

## **Wangari Maathai Institute's PhD and MSc students visit the Operation Mwolyo out (OMO) Model in Yatta, Machakos County as part of their experiential learning.**

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies' postgraduate students visited the community transformational model, 'Operation Mwolyo Out (OMO) model in Makutano Sub-location, Yatta Sub-county and Machakos County in Eastern Kenya. The project which derives its name from Kamba word 'Mwolyo,' for relief is an initiative of Bishop Dr. Titus Masika, the Founder/Director through the Christian Impact Mission (CIM) which was designed in 2009 as an effort to cut out food aid induced by frequent incidents of drought induced famine. The initiative include couple of interventions especially rain water harvesting to support diversified livelihood activities. OMO Model is an irrefutable demonstration of what improved awareness and investment in water resources for drought risk management can achieve. It is a noble program that has seen many households in Makutano become self-sufficient and no longer reliant on food aid. Among key reported outputs and outcomes of the Model being witnessed include; improved food security, high literacy rate, improved financial performance, increased water harvesting, environmental conservation and eco-tourism.