

PROJECT PROPOSAL

FOR

**ST DENIS LIBOLINA SCHOOL FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
CHILDREN**



**PROJECT TITLE: ST DENIS LIBOLINA SCHOOL PERMACULTURE FOOD GARDEN, FOR
FOOD SECURITY, ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE PROJECT.**

Submitted by: SCOPE Kenya

Submitted to: Sustainable Global Gardens (SGG)

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

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Title of project	St Denis Libolina School Permaculture Food Garden, for Food Security, Ecological and Social Resilience Project
Project Duration	January 2023 to December 2023
Project Budget	£
Project Goal	Increased capacity of St Denis Libolina school community to thrive in harmony with nature and each other, building healthy and resilient eco- food systems and livelihoods through permaculture.
Target Beneficiaries	St Denis Libolina school community
Project location	Bungoma County - Kenya

PROJECT SUMMARY

St Denis Libolina School for the physically challenged children, in Bungoma County, and the surrounding communities have been facing the challenges of food & nutrition insecurity, and biodiversity loss. With a population of 400 children, 9 teachers and 12 support staff, St Denis Libolina, a boarding school, has been facing shortage of food supply and access to adequate amount of clean water for domestic use, hence compromising the health and education of the children, noting that, the school accommodates physically challenged children with some having multiple disability.

To resolve the above problems and create sustainable solutions, to ensure children access adequate healthy nutritious food and water, and good learning environment, Sustainable Global Gardens (SGG), in collaboration with Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE-Kenya) is planning to work with St Denis Libolina school community, in implementing “School

Permaculture Food Garden for Food Security, Ecological and

Social Resilience Project in this school. This is a one year strategic intervention, starting from January to December 2023, with an objective of building the capacities of the entire school community through trainings in permaculture principles and practices, to enable them transform the one acre piece of land into a productive food forest. This will go a long way in contributing to alleviating hunger, malnutrition, poverty among parents and environmental degradation. Above all, the project will equip children with life coping skills, which they can fall back to earn a living in future.

The main activities will focus on practical permaculture training and supporting the school to establish productive food gardens, and water harvesting systems. The second component will involve supporting the school to rehabilitate pathways, and the floors, to facilitate efficient movement of pupils, specifically those on wheelchairs.

The project will enable the school to have a sustainable home grown feeding program and become a learning centre/ source of information among other schools in the county. The project implementation will also involve other stakeholders like, the government departs, Rotary club of Bungoma, and other wishers. The project will also have a monitoring and evaluation component, to assess impact in people's lives and environment.

INTRODUCTION

St Denis Libolina Primary school for the physically challenged children, is a public day and boarding school, situated in Bungoma County, Kenya. The school accommodates both physically challenged and abled children. Like other public school, St Dennis takes learners goes through the basic education curriculum. Currently the school has a population of 433 children. Out of the total, 133 are boarders, while the rest are day scholars. The school has a teaching staff of 9 teachers and 12 support staff. The school sits in approximately one and a half acre piece of land, which is underutilized. Like other public schools in the country, St Denis school is under funded by the government. It is therefore unable to provide quality and quantity amount of food to the children, construct adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities, as well as installation of water storage facilities, for domestic or gardening use.

Schools and Colleges Permaculture Programme (SCOPE-Kenya), is a local development Organization, which promotes education for sustainable development through permaculture practices in schools and communities. The organization was started in 2015 and has a governance structure comprising of Management Board with 7 members, National Coordinator, staff and volunteers. The office is located in Ruiru, St Francis Catholic church hall, 25 kilometers from Nairobi.

SCOPE Kenya's mission is, to transform schools into dynamic learning centres of sustainable land use in support of holistic community development.

In the last five years, SCOPE Kenya has trained a total of 2,500 learners, 100 teachers, over 200 parents and 18 community development facilitators from 16 schools in 13 counties. As a result, 12 schools have managed to redesign and transform their degraded, dusty land into greener landscapes with nutritional food gardens, producing 40% of their food requirement, which supports the feeding program.

BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM STATEMENT.

In Kenya, agriculture is an important source of food and livelihood for most Kenyans. It is the mainstay of household and national economies, and foundation of the industrial sector and a leading source of employment. Unfortunately, for many years, the country's agriculture sector has always been underfunded and therefore unable to support agricultural extension services and research.

In Kenyan education system, agriculture has been used as a form of punishment for children who break school rules. The worst scenario is that, agriculture is not included in the primary school curriculum as a subject, and in secondary schools, it is an optional subject. The education system is biased to theoretical learning, promotes linear thinking, as it is about preparing children for formal employment, at the expense of equipping them with knowledge and practical skill for self-reliance. Children in schools spend most of their school time in classrooms, hence remain disconnected from outdoor environment/nature and lacks opportunity for innovations, creativity and development of problem solving skills.

The livelihoods of communities in Bungoma County fully depends on agriculture activities. 95% of the farmers depends on rain-fed agriculture for food and livestock production. Due to lack of adequate knowledge in farming among farmers, inadequate access to farming inputs and erratic rainfall seasons, communities living around St Denis Libolina School, has been facing low food production. To meet their daily needs, majority sell all the little food produce from their farms for income, hence, left with no food to sustain them throughout the year. This situation has led to increased hunger, high poverty levels and inability to provide quality education for their children. This makes it difficult for St Denis School's management, to efficiently run the school and provide children with nutritious healthy meal, considering that the school is under funded by the government.

Like other public schools in Kenya, St Denis Libolina School for the physically challenged children has land that is not fully utilized, to meet their social economic and environmental needs. The school has a feeding program supported by parents and other well-wishers. However, following the high rate of hunger and poverty in the region, majority of the parents are not able to pay the required amount of Ksh 1500 to support the feeding program. The head teachers said, *“Children who opt to take lunch from home, usually run home during lunch hour break and unfortunately comes back empty stomach, as they find no food at home”* she also said that *“parents with physically challenged children, normally dump them at the gate and walk away without paying even a single shilling for their upkeep”*. Therefore, empowering the entire school community by equipping them with knowledge and practical permaculture knowledge and skills, value addition and management of natural resources, and facilitating them establish nutritious food forests, will go a long way in enabling the school and surrounding communities be in control of their food system, hence reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition and nature degradation.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

The St Denis Libolina School Permaculture Food Gardens, for Food Security, Ecological, and Social Resilience Project is justified by the fact that,

1. Access to quality health food and living in clean environment is a fundamental human right. This is not the case in St Denis Libolina School. This project is designed to provide, sustainable nature based solutions, towards the current social, economic and environmental problems.
2. St Denis Libolina School is endowed with resources e.g. one acre piece of land, which is currently bare, and can be used for food production. What they lack is the technical capacity in mobilization and sustainable utilization of local resources. Empowering these communities with knowledge and practical skills in permaculture is spot on in healing the soil, enhancing food and nutrition security; and addressing
3. Permaculture activities in this school are in line with the new Kenya education curriculum (*Competence Based Curriculum-CBC*), which requires children to participate in outdoor practical activities like gardening, compost making, and tree planting. Therefore, the will create good learning environment project will contribute to improved academic performance among children
4. SCOPE Kenya has implemented similar projects in other schools in the past. Therefore, the organization has wealth of experience, hands on skills needed during the implementation of the proposed project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION.

St Denis Libolina Permaculture Food Gardens, for health, environmental conservation, and life skills Project, is a two year intervention, targeting to benefit children, teachers, support staff, parents and neighbouring communities in Bungoma County. The project has an overall goal of, increasing the capacities of schools and communities to thrive in harmony with nature and each other, building healthy and resilient ecosystems and livelihoods through permaculture.

All project beneficiaries will be taken through intensive trainings in practical permaculture practices, to improve their capacities, to influence mindset change and enhance their participation in the utilization of available local resources, grow diversity of healthy food crops, fruits, culinary herbs and medicinal plants, as they restore, conserve and manage the ecosystem.

For successful implementation, participation, ownership and sustainability of the project, SCOPE Kenya will use a holistic and participatory management process, which will bring together pupils, teachers, parents, local leaders and surrounding communities towards a common purpose. At the onset of the project, a team of 30-50 people (children, teachers and parents) will be taken through the intensive onsite permaculture training, for them to become Trainer of Trainers (TOTs). Permaculture clubs will be formed through which implementation and management will be done

During the trainings, the school community will redesign and develop model permaculture design/farm layout for their school ground, which will guide them in establishing an integrated production systems

The training content will include,

- Farm layout/design methods, zones & sectors.
- Soil fertility
- Water and landscapes
- Land preparation techniques/earthworks
- Establishment of diversity food crops with emphasis on local, drought resistant crops.
- Establishment and management of nurseries/seedbed
- Gardening practises
- Integrated pest and diseases management
- Waste management, recycling & re use
- Seeds harvesting, extraction and storage
- Integration of trees in the landscape (agroforestry/alley farming)
- Food processing/value addition and preservation.
- Monitoring and documentation.

The project will facilitate the school to establish a tree nursery and plant over 500 tree seedlings. This mainly be fruit trees, agroforestry trees, medicinal and indigenous trees. This will increased the production of edible fruits, grow trees for energy (firewood) and other fodder trees. Some Children will also be given tree seedlings to plant at home during school holiday. The extra seedlings will be sold to parents and other interested parties, to generate income for sustaining the project after the funding period.

Food produced from this gardens, will be supplied to the school kitchen to support the feeding program. In case of any surplus, food will be distributed to most needy children to take home, while a small percentage will be sold to teachers, to generate income for use in buying seeds among other farm inputs. Small livestock (chicken, ducks and rabbits), which do not require large spaces will be integrated, for their important roles in the permaculture system.

OBJECTIVES.

1. To build the capacity of a minimum of 400 pupils, 9 teachers, 12 support staff and 60 parents, to enhance their knowledge and practical skills in sustainable land use, for production of nutritious food, income generation and management of natural resources, through permaculture practices by the end of the project.

Output 1: 480 school community members in St Denis Libolina have improved their capacity and skills to work and apply permaculture principles and practices in their school farms and own farms.

2. To establish a model permaculture design school gardens with diversity of a minimum of 10 food crops, fruits, herbs and medicinal plant varieties, to support and sustain the school feeding program in St Denis Libolina primary school for the physically challenged children, by the end of the project

Output 1: A well-established model school food forest/premature design gardens with diversity of nutritious food crops, supporting the school feeding program.

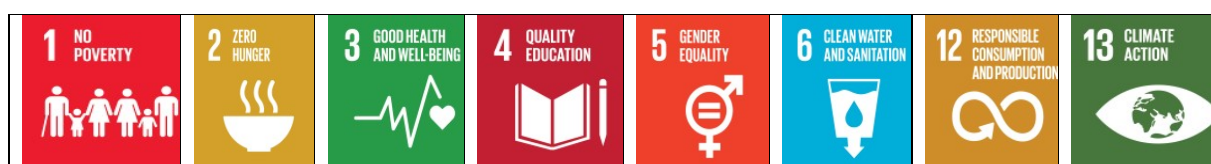
2: 50% of the parents participating in the implementation of this project, will adopt and have well established household permaculture design gardens with diversity of food crops, for own consumption.

The expected project outputs.

1. Well-established model permaculture designed food forests (planted with a diversity of food crops, fruit trees, herbal and botanical gardens with soil and water conservation measures in place).

2. Well managed tree nurseries in the school and at the community level.
3. Knowledgeable and highly motivated pupils, teachers and parents.
4. Functional feeding program, with 50% of vegetables & fruits sourced from the school garden.

The one year project will start in January and end in December 2023. SCOPE Kenya will coordinate the entire day to day implementation, internal monitoring and documentation, while Sustainable Global Gardens, will carry out the external monitoring and reporting to the donors. Local communities are expected to contribute local resources (Labour, local seeds/planting materials, raw manure, tools & equipment) during the implementation. Successful implementation of this project will contribute to the realization of Kenya's vision 2030 (government development blue print) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs),



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Conduct a project sensitization, planning & design meetings with the school management.
2. Mobilize pupils, teachers and parents to form a permaculture club in the school
3. Conduct 10 days intensive permaculture training for pupils, teachers and parents (TOTs).
4. Conduct monthly onsite trainings/follow ups to provide technical support during implementation process.
5. Establish soil fertility management measures in the school (swales, cover crops, vetiver grass)
6. Establish nutritional/ model garden in the school
7. Installation of water harvesting and storage facilities. (Water tank, earth water pan, swales).
8. Establish a tree nursery with emphasis on fruit and agroforestry trees
9. Organize school open day in the school, to showcase good land use practice/permaculture among surrounding schools, communities, stakeholders e.g. government departments, hence advocate for rolling out of the project to all other schools/learning institutions in the county.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Increased knowledge and skills in permaculture practices among target beneficiaries
2. Improved utilization of bare school land for production of food, fruits & herbs
3. Improved access to adequate nutritious food and water among pupils and teachers.
4. Positive mindset change towards agriculture and land use among the school community
5. Increased tree cover and biodiversity
6. Improved working relationship and interaction between the school and surrounding communities (pupils, teachers and parents), hence improve transfer of permaculture knowledge, and increase the uptake to the community level.
7. Reduced cases of malnutrition and stunted growth among children.
8. Improved behavioral change towards waste disposal and management the school.
9. Increased learning opportunities in the school hence academic excellence among pupils.
10. Increased resilience against climate change among schools communities.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To measure the progress in project implementation, impact in people's life and environment, monitoring and evaluation will be a very important process in this project. The project will have an internal participatory monitoring process, conducted by the beneficiaries and SCOPE Kenya; and an external one done by Sustainable Global Gardens (SGG). The implementing organizations will,

1. Develop monitoring tools with clear indicators and outcomes against each objective.
2. Take project site pictures of before, during and after implementation, to track down the transformation process of the schools landscape.
3. Document project details through monthly, mid-year and annual reports.
4. Carryout end of project evaluation to assess the achievement and impact of the set objectives

The transformation we are looking for.



1: St Margret School before the project

2: St Margret School after the project after implementation

PHOTO GALLERY OF THE SCHOOL.



The Head teacher St Denis Libolina school



Pupils and teachers of St Denis Libolina school



Parents participating in project sensitization and planning Meeting organized by SCOPE Kenya



Parents and pupils of St Denis Libolina together with SCOPE Kenya in a tree planting exercise during project planning meeting in the school