

Sustainable Joint Ventures & Women's Empowerment



Goals of Today's Presentation

- To present one model of women's empowerment involving Diaspora African women (African & African-American) & African women on the Continent
- To offer a vision of how successful international joint ventures can build capacity, leadership, sustainability and reliability.
- To share knowledge and lessons learned from 10 years of reciprocal international interaction, joint venture development and implementation.

Components of Cultural Reconnection

- Cultural Reconnection Missions
- The Institute for Cultural Reconnection
- African American Kenyan Women's Interconnect (AAKEWO)

Purpose of AAKEWO

- Action arm of Cultural Reconnection Missions

- Support Joint Ventures with Kenyan women

- Establish/Strengthen ties & build relationships with African people & African land

- Contribute to reversing the conditions that led to cultural disconnection for women in the diaspora



Why Sustainable Joint Ventures?

- **Joint Ventures:**
 - Are a natural progression of participating in a CRM
 - Launch efforts that delegates feel passionate about
 - Are a source for identifying & securing support for joint-venture initiatives with Africans
 - Are one method of empowering ourselves & others by putting our money together to benefit our brothers & sisters in the Motherland
 - Provide opportunities to get more than we give even when it appears that the opposite is true

SJV Criteria

- **We select joint ventures that:**
 - Have a custodian
 - Be sustainable
 - Build capacity
 - Promote positive images of Africa & Africans
 - Empower people of African descent
 - Have ability for AAKEWO to help bring to fruition
 - Focus on the overall well-being of the people of Africa
 - Provide more opportunities for cultural reconnection
- **Joint ventures may:**
 - Involve education & caring for children, their families & their environment
 - Enhance economic development

Rubric

- Developed by the Institute for Cultural Reconnection
- Assessment tool used to
 - Identify & promote best practices
 - Determine what is/will be successful
 - Ensure consistency in evaluating proposals for proposed SJVs
- Serves as a culturally competent lens for SJVs



**SAMPLE
SUSTAINABLE
JOINT
VENTURES**

40-foot Container



- Community-building effort
- Deepened connection with delegates & with Kenyan collaborators

40-foot Container

- Medical Supplies for Okiki Amayo Clinic
- Books for
 - 1 Regional Library (Wene Ndalo in Nyanza Province)
 - 6 Public Schools in rural Nyanza Province
 - Women's Center in Kibera Slum



40-foot Container

- **60,000 Books for**
 - To establish Wenendalo Memorial Library in rural Nyanza Province, Karachuonyo District
 - Libraries for 6 rural schools
 - Ombogo Girls Academy Library
 - Women's Group Headquarters in Kibera Slum (Nairobi)



Alta Brim Orphanage Home

40 children

- 200 chickens
- 2 cows, 1 calf
- Water tank
- Septic system
- Toilets & Showers

- Lessons learned



Kanyamfwa Village

- With Duong'a Women's Group
- Harambe for 18 water tanks + 40
- Tent & chairs for fund raising



Kanyamfwa (Village) School Harambe

- Water tank
- \$4,000 for Secondary School Text Books
- Funding to build lunchroom
- Library books from the container



Ombogo Girls Academy

- Scholarship Endowment Fund
 - Individual Contributors: \$500 lifetime
- Personal supplies (sanitary, toiletries, etc.)
- Pen Pal Program



Our Model Requires That We...

- Connect with existing African organizations
- Build on-going relationships with people who have good track records
 - Women's Groups
 - Community activists
 - Individuals
 - Elders
 - NGOs
- Visit joint ventures sites annually; they know we are coming back; they look forward to seeing us

Joint Ventures That Make Sense For Us

- Technical Assistance
- Textbooks & school supplies
- Medical supplies
- Libraries
- Water tanks
- Dormitories
- Solar energy
- Computers & internet access



How People Support Our Work

- Fundraisers
- Private donations
- Sponsor an AAKEWO presentation at work, community organizations or clubs
- Co-sponsor a joint venture (e.g., MLK Baptist Church)
- Involve youth groups in working on a project while learning about Kenya
- Become an AAKEWO contributor
- Employer donor matching

Call 206.722.4400 for more information



Asante sana

- Thank you very much!

--The women of AAKEWO

The 75 women who have traveled to Africa
on Cultural Reconnection Mission