Background on collaboration

Ogallo-Osako Memorial Foundation (herein referred to as Ogofo), a community based organization and Suruccodep, a community based organization incorporating moral Christian teaching, currently engage in collaborations to achieve different community based goals in Western Kenya.

Currently the two organizations work on various projects geared towards economic empowerment of the local communities as well as implementation and management of various projects.

Among the different projects currently undertaken include;
- Training local farmers on the best farming methods
- Provision of fertilizers and drought resistant seeds
- Breeding and distribution of mixed breeds (local and artificial) of chicken, pigs and cows
- A pilot project on eradication of Striga weed from maize plantations
- Support of education through bursaries
- Supporting the poor and the vulnerable mainly the handicap projects
- Provision of free sanitary towel to encourage girl child education
- Positive masculinity projects targeting young boys

Other potential projects
- Sisi-hub projects, where primary and secondary school students will be trained on entrepreneurial skills at an early stage
- Turning subsistence farming into commercial farming through greenhouse techniques
- Solar energy projects
- Training of Community Health Service providers

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A. Community aspect

1. Management teams of Ogofo and SurucCodep at the field resource center in Siaya county, Western Kenya

2. Resource center in Western Kenya

3. Demonstration farms at the resource center in Western Kenya

4. Demonstration shelters for cross-breeds of chicken (chicken coops), pigs (pig sty) and cow shed.
B. Charity aspect

Through individual or group well wishers, we currently undertake various projects to support the vulnerable groups. The support mainly comes in form of the handicap projects (Ojolla small home), school fees and school feeding programs. For efficient management and care for the children, Ojolla small home is under the management of the catholic sisters

For various reasons, children are brought to the small home. The main reason however, is that to many families, handicap children are associated with bad omen, and are a sign of bad luck to the families hence many mothers abandon these children so as to save their marriages.

Once brought to the “small home”, children undergo corrective surgery, get artificial limbs and are then enrolled for basic primary education.

After the basic education, successful students are then supported through the secondary and finally tertiary education.

Unsuccessful students are supported through the vocational training institutions.

Currently more than 5 children are in secondary schools, 1 in a government college and 1 in a vocational training institute.

Rescue: In the photos, the young girl (aged 14) was rescued from her home, having been chained by the father for more than 7 years. In the middle photo, she is seen booked for corrective surgery. In the final photo, she (center) can now afford a smile!
Other activities in the “small home”

The kitchen project: The focus was to build a kitchen and multi-purpose hall for use by the children in the small home and the school. The kitchen project still needs a lot of support.

School feeding program: Through the “small home”, a school feeding program was also initiated in the nearby primary school where the children from the “small home” attend their primary school. This was meant to ensure a smooth integration between the children from the “small home” and the rest of the primary school. Over 250 children in the pre-primary school are currently benefiting from the program. The photo shows some of the children, with our supporters/sponsors.

Other initiatives:

Not every person in need of our support has to be handicap. It is in this spirit that Ogofo and SurucCodep have separately supported needy students through the years. Currently, more than 10 students have successfully completed vocational training institutions, secondary or tertiary education through our bursary programs. Others are currently in colleges or secondary schools.
CONCEPT NOTE FOR MITIGATION OF A HEALTH CHALLENGE THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CHICKEN AND EGG PROJECTS
(empowering to mitigate health challenges)

Acronym: WoChEg – Pro, 2015

Background information:
Although for a long time in Kenya women were regarded mainly as housewives, they currently undertake a number of lead roles as heads of many families/households, despite their meager or no sources of income. Besides this, they bear the heaviest burden especially during child birth or child upbringing. Currently the number of women dying due to pregnancy related complications in Kenya stands at 400/100,000 (WHO, 2014) concentrated mainly in 15 of the 47 counties in Kenya (UNFPA, 2014). Unfortunately, due to poor health seeking behaviors and lack of health insurance, only 44% of the women in Kenya deliver in the hands of skilled birth attendants (UNFPA, 2014), 43% of these delivering in health facilities (UNICEF, 2013) with the remaining 56% delivering in the hands of unskilled/no attendants. Further, adolescence pregnancy is also on the rise, with approximately 106/1000 births occurring in women aged 15 to 19 years. It suffices to note that the latter women are mainly those adolescents out of school with no major sources of income to sustain either their subsistence or health/pregnancy related needs. For this reason, Kenya is not only faced with a significant maternal mortality rate but also a significant under 5 mortality rate which stands at 71/1000 births, of which 48/1000 births will die before their first birthday (UNICEF, 2013). To address this problem, programs initiated should not only strive to empower these women financially, but also to ensure measures are put in place to guarantee their health insurance needs and trainings on positive health seeking behaviors. This pilot project will therefore aim at creating cohorts of women of child bearing ages, who will be initiated into a chicken and egg project and followed for a maximum of 3 years. The proceeds generated from the pilot project, will be ploughed back to the businesses of individual households and also used for initiation of similar programs within the counties of interest. Data generated will also be used to advise the various county governments on the viability of such projects towards achieving economic goals, as stipulated in the Kenya vision 2030.
**Target group and specifics of the project**

The initiative will target young mothers or women of child bearing age (14 to 39 years) who are out of school. This initiative would aim at training the women in the best health and entrepreneurial skills. Initially the women will be required to form groups, or the program will target the women groups. During the first phase, women will undergo a series of talks i.e. focus group discussions to identify local and immediate health and financial challenges. They will also be trained on the best way to take care of and keep cross-breed species of chicken. They will then be required to have a secure chicken coops either on their own initiatives or through the program.

Each woman will then represent a household and will be provided with up to 10 of 100 – day old cross-breed chicks.

The house-holds will be followed up during the period of chicken rearing and laying of eggs. During the laying of eggs, each household will supply the eggs in a central collection store, where each house-hold will record the number of eggs supplied on each day. Supply of the chicken will also be done in a similar manner.

**Study regions**

The projects will be carried out in two regions in Western Kenya, namely Maseno area within Kisumu county and Ugenya region within Siaya county. These two counties comprise 2 of the 15 counties worst hit by maternal mortality and under 5 plus infant mortalities. Due to local cultural beliefs, women are still under privileged in terms of education and economic empowerment. Further, high rate of poverty coupled with high prevalence of HIV infections within the 2 regions have led to an increase in the number of girls dropping out of school, as well as an increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable groups.

**Economic empowerment through the project**

For every profits generated from an egg sold, the proceeds will be distributed as follows;
- 10% will go towards health insurance through the National Health Insurance Fund.
- 10% will be saved by Ogofo-SurucCodep on behalf of the households for the education priorities of their children (from secondary/ tertiary education)

- 15% will be saved by each households in the respective groups (personal savings)

- 15% will be retained by Ogofo-SurucCodep for administrative costs as well as implementation of new initiatives.

- 20% will be ploughed back into the business or other similar businesses by the individual households.

- 30% will remain for subsistence and other developments within the individual households.

Responsibilities of Ogofo-SurucCodep to the groups
- Procuring and supplying cross-breed species of chicken
- Training of the participants/ Members
- Registering groups and administering the projects
- Identification of the market through tendering, direct marketing or market research
- Responding to any emergencies
- Supervision of the entire project

Sustainability of the projects

Members will be expected to plough back 20% of their proceeds to their individual businesses and further contribute 10% to their respective self-help groups. With time these self-help groups will be merged into saccos and as such will be able to enroll new members and offer loans to all members – loans which will be taken for different business ventures. It is expected that by doing this, the specific regions for the initial pilot studies will fully be covered and by this time Ogofo-SurucCodep will strategically withdraw from these projects.

From the 15% remitted to Ogofo-SurucCodep, 8% will be made available to administration and utility bills, whereas the 7% will be used for initiation of similar programs in other regions, or implementation of different programs within the similar regions. The final goal of such
initiatives will be to strive to bridge the gap between absolute poverty and financial and health independence.

Collaboration frame work between Ogofo-SurucCodep (Kenya) and TU Delft / TPM (The Netherlands).

This collaboration between TU Delft/ TPM (a university of Technology) and Ogofo-SurucCodep (a community based project/ program) present a unique mix. In the first instance, this mix guarantees technological and exchange of information between a developed and a developing partner, based on an intercultural exchange perspective. Secondly the collaboration present a uniqueness of transferring knowledge from a classroom atmosphere to practice in the spirit of community development, the latter providing comfort and assurance that knowledge has finally reached the goal (practice and eventual consumption).

In the first instance TU Delft/ TPM will identify potential students who shall develop proposals, with estimated time frames and budgets for the projects or sections of the projects for implementation. With the assistance of the university, the students will be expected to raise the funds for the projects or the sections to be carried out in Kenya, which includes subsistence for the students during their stay in Kenya.

On the other hand Ogofo-SurucCodep will be expected to identify the regions for the studies, mobilize the communities, lay proper groundwork for the students or their departments within the university. Eddy Odari, will be the main link between TU Delft/ TPM and Ogofo-SurucCodep. Currently working in the department of Medical Microbiology of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, as a university lecturer, Eddy Odari also serves as the director of Ogofo, and as such will be available for supervision of the projects and providing directions, if need be, when the students are in Kenya. Mr. Lawrence Njega, a German trained expert in project management for more than 15 years (mainly working for NGOs in Kenya), will be available for assistance of the students on a day to day basis. The two Kenyan supervisors are well trained and will provide adequate supervision to the students and ensure successful implementation of the projects.
Occasionally, professors from TU Delft/ TPM will be free to visit and propose other ideas as necessary. It is expected that a long term collaboration will be initiated.

**References**

