

# The Sharing Way Annual Project

## Hunger for Change; Environment for Life

### **Together We Can Tackle Climate Change in Kenya**

Written by: Ruth M. Munyao  
TSW Team, Kenya

In the last two decades, Kenya has witnessed notable changes in climate and this has resulted in reduced productivity potential exacerbated by failed and erratic rainfall patterns. Areas that once produced enough food for their people are becoming more and more dependent on relief food, with dwindling food reserves at an alarming rate. There is widespread vulnerability and instability in the livelihoods of smallholder subsistence farmers, a problem further exacerbated by continuing processes of land degradation. Kenya greatly depends on its natural resources utilization and in agriculture, where more than 80% of the rural people practice subsistence farming for their livelihood.

Any efforts to tackle climate change, however small it may seem, will make a big difference in contributing to the resilience of environment and the economy. Extreme drought is increasing and higher temperatures are causing a higher rate of evaporation. Thus ecosystems are changing and drastically affecting the livelihoods of many.

The Africa Brotherhood Church runs a Development Program in partnership with The Sharing Way and together they have been in the forefront to fight against climate change threats. This has been through advocacy on sustainable agriculture, sound and effective water management schemes. To date, 38 community groups have received training on sustainable agriculture and water use, who despite the prevailing dry conditions have raised 150,000 tree seedlings every year in the effort to promote forestation. One such community group is ABC Thange, a group situated at Kibwezi, one of the arid & semi arid areas in the Lower Eastern Kenya. The group has raised 50,000 seedlings and at the onset of the rains each member planted 500 seedlings in their farm while the surplus was sold to neighbours. The Sharing Way has assisted Thange group to access water from a river 4 kilometres away, through the provision of pipes and the building of 2 storage water tanks. Terracing to prevent soil erosion has been a common practice and in years to come, the area will receive good rains due to the improved micro climate and also enjoy increased yields from the conserved soils.

As a result of the partnership between The Sharing Way and the Africa Brotherhood Church, rural communities came together to build weirs (stone walls) across small seasonal rivers and after a period of 2-3 years a remarkable difference has been felt within the microclimate of the area. This has raised the level of ground water and farmers have dug shallow wells and accessed water for their domestic and agricultural use. Coupled with the transfer of skills through training, communities in the area have been able to turn small farms into viable economic ventures from which their families can be fed and profits made.

The Sharing Way and the Africa Brotherhood Church are committed to continue the fight against this tremendous threat and together we will tackle climate change in Kenya.