

**Proposal 13: Replication of the Siongiroi Dairy Development Project**

Submitting MGs / CSOs	NGO: Heifer International (HI)
Country of Implementation	Kenya
Agro-ecological context	Semi-arid dryland
Duration and Total Budget	3 years, \$ 1,780,000

**Success indicators:**

- Milk productivity increase
- No. of business management system instituted
- No. of HIV/AIDS patients with improved nutrition
- No. of jobs created

**Partners to be engaged:**

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, African Breeders Service, Total Cattle Management, Siongiroi Dairy Farmers Co-op Society, and farmer self-help groups.

**Major groups (MGs) concerned:**

- NGOs
- Indigenous Peoples
- Farmers
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Children and Youth
- Local Authorities

**Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Increased agricultural milk productivity and greater efficiency of marketing systems for 12,000 food-insecure farmers in Cheranganyi Hills, 1200 farmers in Siongiroi and 3000 farmers in Makueni. The project also seeks to improve nutrition of HIV/AIDS-affected persons through increased availability of quality goat milk, improved farm and natural resource management, and development of private extension services in the three locations. Impact on MDGs 1,3, 4 and 7.

**Proposed Objectives and Approaches**

- Increase milk productivity of cows and dairy goats.
  - Establish small-scale goat milk processing units and strengthen the farmer organizations that will own the dairy facilities, as well as develop efficient marketing systems through the establishment of milk cooling centers and the creation of market linkages with milk processors and input suppliers.
  - Develop business management systems appropriate for these enterprises and train the staff and directors of milk cooling and processing centers on business management to enhance sustainability.
- Community-based sustainable development approaches such as organization of self-help groups and cooperative societies; community training and performance of feasibility study as requested by farmers.

**Building upon Experience**

HI started its operation in Kenya in 1981. In 1996, activities started with milk marketing and strengthening of farmer organizations. This was done with milk collection and chilling centers in Siongiroi. The sale of milk from the plant today facilitates the payment of over Ksh. 6 million to local farmers on a monthly basis. Their herds now produce quality milk and the plant currently receives over 500 tonnes of milk monthly. The installation of collection centers has been completed, training is on-going and milk marketing programs have been put in place. HI Kenya will use lessons learned from implementing the Siongiroi dairy project. One of the lessons learnt in Siongiroi is that well planned and executed development programs where farmers are involved from the start have a higher chance of succeeding.

**Major Group Inputs**

Major group inputs include capacity building of communities in sustainable farming technologies and natural resources management along with financial and institutional support. The NGO and partners will bring in expertise and new technology in animal production, community mobilization, enterprise development and organizational management.