



...the Global and Local Community Conversation

WEEK 7
Kenya –Kithithuni
April 1st-6th, 2012

Foreword; appreciating, encouraging and sharing local community story

Kenya is the fifth country for Glocon. This is a synthesis of one community story. Fifteen other local community stories from India, Bangladesh, and Thailand have been described through images and quotes, with some connecting commentary. Each location will have its own synthesis so we can accumulate insight on local and global patterns of community response and transfer, and organizational adaptation. The *'themes and sub themes that matter to us'* are the core of the Glocon learning. Our sincere thanks to local and country hosts, and to the local communities, which show the future.

The **background to Glocon** is described in the concept note, on the Affirm website.



See www.affirmfacilitators.org;
www.facebook.com/glocon.affirm;

See also the facebook group "Glocon participants".

From beginning March, the first Glocon Update is available through the www.affirmfacilitators.org website, and the facebook page.

Key Sections

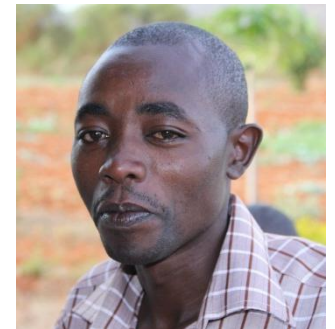
- *Glossary*
- *Glocon visit team members*
- *Background, Process*
- *Where are we now? Timeline*
- *Team life, Transfer, Future*
- *Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us*



Rhoda-‘we have to have open hearts to each other and go out to new communities all the time –that way we will have a good future’

Glocon team members

- Onemus Mutuku (below)
- Abednego Mutungwa (top left)
- Margaret Musimbi (below right)
- Alison Campbell (lower left)
- Ian Campbell (bottom left)
- Catherine Kitheka (next to Alison)
- Serah Sammy (top right)
- John Mulandi (third row right)
- George Mutua (second row right)
- Antony Peter (second row centre)
- Oral Roberts Mannasse (third row next to John)



...and friends... (Major Isoe, left; Majors Peter and Annah Mutuku, centre; Mutungwa Muswii, below) **...and country host...** (April Foster, right)....



Glossary

TSA-The Salvation Army
GP-Glocon Participants
SALT-Support and Learning Team
KAY Club-Kids and Youth Club



Background

The Kithithuni local community has been responding to HIV since 1999. Rebecca Nzuki, who had facilitated a neighbourhood community response in the Kibera slum context of Nairobi from 1995, moved to Kithituni with her family and immediately stimulated a local team at Kithituni village and nearby market town area. Local response was followed by widespread transfer engaging over 53,000 people by 2008. Many visitors from NGO's, UN, faith groups, and other communities have learned by practical experience of community counseling, SALT approaches, local facilitation team development, integrated neighbourhood community initiatives, and influences that help transfer happen from home and family to the neighbourhood community, and from community to community.

Day 1 Sunday 1st April 2012

Process discussion

Arrival-greetings with hosts and with April Foster, a fellow Affirmer, and long-time participant in the Kithithuni response. Clarification of purpose, to revisit the Kithithuni community and linked community responses (Alison and Ian visited Kithituni between 2001 and 2006), to thank, encourage, and share and learn of progress in response to HIV and other concerns.

The Glocon team agreed to debrief at the end of every day to track the community journey and key determinants. The core process elements were SALT visits to homes and history on day 2, along with reflection on transfer and team sustainability on day 3; concentration on day 4 in the Nguni area of Kithituni community—in particular HIV related action and transfer, then reflection on future vision by the wider team.



Day 2 Monday 2nd April 2012

Morning prayers –John: *What we are is not equal to what we see now. We must always ask what else is possible. How did I become part of this story? I was standing with Antony somewhere, he said ‘just come and see what we do’ - others have joined by seeing what we do, and asking to join.*



SALT visits

(Team 1) visited Christine



Christine: *I became very ill, that is how I learned about the HIV a long time ago. Neighbours told my daughter I could only die. They brought food but left it out of my reach, and I had to wait until a child came to feed me.*



Rebecca used to come and visit me, sit and talk, bring something. That kept me strong. When people began to visit, sometimes bring small amounts of money to support me, I would store the money away, to keep the children in education.



Zipporah: *It is so useful to have this kind of conversation at home.*

Abednago: *Christine is very strong in her mind, determined, undistracted by what anyone else says. She kept her focus because of her children.*



(Team 2) visited Eunice Kevene



Eunice: I became open because of team visits, was able to visit and help a neighbor with the team, and then became a founding member of our support group.



Joseph: Home visits are key to openness and acceptance.

(Team3) visited Rhoda

Rhoda's husband died in 2006: I have survived because of faith, SALT visits, and my family.



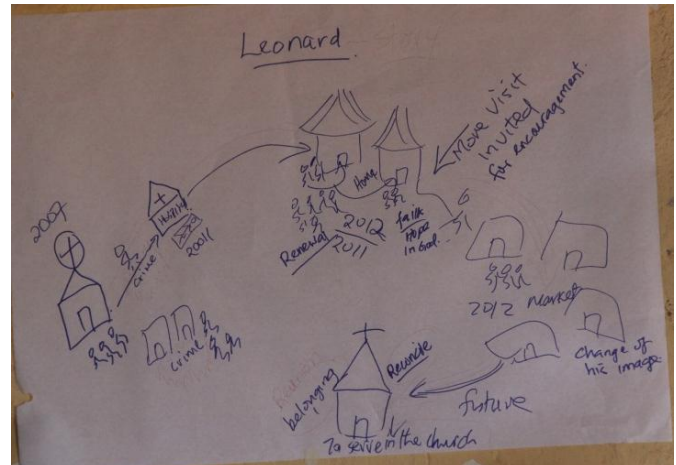
The team must continue to reach out to new communities with an open heart. That is what keeps the conversation going.

Michael: Young people are learning to take care for themselves because of the conversations we have. We young people ask ourselves many questions, and through discussion get something that will help. Young people are making informed decisions, and the community also has decided to care. Everything begins with conversations.



(Team 4) visited Leonard

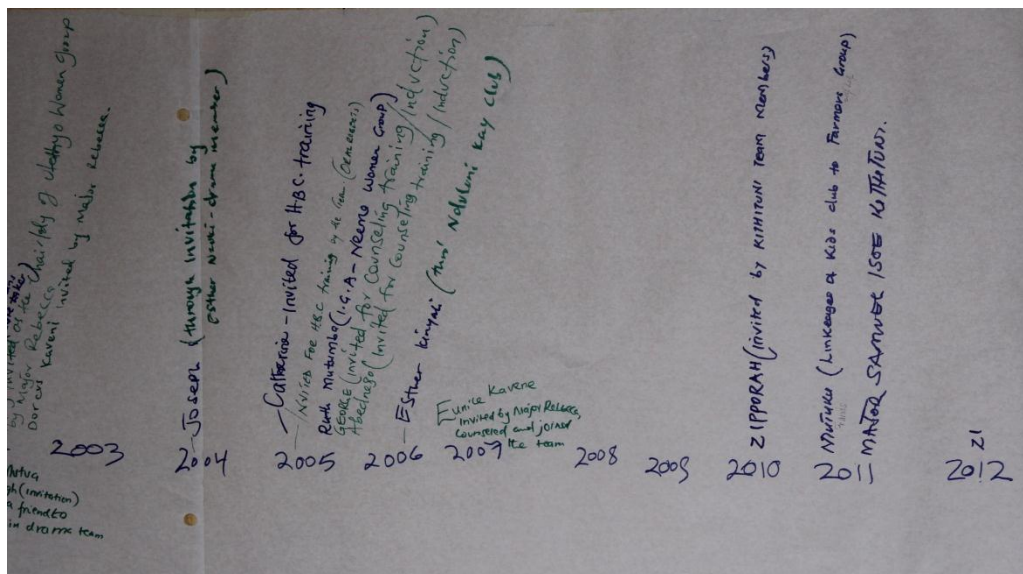
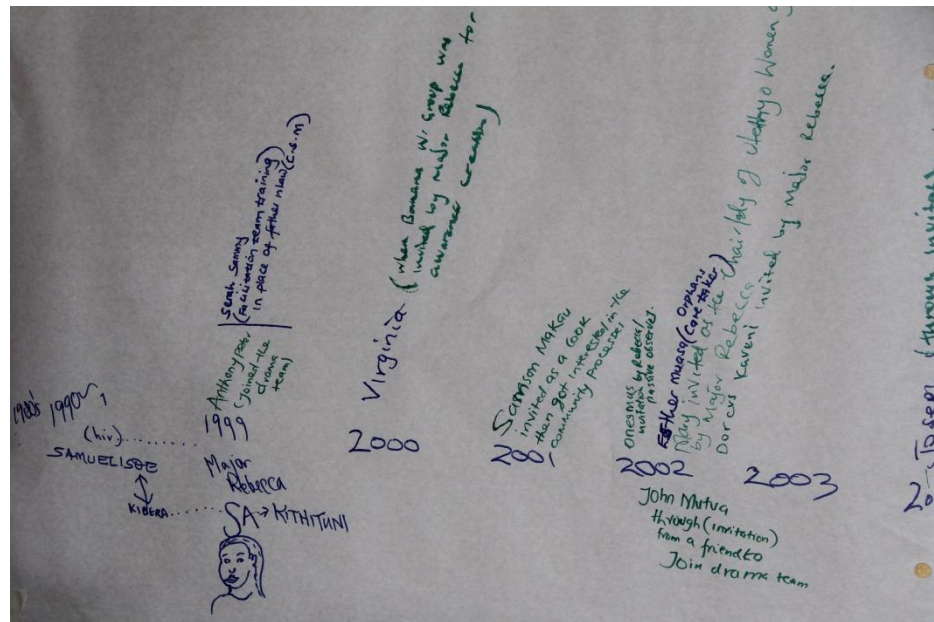
Serah: *We just had to go to him after he stole the Dorcas Beads material from our group. After a life of crime and beatings, and being burned for his crimes, now because of home visits to him, he now wants to reconcile with his family.*



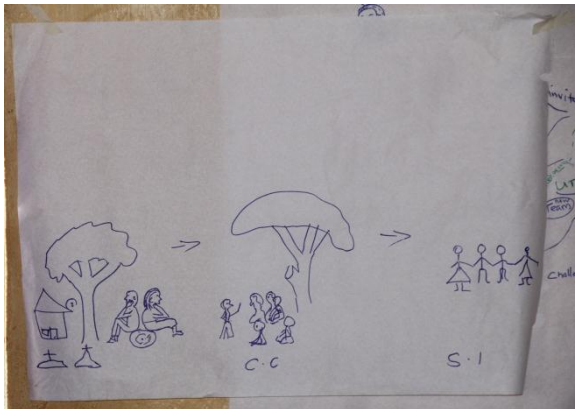
Where are we now?

History of response in Kithituni: Timeline

Antony: At the beginning, the community was closed, not sharing, although people were dying and children were being left as orphans. Our response was to form the team, get out of the building and begin community counselling through drama. People saw our drama and (in the discussion) were able to open up.



2000-2002: a two year transition from separation to connection

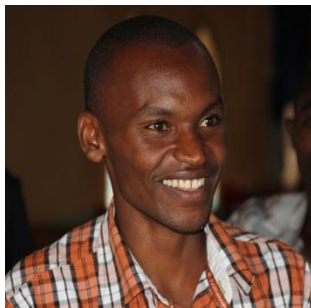


(See Day 3 comments for timeline continuity discussion)

Closing reflections:

We are refreshed by memories -Serah

Home visits spoke deeply to me -Onesmus



There is a cycle of refreshing, mentioned in Scripture – God refreshes those who refresh others. –John

Home visits are worth the effort, for the inspiration, the moments of grace and understanding. –Joseph

George: Rhoda's home showed the networks within the community – love in action was expressed so clearly. Don't take for granted someone from a family going to visit another family. We see people carrying firewood to another home. This is serious effort and care.



Ian: I have heard that the clinic is now changing to reach out. This is completely necessary. In the beginning you succeeded because you went straight home.

....sunset...



...next day on the way...



Day 3 Tuesday 3rd April 2012

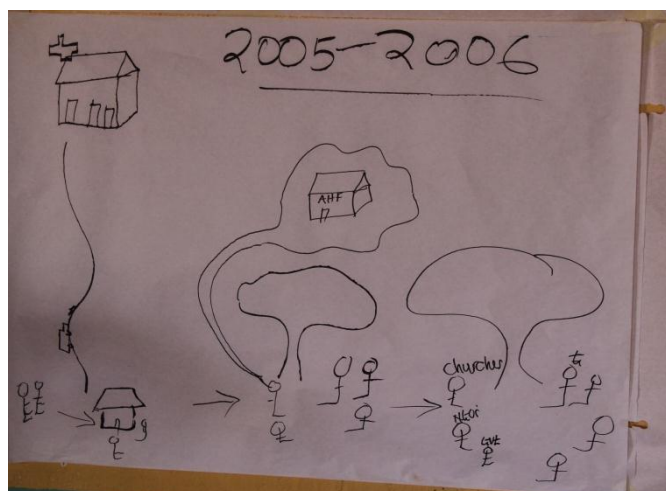
Reflections on timeline

We look at the timeline and see it began as a seed brought by someone. We have learned new ways as we have gone along. This is not an end – more is on the way. –Serah



I have been part of it since 2002 when Rebecca invited us and we shared many things. We made bricks. You see buildings here made from those bricks. We were all living with orphans. Whenever we harvested, each would contribute some to support orphans. She encouraged us, and we got new ways of working together. We were old (grandmothers) so had to help each other. We are still motivated to continue. –Mary

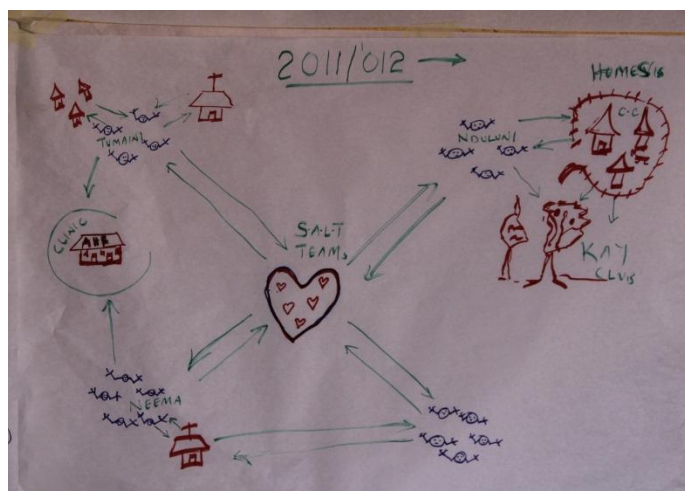




For me it is all about God's grace. If the grace of God is shared, it has dependents (children) like love and kindness. – George



I look around at your faces and think of the beauty of sacrifice. Let this fire in us continue connecting people and communities. Let's not tire because of the effort we have made. – Antony



We engage with each other by telling our own stories. Better storytelling will shape the future. –John

This is my first time in this kind of sitting together. I have learned one thing that is most important: love. Francis (Farmers' self-help group)



I have also been in since 2002 because I was left with orphans when the parents died. I have been thinking, we must continue visiting because through visits even the young have gotten support. I continue to support children. Support comes to me too, from the faces here. This is Kithituni – there are other Kithitunis – we should do this kind of talk elsewhere. –Esther

We had the widows' group. A widow can feel self-pity, separated from others. We were brought together, a mix of old and even very young widows. We encouraged each other to avoid risk. – Ruth



We see accumulated effect – it is alive, because neighborhood groups take ownership. Ownership is facilitated by home visits, don't forget. Both home and group/neighborhood processes are needed. The team is still working because it is beyond the boundaries of any one institution. Always think beyond institutions, to the Spirit of God, and the human connection. –Ian



Team life and leadership

What has sustained our motivation as team members? What keeps us going?



- LOVE OF GOD
 - Openness to learn and share with others
 - Stories of change/ transformation in individuals, communities and organisations.

of ~~my~~ presence
 after any Home visit - ~~by~~
 sharing in any Community
 Conversation.
 1 - Ppl appreciating
 2 - Notice change -
 3 - realising transfer to - champs coming up.
 di'ana's Grace of GOD - which keeps
 the Communities Connected & their souls

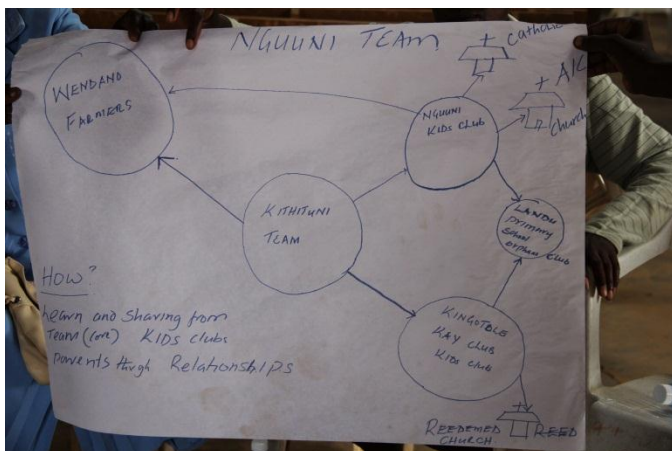
For
 1. Through sharing concerns together, we feel relieved.
 2. As a youth, home visits encourage and strengthens ~~me~~ us.
 3. There is always something new to learn in home visits, community conversation.
 4. There is positive community response i.e. Change of behaviour, care as a result of our facilitation.

KEY MOTIVATION
 - Love /care
 - An opportunity to learn.
 - Positive change in ppl's Life.
 - Team brings hope & life in the Community (thru Home visits)
 - God's word.
 - Invitations for Home Visits.

A-group
 → I have an open ^{heart} to talk about AIDS with my Peers and the Community at large.
 → Work with God in it - Grace-change-
 → I was out there "target" in drugs and substance abuse - changed - and now part of the team teaching out to others. Space to grow.
 → Refreshing experience.
 → Relationships are nurtured.
 → Can interact with any age group.
 → Self realisation on - self strengths.
 → Space to grow - open mentorship.
 → People appreciate our work
 → When we host people/orgs. to come and learn from us.
 → Inter learning between communities (exchanges)

Reflections on transfer

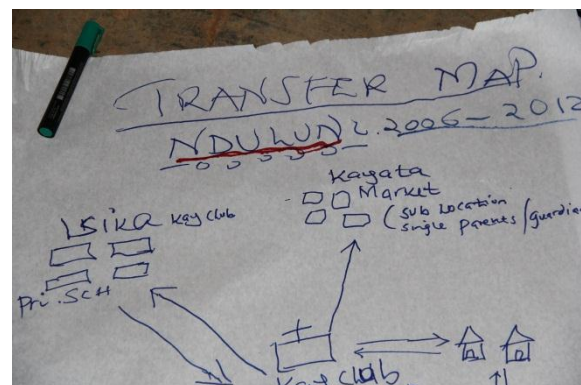
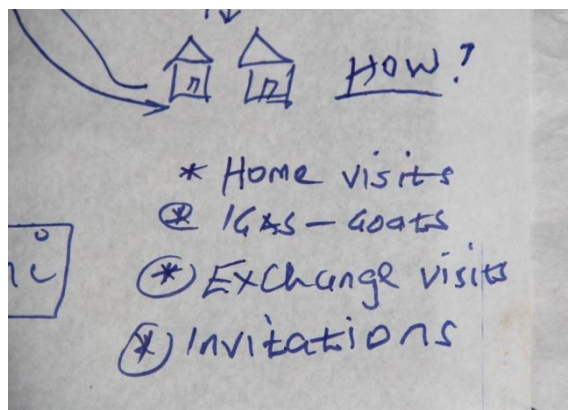
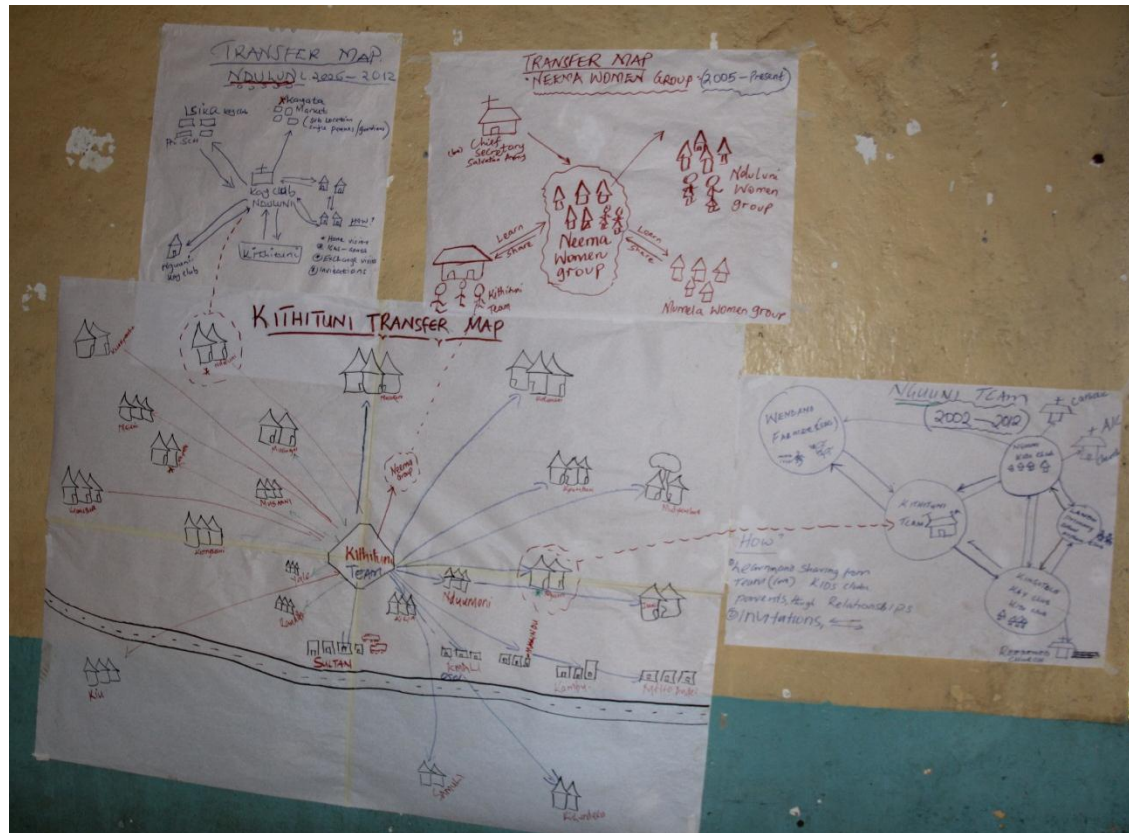
'How' have we transferred from community to community? The core Kithithuni team, and two other near neighbourhood teams of Nguludi and Neema, met separately, then together. The transfer map shows initiating influences and some representative local neighbourhood responses that are autonomous yet willingly connected to each other as a means of sustaining the community to community transfer momentum.



In mentoring other teams, they should do what seems good to them, and we are strategic, looking for the beliefs and principles to encourage. – Joseph



I look at this extended transfer map and see shared leadership. –Abednego



Some examples of transfer

First example-‘Dorcas Beads’ recycled paper cut, rolled into beads, varnished, and made into beautiful jewelery.



Catherine: *We do not rely on external funds. It is not simple. SALT is one of our most important tools.*

Now I make my own money. Dorcas Beads uplifted me. I am so proud to be here, and to uplift others in home visits. -Juliana



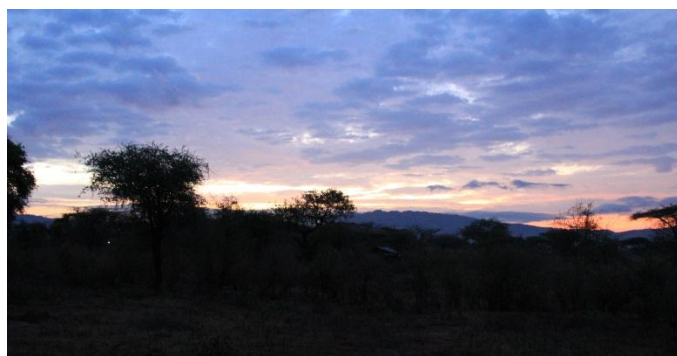
We have families in mind-we encourage home visits to members by members. We find that people self-protect to avoid family problems from HIV in the future.



I am a specialist in rolling beads, and have transferred the skill to others. I am a mother of six children. The money helps me much. Problems at home are less now. -Ruth

Serah: *The vision is 'to bring back life' like Dorcas in the book of Acts. We all benefit from social life together, economic and spiritual empowerment.*

The rain clouds gatheredand it rained!



Joseph: *I want to go out and play like I did as a boy!*



Day 4 Wednesday 4th April 2012

Second example of transfer –KAY (Kids And Youth) club

I was in a home visit with 20 children, 6 mums and a young person, two grandmothers, and our team of six -Alison



*What is different because of the clubs?
Neighbours now check on each other. In visits with each other we share issues. Children learn things at the club then try them at home, with small farming or goat-tending. One of the children has received a goat. –Magdalena, grandmother*

The character of children is changing because they are learning responsibilities. Children talk and play together and you would not distinguish between an orphan and any child. Parents of the community are parenting all the children. –Agnes



We are passing encouragement from generation to generation. –Zipporah



Alison: We have seen in you the sharing of responsibility, shared leadership and shared benefit.

Third example of transfer –Farmers Self-Help Cooperative



Ronald -Our vision is to develop food security in this arid land, by unity and sharing agricultural skills, so that we can increase the standard of living and support the education of children.

Abednego -We are developing sustainable farming. We are becoming confident of our own resources.



Francis -In future we would want to be a living model for others to come and learn. One day we will have enough to even buy a car or something else (tractor).



Ian: Kithituni response is a natural and intentional example of Human Capacity Development. You are always including people in order to pass it on. You mix human strength with God's grace. You share ownership in a movement of love in action, which does not depend on institutions.

Questions for discussion: Looking toward 2025, what foundations do you want to strengthen? What beautiful moments of further development can you expect?



Necessary foundations

- ✓ Conversation
- ✓ Home visits
- ✓ Faith, love, team, relationship, openness to learning
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Teamwork

Expected 'beautiful moments'

...we will stay on this journey and will not stop – conversation will include more and more in homes and neighbourhoods until we all sit together

We will overcome most challenges, and increase reconciliation and trust between families. Confidence of the community will rise, and shine in other areas (in addition to HIV)

As a community we will measure progress, pause and reflect, knowing we have done well

You are talking about the whole community knowing its own story (–Alison)

...by 2025 when we hear 'donor' we will think of ourselves and our children

...all the communities in this area standing strong on their own BUT connected







Going deeper: themes and sub-themes that matter to us

Note that each visit will add to the analysis of some or one main theme

Indicators of movement(s)

- Local community initiated action, self -assessment, and transfer;
Week 7- Kithithuni, Kenya:

Co-factors in sustaining local community movement for 13 years so far...

- Intentional facilitation of local family and neighbourhood ownership;
- home visits with all members of all groups for conversation and reflection;
- shared movement oriented leadership;
- local supportive action by all leaders in their own neighbourhoods;
- active inclusion of new team members; response to invitations from nearby communities;
- facilitation of autonomy and self directed community to community transfer...

...showing expansion of response, by families, children, youth, farmers, women, all integrated into their neighbourhood community via home and local community counseling, so that all families neighbourhood members can be 'touched'. ...

...characterised by confidence , community cohesion and harmony, home and neighbourhood reflective learning based on appreciating capacity to 'own' the future, share responsibility, participation in facilitation teams, commitment to faith and future, and hope for sustained reconciliation ...

- Invitations back home
- Community to community transfer
- Adaptable organizational strategies
- Spiritual and faith motivated initiative

Care to change

- Ownership
- Home, suffering, hope, neighbourhood
- Caring presence which motivates expanding change

Transfer

- Community to community
- Global SALT
- Leadership acknowledgment

Faith foundations

- Caring by being with
- God present in situation in grace

Facilitation team

- Organisational transition
- Discovering shared concerns with partners (common ground)
- Community as lifestyle
- Mentoring by participating

Learning from local experience (SALT)

- Humility-disposition and character
- Connecting local community and organizations
- Facilitating movements
- Based on Strengths