February 2016, Newsletter

Areas of focus:
- Introduction
- ADS Directors meeting
- ADS Nyanza
- What we do

Introduction.

February is usually a busy month most especially because most people now have settled into their day to day activities and is now trying to accomplish that year’s goal. As for ADS-Kenya it was not a different case. Having made it through 2015 and January, February has been a rather interesting month. We have had many activities ranging from Directors meeting to the improvement of health in Nyanza to the facilitating financial inclusion for marginalized women in the rural communities. It seems impossible until it is done. Join us as we take you through some of the activities just made our February memorable.

The ADS Directors meeting held at Chaka Ranch on 4th February 2016.

ADS Directors from all regions met on the 4th of February 2016. They were hosted by ADS Mt.Kenya. The 2 day meeting which was well attended began with a word of prayer by Ven. Isaac Wanjii. He also read the scriptures from the book of Judges11: 1-13, whereby he encouraged the team to focus on the future and leave the past behind. After that went the reports from each ADS region. Each region reported on their work. That is, what they have done so far and what they are planning to do at least for the first quarter. All regions are living the talk. They have done tremendous walk towards the community. A number of key issues made it as the agenda of the day including ADS climate change campaign.

The regions agreed to launch awareness campaigns on climate change through the Bishops. This will ensure that messages and actions on climate change will be transmitted through the church structure. In preparation to the 2017 General Elections all regions promised to be proactive in peace building. ADS should actively engage the Bishops in the peace building process. On sustainability projects, there are various value chains that have been started by the region. For Example, Honey & Chili, Consultancy services, ADS Resource Centers.

The ADS Directors at Chaka Ranch where the meeting took place on 4th February 2016.
They resolved to establish a Committee to oversee the establishment of business project for ADS. The issues addressed were in line with our strategic plan. The directors promised to work towards achieving fruitful results by engaging and supporting each other in their endeavors. There are also plans underway to open new regions to be able to carry out more mandate to the community.

The transition process for the election of the new Archbishop begun on 1st March 2016 and will close on 30th March 2016. Nominations will open on Tuesday 5th April 2016. The election college will meet on 20th May 2016. Retirement service will be on 8th May 2016. We pray to God that He will lead us through the activities before us, as it is said every great achievement was once considered impossible, so we are going to move on until we get to where we want to be.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
- His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Eliud Wabukala’s message for the Easter Holidays.
- Updates for the transition of His Grace
- Bread For the World Capacity Building on management of church assets.
- Commissioning of 5 talents microfinance approach.
- ADS MT. Kenya East Thanks giving.
Health: It is the greatest of all possessions; a pale cobbler is better than a sick king. Nyanza are living the talk of implementing strategies aimed at promoting preventive healthcare services.

The situation: Access to affordable healthcare services has been and still remains a major barrier to improved health status among most of the households in Kenya. Financing of health services is majorly through "out of pocket payments" which find most households ill prepared for such emergencies. To mitigate effect of the cost barrier to health services, ADS- Nyanza laid down strategies to strengthen and improve existing CBHF schemes. The organization had set to provide technical support in order to strengthen structures and systems of at least 5 CBHF schemes making them fully functional. The project worked with Kkwanyo scheme in Homabay County, Moro scheme in Kisumu County, Lieta, Nyagoko and Malanga schemes in Siaya County.

Intervention: The project staff participated in numerous facilitations and technical trainings in order to strengthen the structures and systems for the schemes. The first was leading public awareness activation sessions on CBHF to market the concept and create interest in joining the schemes. The staff trained schemes committees on group dynamic, scheme design, scheme risk monitoring, social marketing and scheme management. The trainings empowered the schemes committee with knowledge and skill to appropriately manage the schemes.

Result: After 3 year of facilitation, there was evidenced that most of the schemes are functional and promoting access to quality and affordable healthcare. The schemes benefit 1178 contributors and 4712 beneficiaries, up from a 471 contributors representing 60% growth. CBHF schemes model has therefore increased contributors and their dependants’ access to quality healthcare. Out of all people registered in the schemes, 76% are fully paid up and enjoy quality health care with their families resulting in improved well-being.

“Establishment of the scheme has significantly increased access to health services at Pap-Onditi Sub-district hospital. Furthermore scheme members are served fast since the facility is assured of payment for the services provided. This has improved health status of member households.” Says David Oyuga an official of Moro CBHF scheme in Nyakach Sub-county, Kisumu County.
Mothers’ Union Saving Group members debate and make decisions during a meeting.

It is said that a woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform. Access to credit is a critical determinant of economic growth for any household, however majority of rural households do not have access to credit hence suffer financial exclusion. The ADS Nyanza, with support from ERD, together with marginalized communities developed a program that would address the financial exclusion suffered by the rural poor especially women, through strengthening and expanding savings with education model.

The model proves to be effective and elicits a lot of interest among group members resulting in high contributions. ADS-Nyanza Project officers have taken over 47 groups through the training stages in Nyamira, Migori, Homabay and Siaya counties with positive results. By June 2015, the program had built the capacity of 47 women groups reaching 599 women who had a saving of Kes 1.3 million; however they had loaned out a sum of Kes 2.6 million since the beginning of the project with no default in repayment.
The groups were then taken through the full 7 training meetings on SwE. The training meetings triggered the groups into saving, a process that has been going on smoothly enabling the groups to lend out money to their group member and who then repay with interest. The SwE program has enabled the group members to initiate new businesses while others expand their businesses. Norah Jospo of Mothers Union Savings Group says "I never thought I can access credit so easily without external support, really I never knew the resources are actually with us until we were taken through than doubled from a capital of the SwE. My Matoke (green 4000 in 2 months" SwE has promoted the much needed financial inclusion which was a mirage to most community members in rural areas, especially women. The effects of the program are already evident in increased business activities in once sleepy villagesbana-nes) Business has more Kes1500 to a capital of Kes .

Several communities in Siaya, Homabay, Kisumu and Migori are transformed into busy village economies with people doing various businesses just like Masosa Village.

Saving with Education Concept
Transforming Communities’ Economies

Change story of Masosa village in Nyamira county following intervention by ieep supported by Episcopal Relief for Development

Masosa village located in Bokiambori sub-location of Nyamira County is one of the communities that recently went through capacity building in Saving with Education (SwE) and has indicated transformation in many dimensions. When the Project office (PO) from ADS-Nyanza, Mr. Steve Okello, first visited the community to carry out mobilization for capacity building on SwE, it was a glaring fact that the community’s expectation was provision of inputs and allowances, some of the community members went as far as explaining to the PO problems they faced and needed to sort out at in an attempt to get money from the PO. Following the mobilization, promotional meetings were organized during which the participants learnt that they could mobilize themselves into groups of not more than thirty individuals and could save and access loans for their development needs. Additionally, they learnt that they are to benefit from capacity building on spectrum of topics including entrepreneurship, healthy living, nutrition, issues of water and environmental conservation, advocacy as well as becoming replicators of the program. This meetings resulted into formation of three key groups; Mothers Union Savings group, Kenchinka Saving Group, Riotwori Savings group and Nyakemo Savings Group.

Mrs. Priska Nyanchama of Kenchinka saving group counts her blessings upon receiving her first disbursement of loans from her savings group. She purposes to use the funds in expanding her Kiosk Business.
WHAT WE DO:

The following six focus areas contribute to ADS Kenya’s vision and mission.

Through Community Development, ADS Kenya supports the regions in direct implementation of most of the programs focusing on the following:

- Water and sanitation.
- Health and HIV.
- Food security.
- Livelihood and Micro-Finance.
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA).

Advocacy, backed by research on emerging social challenges. ADS carries out advocacy at the national level in Kenya and also facilitate the ADS regions to engage in county advocacy. ADS Kenya engages in policy formulation, mining and extractives, peace building and citizen participation in governance.

Climate Change Adaptation, through sustainable use of biodiversity enhanced. ADS Kenya works with the ADS regions to spearhead efforts aimed at building community.

Sustainability and availability of development resources, through structured capacity building programs. ADS Kenya takes the lead in concept development, proposal writing, and joint resource mobilization for ADS regions.

Institutional strengthening and capacity development, ADS Kenya makes an effort to ensure the church and her institutions are effective and efficient in delivering her mandate. It also refocuses her efforts in strengthening any institutional gaps that may arise.

Knowledge management that will include Research, Communication and Documentation, ADS Kenya takes the lead in this area and work closely with the nine ADS Region by developing a framework for research and documentation, bearing in mind the level and depth needed for various platforms.

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“....I have come that you may have life and have it in fullness” (John 10:10)