



**Certificate Course on
Community Currencies for Grassroots Development**
- Kenya Field-Based -
grassrootseconomics.org

After understanding how to tap into the abundance of communities and build resilient thriving local economies you will never look at money in the same way.

Objectives: This course will immerse the student into the world of Community Currencies as a tool for economic and community development. In one week of intense study and on-the-ground practical experience students learn how the majority of Kenya's population live and make ends meet. They will see why and how Community Currencies have been implemented as well as their history in Kenya and around the world. Students will study and interact with people using Community Currencies in both rural and urban settings and take part in community activities to understand the social dynamics and economic systems that are needed to make Community Currencies thrive. After completing the final exam the student will be ready to begin process of customization, design and implementation of regional Community Currencies.

Format: This course takes a practical and participatory approach to exploring the theory and implementation of Community Currencies in low income settings. The course will be divided between collaborative classroom settings with instructors who have been implementing Community Currencies for years and fieldwork in urban slums and rural areas near Mombasa. The student is expected to take a proactive and analytic approach in class, part of which will be based on recommended readings, quizzes and exercises.

Location and Duration: This five-days course will be held in Mombasa, Kenya, where students will stay in provided accommodation including meals. Field visits to both urban and rural Community Currency programs will form the basis for practical understanding.

Prerequisites: This course is designed for social entrepreneurs, development workers, researchers and enthusiastic agents of change who are ready to co-create sustainable and cooperative economies. Students who enroll in this course are expected to have: 1. a strong interest in community development with specific communities in mind; and 2. a basic knowledge of project management and economics.

Required Pre-Reading and Viewing: People Powered Money by the New Economics Foundation (free online at <http://criterical.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/CCIA-book-People-Powered-Money.pdf>)

Grassroots Economics Website: <http://grassrootseconomics.org/community-currencies>

Topical Outline:

- 1. Community Currency Theory:** development economics, history of money, financial systems and debt, currency models, goals standards and ethics.
- 2. Preparation & Development:** community participation and ownership, system design, voucher creation, communications, partnerships, and legality.
- 3. Setup & Launch:** cooperative facilitation, collateral asset development, financial sustainability, and marketing.
- 4. Long Term Care:** long-term support, audits, Community Currency renewal.
- 5. Management:** system maintenance, legal reporting, accounting, currency circulation, administration, data collection, and personnel.
- 6. Fieldwork:** on-the-ground survey work and interviews; lessons learned from previous Community Currency models; taking part in community currency events; economic resource mapping.



**Grassroots
Economics**

*Prospering economies
built by thriving communities*

Will Ruddick is the Founder of Grassroots Economics and will be your lead teacher. Will is a development specialist focusing on East Africa. After completing graduate school researching high energy physics at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, he found his passion in alternative economics and development work, which brought him to Kenya. Since 2008, Will has lived in East Africa/Kenya and managed several successful development programs in environment, food security, and economic development. He is dedicated to connecting communities to their own abundance, and is an advocate for, and designer of, Complementary Currencies for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Will has developed several Community Currency programs across Africa since 2010, and is the founder of the award-winning Bangla-Pesa program. He consults on Community Currencies worldwide and is currently collaborating with the University of Cape Town's Environmental Economics Policy Research Unit. Will is also an associate scholar with the University of Cumbria's Institute for Leadership and Sustainability.

Caroline Dama, one of Grassroots Economics' Directors, will guide you in fieldwork and share her experiences in implementation and management of Community Currency programs. Dama is a Program Director for large scale environmental and development programs and is a strong believer in women's empowerment. As Dama puts it, "Women carry the bulk of the responsibilities here in Kenya. Most of these women in are illiterate, support large families, and are extremely poor. They lack essential entrepreneurship skills and networks that could help them run successful businesses, and they end up spending most of the profits, if any, on basic needs." Dama was recently honored in Paris as one of Africa's top innovators for her work on the Bangla-Pesa program. Dama is also a director of Green World Campaign Kenya where she manages the planting over half a million trees per year. Dama is certified in Permaculture Design and 4H Youth Empowerment for Environmental Solutions. She is currently working on integrating food farms to replace import businesses in Community Currency Networks.

Contact: info@grassrootseconomics.org

**Please inquire for course availability and Kenyan or international rates.*