

GCLK's DOOR STEP GARDENERS--WHO ARE THEY?

by
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In June 2013, Give A Child Life Kenya (GCLK), a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping change the lives of young children age five and under in urban slums, launched DoorStep Gardens in Kiandutu, Kenya. DoorStep Gardens use vertical sacks to grow fresh greens such as spinach and kale which are packed with the nutrients needed by young children. In a space 18 inches round, a family can grow 20-25 plants.

To initiate the project, GCLK spread the word throughout the community and collected applications. Successful applicants would receive up to three sacks, soil, manure fertilizer, seedlings and training. They also would receive technical support for the first few months after planting the bags. Priority was given to families with children age 5 and under and those who were highly vulnerable, such as the elderly or people with HIV/AIDS.

This report summarizes the characteristics of project applicants. It found the average applicant was:

- Between 30 to 40 years old
- Female
- Working as a casual laborer or running a small business
- Had a child under five in the house; more than half had four or more children of all ages at home
- Highly vulnerable
- Earned less than 500 shillings (\$7) a week
- Ate once a day, maybe twice
- Had some gardening experience



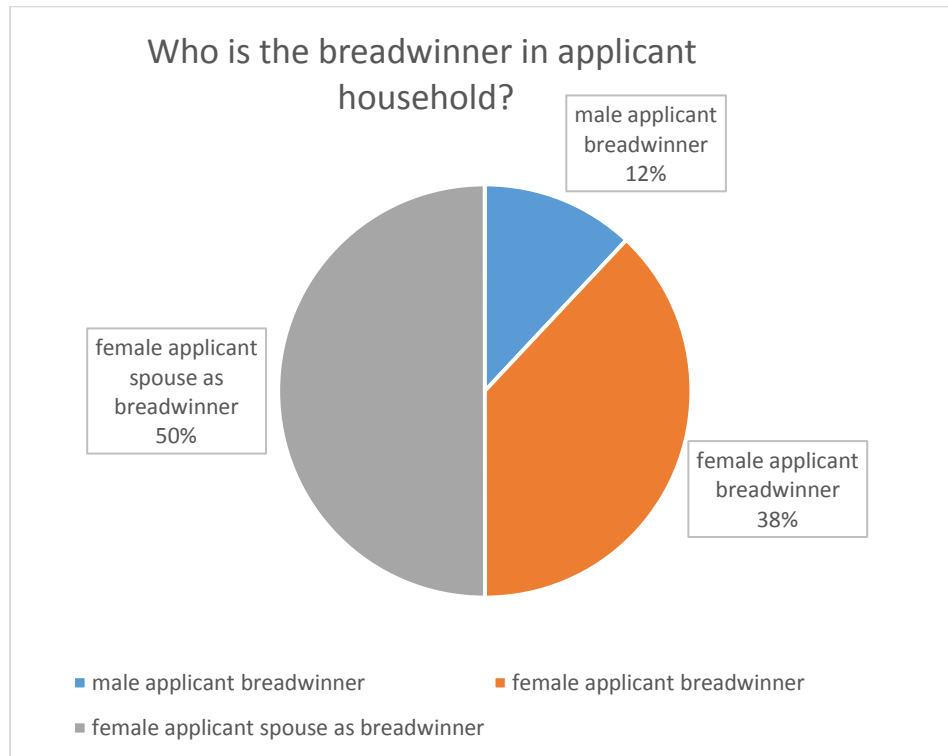
As of September 14, 2013, Give A Child Life Kenya had received 28 applications. Two had no information other than the applicant's name and gender.

Average age: Ages ranged from 16-70 years old, with most applicants in their 20s (4), 30s (2) and 40s (6). Fourteen applicants did not report ages. Of those who did, the average was 37.4.

Male/Female: 24 applicants (86%) were female, 3 (11%) male and 1 (3%) did not report gender.

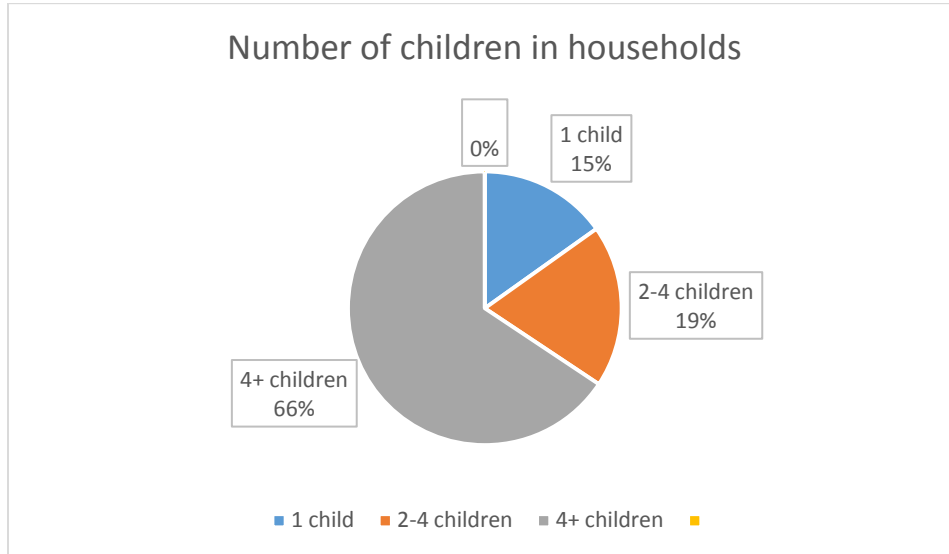
Employment: Four applicants were casual day workers; seven had small businesses, and the rest were (one each) caretaker, security, plumber, mechanic and cook. One depended on well-wishers.

Breadwinner: Nine females and three males were the breadwinners in their families. Twelve females had a spouse who supported them. All participating males were breadwinners.

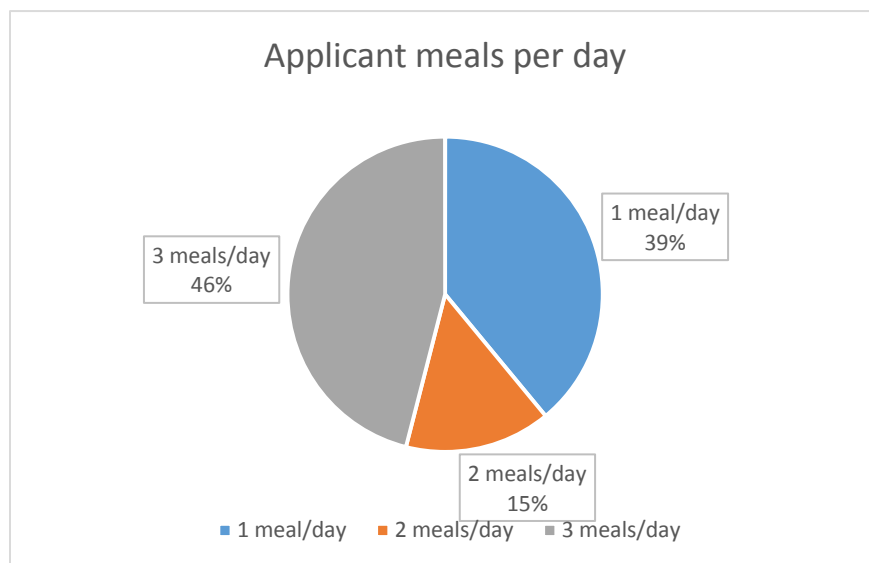


1. **All applicants lived in Kiandutu**
2. **Child under 5 in home?** 19 of 26 (73%) households reported having a child under 5 in the home.
3. **Home have enough space for bag?** 100% reported having adequate space.
4. **Enough sun for bag?** 100% reported having adequate sun.
5. **Able to care for bag?** 100% reported being able to care for the bag garden.

6. **How many kids in home?** All participants reported having children in the home and the majority had four or more children. Fifteen percent reported having one child in the home, 19% reported having 2-4 children in the home and 65% reported having 4 or more children in the home.



7. **Is person highly vulnerable?** Fifteen of the 26 (58%) applicants were highly vulnerable (chronically ill, HIV/AIDS, disabled, elderly, low income, etc.).
8. **Average weekly income?** All but one (96%) reported earnings below 550 shillings/week (about \$7).
9. **Average number of meals per day?** Thirty-nine percent of applicants reported eating one meal per day. Forty-six percent ate three times a day and 15%, twice a day.



10. Gardening experience?

All applicants reported having gardening experience. 15% had “a little”; 47% had “some”, and 38% had “lots”.

