

To communicate with one of our crafters, place an order, or email questions, recommendations, or comments, go to: ochunacraftcooperative@yahoo.com
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The Ochuna Craft Cooperative Basketry Program

Far off the beaten path lays the farming community of Ochuna, Kenya. About 6 miles from Lake Victoria and on the Tanzanian border, the hard working people of Ochuna are an independent minded group who believe in a strong and spiritual community. Along with agriculture, this area is also home to many of the traditional crafts of the Luo Tribal people.

Basketry and pottery are 2 important crafts of the area. Both have a long tradition of being functional as well as aesthetic. Luo Market Baskets are strong and durable. Woven from the fibers of locally grown plants; these baskets can lay down flat and fit into the small spaces of any car, waiting for the next visit to the market.



Market baskets come in three different sizes. Handles can be wide woven or narrow (we recommend our wide handles). Traditional baskets do not have color, but we can put either a blue or pink strip or weave pink or blue fibers into the basket if you would like.

Unfortunately, the introduction of plastics and metal pots over the past few decades has made traditional Luo crafts obsolete. When crafters bring their pots and baskets to local markets, they are unable to sell the goods at a price that can sustain the work. Until now only the elder women remained skilled in their work.

To learn more about The Ochuna Craft Cooperative and track the progress of our school, water project, community hall and other goals please visit us and/or join us on Facebook:
OchunaCraftCooperative

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With the support of their community, the women of Ochuna are fighting back. Believing in their skills and traditions, the women (and a few men) of Ochuna have come together to start the Ochuna Craft Cooperative.

Our crafters are hoping that those around the world will recognize the beauty and skill used to make these baskets and have an interest in purchasing woven crafts either individually or by the case. It takes between 2 and 3 months for a case to make it to Europe or the USA from Western Kenya. We believe our weavings will be worth your wait. Go to our Facebook page to see pictures of our stock. You can select the items you desire.



Along with Market Baskets, our weavers can make a variety of small containers as well as macramé pot hangers.

We feel that a Fair Trade price for our baskets are 5, 6, 7 dollars (US) per basket depending on the size. The minimum case size is 25. Shipping costs are about \$35 for surface shipping. Unit prices will decrease with larger orders. An air shipped box will get to you in about 1 month but is about twice the cost.

Upon payment we will send you an electronic profile of the women who made your crafts. Feel free to add your store logo if you wish. About half the amounts of the sales go directly to the crafters. The other half will go to the development of the community. You can track the progress of the projects on our Facebook page. Our current projects are: a year-round well

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(currently there is no drinkable water and only dirty water about 9 months out of the year), better classroom buildings, and a community Fellowship Hall.

Along with basketry, the Ochuna Craft Cooperative has a variety of clay products, decorative gourds, hand brooms and other items. Our face-jugs and cook-pots are particularly popular. You can visit our Facebook page for pictures and more information.



Two of the new crafters learning the tradition of weaving from an experienced elder. In an attempt to revive the crafts, the elder women teach eager new learners.



An experienced crafter who is teaching the younger women in hopes that crafting will assist the community in developing a sustainable water supply, a school and other needs that are taken for granted by those in less rural communities in Kenya.

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