

## News from Kenya

### The Kipkelion Youth Council – Fairtrade & DGRV in Youth Empowerment

#### TransFair and DGRV together for Coffee Farming

In early 2019, a delegation representing TransFair e.V. (Fairtrade Germany) visited Kenya to witness local Fairtrade practices on behalf of their membership organizations. DGRV is pleased to be one of the members of Fairtrade supporting small holder producer organizations all across Kenya. Whereas DGRV's approach in Kenya focusses on capacity development in co-operative management, Fairtrade Kenya assists to produce and trade their products the "fair way". Established coffee farmers in Kipkelion are part of the Fairtrade movement in Kenya and DGRV supports the next generation co-operators in the same region to step up in leadership and management.

About 4 hours northwest of Nairobi lies the Kipkelion Constituency in Kericho County. Whereas the region is world famous for its tea growing, Kipkelion itself has splendid conditions for coffee farming. The majority of Kipkelion's coffee farmers is organized in 32 co-operatives which formed the Kipkelion District Coffee Union in 2009. The co-operative Union is one of the Fairtrade certified coffee processors and traders in Kenya. From here, the journey of aromatic Fairtrade from Kenya to the world begins!

DGRV is very proud to partner with the **Kipkelion Youth Council**, the empowerment organization for next-in-line co-operators in Kipkelion. Back in 1908, entrepreneurial minds instituted the first modern co-operative on Kenyan grounds right here in Kipkelion. Although the farming conditions for coffee and tea are good, the youth of Kipkelion is keen to explore new business ventures for themselves.

#### The Kipkelion Youth Council

The average coffee farmer in Kipkelion is 60 + years old which is typical in the Kenyan co-operative landscape. At the same time, coffee is a sustainable industry in Kipkelion which comes with new business opportunities along the coffee value chain or others which are yet to be harnessed. This is the niche the members of Kipkelion Youth Council (KYC) vision to excel in. As a by-product of the active involvement with KYC, the members develop beneficial entrepreneurial and management skills aiming to develop their own, independent careers over time.

In 2018, a tandem team of seniors of the established Kipkelion District Coffee Union and local youth representatives worked together to register the community based organization "Kipkelion Youth Council". Through a representation system, KYC reaches out to about 30,000 young people living in nine local catchment areas of the Union. The main purpose of KYC is to identify and materialize local business opportunities for young people in existing and new sectors. Having said this, KYC members are, for example, planning to venture into agro forestry; nursery; social engagement such as care for others; community services and new organic farming practices.

The story of KYC showcases a best practice in succession planning for generation management in co-operatives: Current senior leaders volunteer to avail their capacities to members of the next generation to encourage them to create future value for themselves. DGRV Kenya is delighted to support this trendsetting initiative!



#### DGRV partners with Kipkelion Youth Council

A year after the official registration of KYC, DGRV Kenya entered into a partnership agreement with the youth organization. We found this young organization at a formative stage where many options for organizational development are yet to be explored. DGRV's main support to KYC is therefore geared towards shaping a strategically solid and well managed youth organization which responds well to the economic needs of its members.

We do this mainly through advising KYC in the following matters:

- Strategic and business planning processes,
- favourable development of internal policies,
- management and leadership courses for KYC leaders,
- guidance and mentorship for innovative co-operative business models in the service sector and
- facilitate the creation of useful linkages within the co-operative movement of Kenya or
- provide access to broadband E- learning facilities for its members.

Our common goal is to transform Kipkelion Youth Council into an organization that lives up to its vision. Within 3 years from now, DGRV and KYC are happy to work together to develop sustainable mentoring capacities at KYC to incubate business ideas of young co-operators in Kipkelion.

#### Sustainable Development Goals

#### Kenya

Inhabitants:	46 Mio
Number of cooperatives:	23,000
Number of members:	15 Mio
Cooperative sectors:	Mainly agriculture & finance

