

Re: Volunteer opportunities at communities in East Africa supported by CAART.

We often are asked if there are volunteer opportunities in East Africa working with our community associates there. CanAssist does not directly arrange international volunteer excursions or placements but we are happy when CanAssist supporters visit the communities where we work.

Although CanAssist's mandate is to provide infrastructure, we are willing to facilitate connections between the communities where we have worked or have ongoing work in progress and individuals who may want to visit or volunteer with those organizations. All travel costs and arrangements are made by the individual traveler.

Travel in East Africa incurs potential security and health risks. CanAssist well-wishers going to Africa to volunteer or visit CanAssist project associates will be acting and traveling independently and at their own risk.

With introductions, volunteers are generally welcome at schools to tutor or teach and to provide support or help to teachers and administrators. Volunteers in clinic settings might help with community outreach and health education or with assessment and documentation of community health needs. Our partners are capable and well aware of their community needs but sometimes can use some organizational/management advice or assistance.

Although we have mechanisms for oversight and accountability in place, CanAssist is always keen to have some direct observation of the community groups with whom we work and feedback as to the effectiveness and management of the projects we have funded.

CanAssist can provide contact names of leaders with these various community groups if an individual wishes to volunteer at their organization. CanAssist's only role in this, however, is to refer the interested volunteer to the organization. Beyond that, any arrangements will be between the volunteer and the African community.

This is a list of the communities where CanAssist is currently working or have recent association and the organizations in those communities where we have reliable contacts. A rough location of each vicinity is noted on the map below and there are links to more information about most of these sites on the CanAssist website (<http://canassistafrica.ca>) under the Active or Completed projects link on the left sidebar.

Mbita/Rusinga Island Kenya (1)

Hope School - a small, privately organized elementary school with two “campuses”, one in the town and one rurally. We have provided funding for two large permanent classrooms, development of a garden project and latrines.

Kanyala Little Stars Academy - a privately run school with students up to Class 8. We have funded a very well-organized and productive agriculture project there, helped with school supplies, facilitated a sanitary pad program for young women at the school through a church in Kingston and are embarking on renovations of two of the old temporary classrooms.

Badilisha Ecovillage Foundation - a Permaculture group on Rusinga Island also interested in many areas of local community development. Through this organization we have provided some sanitation facilities at several of the beach communities nearby.

Tom Mboya Health Centre - A public clinic/hospital facility. We are in the midst of trying to help the support group at this health centre develop a community garden.

S.P. Geddes Early Childhood Development Centre - in Osiri Village across the bay from Mbita. A very small rural early childhood school that we have funded with classrooms, fencing, latrine and supplies.

Kamin Oningo Beach Management Unit - also near Osiri Village - we funded a latrine for this community.

Rachuonyo Schools - There are three schools in the Kendu Bay area about 40 km from Mbita, where we will be providing desks and chairs for the schools. (two elementary, one secondary). These schools appear to be very poor. No doubt they would appreciate volunteers.

Migori District (2)

Much of the work in this region has been done through Rieko Kenya. In addition, students from Queens University (Queens Health Outreach) visit this community every April/May to do health outreach with youth and womens groups in the district.

St Gorety Secondary School - A day school for about 400 high school students in Mikei village. We have built two classrooms at this school and are currently constructing a computer training classroom at the school.

Nyatike Women's Group - through this group we have supplied rainwater catchment within the community and a latrine at one of the villages, managed by the women of the group.

Nyandema Secondary School - We have provided rainwater catchment and storage for this secondary school.

Kared Fod Women's Group - We have constructed a small clinic/dispensary for this group and provided both rainwater catchment and latrine for the clinic.

Maasai Communities in the Rift Valley, Kenya (3)

CanAssist has provided school development (classrooms, latrines) for two very remote schools in Maasai communities in the district between Nairobi and Tanzania in the direction of Lake Magadi - the Adam Nkuyan Primary School and the Oltaraja Primary School. These are very remote communities and access is not easy but it would be great to know how these are actually being managed/utilized.

Ruriru District schools in Kenya (4)

CanAssist has provided latrines and sanitation facilities for one school in this district (Mutundu) and are just commencing a similar project at another (Twiga School). These schools are not that far from more developed areas but are underserviced and needy.

Kyabazaala Uganda (5)

We have associations with two schools in this community, north of Jinja, near Kayunga. The BLK Secondary School has received considerable support from us over the past few years and is a school of about 600 students. Currently we have no active project there. The Kyabazaala Elementary School has about 300 kids at it and is very needy. We have provided latrines and rainwater collection for the school. We may have another project there upcoming.

Mukono, Uganda (6)

We have had an ongoing association with the Hope for Youth School in a rural community just north of Mukono Uganda. This school is well managed and welcomes volunteers. They often have a couple of young volunteers from Europe there to do some teaching.

Gombe District, Uganda (7)

We have just completed refurbishing of hospital beds at this hospital. They seem very well organized and the Clinical Officer in charge is approachable and responsible. I suspect this would be a good volunteer community for someone interested in Public Health.

Olimai, Uganda (8)

We have good contacts and ongoing association with the Olimai Health Centre - a very rural community health centre in North Eastern Uganda. This community is remote but we have good contacts in the district.

Arusha Tanzania (9)

We have had an ongoing association with Mama Nora's orphanage, a very small orphan facility and preschool that is not far from Arusha. We provide some ongoing support here and have built a kitchen building there. Other students have spent some time at Nora's and enjoyed the contact. It is a small facility. We always appreciate an update about how the children are doing and how Nora is managing them.



Key to map where CanAssist has one or more community associates.

1. Mbita, Kenya
2. Migori District, Kenya
3. Rift Valley, Kenya
4. Ruiru District, Kenya,
5. Kyabazaala, Uganda
6. Mukono, Uganda
7. Gomba District, Uganda
8. Olimali, Uganda
9. Arusha, Tanzania