



Humanity Growth & Development Agency (HGDA)

ORGANIZATION PROFILE 2015

Contact Data, Development Philosophies and Management Practices

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2	Acronym	HGDA
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6	Year of Establishment	July 2010
7	Upgraded/Registration Number	OP.218/051/13-0202/9046
8	Vision Statement	HGDA yearns for a pastoral community that is peaceful, healthy, self-reliant and responsible for its own development agenda through access to equal resources and opportunities.
9	Mission Statement	To apply and promote human rights based approach to community development and self - reliance- be they economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.
10	Objective	Working together with marginalized and underserved children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.
11	Core Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionalism • Respect for human rights • Gender sensitivity • Efficient and inclusive service delivery • Accountability • Transparency
12	Strategic Focus Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) • Peace Building and Conflict Management • Health and Nutrition • Democracy and Human Rights • Microfinance/Entrepreneurship Skills Building

Organization Background

Humanity Growth and Development Agency (HGDA) was established as a grassroots self-help group in 2010 by a multi-gender group of like-minded individuals some from Mandera county and others from other parts of the country to serve alongside the poor, underserved and oppressed, focusing on those who are most vulnerable and also to complement the efforts that the government at the time and other stakeholders were making to address development challenges in the region which is classified as Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL). The main focus then was protection and support to orphans and vulnerable persons in Mandera East District. However, over time HGDA encountered multi-pronged challenges such as inter-clan clashes, effect of climate changes and poverty related issues. As a result of these emerging issues, HGDA was upgraded to NGO status to accommodate her expanded mandate and employs an integrated approach to mitigate these challenges.

HGDA has since grown in its services and scope as a national relief, development and advocacy NGO focusing her work in the following thematic areas: Education, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Peace Building and Conflict Management, Health and Nutrition, Democracy and Human Rights, and Microfinance/Entrepreneurship Skills Building with current presence in the larger Sub-Counties of Lafey and Mandera East and a fully functional field office in Mandera Town as well as a resource mobilization and coordination office in Nairobi. We incorporate appropriate themes in our development interventions including; Partnership, Gender, Environment, Natural Resources Management, Climate and HIV.

Governance

HGDA is managed by a diverse Board of Directors while day to day activities run by professional staff with deep experience in national development, project management and innovative perspectives on better ways to help more pastoralists. An Oversight Committee is in place to check effective implementation of projects. For maximization of impact and reach, HGDA works with volunteers from the communities targeted and embraces collaboration and networking with other key actors. HGDA staff are as passionate about transparency in its work as it is about helping pastoralists who are poor, underserved and marginalized build their own solutions and take ownership of their future.

Organization's Area of Work

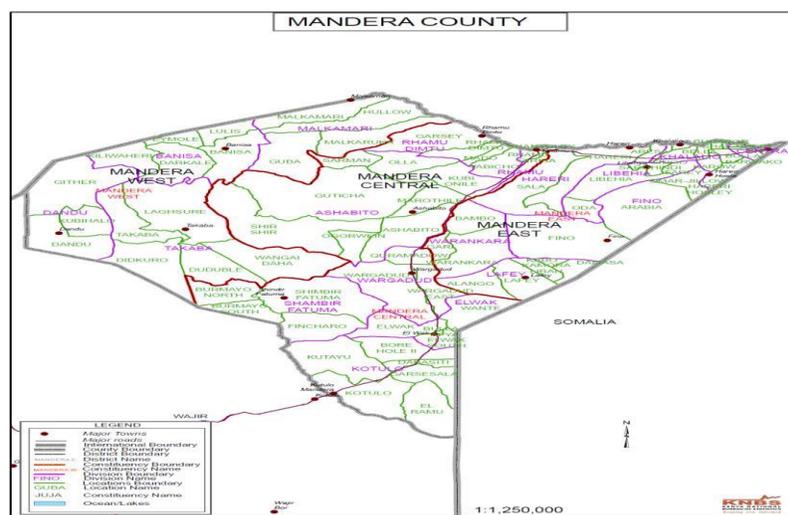
Mandera County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya, located in the North Eastern part of Kenya and borders Ethiopia to the North, Somalia Republic to the East and Wajir County to the South. It is about 1,100km from the capital city of Nairobi by road. The county has an approximate population of 1,025,756 and covers an area of 25,991.5 km.

The County is administratively subdivided into six Sub Counties namely Mandera West, Mandera South, Banisa, Mandera North, Mandera East and Lafey and further to 30 administrative wards.

The region is characterized by harsh climatic conditions, unreliable & unpredictable weather patterns and general remoteness with the populace commonly exposed to frequent natural disasters more so droughts. Other problems include high levels of unemployment & illiteracy; weak leadership/governance structures; inadequacy of social services & infrastructure; inadequate safe water and sanitation services; severe food insecurity; low income levels and insufficient natural resource management know-how, hence wanton environmental degradation. In general, the pastoralist system has come under a variety of threats in recent times, making the lives of those who depend on it extremely vulnerable. Chief amongst these threats include a historical failure by conventional development perspectives to consider features of pastoral production system; competition from different land-uses e.g. game parks, sedentary settlement has taken substantial amounts of land from pastoral land use & increase in the frequency of armed conflict, severity of droughts and climate change. This situation is exacerbated by inadequacy of requisite skills, knowledge and capacities that would enable them to diversify their sources of livelihoods beyond livestock keeping;

Humanity Growth and Development Agency (HGDA) aims to contribute towards changing this situation by enabling the pastoralist communities it works with to plan and drive their own development agenda through promoting sustainable management of their natural resources, influencing policy and practice in pastoralist areas and strengthening local community structures. HGDA hopes that this will enable them manage their own development i.e. decide their own priorities, influence policy development, design local strategies to better manage conflict and drought in their area as well as be able to better work in partnership with government, private sector, NGOs and other related development actors. This attempt takes cognizance of the fact that many development initiatives in pastoral areas have ignored the views of pastoralists and undermined traditional institutions, resulting in them becoming passive recipients of development and aid. HGDA hopes to contribute towards reversing these trends.

Map Showing HGDA’s Geographical Areas of Implementation



Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS 2013)

Networking and Collaboration

HGDA partners with like-minded organizations especially through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and who share values and vision that promote sustainable development, emergency response and inclusive development for the marginalized and underserved populations in Lafey and Mandera East Sub-Counties.

This is achieved by holding extensive consultations with the community, County Government and key partners whenever a project is about to be designed and during the entire implementation phase. To maximize reach and impact, HGDA aligns its work to respond to and comply with government developmental instruments (such as Vision 2030), community focus, regional vision as well as global development targets (such as MDGs).

HGDA Past and Current Activities

Past and Current activities undertaken include:

1. Training youth and women in entrepreneurial skills as well as income generating activities



- establishment of commercial kitchen gardens
- establishment of water "kiosks";

Thanks to HGDA entrepreneurship skills building, each year over 500 rural pastoralists are better able to earn a decent living for themselves and their families with skills and linkages to seed capital. They are better protected from unforeseen financial problems due to ill health or poor harvest, they are better skilled in business and marketing techniques and better able to manage their

own finances.

2. Advocacy on peace and conflict management

HGDA believes that for Mandera County to achieve holistic development, peace must prevail among its population. Through our conflict transformation platform, we strengthen the capacity of local Community Based Organizations (CBOs), local peace structures and the County Government of Mandera reduce incidences of violent conflict in targeted areas and ultimately advance peace in the entire county. Other activities include:

- initiatives such as natural resources for peace,
- trauma and psychosocial healing,
- community security and safety.
- early warning and response
- sports for peace
- dialogue for conflict transformation;



3. Awareness creation and promotion of education



- training of madrasa teachers for integrated education;
- provision of health education, sanitary towels and underwear to girls
- provision of books
- sponsorship for orphans through individual and corporate sponsors

4. Promotion of democracy and human rights

HGDA works with marginalized pastoralists who lack resources, education or influence to exercise their voice through education, networking, coalition-building and advocacy. Our tools and strategies connect people with their County government, enable them to track their activities and efficiency, and give communities a voice in policy-making and priorities. Likewise, HGDA also engages directly with the County government of Mandera and relevant ministries to devise ways to share information, decisions, plans and progress reports with communities. To this end, HGDA nurtures positive County-community engagement based on inclusiveness, responsiveness, transparency and accountability. HGDA's emphasis on partnership cultivates grassroots support for reform by encouraging collaborative efforts between local civil society organizations; businesses; and County government. These networks build broad-based constituencies whose voices command attention.



5. Championing community health rights



Safe motherhood project aimed at reducing maternal, neonatal and under five morbidity and mortality in line with the County Government and health sector performance targets to compliment the achievement of MDG 4 and MDG 5. The project achieved the following results:-

- increased community awareness and involvement in improved maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) and nutrition services
- increased coverage and access to community MNCH and nutrition services
- increased capacity and quality of government MNCH and nutrition services especially mother and child health due to among other factors cultural challenges;

6. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Under this thematic area, HGDA focuses on strengthening governance for resilient and sustainable management of WASH services and water resources, in addition to institutionalizing catalytic models of sustainable service delivery. In response to the drought emergency response in Mandera County, HGDA has designed and implemented a number of WASH projects whose aim is to improve access to water and sanitation facilities for the communities affected by the drought including:



the communities affected by the drought including:

- rehabilitation of dilapidated boreholes
- school hygiene activities and rain water harvesting.
- water trucking to water insecure communities,
- water point's rehabilitation
- behavior change communication (BCC)

Risk Management

HGDA has put in place effective management, administration and financial systems for operations and accounting for funding. Specifically; Overall risk management framework; Organization level and financial risk matrices; County / partner risk matrices. Further, HGDA carries out audits at the end of every project and depending with individual donor requirement; External, Internal / System or Expenditure Acquittal.

HGDA Strategic Focus Programs (2013-2017)

For the calendar period 2013-2017, HGDA shall concentrate its efforts in six major strategic program areas, both programmatic and institutional. These will include the following core areas:

1. Education
2. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
3. Peace Building and Conflict Management
4. Health and Nutrition
5. Democracy and Human Rights
6. Microfinance/Entrepreneurship Skills Building

Note: Partnership, Gender, Environment, Natural Resources Management, Climate and HIV shall be mainstreamed into all the above strategic programs and institutional development areas.

HGDA Organizational Structure

