

IT ALL STARTS FROM HOME 26th of May, 2015

It wasn't a very long drive, excluding the many stops we took due to....Let's just say, not everyone knew where we were going.

We found ourselves around the Githongoro slums. Needless to say it was very overwhelming, the people there living very simple lives, yet they happily smiled and waved at us. The only thing more surprising than the smell was the amount of garbage that was all around us. There were heaps everywhere!



When we arrived we greeted Faith Nthenya, the area manager. "Our aim is to finally recycle everything, somehow. It doesn't matter how long it will take, because it shall be done." She explained how everything works, who does what and what goes where. The workers at the "Taka Taka Station" greeted us and we began our tour.



Everything (and I mean everything was separated) .There were specific piles for: organic items, cartons, residue, hard plastic, glass bottles, tetra packs, stryofoam, cans, jars, Bio PP, PP polythenes and LDP transparent.

After being informed about the various heaps of trash, we then asked about the workers. We were told they lived within the slums (most were women) and are paid by piece. There are 8 support staff, 2 bailers and 4 loaders. They own 2 Lorries with 1 driver respectively. They work 6 hours a week, 8 hours a day, with lunch provided.



Before	-	After
Tetra packets	-	Lamination papers
Hard plastic	-	Buckets, Basins
Glass bottles	-	Glasses
Textiles:		Grade 1 – goes back to markets
		Grade 2 and 3 - sofas, mattresses
Residue (NON – recyclable items)	-	dumped at Dandora Dump Site
Styrofoam	-	sold to fishermen
Sacks	-	reused
Cans	-	sold to brew makers (55Ksh per kilo)
Glass jars	-	sold to women who sell peanuts

They acquire the trash from Runda ,Ruaka, Kiambu and the GSN boarding house. The boarding house was highly praised because boarding everything is perfectly pre-sorted.

After the tour we decided to sit in the bus and wait for Daniel Luis Paffenholz, the founder, who was a student at the GSN himself! He explained that he feels it should be normal to recycle in Kenya especially because our trash is 60% organic, whereas Germany's is 30%. He went from going to door to door telling people about recycling and its importance in late 2012 to hiring people and owning a main facility in Nairobi, collecting 4-5 tons of trash 5 times a week. The TTS is supported by the DEB (Deutsche Entwicklungsbank)

He also spoke on the importance of recycling, not only for the workers but also for the environment. It is a serious issue that can be easily resolved, but it is impossible, without the dedication and participation of everyone.

Overall, it was very interesting and I surely learnt a lot.

–Latasha Wangare