

Harambee 2020 - Overseas Volunteer projects to Kenya

“If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever.”

Kofi Annan



Could you be that volunteer?

2020 marks the beginning of a decade of action on delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org> – these goals aim to improve the lives and future prospects of everyone, everywhere. In essence they aim to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and solve climate change.

Brighter Communities Worldwide are committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through our strategies, programmes and ways of work.

As a volunteer, you bring with you a powerful means of helping to achieve these goals as you bring your skills, expertise, energy and knowledge to share with a new community – through volunteering you learn more and gain a sense of responsibility for yourself as a global citizen. The impact of your volunteer experience creates ripples of impact not just on the community you volunteer with but on your own community when you come home.

Is this your year to take action on poverty, climate change, quality education, gender, good health, water and sanitation?

- If you love a challenge, love to learn, enjoy stepping outside your comfort zone and care about the planet we are living on and the people you share it with – then we are looking for you to volunteer with us in Kenya.
- Harambee is a Swahili word which means ‘working together’ and this is what our volunteer projects are all about – working together with local staff and volunteers in Kenya. The projects happen twice a year during June/July and during October/November and volunteers take part as teams.
- Harambee provides a short-term volunteer placement for 2 or 3 weeks in Kenya along with a 4 day training programme to prepare you for the experience. Not enough time to change the world but enough time to change your way of looking at it.
- This is an 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, to deepen your understanding of global development issues and explore your place in the global agenda of sustainable development.



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 2020 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 before you can travel..

When do volunteer projects happen?

In 2020 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.

Volunteer roles include -

- Team facilitation of community based courses in Lifeskills, Remote Emergency Care and Business trainings.
- Delivering workshops as part of our Healthy Schools Programme.
- Installing Smokeless Stoves.
- Training support for guides and porters on a sustainable trekking route project.
- Building the capacity of local volunteers & staff through individual volunteer skills sharing.
- Working alongside local community health workers (also volunteers) to make homes a healthier place to be as part of our Healthy Homesteads programme.
- Professional skills sharing - for example medical, engineering, I.T.

Don't worry if you think you don't have the skills for the above, we will provide you with all the training you need and draw on your existing skills and develop new ones.



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 2020?

June 2020 – closing date 29/02/2020

- 2 week option – June 6th to 20th
- 3 week option – June 6th to 27th

November 2020 – closing date 30/04/2020

- 2 week option Oct 31st to Nov 14th
- 3 week option Oct 31st to Nov 21st

How much does it cost?

Personal cost – includes training expenses, flights, food, accommodation & transport in Kenya.

- 3 week project - €2,250
- 2 week project - €2,000

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 to be aware of 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
- Sustainable Development Goals
- 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.

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.
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 2020 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.



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.

