



Brighter Communities Worldwide

Worldwide

CREATING BETTER FUTURES

Harambee 2019

Brighter Communities Volunteer projects to Kenya

Who are Brighter Communities Worldwide?

Brighter Communities Worldwide are an Irish registered charity operating as a local staffed NGO in Kericho County, Kenya since 2002. In partnership with local communities we operate programmes that focus on health, education and economic empowerment.

Our Vision

A world where strong, healthy communities can thrive, building sustainable livelihoods and brighter futures.

Our Mission

To work in partnership with communities, to deliver programmes that enrich their lives and help create better futures for them and their families.

Our Values underpin everything we do and every decision we make. They also help communicate the way we work and how we do things.

Integrity – we are an organization built on integrity and good governance with a track record for success.

Passion – we work passionately in all that we do to realise our vision across communities.

Togetherness – we work together with all our stakeholders; all programmes are based on community needs as identified by themselves.

What does Harambee mean?

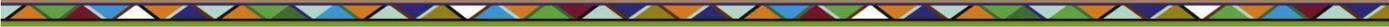
Harambee is a swahili word which means 'working together' and this is what Brighter Communities Worldwide volunteering projects are all about. Harambee provides a short-term volunteer placement for 2 or 3 weeks in Kenya along with a training programme around it to enhance the experience and help prepare you for it. Not enough time to change the world but enough time to change your way of looking at it. This is a opportunity for you to share your skills and experience in a way that will help bring positive change to peoples lives. It's your chance to explore community development in the context of rural Kenya and to deepen your understanding of global development issues.

Who are the volunteers?

Brighter Communities Worldwide believe that everyone has something to offer and skills to share to support the communities we are working with. People who volunteer with us -

- like to travel
- they are looking for a challenge
- they want to experience something different
- they care about global justice
- they want to do something to help people
- they want to develop their own perspective on the world
- they want to gain an insight into the culture and traditions of the people in Kenya.
- Many say that this is something they have always wanted to do.





Is there an age limit?

Anyone aged 18 years or over on January 1st 2019 can apply. There is no upper age limit but if you are 60+ or have a pre-existing medical condition, medical proof of fitness is required from your GP.

When do volunteer projects happen?

In 2019 there will be two Harambee projects – one in June and one in November with a 2 or 3 week option for each one to allow for different annual leave arrangements for volunteers who are working.

Is volunteering undertaken as an individual or in a group?

Harambee projects are undertaken as part of a group of volunteers who form a team and numbers can vary in size from 6 or 8 volunteers upwards depending on the project.

What do volunteers do in Kenya?

Volunteers support the community development programmes that Brighter Communities Worldwide operate in Kenya in partnership with the local communities. These programmes are based on the needs of the people and focus on improving health, access to clean water, better education and increasing household incomes.

Our programmes require the support of volunteers to run effectively and efficiently throughout the year and overseas volunteers add extra capacity to the local Kenyan volunteer base as they work alongside them in delivery of various programmes – for example community based courses such as lifeskills, business training, remote emergency care; healthy schools workshops; installing household smokeless stoves or development of the sustainable trekking route.

As a volunteer you will -

- Share your skills & experience with local community volunteers.
- Be part of team facilitation of community courses.
- Gain a unique insight into the challenge of life in rural Kenya.
- Work alongside local community health workers (also volunteers) to make homes a healthier place to be by making improvements such as installing smokeless cooking stoves.
- Support further development of a sustainable tourism project based on trekking routes.
- Help with outreach clinics and field days that bring health services to remote communities.
- Work in schools on the Healthy Schools programme with students and teachers who are making school a healthier place to be by educating on health issues and improving latrines & washrooms

That's just for starters!

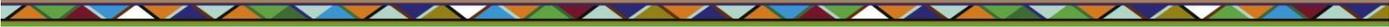
You might have professional skills to share in a specific area – for example – medical skills can be shared with the Londiani SubCounty Hospital and local Ministry for Health team through CME, trainings in Essential Obstetrics and Neo-natal Care, support for vaccination and health information clinics.

Whatever your skills are they are valuable and will be put to good use. We provide all the training you need prior to departure to prepare you for your role.

All of the work done supports implementation of the local Community Health Strategy which aims to lift communities out of poverty following a bottom up approach. The work undertaken on each Harambee depends on what is happening in the community at that time and is based on their needs.

Go with an open mind, a flexible nature and a willingness to help. Explore the common ground between your community and Kenyan communities. You will be surprised at how much you will learn from each other.

There is a rich sharing of experience and skills between the overseas volunteers and the local volunteers and by the end of their time together the volunteers' greatest feeling is that they take away far more than they think they have brought to the experience.



What are the dates for 2019?

June 2019

3 week option – Saturday 15/06/2019 to Saturday 06/07/2019

2 week option—Saturday 22/06/2019 to Saturday 06/07/2019

Closing date for applications 31/12/2018

November 2019

3 week option - Saturday 02/11/2019 to Saturday 23/11/2019

2 week option—Saturday 02/11/2019 to Saturday 16/11/2019

Closing date for applications 30/04/2019

How much does it cost?

Personal cost - €2,150 (3 week project) or €1,950 (2 week project) – this amount includes training expenses, flights, food, accomodation & transport in Kenya.

Fundraising cost - a minimum of €1,000 - this is a target each volunteer commits to raising before the project and it goes to the community development programmes in Kenya.

Costs in addition to these to be incurred by you, will be travel insurance, vaccinations, visa for Kenya and any optional tourist visits at the end of the project.

Payments are spread out over the months before you travel following an agreed payment schedule. Both personal and fundraising costs can be fundraised for and support is provided to help volunteers with fundraising ideas and events.

What is the accommodation in Kenya?

On arrival, depending on flight times, the team may spend the first night in a hotel. Accommodation on site varies from basic rooms to tents depending on where the project will be based. At the end of the project, the group stay in a hotel for one night and this gives the opportunity for some relaxation and tourist activities before flying home. (If you wish to travel before or after your project, Brighter Communities Worldwide need to know asap before flights are booked as any changes after that will incur extra charges to you)

What support do volunteers get?

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a comprehensive **volunteer training programme** for all volunteers travelling to Kenya with them. Participation and completion of this training programme is compulsory for all volunteers. Time wise it will involve committing to approx. 4 days/evenings overall spread out over time before you travel and when you come home.

Topics covered will include:

- Community Development
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development
- The Healthy Village
- Kenya's Community Health Strategy
- Practicalities e.g. fundraising support; volunteer health & first aid; what to bring with you etc.
- Skills Training - any specific skills training you require related to the work that will be happening in Kenya during your volunteer placement, for example group facilitation skills.
- Team-building & Cultural Awareness.
- Ways to stay engaged in global development after your overseas placement.
- Debriefing after the volunteer project.

Part of the training programme covers details on Brighter Communities Worldwide policies and safe practices and all volunteers are required to adhere to these and also to be willing to be screened and Garda-vetted.

What have other volunteers said?

- “I felt very comfortable with Brighter Communities Worldwide from the first meeting with them, they were genuinely welcoming, knowledgeable, honest and professional towards volunteers both in Kenya and Ireland and more importantly towards the Kenyan communities in which they work.”
- “Installing smokeless stoves was a great opportunity to get to know and begin to understand the Kenyan way of life and culture in their own environment”
- “Training was really effective – the experience was hard to imagine in advance but when we got here there were no big shocks”.

Volunteers who have been to Kenya are happy to talk to you if you want to find out from them how they found the experience - let us know and we will share contact details with you.

“I’m in! – what do I do next?”

1. Contact Brighter Communities Worldwide office in Midleton and talk to us about your application. You’ll probably have lots of questions!
2. Application forms are available online or from the office in Midleton. They must be accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of €500. (In the event that your application is not successful your deposit will be returned) Phone anytime to discuss the opportunity and ask questions before you apply.
3. Each volunteer will have a one to one conversation with Brighter Communities Worldwide on application where questions from either side can be asked & answered. You will also be required to provide contact details for 2 people to provide references and be willing to submit to Garda vetting process if requested.
4. Once your application process is complete & successful your Harambee team begin their training programme in preparation for departure.

Apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment – closing dates are noted above with the Harambee dates.

Contact Brighter Communities Worldwide at - harambee@brightercommunities.org

Our office is at – Brighter Communities Worldwide, 4 The Crescent, Mill road, Midleton, Co. Cork. P25 H302 Tel: 021 4621748

Register your interest - If 2019 Harambee date doesn’t suit you, register your interest in volunteering sometime in the future by emailing harambee@brightercommunities.org and we will keep you informed about future plans.

Further information to help in your decision about volunteering overseas can be found on www.comhlamh.org and choose volunteering options section.

Good things you should know ...

- We provide a full training programme to support and prepare you for your volunteer experience.
- We will help and advise you with your fundraising.
- We are a registered charity compliant with the Governance Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable organisations in Ireland.
- We have **Comprehensive Compliance Status on the Comhlamh Code of Good Practice** which is the highest award for quality responsible volunteering programmes available to Irish International volunteer sending agencies.
- We are signatories to the Dochas Code of Images and Messages.
- We have 16 years experience of overseas volunteer projects in Kenya.
- You are in safe hands!

