

# PHRM 880 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience

## Purdue Utility Platform Vehicle Project

### Webuye, Kenya: Agricultural Support

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College of Pharmacy



College of Engineering



## INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The Purdue Utility Platform Vehicle Project (PUP) represents a collaborative effort uniting the Tumaini Innovation Center (TIC), Purdue University College of Pharmacy, and Purdue University College of Engineering. The significance of this project lies in its aim to amplify the impact of services in Webuye, Kenya, by leveraging the existing relationship with TIC. TIC plays a vital role in addressing the needs of children who were formerly living on the streets of Eldoret, Kenya, offering not only food and shelter but also equipping them with essential life skills and vocational trade skills.

Purdue Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students, affiliated with the Purdue Kenya Partnership, have a substantial presence at TIC, actively contributing to the center's initiatives. Additionally, the project collaborates with the Bridging Income Generation through Group Integrated Care (BIGPIC) program, a community-centered model of care for diabetes and hypertension in Webuye and other rural communities in Kenya. BIGPIC is closely connected with the Purdue College of Pharmacy, where faculty and PharmD students have been supporting services and delivering healthcare since 2012.

The historical context of the project involves Purdue engineering students designing PUP vehicles that have previously aided agricultural practices in Eldoret. With Purdue's established relationships with TIC and BIGPIC, PharmD and engineering students became aware of the growing need for additional agricultural support in Webuye county. Recognizing barriers to transporting the PUP vehicles from Eldoret to Webuye, this collaboration emerged to address these challenges and extend the positive impact on the local community. The project started as a response to identified needs and barriers, driven by a shared motivation to enhance agricultural practices and contribute to the well-being of vulnerable populations in Webuye.



One of the PUP vehicles at Tumaini Innovation Center in Eldoret, Kenya, May 2023.

## OBJECTIVES

- Empower expansion of agricultural services to reach a wider population
- Leverage relationships to address identified needs
- Expand cultural competency and awareness through service
- Implement a sustainable approach that addresses educational, economic, and community needs through collaborative efforts and innovative solutions

## METHODOLOGY

Purdue students and faculty advisors collaborated closely with partner leads at TIC and BIGPIC. They explored the functionality of the PUP vehicles in Eldoret, before transporting them for the big reveal in Webuye, gaining insight into the scope of the vehicles' functions in aiding the community for agricultural purposes. Additionally, while discussing specific needs and challenges faced during the collecting season, Purdue PharmD students were able to secure a Purdue University Office of Engagement Community Service/Service Learning Student Grant to assist with TIC's platform for transportation, marketing, and showcasing their products, projects, and courses during the opening celebration and reveal of the PUP vehicles in Webuye.



The Local Chief from Webuye, Kenya receiving the PUP vehicle from the TIC principal, May 2023.

## IMPACTS

With the transportation and marketing of the PUP vehicles in the Webuye community this year, TIC students utilized the vehicles to assist local farmers. The vehicles played a crucial role in pumping water for the crops and facilitating the shelling of corn after maize collection. The grant supported the transportation and initial marketing of this free service in the Webuye community, enabling farmers to enhance the collection and transportation of their crops. This not-for-profit business service model, initiated with five PUP vehicles, has plans for expansion as resources continue to grow.



Webuye farmers utilizing the PUP vehicle to help shell corn at a faster rate, May 2023.



Webuye community at the opening ceremony to reveal the PUP vehicles, May 2023.

## REFLECTION & CONCLUSION

This was the first time the PUP vehicles were transferred from Eldoret, to provide agricultural support in Webuye. There will be continued growth plans to expand beyond Webuye, into additional regions of Kenya. With this continued partnership between TIC, Purdue University College of Pharmacy, and Purdue University College of Engineering, student involvement and additional grant support will be important. Opportunities for TIC students to be empowered to provide services in different regions of Kenya and provide talks to promote income-generating businesses will continue to develop. The interactions students have with this community have a valuable impact on their cultural experience during their experiential training in Kenya.

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