farms

## **ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES**

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Kenyatta Caves in Wundanyi, Wray Memorial Museum, Trip to Mombasa and a game drive at Tsavo National Park. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.