

SDG 5: The Role of Business in Gender Equality - A Kenyan Case Study

Palmhouse Foundation

In developing countries, businesses often respond to a social need. Palmhouse Dairies is a micro processing plant based in rural Kenya that collects milk from 450 small scale farmers, 80% of whom are women, thus providing a market to them. By providing a source of cash income for these women, who are the backbone of their household and largely responsible for feeding the family and raising children, we support gender equality. They now have bank accounts, can access credit, are trained on better farm practises and have health insurance.

The Palmhouse Foundation, a baby of Palmhouse Dairies, was set up when realised that some of our farmers could not afford secondary school fees for their children. The Foundation is an education trust whose mission is to finance the secondary education of needy and deserving students. Our vision is to enable deserving students to realize their dreams, transform their lives, their families and society. The foundation has so far supported 700 needy children from all over Kenya, of whom half are girls; thus responding to the needs of the girl child and ensuring that she has equal opportunity. 400 of these students are currently in University or working, the remaining 300 are in secondary school. 90% of our students qualify to university, with some in Ivy League colleges – Yale and Duke - in the United States. The foundation partners with other corporate companies in Kenya. Some of our past beneficiaries are also sponsoring children in the foundation. Palmhouse Foundation is an indigenous organisation by Kenyans for Kenyans.