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*The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer. ~ Will Rodgers*



## **Economic Development**

### **Farmer Lenard, the Optimist**

By Gordon Jackson

Lenard Esendi Mayodi is an optimist. Like all farmers, he has to be. This year, however, Lenard has

reason to be upbeat. In early March he planted one acre of his small farm with seeds provided by P4P. Two months later when our P4P team visited him early in May, the crop was beginning to flower—a little later, he said, than seed he's used in the past.



But he's encouraged because what he sees so far is healthy. That's as it should be, because the P4P seed is more resistant to pests, especially a kind of worm found in Africa that can devastate crops.



"I'm confident the seed is good," said Lenard. He's hoping for the same kind of high yields that other farmers in P4P's economic development program have experienced. Previously, Lenard reports that he harvested four to five bags of maize per acre. If the experience of the other P4P participants is anything to go by, he is looking for a double digit yield this year, or two harvests a year, weather permitting. Even the special mix of seeds and two kinds of fertilizer can't guarantee results, however, as some of the farmers found last year when the rains were poor.

If all goes well though, Lenard is looking forward to handing over one bag of maize per harvest to P4P as a payback, and that contribution will go toward supporting our scholarship program.

Lenard has a word for P4P's supporters in the US: "Tell them we appreciate [their help] and are happy—but we urge them to continue and even enlarge the program to benefit more farmers."

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*Click to donate by Pay Pal or mail donation checks to: **Partnering for Progress, P.O. Box 28191, Spokane, WA 99228. Thank You!***

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## **Notes from the Field**

by Seth Okumu



### **Assistant Program Coordinator Nereah Awuor Obura Joins P4P Team**

Nereah Awuor Obura is a Community Health and Development Worker with vast experience since the year 2007. The experience has been gained working in different organizations and fields ranging from integrated HIV programs (APHIA II Nyanza), device assisted male circumcision studies (EngenderHealth) and other administration work with

European Elections Observation Mission in Kenya. She has worked either as an employee or consultant in these organizations. Nereah would be described as a community health facilitator, social mobilizer, trainer, project manager, monitoring and evaluation professional all rolled up in one. We are excited to welcome her to the P4P team.

**Education** - Nereah has a bachelor of arts degree in economics and sociology from Kenyatta University, Kenya. She also has a certificate in programme monitoring and evaluation from Kenya Institute of Management in addition to several certificates from Global E-Health Learning. She finished her high school at Asumbi Girls Secondary in Homabay having passed her elementary schooling at Lake Primary School in Homabay.

**Presentations** - She had developed and presented a poster on 'Sustainable Approach to Community Based Social Mobilization for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision in Nyanza, Kenya' at the 16th International Conference on Aids and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December 2011.

**Family** - Nereah was born into a big family. She is the youngest in a family of eight and has four brothers and three sisters. Nereah is married to Ambrose Orege and together they have a three-year-old daughter, Kayla Delphine Orege. She is a staunch Christian who fellowships with Anglican Church of Kenya also referred to as the Episcopalian Church.

Since 2013 Nereah has served as a member of the board of management at the Dhene Secondary School. She will be working part time for at least one year and is learning about P4P's programs from Seth Okumu, Program Coordinator.

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## **What a Difference a Decade Makes**

**By Pat Lynass, *Past Board Vice President, Board Member and Auction Chair***

Thinking back to 2007 sitting around founder



Stacey Mainer's dining room table for Partnering for Progress' first official board meeting, it is exciting to reflect on the strides P4P has made in a decade. Initially, we had a hands-on, do-it-all board with board members serving as officers and committee chairs, some doing both. We had only a few volunteers and no executive director, administrative assistant or project manager in Kenya.

Over the years, board meetings have moved from Stacey's dining room to various sites around the community. Dia Maurer was hired as part time executive director in 2013, bringing considerable nonprofit and organizational expertise to P4P. In 2014, we hired Lee Fowler as part time administrative coordinator and she's taken over a myriad of organizational and social media responsibilities. Seth Okumu joined P4P as project manager in Kenya in 2012, providing a vital conduit between Spokane and Kenya.

Comparing the first auction I chaired in 2008 to our upcoming tenth annual auction on October 7, 2017, I can see that the responsibilities have been lightened immensely. In 2008, the auction chair and a few volunteers basically did everything. Today, P4P Executive Director, Dia, Administrative Coordinator, Lee, and an incredible committee lighten the load of the chair/co-chair considerably.



P4P has made great strides in Kenya over the past decade. We built a health clinic in Kopanga, provide basic health education and care, sustain the Power of Milk



nutrition program for infants, maintain wells and supply water catchment tanks, grant high school scholarships, educate community members on sustainable farming and animal husbandry, always with the input, cooperation and participation of local residents.

These advancements have helped us build a strong and loyal support base, fed the pipeline for volunteers and contributed to our growth and progress.

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It has been a joy being part of P4P's first decade and I want to say ***asante sana*** (thank you in Swahili) to all of the incredible volunteers whose support has made this progress possible.

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**Make a Difference - Volunteer**

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## **Meet Volunteer Dr. Kingsley Ugorji, MD, MRCOG, ABFM**

Last May, Dr. Kingsley Ugorji added his considerable expertise to the small troop of P4P volunteers who traveled to Kopanga. Originally from Nigeria, Kingsley attended medical school at the

University of Ibadan in Nigeria, received post graduate medical training in obstetrics and gynecology in the United Kingdom, completed family medicine residency at the University of Rochester in New York and is a member of Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the UK.

Kingsley has practiced medicine for the last 17 years and has served as a family practitioner specializing in obstetrics at the CHAS (Community Health Association of Spokane) Denny Murphy Clinic for the past eight years. This was his first trip to Kenya.

“I am from Africa so I am familiar with some of the things I found in Kenya,” Kingsley says. “Despite extreme poverty in the village, the people are very happy, contented and friendly.”

“I appreciate the fact that P4P goes to extra lengths to help the community by involving the local staff,” Kingsley adds. “P4P helps provide basic resources to the small, needy community of Kopanga with potable water sources, food, the Power of Milk program, economic advancement through the goat program, and, more importantly, the scholarships that enable children to go to school. I was extremely excited when I learned that P4P plans to send at least two kids to college.

In addition, P4P supports local healthcare providers with medical supplies to help them provide care to the best of their ability.”

Kingsley, his wife and three children now call Spokane home. In his spare time, he enjoys tennis, traveling, cycling and spending time with his family both here in the U.S. and in Nigeria.

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## Auction Update

You won't want to miss celebrating ***A Decade of Progress*** with us at P4P's 10th annual **Into Africa Auction**. It's just three months away. **October 7, 5:30 pm**, at the **Mirabeau Park Hotel** in Spokane Valley. Awesome auction items include a Mexico getaway and original art that replicates a Kopanga scene by Spokane painter Katie Staib.

As the auction approaches, watch your email and our [IntoAfricaAuction.org](http://IntoAfricaAuction.org) website for ticket specials, more info on live and silent auction items, sponsors and highlights of what's coming.



Individual tickets are \$65 and a table for eight is \$500. Click below to purchase tickets on our secure PayPal account or mail your check to **Partnering for Progress, P.O. Box 28191, Spokane, WA 99228.** *(Please indicate that you are purchasing tickets for the event.)* For more information or to make a credit card purchase call (509) 720-8408.

[Purchase Tickets](#)

The Mirabeau Park Hotel is offering rooms at a discounted rate of \$85 (taxes not included). This special offer expires September 14, so if you're thinking of spending the night at the hotel after the auction festivities, don't wait to book your room. Call the Mirabeau Park Hotel direct at (509) 924-9000 and mention P4P to receive the discount.

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### **Part-Time Staff**

Dia Maurer, Executive Director

Lee Fowler, Administrative Coordinator

Seth Okumu, Kenya Program Coordinator

Nereah Awuor Obura, Kenya Assistant Program Coordinator

Charles Atha, Kenya Nutrition Assistant



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