

**GROW BIOINTENSIVE AGRICULTURE CENTRE, Kenya (G-BIACK)
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The Grandmothers taking care of grandchildren



Gladys Wandia, Jemimah Wambui and Jane Mwikali have benefited from the Grandmothers project

One of the rarely told stories from Kenya is that of the grandparents who care for children orphaned by AIDS. Children who have lost their parents usually stay with their grandmothers. Over 60 percent of orphaned children in Kenya are due to cases of HIV/AIDS. Elderly women are among the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society. Elderly women who assume responsibility for family members affected by HIV/AIDS are often very poor because most of their resources were used up when their children were sick. Very often the families affected by HIV/AIDS must sell most of the property they own to enable them to treat the sick persons.

But some elderly women have designed a way in which they can fight poverty after being left to take care of their grandchildren. These women are forming groups where together they carry out common activities which are helping them to earn income. Some of these women lack strength to cultivate their farms and so they have had to come up with some projects that are easy to manage. Poultry production has been a very successful project that G-BIACK has helped grandmother groups to implement, and another very successful project is the dairy goat project. Goats require very small space because they do not feed a lot from the farm.

One example of such groups is Tumaini Women Group which has a membership of 23 women. The youngest woman is 78 years old and the oldest is 100 years old. The 23 women are taking care of 78 orphans all of whom are orphans of HIV/AIDS. Three grandmothers of Tumaini Group are pictured above.

Visit our website: www.g-black.org.

Go to Google maps to see us from above by entering: G-BIACK, Thika, Kenya

Donations of any amount help us to reach out to vulnerable families.

G-BIACK is a registered NGO in Kenya, and donations are tax deductible.

Contributions may be made directly to G-BIACK or through Network for Good on our web site.

Or checks payable to Kilili Self Help Project may be written and sent to

260 Marion Ave., Mill Valley CA 94941 USA—no overhead will be deducted, meaning that 100% of every donation will be sent to G-BIACK for our programmes.

All contributions are tax-deductible