

## **Project Update: January 2019**

This is a summarised report of activities conducted between December 2018 and January 2019.

### **i. Stakeholder meeting at Kubar Primary School**

We held a meeting with a team of stakeholders from around the Akara Hills at Kubar Primary School on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The meeting brought together the local administration (the area local chief and the assistant chief), heads of schools, representatives from the security department, a representative from the education ministry (Siaya County), experts in agroforestry and agribusiness and community members. One of the key issues focused on during the meeting was tree planting. Those in attendance applauded that our project is doing a good job in sensitising and encouraging the community living around Akara Hills to plant trees and conserve nature, however, there is need to do more. The area chief encouraged people to plant more trees to reverse the worrying levels of deforestation in the country as was declared by the President of Kenya in an announcement. The country needs to plant an additional 1.8 billion trees in the next 5 years. Therefore, through the project we continue to raise new seedlings that will be planted during the March long rains, this will also be towards the end of the planned project period.

### **ii. Monitoring of trees planted in Septembers and October**

During this meeting, we met the 35 locals who were identified from the four villages directly lying in the Akara Hills, Kubar A, Kubar B, Ohaya and Kadhayi, to find out how the seedlings they planted are faring well. The tree seedlings are growing well. During this meeting more community members requested that they be included in the project so that they plant trees too.

At the end of the meeting, the project donated 150 tree seedlings (each community member present was given one seedling each to go and plant in their homestead) this was to encourage them to nurture trees planted. The seedlings were part of those raised by the YASCO which is one of the community groups that we work with on the project. The project ended by the leaders present planting trees in Kubar Primary School.

### **iii. Energy saving stoves and alternative livelihoods**

One of the main objectives of the project has been to tackle green energy alternatives (solar lamps, energy saving cook stoves) with the community. I will report that the project has teamed up with a well-wisher who was inspired by our work, and we are currently installing energy saving cook stoves to selected villages.



Margaret presenting my project as a case at the IPA2 conference, Victoria Canada on community participation



Margaret Owuor (standing in a pink dress) talking at the stakeholder meeting on environment conservation



Community leaders holding seedlings ready for planting



Margaret and Community leader planting a tree



Cook stove before the energy saving is installed



New look after energy saving cook stove is installed