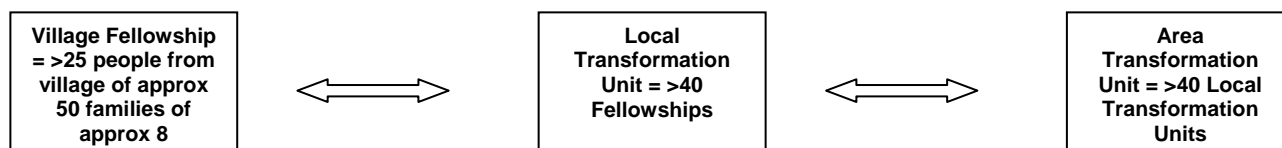


IcFEM Transformation Units

Here is a brief explanation of the Local Transformation Units (Field Units) which have been set up. This is a grassroots structure for growing, organising and empowering people at village level to help themselves and each other.

In rural Western Kenya the majority of people are subsistence farmers. A rural village consists of some 80-110 households of approximately 6 people, each living on their own farm (shamba). Unlike an English village the homes are scattered and the village therefore covers an area of approximately 10 square kilometres. However the area is well organised administratively into districts, sub-districts, etc with district officers, chiefs, sub-chiefs, village elders and there are councillors and the MP's parliamentary constituency has some 560,000 people. Within the village a fellowship is formed with at least 25 members. These are Christians from any tribe and denomination who come together to pray for their community and share together. They meet weekly and every third meeting they are encouraged to do something practical, e.g. help a widow on her farm, repair a house, etc. An area (a location) has approximately 100 villages and when there are at least 40 fellowships in an area they form a Local Transformation Unit. Twenty Local Transformation Units will form an Area Transformation Unit. Here the representatives from the village fellowships meet to elect unit leaders, set local goals, decide priorities and action plans.



How is training disseminated into the communities?

IcFEM has set up 12 topics for teaching, called Line Ministries: (1-6 are the core elements)

1. Evangelism - Intercession Programme, Outreach Programme, Discipleship Programme, Pastoral Care Programme.
2. Family unit - Men/Husbands/Fathers Ministry, Women/Wives/Mothers Ministry, Children's Ministry.
3. Youth Ministry - Youth and Godliness, Youth and Work, Youth and Government.
4. Relief and Welfare - Home-based Orphan-Care, Relief Supplies, Sustainable Relief Services (empowerment), Emergency Response (Relief Mitigation), HIV / AIDS.
5. Ministry to Senior Citizens (Elderly) - Health/Nutrition & Clothing, Social Needs with Housing (Housing, Relationships, Spiritual Nourishment, Recreation, Legal Needs (Asset Ownership, Legacies, Will and will making).
6. Bethesda Pool (Ministry to Disabilities) - Visual/Hearing Impairment, Physical Disabilities, Mental Impairment, Corrective Surgery and Rehabilitation.

IcFEM Headquarters

IcFEM, P/Bag, Kimilili, 50204, Western Kenya, East Africa.
Tel: +254 55 21252, +254 5180 17085
office@icfem.org
director@icfem.org
Societies Reg No. 19347

IcFEM Europe Office

c/o 16 Campbell Drive, Beaconsfield,
Buckinghamshire, HP9 1TF, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)7807 308176
office@icfem-mission.org
Charity No. 1107038

Nairobi Liaison Office

IcFEM Mission,
Nairobi Liaison Office,
AACC Building, 3rd floor,
off Waiyaki Way, P.O. Box 1186
Nairobi 00606, Kenya.

7. Agriculture & Environmental Stewardship & Crop Production, Livestock/Animal Production, Marketing, Processing, Conservation, Agro-forestry, Landscaping, ornamental and home beauties.
8. Health Care - Primary Health Care, Reproductive Health, Village Health Units, Herbal Medicine.
9. Fellowship FeSaCS (Fellowships Savings & Credit Scheme) & Micro enterprise (COREL)
10. Education and Skill Development - Primary Education, Secondary Education, Skills Development/Tertiary, Special Education.
11. Recreation and Sports - Recreation Facilities Development (Sports, Athletic, Balls), Indoor Games, Concerts and Drama.
12. Kingdom Singers - Vocal and Choral Music, Instrumental, Dance.

Each of these line ministries is coordinated from IcFEM Headquarters through to local and village level so that training and information can be cascaded down to individual families. If any fellowship does not have a person with the necessary skills to lead a particular Line Ministry they invite someone else in the village to take on this role. The importance of this structure is already being recognised by the Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs (Provincial administrators) and other Government agencies such as Agriculture Advisers. In the past they had been unable to pass information right down to the grassroots but now this is becoming possible. In addition each Transformation Unit has leaders and an administrative structure to guide, collect and collate statistics, prioritise, etc. Each fellowship member contributes a very small subscription which is partly used to provide training and partly fed back to the Local Transformation Units for their own use as set by their own priorities.

In rural Western Kenya, where the population is spread out and the majority of roads are poor, and mostly not even murrum, communication is a real problem; bicycles and motorcycles are therefore used extensively to spread information. Mobile phone technology also helps of course. In the past information about Government projects has been difficult to discern at village level but the new structure is giving an opportunity for this. Therefore local people are becoming aware of projects and how funds are being spent and what their local political leaders are achieving. Thus IcFEM training and increased lines of communication are empowering rural communities to move forward in a truly transforming way.

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