

# NGECE RINJEU

## FOUNDATION



Partnering with and supporting Women, Youth and Children to achieve better Economic, Health and Education benefits in Kenya, Sustainably.

## **About us**

Ngece Rinjeu Foundation for Education and Economic Empowerment (NRF) is a registered Non-Government, non-profit family-sponsored foundation with an aim of empowering youth and women through education, agriculture and green-entrepreneurship. NRF was founded in the year 2001, as an education and climate mitigation focused group that supported needy children in Kenya. It was formally registered as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) under the section 10 of the NGO Coordination Act, laws of the Republic of Kenya, in 2013; 12 years after formation.

Ngece Rinjeu Foundation Promotes adoption of Clean Energy in households and cultivation of Oil crops for Energy and Nutrition by Women and Youth in Kenya for economic, social and environment gains. We work to empower women and youth to achieve economic benefits from nature as they contribute to environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The foundation was born in memory of Dr Ngece Rinjeu, a traditional doctor; whose life was focused on bettering the living standards of people in Kenya. Ngece Rinjeu's philosophy was no child would drop out of school due to poverty, hunger or disease. In his memory the foundation seeks to further his visions of education for all in Kenya and promote environmentally sustainable economic empowerment initiatives among youth and women that positively impact on the universe, and the welfare of the family unit.

NRF's vision is to contribute to the betterment of society through enhancing equal access to education and better living standards for all children and through sustainable means of economic empowerment for youth and women. The main objective and long term goal is to promote grassroots community development through building the capacity of the people of Kenya (women and youth) in green-enterprise; and providing access to education and better living standards for all children (including orphans and abandoned kids).

### **The Organisation.**

NRF has a board drawn from Kenya, Rwanda and Europe. The organization's trustee is the patriarch of the Ngece Family, while the board draws membership from professionals in the area of environment and climate change, social issues, education and enterprise. The board has five members, who have a 5 year renewable term.

To deliver its mandate the organization is structured into 4 main programmes. i.e. the Ngece Rinjeu Rescue and Empowerment Centre; the Women and Youth Enterprise Program; the Ngece Rinjeu Scholarship Fund; and the Clean Energy for Education and Health Program

In pursuit of its mandate, NRF collaborates and encourages strategic alliances with international partners, including family foundations with similar interests in the north and south. Such

alliances are to be of benefit to the youth, women and children of Kenya. The Secretariat of NRF is located in Chuka, Kenya, where programmes are implemented from. An international liaison centre is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Foundation has undertaken programs in Environment and Enterprise across Kenya and Uganda since 2001 (when it was founded) through the involvement of its Directors and Associates. NRF is concentrating efforts in Kenya and Uganda in tandem with aspirations of Mr. Ngece Rinjeu, whose agenda the foundation seeks to implement. NRF's activities are organized through 4 program areas, whose aim is to ensure a better Empowered, Economically viable and a Healthy community. The heart of these programs is children, youth and women, who form the bulk (at least 95%) of our beneficiaries.

NRF seeks to provide affordable and reliable clean energy solutions to the poor who make at least 90% population. The renewable energy initiative aims at working with women to provide free fuel source (wind and sun) for their households daily lighting and cooking. The effect of the programme to provide electricity without depleting the earth's limited resources, fostering conservation and combining traditional and alternative energy sources will be highly demonstrated.

### **NRF Management Structure**

NRF is registered as an NGO in Kenya and has 6 Directors and a Trustee. NRF's mission is to partner with, and support Women, Youth and Children in Eastern Kenya to access better Economic, Health and Education opportunities; sustainably. The organization ensures that there is representation from all genders in the board. NRF's offices are in Chuka.

### **The PROGRAMS**

#### **a) The Ngece Rinjeu Rescue and Empowerment Centre**

Through a donation of land worth USD 100,000 by the family of Ngece, the foundation is constructing a Rescue and Empowerment centre whose purpose is to provide refuge to abandoned children in Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties. The centre will also act as an Empowerment and Innovation Hub for skilled children and youth in the two counties. Construction of facilities at the centre has started thanks to donations from national and international friends of the foundation.

#### **b) The Women and Youth Enterprise Program**

By applying the Merry-Go-Round concept, the women and youth groups assess small loans and grants to engage in economic activities aimed at raising incomes to provide better education and health benefits to their families. Youth groups set-up clean energy supply and repair franchises to serve the schools and community while women groups engage in table banking. Solar lanterns and energy efficient cook-stoves are a main feature in the enterprise program.

#### **c) Clean Energy for Education and Health Program**

Through this program, whose nucleus revolves round the rural school set-up, schools and community participate in assessing and developing clean energy technologies such as solar

lanterns, small and micro-hydro projects to light the community around. Schools that have no access to on-grid lighting are able to access solar powered lighting systems so that pupils can read at night and assess basic items such as solar powered computers. By using the day-schools as the base of pyramid; homesteads around gain access to the solar powered lanterns, small and micro-hydro systems and water purification technologies at a fraction of costs. Under the programme a campaign to plant 10 Million Trees in schools has begun.

#### d) Ngece Rinjeu Scholarship Fund

The rate of school drop-out in Tharaka Nithi and Meru Counties is enormous. With support from friends internationally, the foundation set-up a scholarship fund so that all bright but financially challenged pupils are able to attend schools of their choice in the county. The fund also includes partial scholarship to the foundations Empowerment centre (for primary level education) and Detra Africa Training Institute (for tertiary level education).

#### Present achievements by NRF

The foundation supported over 450 school children and orphans with scholarships to attend schools. In 2014 school year, 52 highly needy pupils are shortlisted for scholarships with funds from family/donors. In 2015, 71 and in 2016, 41 more school children were supported.

NRF supported 23 women and 11 youth groups actualize the Merry-Go-Round concept, savings up to USD 73281 realized. The groups are now borrowing from the fund to develop agriculture and energy projects.

Three (3) Solar-Stores have also been set-up and stocked with solar merchandize. These are supplying the upcoming entrepreneurs with merchandise, and are also acting as engineering stores for repairs of faulty units. Ultimately, 19,000 solar lanterns have been distributed in 4 counties.

The organization has supplied 22,000 portable energy efficient cook stoves to families, built 7,000 fixed cokstoves, trained 650 women on manufacture and installation of cook stoves and set-up one cookstove manufacture centre.

A county-wide soccer for health league was played, bringing together over 200 teams and 100,000 spectators for training on health and entrepreneurship.

Atleast 80,000 farmers benefited from improved seeds for planting during the last 2 seasons.

Approximately 2 Million tree seedlings have been planted by the foundation through school groups, women's associations and youth groups. Five tree nurseries have been set-up, 1 of them being a training centre for other community groups on management of tree nurseries.

In partnership with NRF Milling and Processors, the organization is setting up a commercial scale centre that aims at innovatively promoting the growing, processing, value addition and marketing of indigenous, high value traditional and other food crops (incl roots, tubers, fruits, cereals and legumes) to improve health and nutrition and promote enterprise among farmers.

This will promote the growing of cassava, sweet-potatoes, arrow-roots, bananas, green grams, maize, sorghum, millet and fruits; that thrive in the region by engaging with registered farmer groups.

#### Administrative Milestones

The Inauguration of the International Board of Directors was undertaken in 2013. Two non-Kenyans joined the board (from UK and Rwanda respectively). It is expected 3 more non-Kenyans are joining the board in 2016.

NRF hired 3 qualified programme staff to run three of our programmes.

The Nairobi Liaison Office for the foundation was set up to coordinate resource mobilization efforts

#### Measuring Impact and success

NRF undertook a Causal Inference in Impact Evaluation for the program through an evaluation study; that tried to establish what results (outputs and outcomes) were produced or caused by the programs above. It also helped NRF understand the relevance of the programs, and cost effectiveness of the financial and human resource investment.

We used Stakeholder and Gender Analysis, Wealth Ranking and Mapping to identify beneficiaries (women and youth groups) of the projects by the foundation. The Participatory Rural Appraisal also helped us identify communities in the project area to benefit from the programs.

The Environment and Social Impact Assessment of our work with solar lamps and energy saving jikos is also presently being assessed; while at the same time trying to undertake our contribution to Climate Change adaptation, economic empowerment of women, children and youth and the family unit as a whole.

#### Contact Us

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