



Investing in Kenyan Co-operative Development for Education, Health, and Economic Vitality

Highlights of 2025

In 2025, KKFC continued our work in Kenya, supporting a variety of projects in Agriculture, Education and Health Care.

Agriculture: Our Extension Officers are providing advice and support to more than one thousand small-scale dairy farmers who produce milk for our Cooperative Dairy Development Project.

Education: Many young children are attending our Early Years programs in Ngong, a slum area near Nairobi, and in Cherangany, a remote rural area in western Kenya. We are delighted to have started a similar program in the village of Puan, in the Maasai Mara region. These three Early Years programs provide basic nutrition and give students a strong start to their education. Support from our Canadian donors also makes it possible to offer scholarships so that impoverished students can attend school.

Health: Our KAX (X-ray imaging) project began in 2024 and continues to provide advanced imaging services to an underserved rural community in western Kenya. This project has greatly increased access to diagnostic services for patients, improving their overall health.

Introducing our guest writers

Marie McNabb and her husband, Ken, have been Ontario dairy farmers for 35 years. They met KKFC director Karen Galbraith and her husband, Steve Dolson, while attending the University of Guelph many years ago. Marie worked at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food as an agricultural consultant and also served on the board of directors for Gay Lea Foods. We hope you enjoy Marie's article about her trip to our Cooperative Dairy Development Project in Cherangany.

Dr. David Small, a pulmonary physician based in Montreal, together with his wife Linda, a special needs educator, traveled to Kenya in June 2024 where they met Dickson Kereto. We are pleased to share an article written by David explaining how that trip and meeting Dickson has led them to work with KKFC to help Dickson's Puan community. David has also become very involved in supporting our X-ray project and is a regular participant in our monthly X-ray project zoom calls.

Brandy Jeruto is an X-ray technician working at the Village of Hope Hospital in western Kenya. She writes about her experience working with our KKFC volunteers, staff at KA Imaging, and patients at her hospital.

Brandy Jeruto – A key part of our KAX project

Brandy graduated in December 2023 from the Kenya Medical Training College in Mombasa, with a diploma in radiography and imaging. When she first arrived at the Hospital in August 2023, the only imaging service they offered was ultrasound. In the summer of 2024, Brandy received hands-on training directly from Karim Karim, CTO (chief technology officer) of KA Imaging. He was in Kenya to install KA Imaging's Reveal X-ray system. Since that time, Brandy has become an integral part of the project. She leads monthly Zoom meetings with our team in Canada. We are pleased that she is able to share her unique perspective on how this project is changing lives in a remote part of Kenya.

Medical Imaging brings Hope – by Brandy Jeruto

Our patients often need to hire a motorbike and travel over rough roads to get to the Village of Hope hospital as it serves a large area in western Kenya. This presents a challenge to them, as even paying 500 Kenyan shillings (approximately \$5.00 Can) for transportation is difficult. Prior to the KAX project, we had an old fixed-position X-ray machine. There were many challenges with the machine as it broke down frequently. Often a patient would be on the table for 30 minutes or more because the exposure kept on failing. We were very limited and unable to do things like a lumbar or a pelvis X-ray, or even a chest X-ray for a large patient. We would often need to send patients even farther away, which was even more expensive and frustrating for them.



Installation of the X-ray equipment from KA Imaging, which is portable and digital, has been life changing for the Village of Hope Hospital. It has also reduced my stress. With the new KA Imaging machine, I just position the patient and within seconds, the images appear on the screen. In less than 5 minutes, I'm done and the quality is amazing!

In our first year operating this new system, we have seen a total of 2,027 patients who have received 2088 X-rays. Of these, 51.9% were male, 48.1% female and 3.7% were children under 5 years of age.

Last month our patients received images for various conditions:

- Chest & Thorax (43)
- Shoulder Girdle (8)
- Abdomen (3)
- Spine (17)
- Skull (3)
- Pelvic Girdle (15)
- Upper Limb (32)
- Lower Limb (49).

Taking X-ray Imaging on the Road



My hospital is located along the busy Kenya Uganda highway, which has numerous road traffic accidents. This equipment allows us to easily diagnose fractures. The doctors love the quality and also the fact that chest X-rays have dual-energy images, providing both a bone and soft tissue image. For lung images, we can more easily see cavitations and masses on the soft tissue image, which is not available with “standard” X-ray systems. Having these extra images and AI software to assist in diagnosis has been a plus for our facility. The AI software has helped us make better referrals, and reduced the need to send patients elsewhere for more advanced imaging. I've gotten a lot of feedback from patients. They say that they are so happy and really grateful to have a local hospital that can provide X-rays anytime of the day or night.

Road Traffic Accident. Bilateral femur nailing was successful and the patient can walk again.

In addition to using the X-ray system at the hospital, we have been able to take it out to remote areas. The X-ray source can be folded so that it fits into our ambulance along with the KAI Detector, which is safely packed in a padded case. In 2025, we offered eight medical camps, which is pretty amazing.

Remote Support via Zoom

I look forward to our monthly zoom meetings with our Canadian partners at KKFC and KA Imaging. It is exciting to share how many patients we've seen and how many patients we've helped. Apart from the numbers, the best part is discussing some interesting cases.

Having Canadian medical professionals (Dr. David Small and Dr. Chad Lavallee) in our meetings makes them even more interesting. Now that we also have more of our own medical team attending these meetings, it makes it even better. We learn so much from our discussions. I have learned more about what images of TB and pulmonary edema look like. Our medical team appreciates the support of Canadian medical professionals as they share and discuss cases in a private WhatsApp group.



The Puan Connection – by Dr. David Small

In the summer of 2024, Linda and I travelled to the Maasai Mara region of Kenya for a safari. We had the great fortune to meet Dickson Kereto, a guide par excellence, and an outstanding advocate for his Puan community.



Dickson had established a local school so that children from his community did not have to walk long distances through dangerous terrain to attend school. In January, 2025, KKFC began providing funding for teachers so that young (Kindergarten-aged) students could attend school. Funding also provides nutritious meals for these students. Scholarships have also been created so that children from impoverished families can attend school. It has been a joy talking with Dickson and watching videos of these young children in such a positive learning environment.

During our visit to Dickson's village, we were greatly concerned by the poor air quality in many houses due to the use of wood fires for cooking and heating. Indoor air pollution from smoke presents a significant risk to the health of women and young children who spend many hours every day cooking indoors. These same women also spend an inordinate amount of time walking long distances to gather firewood, often through dangerous environments where wild animals roam. A pilot project to replace these wood fires with biogas systems began in late November. Using manure and water to produce biogas, the need for wood burning within these houses and kitchens is obviated. We hope that by the time you are reading this newsletter, three families in Puan will be cooking with biogas! Our goal is to install more of these systems and thus improve the safety and health of families in Puan in 2026 and beyond.



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It has been extremely positive and rewarding to work with KKFC, Dickson and the Puan Maasai community. Linda and I are looking forward to seeing these projects first-hand in the summer of 2026, when we return to Kenya.

Why Not? – by Marie McNabb



Going to Kenya wasn't on my bucket list, but when our good friends Karen and Steve invited us to join them on a trip to visit dairy farmers in the Cherangany Region of Kenya, I said "Why not?" So in February of 2025, Ken, my brother Jim, and I joined them. Our goal was to exchange knowledge and offer training to KKFC's Agricultural Extension staff and administration team.

Our hosts facilitated workshops at Farmer Field Schools and arranged visits to individual farms to see their animals and facilities. This gave us an opportunity to share best farming practices and engage in open dialogue with local farmers. We observed that while the small-scale dairy farmers in this region face significant challenges, the Extension team is working hard to educate them about improved farming methods. Key barriers include limited access to capital, feed shortages, and poor

nutrition during the dry season. Working along side KKFC's team of three Agricultural Extension Officers, we provided instruction on how to harvest and store forages, which include grasses such as Super Napier and Boma Rhodes, as well as Maize (corn). The farmers were eager to learn and write notes so they could take the information home. I can't get over how hard the Extension staff work! They cover a lot of ground in a week, in a month, and in a whole year. They have a passion for teaching topics that will assist the farmers in their everyday work and help improve their milk production. I didn't know what their level of extension ability would be, but they are all very, very good at what they do. They are doing a great job for the farmers! I think I was surprised at that! They are a great resource and so well respected by the farmers.

Year-round feed storage represents a major cultural and operational shift, but has the potential to significantly improve milk production. The Extension staff is working hard to ensure that the farmers do all the basics really well. It may seem like they are taking baby steps, but I'm sure this will pay big rewards as they move forward. My husband, Ken, commented that it seems like Kenyan dairy farming is about 60 years behind Canada. They are farming the way his father did when he first started, but they are starting to catch up.



Dairy Farmers of TransNzoia

We also met with the administration team of the Dairy Farmers of TransNzoia (DFT) and toured their milk collection and processing facility. The plant and equipment is quite amazing and includes a UHT (Ultra High Temperature) packaging line. We were very interested to observe the progress being made at the plant as a result of a grant from the Gay Lea Foundation to help improve milk quality. “Transporters” who travel the rough roads in the area on motorcycles (see photo below) collect raw milk from many farms. They are often loaded with up to 350 L of milk. Part of the Gay Lea grant was to replace plastic milk containers, which are difficult to keep clean, with aluminum cans. The grant is also providing funding for a Milk Quality Control Lab and milk can-washing station.



It was a privilege for Ken, Jim and I to join Karen and Steve in the Cherangany region and witness firsthand the determination and discipline of all those involved in the Dairy Project. As their experience shows, hard work and community support can truly lead to a lasting impact. Ken and I continue to enjoy supporting the extension team in Kenya through weekly zoom meetings led by our good friends Karen and Steve.

Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada

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We invite you to consider volunteering on one of our committees (Agriculture, Administration, Education, and Water).

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for more information about our projects, visit <https://www.kenyankidsfoundation.ca>