

FOOD SECURITY PROPOSAL. [Pilot project]

Project title; **USE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN KENYA.**

Implementing organization; Young social scientists

ABSTRACT/ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food security is deteriorating for households throughout Kenya. The UN World Food Program (WFP) says a 50 percent rise in food prices in Kenya since the start of 2008 has led many people to drastically reduce their daily diets. Food security has decreased for normally food secure households in Rift Valley, Nyanza, central and western Kenya provinces, following the adverse effects of the post election crisis since late December 2007, which disrupted production and trade and displaced farmers, business persons and casual laborers.

Over 50% of the food consumed by households is produced by peasant farmers who own small farms. These farmers were the hardest hit by the political crisis, followed by the sharp rise in cost of farm inputs such as fertilizers and seeds. Most of the large scale farmers were also affected by these problems and left most of their land unplanted. It is likely that overall national production will be compromised by heightened production costs.

The Young social scientists a locally based NGO, is proposing to implement a project that will help in enhancing food security in Kisumu rural constituency of Nyanza province.

The immediate objectives of this initiative include;

Teaching the local farmers the technique of using solar dryers to preserve fruits and vegetables, to train local carpenters to be able to manufacture simple solar dryers using locally available materials and to create awareness in the community.

The young social scientist in collaboration with the agricultural extension officers, will organize a total of 24 seminars/workshops/demonstrations in the project area, over a period of one year. Women groups, youth groups, individual carpenters, farmers and secondary school students will be targeted.

This will ensure that vegetables and fruits are available for families to eat during the coming dry season that goes from December to March. Normally there are plenty of vegetables and fruits during the rainy season but this community has not yet adopted methods of preserving these foodstuffs for later use. Malnutrition is therefore common within the community once the rains stop. This problem, put together with the ongoing food crisis in the country, may lead to a full blown famine in the near future if not addressed.

The Young social scientists is therefore looking for a willing partner who will stand with us in implementing this project, which if successful, will be duplicated in other parts of the country.