



CIVS INTERNATIONAL WORKCAMPS – 2025

**JOIN US FOR AN
AMAZING EXPERIENCE**



ABOUT CIVS

CIVS Kenya is a community development agency operating especially in the marginalized and poverty-stricken rural and urban areas of Kenya. We work with local Kenyan communities in order to help them realize their full potential through various projects we organize in different parts of Kenya.

We achieve this aim through its two program areas: International Voluntary Service (IVS) and Community Development

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is designed for people who want to participate in making a real difference in the fight against poverty and work with the local people to realize the much needed development. We organize short term, medium and long term and Weltwärts project attachments throughout the year for volunteers for them to offer their services as they learn, gain exposure and experience.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CIVS has established 3 functional Community Resource Centers in Ahero, Awach and Awasi, areas classified among the poorest regions in Kenya. We offer capacity building programs to the local people with focus on Food Security, Water & Sanitation, Vulnerable Children & HIV/AIDS, Vocational Training in ICT, Early Childhood Education, Good Governance and Emergency Relief in order to mitigate the effects of hunger, environmental degradation, diseases and mismanagement of public resources.

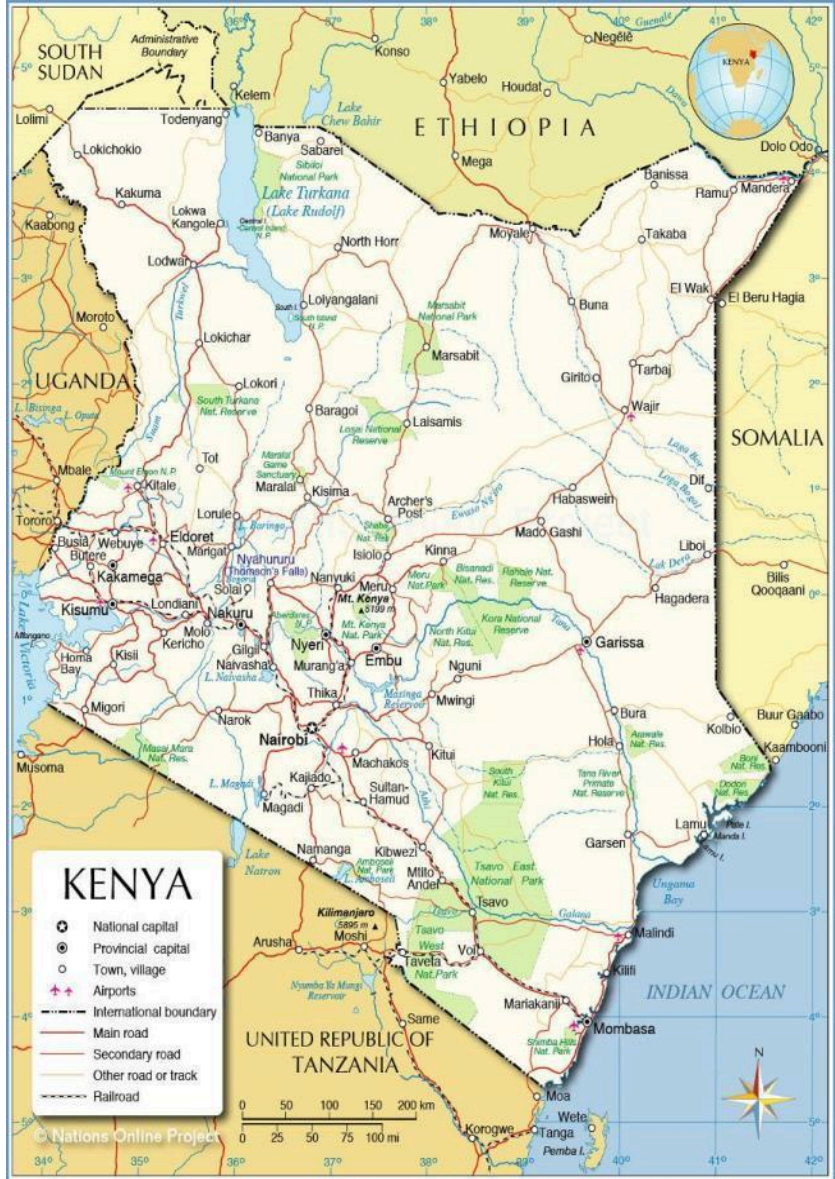


Our ECDE and ICT Programs

We have established an Early Childhood Development and Education Program where we provide free education and day time meals to about 150 children who are either orphans or vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and other socio-economic challenges. This has enabled us retain more children in school that could have otherwise turned into school drop outs or street children.

We also offer training in computer ICT and work preparedness to the local youth in order to prepare them for the competitive job market and improve their ICT skills.

ABOUT KENYA



Name Origin: Named after Mt. Kenya by Kikuyu community
Capital: Nairobi
President: William Ruto
Total area: 571,466 km²
Currency: Kenyan Shilling (KES)
Geographical features: Equator, Great Rift Valley, Mt Kenya and Longonot, Victoria and Nakuru, Indian Ocean
Climate and weather: Changes by location and time
Urban population: 28%
Food: Ugali, Githeri, chapati, nyama choma, mukimo etc
Official Language: English, Swahili
Population (million): 47.6 M
Location: Eastern Africa
Calling Code: +254
Notable sites: Maasai Mara, Tsavo, Diani beach, L. Nakuru flamingos, Mt. Kenya
Counties: 47, Biggest is Turkana and smallest is Mombasa
Culture: Diverse among different tribes

Volunteering with CIVS will give you an amazing opportunity to explore Kenya during your mission. You will discover a new culture, the people, animals, beautiful landscapes, and local food.

WELCOME TO KENYA!

GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

CIVS workcamps host between 8 to 20 international volunteers from different countries who come together to assist a local community with projects. Volunteers are 18 years of age or older while others may be under 18 years but have parental consent written to CIVS. Volunteers prepare meals, work, and relax together and with the local community. Living conditions are often simple and work can be strenuous but fun and rewarding.

Our camps are hosted by local communities and projects. We assign an experienced local facilitator to introduce volunteers to the local environment, help them adapt faster, and act as a point of contact between them and the local community.

VISA APPLICATION

All travellers to Kenya need to apply **Electronic Travel Authorisation (eTA)** The official link for eTA application is <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>. ETA processing can take up to 3 days but if it takes longer, then usually there is an error on the side of the application and the immigration department will contact you by email. CIVS will offer assistance in case of a problem. The ETA certificate is valid for 3 months and can be extended for 3 more months upon expiry. Please note visa application costs USD 34

ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT

We will pick up all volunteers taking part in our workcamps from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or sometimes from Kisumu Airport upon request by the volunteer. CIVS will arrange accommodation before and after the workcamp in a host place that is about 1 hour drive to and from the airport.

WHAT TO CARRY

Volunteers are required to carry the following items for the workcamps: mosquito net, torch/flashlight, toiletries, first-aid kit, sleeping bag, sandals, sleeping mat, working gloves, and sunscreen. In addition to those, volunteers can also carry the following items for interaction purposes: pictures of your country, old clothes that are no longer in use, toys, books, pens, etc.

LANGUAGE

English is the main language in the workcamp. There will be a possibility of learning Kiswahili and other local and international languages as cultural diversity is a major component in international service.

CAMP FEES

Volunteers participating in our workcamp projects will be required to pay **300 Euros**. This cost will include:

- Airport pick up upon arrival & Airport drop off after the workcamp
- Up to 3 nights' accommodation before or after the workcamp
- Introduction to Kenyan life through a Nairobi City Centre Tour before the workcamp
- Workcamp Orientation at the CIVS office in Nairobi or the workcamp site
- Food (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Workcamp facilitation and mentoring of volunteers by an experienced workcamp leader
- Certificate of participation for the volunteer
- All administrative and camp preparation costs

The Participation fees do not cover the following:

Excursion activities, local travels to and from the workcamp, leisure costs, personal effects, needs and wants, visa, food and upkeep of local community.

TOURS AND SAFARI

CIVS organizes safaris to all the spectacular National Parks and touristic sites in Kenya, with the main attraction being Maasai Mara Game Reserve. Volunteers who wish to go on a safari should apply at least two weeks before arrival to enable us to make proper arrangements. The safari dates are as indicated in the workcamp program and the fee charged is all-inclusive of meals, transport, park entry, accommodation and tour guiding. The cost of a 3 days safari to Maasai Mara National Reserve is 620 USD.

NOTE: More of this information will be available in our specific project info sheets that we will send before your arrival.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT CIVS	2
ABOUT KENYA	3
GENERAL INFORMATION	4
TABLE OF CONTENTS	6
CIVS/STV-01/2025 – MASOGO RESOURCE CENTRE	7
CIVS/STV-02/2025 – MIKONO PAMOJA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	9
CIVS/STV-03/2025 – COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS-VIRHEMBE	11
CIVS/STV-5/2025 – COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CODEP)	13
CIVS/STV-06/2025– HAPPY ME HAPPY YOU CHILDREN PROJECT	15
CIVS/STV-07/1/2025 – BADILISHA ECO VILLAGE	17
CIVS/STV-07/2/2025 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE	19
CIVS/STV-08/1/2025 – COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS-VIRHEMBE	22
CIVS/STV-08/2/2025 – MIKONO PAMOJA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	24
CIVS/STV-09/2025 – MARIANNE CENTER FOUNDATION	26
CIVS/STV-10/2025 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE	28
CIVS/STV-11/2025 – ESIKOMA COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT	31
CIVS/STV-12/2025 – NYAHERA COMMUNITY PROJECT	33

CIVS/STV-01/2025 – MASOGO RESOURCE CENTRE

Project location	Masogo Village, Kisumu County of Kenya
Orientation date	03 th January from 10.00 am
Start and end dates	04 th – 23 th April
Safari dates	24 th January -26 th January 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to development
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

The Masogo Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2019 with an aim to build and strengthen the community's capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources to develop the community

The Center has been collaborating with the local community in various development fields through diverse capacity-building programs support and services they offer. The center provides a community hub for access of free training in computer skills especially to the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology.

Additionally, the Centre has a Model Farm which is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation.

NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering and harvesting
- Assisting in training of computer skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center

- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, and garbage disposal point

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at a host house in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-02/2025 – MIKONO PAMOJA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project location	Rodi in Homabay County
Orientation date	7 th Feb from 10.00 am
Start and end dates	8 th – 24 th February
Safari dates	25 th -27 th February
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Development
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Mikono pamoja community development project is located in Rodi Homabay County. ‘Mikono pamoja’ means holding hands and it is based on the notion of people working together to do more. The project was started to help improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people including the youth, kids, widows, and the old. The main economic activity in the project region is farming and fishing.

Homabay County is among the counties in Kenya with high HIV prevalence, especially among the youth. This is somehow attributed to inadequate exposure to the outside world and a lack of employable skills. In addition, teenage pregnancies are on the rise among girls. The introduction of simple life skills could help reduce infection rates and teenage pregnancies. Life skills can also be extended to children when they are still younger to help them mature into responsible adults.

Old people mostly stay alone in the village since children have moved out to urban areas to seek employment. In some families, the old are widowed and therefore life has become a bit difficult for them. They have to bring water from the river and do other chores by themselves. The shelters are also not in good condition. This project presents an opportunity for volunteers to work with the local people, and learn the Luo culture as the people also learn from them.

NATURE OF WORK

- Farm work which involves weeding, digging, and planting maize, beans, and vegetables
- Assisting in fetching water from the river or the tap.

- Engaging in sports activities as well as playing with the children
- Assisting in grazing domestic animals
- Digging farms and as well as harvesting for the old, widows, and the project farm
- Organizing life skill sessions in schools around the area with the children

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at a host family in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Rusinga hills, Mafangano Islands and Tom Mboya Mausoleum., Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-03/2025 – COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS-VIRHEMBE

Project location	Virhembe Shopping Center, Shinyalu, Kakamega County
Orientation date	Friday 07 th March
Start and end dates	08 th -29 th March
Safari dates	04 nd - 06 th March
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Health and Environmental Conservation
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Community Health Volunteers (CHV) Virhembe is a community-based organization established in 2006 by Kenyan volunteers operating within Kakamega East District. The organization is situated at Virhembe Market and focuses on fighting HIV/AIDS and other health issues. The mission of this CHV is to spearhead implementation of community health and conservation projects in order to create a better life for communities in Western Kenya.

The organization pursues the aim of expanding capacities of the community in regards to dealing with HIV/AIDS. It seeks to design and implement quality HIV/AIDS interventions, as well as to support people living with HIV/AIDS by increasing access and improving the quality of healthcare and referral services for them through increased linkages with the Ministry of Health. The group also aims to promote safe sexual behavior and practice among youth and vulnerable groups. Community Health Volunteers in collaboration with DANIDA built a community hospital that is providing access to health in the entire area around the Kakamega rain forest. The hospital had wards, clinician consultation rooms, laboratory pharmacy and delivery room. The hospital has both paid staff and volunteers to provide medical services to patients.

NATURE OF WORK

- Assisting the local people to make bricks as a form of income generation
- Jiggers' eradication and treatment in local schools and in the homes

- Preparation of tree nurseries and planting new trees
- Home visits to community members and exchange programmes in local schools
- Distribution of sanitary towels to needy children in schools
- Volunteers with medical qualifications can assist in the dispensary

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be in a house closer to this workcamp and it is important that you have your own sleeping mat and a sleeping bag. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Drinking water is available but it is advisable to either boil or medicate the water before consuming. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening nature walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit Lake Victoria, and to view the equator line sign. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-5/2025 – COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CODEP)

Project location	Sagalla, Voi Constituency, Taita-Taveta County
Orientation date	9 th May 2024
Start and end dates	10 th – 29 th May
Safari dates	6 th -8 th May
Camp Theme	Environmental Conservation and Social Work
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Community Empowerment Development Project (CODEP) is located in Coastal Kenya in Sagalla, Taita-Taveta County. CODEP is a new project that has been started to empower the local communities to improve living standards in areas of agriculture, education, water, shelter, and environmental conservation.

Sagalla, located in south-eastern Kenya experiences a semi-arid climate, characterized by hot and dry conditions especially during the long dry seasons. The temperatures can often soar, and precipitation can be scarce. However, some highland areas exist, where the climate is more temperate, offering cooler temperatures and more favourable conditions for agriculture. This climatic variation creates distinct environmental challenges and opportunities for the conservation of plants and animals.

Conservation efforts in Sagalla are vital to preserve the rich biodiversity of the region. The county is home to several unique and endangered species, including the Taita Hills Weaver bird found nowhere else in the world, and the Taita Hills Purple Granular Frog which is critically endangered. To conserve these species, it's crucial to protect and restore their habitats. Afforestation and reforestation initiatives can help combat deforestation and soil erosion, safeguarding critical ecosystems. Moreover, implementing sustainable agricultural practices and promoting wildlife-friendly land management can strike a balance between human needs and wildlife conservation.

Community engagement plays a pivotal role in the conservation of Taita Taveta's natural resources. It's essential to work closely with local communities, providing education on the importance of conservation to the community. Volunteering in this project will help you learn the local culture, learn new skills in agriculture and permaculture, gain experience of coastal rural life setting, make a positive impact on the environment and the community, and make friendships with the people.

NATURE OF WORK

- Farm work: weeding, digging, and planting
- Fetching water from the local reservoirs
- Planting, watering and caring for trees in homesteads
- School visits: Participate in Sports activities, teaching, mentoring, playing and preparing meals for kids at local schools
- Renovating houses for the old
- Carrying out cleaning activities around their compound and locality
- Assisting the local's elderly with their daily chores like cleaning and cooking
- Control invasive plant species, care for native plants and monitoring rare species at the local farms

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Kenyatta Caves in Wundanyi, Wray Memorial Museum, Trip to Mombasa and a game drive at Tsavo National Park. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-06/2025– HAPPY ME HAPPY YOU CHILDREN PROJECT

Project location	Banja, Hamisi Vihiga County
Orientation date	5 th June 2025
Start and end dates	6 th – 27 th June 2025
Safari dates	2 nd June-4 th June 2025
Camp Theme	Supporting orphans and vulnerable children
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

‘Happy Me Happy You’ is a non-profit organization that was established in 2017 to empower children women, youth and men from vulnerable and poverty-stricken backgrounds to realize a sustainable community focussing on key areas of Education, Water, Health and Sanitation and Agriculture to improve their livelihood.

The organization is strongly focused on offering Early Childhood Development and Education to vulnerable children. It also runs a feeding program for needy children affected by hunger.

The project is working towards beginning to be involved in the following activities:

- Training small-scale farmers on modern/best farming practices to maximize their productivity, realize potential market and increase sales
- Training the community stakeholders on new technology trends through ICT to help them research, get informed and
- Training the community on financial management and leadership skills to enable them plan and budget well for their finances.
- They engage the community in table banking - a system that enables members of a community to access unsecured loans, from money pooled by other members of the community, and allows community members to invest in each other’s businesses and enterprises where members can apply for short- or long-term loans at low-interest rates.

NATURE OF WORK

- Assisting with teaching of various subjects such as Creative Arts, English, Basic Mathematics in the nursery school
- Assisting the children with their homework
- General cleaning and maintenance of the project area and its surrounding: bush clearing, litters collection, making a disposal point, sweeping, landscaping, construction repairs and brick making.
- Planning and engaging the kids in extra-curricular activities like sports and games
- Engaging in health education and mentorship programs to the youth within the community alongside project staff
- Farm work which includes farming, digging, planting of various crops, weeding and tree planting exercise for environmental conservation

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at a shared house closer to the project in this workcamp and it is important that you have your own sleeping mat, mosquito net and a sleeping bag. This area is sometimes muddy therefore it's important to have working boots. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening nature walks, home visits, cultural meetings, and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit Lake Victoria, Kisumu Museum, the Crying Stone, the equator line, and a general tour in Kisumu city. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for an early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-07/1/2025 – BADILISHA ECO VILLAGE

Project location	Rusinga Island, Homabay County of Kenya
Orientation date	4 th July 2025
Start and end dates	5 th – 21 th July 2025
Safari dates	22 th - 24 th July 2025
Camp Theme	Permaculture and conservation
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Badilisha means “change” in Swahili. Badilisha Eco Village aims to bring change to the lives of people on Rusinga Island, who face challenges such as food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, lack of education among other pressing issues. It also seeks to inspire change in the general paradigms of local population towards a more holistic and responsible way. Badilisha Eco Village promotes permaculture farm design techniques and ethics: Earth care, people care and share of surplus. It is a model farm, or epicenter, for both sustainable agriculture and holistic community development. Badilisha successfully hosted a Permaculture Development Course in March 2011 and aims to become an International Permaculture Centre. There is a primary school also within the project that was established with an overall objective of providing education to the children around the community.

NATURE OF WORK

- Formwork activities like digging, planting crops, weeding etc
- Preparation of tree nurseries
- Seedlings distribution and tree planting in local schools and homes
- Controlling soil erosion on the Rusinga Hill
- Playing with local Children
- Weeding, slashing and clearing of bushes
- Beach clean-up exercises to improve sanitation and hygiene around the community

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at a host house in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Rusinga hills, Mafangano Islands and Tom Mboya Mausoleum., which are not far from project Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-07/2/2025 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE

Project location	Ahero Junction, Kisumu County of Kenya
Orientation date	11 th July 2025
Start and end dates	12 th – 29 th July 2025
Safari dates	8 th -10 th July 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to Development
No. of volunteers	15

PROJECT PROFILE

The Ahero Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2009 with an aim to build and strengthen the community's capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources, to develop the community and generate income. The Center has been collaborating with the local community in various development fields through diverse capacity-building programs support and services they offer. Agriculture is the main activity of the project but. The programs include:

The Model Farm: This is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation. This project encompasses greenhouses, open farm, poultry unit, fish ponds, etc. The harvest is sold in the local markets and the proceeds used as a source of income that sustains the activities of the center.

Early Childhood Education Program: The center runs a kindergarten with about 90 children aged between 2-6 years who are either vulnerable to poverty, orphans, infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. The children get free education and meals at the school. In the evening they go back home where they stay with their caregivers or guardians.

ICT, Work Preparedness, and Business Training: The center provides a community hub for access to free training in computer skills and work preparedness, especially for the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology. Work preparedness training prepares them to be viable in the job market by improving their skills and competency for employment. The center has partnered with other stakeholders to provide Business training to the local people which is enabling them to start small business ventures to generate income.

Water and Sanitation Program: This project is focused on the treatment of tap water to become clean and safe for all domestic use in the community. The water is therefore connected in homesteads and sold at an economy-friendly and affordable fee as part of the income-generating activity for the center. The centre is also equipped with comprehensive rainwater harvesting infrastructure to fully utilize the short and heavy rains experienced across the area.

Community advocacy program: The center has a training and events hall which provides a space for holding community-based open forums on a regular basis. The program enables the community members to directly engage with their community or political leaders and raise the issues and concerns affecting them. In turn, leaders directly respond and put approach measures to act upon the arising issues and concerns. This promotes active citizenship.

Feeding Program: Occasionally, the center runs a feeding program for a select group of needy children during school days by offering breakfast and lunch. This helps to improve the concentration of the children in the class, to motivate them to attend to school and also helps to improve their nutritional health. The efficiency of the program depends on the availability of food and support resources.

Cassava Value Addition: CIVS has set up a cassava processing and storage facility which also previously served as a training section for agricultural value addition. Additionally, the project has installed a bakery facility where nutritious cassava cakes and bread are prepared to boost the children's feeding program and generate income for the project. The bakery operates only on demand and availability of the raw materials.

Smart Ladies Program: The center has a training facility targeting only women and girls. The program has sewing machines and machines for making reusable sanitary towels. From time to time, young girls meet here to learn about sexual and sanitary health education, education of cloth making and the production of reusable sanitary towels. They also produce soap detergents and disinfectants.

NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering, harvesting and packaging.
- Maintaining and feeding the domesticated animals: rabbits, chicken, geese, turkey
- Assisting in cleaning the sheds for the domesticated animals
- Assisting in teaching the kindergarten pupils at Learn and Play Day Care basic subjects such as English, drawing, Environment Science and Creative Arts
- Assisting in training of computer and work preparedness skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center
- Organizing games and extra-curricular activities for kindergarten children as well as playing with them.
- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, repairing connecting water pipes in the greenhouse, and garbage disposal point

The work may change from time to time depending on the availability of individual programs at a particular time for example school holidays etc.

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-08/1/2025 – COMMUNITY HEALTH VOLUNTEERS-VIRHEMBE

Project location	Virhembe Shopping Center, Shinyalu, Kakamega County
Orientation date	Friday 04th August 2025
Start and end dates	05 th -26 th August 2025
Safari dates	1st – 03rd August 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Health and Environmental Conservation
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Community Health Volunteers (CHV) Virhembe is a community-based organization established in 2006 by Kenyan volunteers operating within Kakamega East District. The organization is situated at Virhembe Market and focuses on fighting HIV/AIDS and other health issues. The mission of this CHV is to spearhead implementation of community health and conservation projects in order to create a better life for communities in Western Kenya.

The organization pursues the aim of expanding capacities of the community in regards to dealing with HIV/AIDS. It seeks to design and implement quality HIV/AIDS interventions, as well as to support people living with HIV/AIDS by increasing access and improving the quality of healthcare and referral services for them through increased linkages with the Ministry of Health. The group also aims to promote safe sexual behavior and practice among youth and vulnerable groups. Community Health Volunteers in collaboration with DANIDA built a community hospital that is providing access to health in the entire area around the Kakamega rain forest. The hospital had wards, clinician consultation rooms, laboratory pharmacy and delivery room. The hospital has both paid staff and volunteers to provide medical services to patients.

NATURE OF WORK

- Assisting the local people to make bricks as a form of income generation
- Jiggers' eradication and treatment in local schools and in the homes
- Preparation of tree nurseries and planting new trees

- Home visits to community members and exchange programmes in local schools
- Distribution of sanitary towels to needy children in schools
- Volunteers with medical qualifications can assist in the dispensary

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be in a house closer to this workcamp and it is important that you have your own sleeping mat and a sleeping bag. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Drinking water is available but it is advisable to either boil or medicate the water before consuming. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening nature walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit Lake Victoria, and to view the equator line sign. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-08/2/2025 – MIKONO PAMOJA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Project location	Rodi in Homabay County
Orientation date	14 th August 2025 from 10.00 am
Start and end dates	11 th August – 31 th August 2025
Safari dates	11 th -13 th August 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Development
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Mikono pamoja community development project is located in Rodi Homabay County. ‘Mikono pamoja’ means holding hands and it is based on the notion of people working together to do more. The project was started to help improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people including the youth, kids, widows, and the old. The main economic activity in the project region is farming and fishing.

Homabay County is among the counties in Kenya with high HIV prevalence, especially among the youth. This is somehow attributed to inadequate exposure to the outside world and a lack of employable skills. In addition, teenage pregnancies are on the rise among girls. The introduction of simple life skills could help reduce infection rates and teenage pregnancies. Life skills can also be extended to children when they are still younger to help them mature into responsible adults.

Old people mostly stay alone in the village since children have moved out to urban areas to seek employment. In some families, the old are widowed and therefore life has become a bit difficult for them. They have to bring water from the river and do other chores by themselves. The shelters are also not in good condition. This project presents an opportunity for volunteers to work with the local people, and learn the Luo culture as the people also learn from them.

NATURE OF WORK

- Farm work which involves weeding, digging, and planting maize, beans, and vegetables
- Engaging in sports activities as well as playing with the children

- Assisting in grazing domestic animals
- Digging farms and as well as harvesting for the old, widows, and the project farm
- Organizing life skill sessions in schools around the area with the children

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at a host family in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Rusinga hills, Mafangano Islands and Tom Mboya Mausoleum., Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-09/2025 – MARIANNE CENTER FOUNDATION

Project location	Kamirithu Village, Limuru, Kiambu County of Kenya
Orientation date	5 th September 2025 from 10.00 am
Start and end dates	6 th – 27 th September 2025
Safari dates	2 th -4 th September 2025
Camp Theme	Supporting young adults with mental disability
No. of volunteers	15

PROJECT PROFILE

Marianne Center Project is a training center for young people with disability. The training center is established in 2008 to focus on the (young) adults from the age of 16 till 50 years. The center wishes that mentally disabled people in Kenya have the same opportunities and inclusion in the society. The center has proven to be an innovative project that improves the lives of many mentally challenged people through education and information in order for them to live life and live it to the full! The project is offering activities including gardening, cooking, baking, housekeeping, computer training, carpentry, beadwork, tailoring, and arts and crafts. Other activities at the center include a nutrition program, events where students showcase their talents, open days and other awareness activities.

People with a mental disability are often associated with black magic and witchcraft. Families tend to hide children with a mental disability out of shame or despair. Often they lock their children in their homes and, as has been reported by the Down Syndrome Society of Kenya and the Kenya Society for Mentally Handicapped, sometimes even in cages. As a result, instead of positively being engaged, a person with a mental disability is often confronted with negative attitudes right from birth, like isolation, rejection and even abuse. Most people with a mental disability have a mild to moderate mental retardation. However, they can learn and are capable of developing skills throughout their lives.

Such people however have a wide range of talents that can be discovered at any moment in their younger age. One of the major shortcomings of the current educational system for (young) adults with a mental disability is that they are too old to be enrolled in a primary school, but

mentally not capable to attend a normal secondary school. Establishing a training center for this group therefore gives them and their parents hope for a better future. This is where Marianne Center come in to bridge the gap. The project mission is to empower people with a mental disability and enable them to become more self-reliant, fully integrated and accepted members of society.

NATURE OF WORK

- Taking part in the teaching of various subjects (mathematics, language, writing, drawing, gardening, sewing, beadwork, computer skills and cleaning)
- Organizing extra-curricular activities
- General maintenance and cleaning of the centre
- Provision of guiding and counselling services to the students
- Farm work
- Assisting in the kitchen: cooking, cleaning dishes, feeding

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers can visit Lake Naivasha, Hells Gate, which is about a 1-hour drive from the project.

CIVS/STV-10/2025 – AHERO RESOURCE CENTRE

Project location	Ahero Junction, Kisumu County of Kenya
Orientation date	8 th October 2025
Start and end dates	9 th October – 30 th October 2025
Safari dates	5 th October-7 th October 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to Development
No. of volunteers	15

PROJECT PROFILE

The Ahero Community Resource Center is a project that was initiated by CIVS in collaboration with the local community in 2009 with an aim to build and strengthen the community’s capacity to be self-reliant and to improve their living standards. The Centre achieves this by demonstrating how to utilize the locally available resources, to develop the community and generate income. The Center has been collaborating with the local community in various development fields through diverse capacity-building programs support and services they offer. Agriculture is the main activity of the project but. The programs include:

The Model Farm: This is an agricultural-based unit that offers space for practical-oriented training in the field of agriculture and Agri-Business. This provides the community with an opportunity to learn how to carry out various best farming operations and practices of various crops to maximize food production and improve food security and income generation. This project encompasses greenhouses, open farm, poultry unit, fish ponds, etc. The harvest is sold in the local markets and the proceeds used as a source of income that sustains the activities of the center.

Early Childhood Education Program: The center runs a kindergarten with about 90 children aged between 2-6 years who are either vulnerable to poverty, orphans, infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. The children get free education and meals at the school. In the evening they go back home where they stay with their caregivers or guardians.

ICT, Work Preparedness, and Business Training: The center provides a community hub for access to free training in computer skills and work preparedness, especially for the youths. This enables them to have increased ICT knowledge and exposure in the evolving world of technology. Work preparedness training prepares them to be viable in the job market by improving their skills and competency for employment. The center has partnered with other stakeholders to provide Business training to the local people which is enabling them to start small business ventures to generate income.

Water and Sanitation Program: This project is focused on the treatment of tap water to become clean and safe for all domestic use in the community. The water is therefore connected in homesteads and sold at an economy-friendly and affordable fee as part of the income-generating activity for the center. The centre is also equipped with comprehensive rainwater harvesting infrastructure to fully utilize the short and heavy rains experienced across the area.

Community advocacy program: The center has a training and events hall which provides a space for holding community-based open forums on a regular basis. The program enables the community members to directly engage with their community or political leaders and raise the issues and concerns affecting them. In turn, leaders directly respond and put approach measures to act upon the arising issues and concerns. This promotes active citizenship.

Feeding Program: Occasionally, the center runs a feeding program for a select group of needy children during school days by offering breakfast and lunch. This helps to improve the concentration of the children in the class, to motivate them to attend to school and also helps to improve their nutritional health. The efficiency of the program depends on the availability of food and support resources.

Cassava Value Addition: CIVS has set up a cassava processing and storage facility which also previously served as a training section for agricultural value addition. Additionally, the project has installed a bakery facility where nutritious cassava cakes and bread are prepared to boost the children's feeding program and generate income for the project. The bakery operates only on demand and availability of the raw materials.

Smart Ladies Program: The center has a training facility targeting only women and girls. The program has sewing machines and machines for making reusable sanitary towels. From time to time, young girls meet here to learn about sexual and sanitary health education, education of cloth making and the production of reusable sanitary towels. They also produce soap detergents and disinfectants.

NATURE OF WORK

- Working in the Model Farm: tilling the land, planting crops, applying manure, weeding, watering, harvesting and packaging.
- Maintaining and feeding the domesticated animals: rabbits, chicken, geese, turkey
- Assisting in cleaning the sheds for the domesticated animals
- Assisting in teaching the kindergarten pupils at Learn and Play Day Care basic subjects such as English, drawing, Environment Science and Creative Arts
- Assisting in training of computer and work preparedness skills to the Youth at the projects ICT center
- Organizing games and extra-curricular activities for kindergarten children as well as playing with them.
- Maintenance activities at the center: collecting litter, landscaping, construction repairs, cleaning the halls, slashing the weeds, painting the walls, repairing connecting water pipes in the greenhouse, and garbage disposal point

The work may change from time to time depending on the availability of individual programs at a particular time for example, school is not available during school holidays (April, August, November and December).

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at the project in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food. Safe drinking water is available through out. Alternatively mineral drinking water can also be purchased from the nearby shops.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-11/2025 – ESIKOMA COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

Project location	Esikoma, Bumala Busia County
Orientation date	8 th November from 10.00 am
Start and end dates	9 th – 30 th November 2025
Safari dates	5 th -7 th November 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting community Health
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

Esikoma Community Health Project was established by the Esikoma Community Health Self Help Group, which has been in existence since 2016. The project has constructed a community hospital which is now offering health services to local community since November 2022. The hospital comprises of doctor’s consultation rooms, pharmacy, patients waiting bay and temporary wards. An inpatient maternity facility with operation room is almost complete and will begin working this year.

The Self Help Group is comprised of volunteers operating within Busia County, with the mission of spearheading implementation of community health, environmental projects and development programs. The group focuses on Health and community development and other health related issues.

The group is engaging in activities like providing medical services, Jiggers eradication program, creating tree nurseries and planting trees, Health Education in local schools and Distribution of sanitary pads to schools. The profit generated from selling of the trees is channelled to the hospital project.

NATURE OF WORK

- Assisting the local people to make bricks as a form of income generation
- Jiggers’ eradication and treatment in local schools and in the homes
- Preparation of tree nurseries and planting new trees

- Home visits to community members and exchange programmes in local schools
- Distribution of sanitary towels to needy children in schools
- Volunteers with medical qualifications can assist in the dispensary

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be at a host family in shared rooms and it is important that you have your own sleeping bag and mosquito net. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.

CIVS/STV-12/2025 – NYAHERA COMMUNITY PROJECT

Project location	Nyahera, Kisumu County of Kenya
Orientation date	26 th November from 10.00 am
Start and end dates	27 th November – 17 th December 2025
Safari dates	23 rd November -25 th November 2025
Camp Theme	Promoting Community Resource Center as a means to development
No. of volunteers	10

PROJECT PROFILE

The Nyahera Community Project, established by Bengi Investment Group (BIG) in collaboration with the CIVS Kenya, serves as a hub for business development, community banking, sustainable agriculture, and environmental conservation. The center's flagship project is a model farm designed to showcase innovative technologies and approaches for community development. This initiative emphasizes the cultivation and processing of Indigenous African Vegetables, herbs, fruits, fish, insects, and agroforestry. The model farm also promotes vertical gardening to maximize space usage and eco-friendly farming practices. The center offers hands-on training for farmers, entrepreneurs, and the broader community while providing opportunities for both international and local volunteers to engage in meaningful community work.

Nyahera, like many rural communities in Kisumu County, faces several socio-economic and environmental challenges. Limited access to business skills, modern agricultural techniques, and financial services, coupled with declining biodiversity, negatively impacts local livelihoods. To address these challenges, the Nyahera Community Resource Center was established to provide solutions through education, technology transfer, and community-driven development. The model farm serves as a demonstration and training facility for local farmers, small business owners, and students, highlighting practices in sustainable agriculture, business development, and environmental stewardship.

The model farm comprises the following sections:

- Cassava Demonstration Farm: A field dedicated to showcasing improved cassava cultivation techniques, including propagation, pest management, and post-harvest processing.

- Indigenous African Vegetables: Cultivation of a variety of traditional African vegetables, demonstrating their nutritional value and potential for commercialization.
- Herb Garden: A space dedicated to growing medicinal and culinary herbs, educating the community about their health benefits and uses in value-added products.
- Fruit Orchard: An orchard showcasing sustainable fruit tree farming, with varieties such as mangoes, avocados, and citrus fruits.
- Fish Farming: A small aquaculture system demonstrating sustainable fish farming techniques and offering training in fish breeding, pond management, and water conservation.
- Agroforestry: An integrated agroforestry system combining trees, crops, and livestock for environmental sustainability and enhanced soil fertility.
- Vertical Garden: A demonstration of urban and peri-urban agriculture techniques using vertical gardening to maximize limited space and improve food security in urban and peri-urban settings.

NATURE OF WORK

- Agriculture and Farming: Engage in day-to-day activities on the model farm, including planting, weeding, harvesting, and processing of crops such as Indigenous African Vegetables, herbs, and fruits.
- Community banking and Business Development: Assist in establishing and training community savings groups, as well as supporting local entrepreneurs through mentoring, business plan development, and market research.
- Environmental Conservation: Participate in environmental conservation projects, such as tree planting, agroforestry, and setting up vertical gardens for urban and peri-urban agriculture.
- Educational Workshops and Training: Facilitate or assist in conducting training sessions for local farmers, community members, and students on sustainable agriculture, business development, community banking, financial literacy, and environmental management.
- Marketing and Communications: Help promote the activities of the center by assisting with digital marketing, content creation for social media, or documenting the center's success stories for outreach purposes

ACCOMMODATION, FOOD AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Accommodation will be in host families at the project in shared rooms and it is important that they have own sleeping bag and mosquito nets. During the workcamp, volunteers will get food from locally available foodstuffs and will share the responsibility of preparing the food.

In this workcamp, volunteers will have a chance to do evening walks, home visits, cultural meetings and games. During weekends, volunteers can visit the Lake Victoria, and the equator line. Volunteers will also have the opportunity for early morning visit to Kakamega Rainforest, hike on the forest hill and witness a sunrise from the forest hill. Leisure activities' costs are not included in the participation fee.