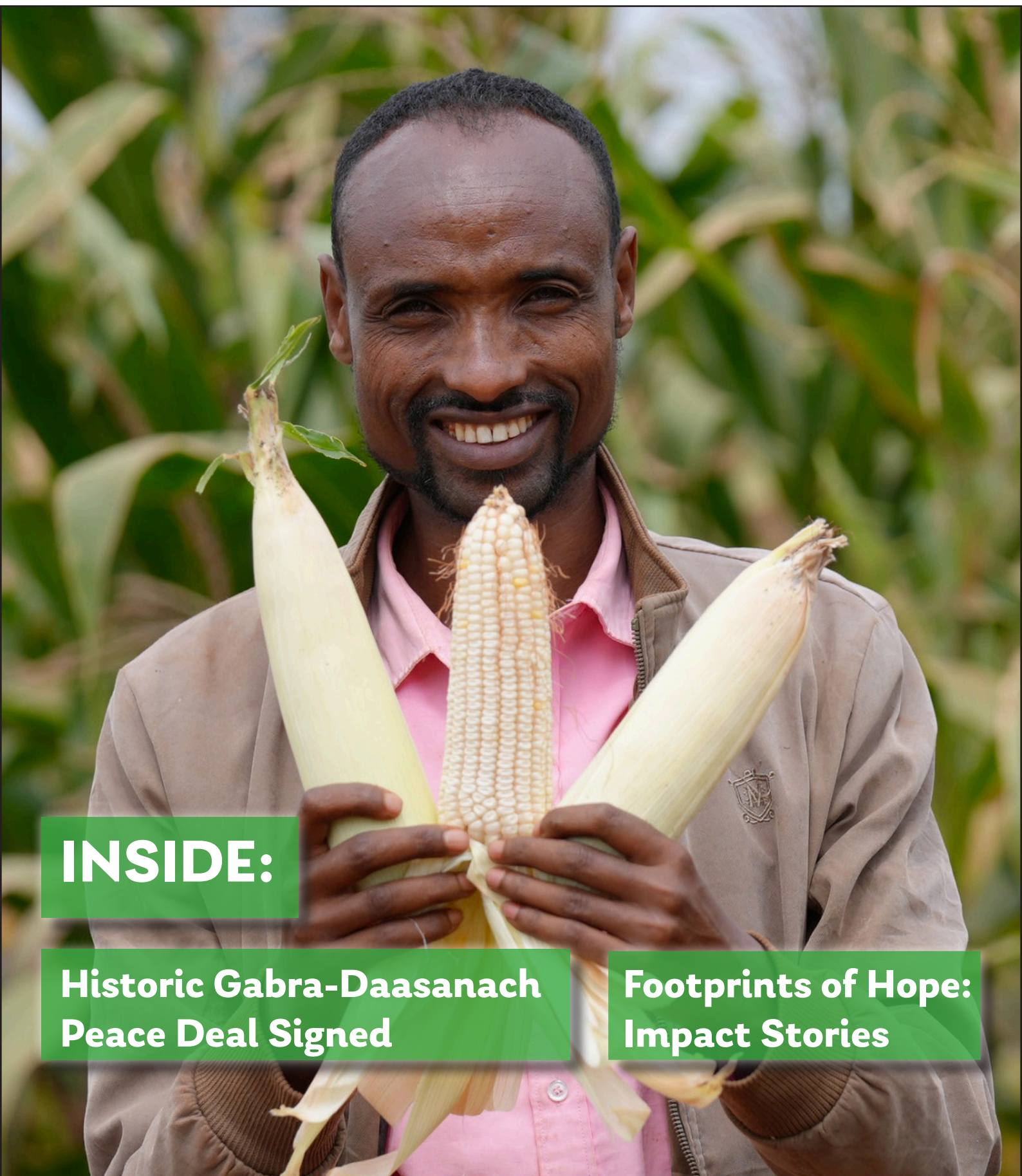


PACIDA

IMPACT
MAGAZINE

AUGUST
2025
EDITION



INSIDE:

**Historic Gabra-Daasanach
Peace Deal Signed**

**Footprints of Hope:
Impact Stories**



Malteser International Newly Appointed Country Director Visits PACIDA

As part of his introductory visit to PACIDA and Malteser International (MI) projects, the newly appointed MI Country Director, Manuel Lackmaier, was joined by PACIDA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Patrick Ratelo, and the joint MI/PACIDA team for a field mission to Illeret.

The team oversaw the distribution of emergency food aid during the third and fourth cycles, reaching 200 of the most vulnerable households.

Each household received maize flour, cooking oil, salt, beans and maize.

Manuel Lackmaier appreciated the ongoing partnership between the community and PACIDA which started in 2011.

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Ratelo called on the community to continue maintaining peace between the Dasaanach and Gabras for development purposes in the area highlighting the peace accord signed weeks ago between the two communities.

The team visited the Ratur model farm in Kalacha, Marsabit County. The farm empowers local pastoralists on good management practices, like use of feedlot and smart farming focusing on growing of green vegetables to improve nutrition.

The farm has set up a Biogas system to help in production of Biogas, a renewable energy source to power gas lamps for lighting.

Plans are being made to have a silage for preserving fodder for later use as animal feed.

PACIDA CEO Patrick Ratelo proposed the financing of a borehole to be drilled at the farm so as to increase its production and efficiency. "The current source of water we share with the community is not enough to sustain all of us considering the livestock also depend on it for drinking," he said.

MI and PACIDA supported Kalacha Boys High School with a 60,000-liter water steel tank, a piping system, and a solar installation. This was to effectively help in distribution of water around the school and the surrounding community while improving their hygiene levels and provision of clean drinking water.



They discussed the progress of the various projects implemented in the county by MI and PACIDA and how the partnership between them and the County government can be strengthened to improve the lives of the communities.

Manuel Lackmaier assured them of their commitment to continue working with the County government and community going forward.

While acknowledging the effects of climate change being enormous, Katelo

emphasised there's a gap to be filled in changing the mindset of the community to reduce the



dependency syndrome. Deputy Gov. Mr Gubo said there's a need for the community to involve themselves deeper into the projects being implemented so that when they come to an end, they're self-sustainable. "When the communities own these projects, they'll ensure the equipment is in good condition and take care of them," he said.

James Ramau praised both MI and PACIDA for bridging the gap in what the national government is doing in maintaining peace between communities living in the borders of Kenya and Ethiopia." We have a porous border of about 720km which is always volatile. PACIDA is doing a worthy course to bring peace that will ensure development projects can be carried out," he said.

The students have benefited from the project with the environment club changing the outlook of their compound by planting and regular watering of trees around the school.

The school which was started in 2022, has a population of 186 students. There are plans for the school to have a kitchen garden to help in providing the students with food during the time they're in school. This will supplement what parents are paying for the same.

The team also held a consultative meeting with officials from the Marsabit County Government led by the Deputy Governor Solomon Gubo, County Commissioner James Ramau, and representatives from the departments of livestock and agriculture, health, and environment.





START FUND PROJECT

Christian Aid Rekindled Our Hope After the Floods

Rurfa Umuro Katelo, a 35-year-old resident of Malabot Centre in Marsabit County, lives with her family of five Chari village, North Horr, Marsabit County. This is a village that borne the brunt of the vagaries of climate change: from cycles of prolonged drought to devastating floods, Rurfa knows all too well.

Between the month of May and June, Chari village saw the most devastating floods in recent history. Rurfa's traditional house was totally destroyed.

She watched helplessly as her belongings, including utensils and water containers, were swept away. Worse still, the floods claimed a significant number of her livestock kept just after her family had relocated the animals for grazing. "More than half of our livestock were swept away, only a few were rescued. This really broke every fighting spirit that we had since we were just starting to rebuild life after the recent drought," she recalls with deep sadness.



the correct matter. The village elders confirmed everything was fair and correct,” Kurfa explains with satisfaction, as her face now beams with hope.

Thanks to the PACIDA intervention, Kurfa and her household received cash transfers, jerrycans, multi-purpose soap, sanitary towels and buckets. The cash transfer enabled Kurfa to purchase food and clothes for her children. The buckets and jerrycans replaced those lost during the floods and are now vital for water collection and storage. Sanitary towels—often inaccessible in remote areas—made a significant difference in hygiene and dignity for women in the community.

Every cloud, the adage goes, has a silver lining. Beneath the fog of helplessness, in those early critical days support came from PACIDA with support from Start Fund through Christian Aid. PACIDA worked with the village structures to rally the community to a public meeting to identify and support the most affected participants. Kurfa was among the many who attended and shared their stories.

“I really don’t know how I would have coped with

Through a community-led process involving village elders and chiefs, participants were identified, with priority given to the most vulnerable—including widows, pregnant and breast-feeding mothers and persons with disabilities. The fairness and transparency of the selection brought trust and unity among the villagers. “PACIDA came back to verify the list and ensure it was done in



all this loss were it not for this Start Fund support. Now I wake up, fuelled by hope and ready to face the day,” she says.

“The floods took everything – and not my abiding spirit. It is always dark before dawn. Here I am, recovering. And rising again,” she tearfully narrates her story.

Grateful yet hopeful, Kurfa’s story reflects the resilience of communities in Marsabait County. With sustained support, she believes families like hers can recover and thrive once again.





SRAPLEA II PROJECT

Families Rebuilding Lives Through Restocking

When drought swept across Marsabit County in 2022, the toll was catastrophic. In the villages of Antut and Qoloba in Moyale Sub-county, entire livestock herds were wiped out, leaving many households with no source of food or income.

Children, the elderly, pregnant, and lactating women were most at risk of malnutrition. As desperation grew, so did the tension between the Borana and Gabra communities. The two communities have a history of inter-communal conflict where they raid each other's manyatta and get away with livestock.

Amid the despair, a restocking initiative brought a glimmer of recovery. To stabilize pastoralist livelihoods and support peaceful coexistence, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) through SRAPLEA 2 project and with funding support

from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supported PACIDA to distribute small livestock specifically, drought-resistant hybrid goats to affected households.

“Restocking was selected because the two villages are purely pastoralist communities with strong cultural and economic reliance on livestock,” says Mamo Malate, PACIDA’s Project Manager.

The two communities had also championed for peace and showed willingness to rebuild, which was another contributing factor for the project to be implemented.

The project prioritized a collaborative approach. Site and beneficiary selection involved community elders, government livestock officers, and local administrators.

Public forums were held to sensitize the community and identify the most vulnerable families; including those without any livestock, orphan-headed families and those with members living with disabilities.

A total of 140 goats were distributed; 70 in each village, with each beneficiary receiving three goats, and two households receiving four. This followed Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock guidelines for restocking.

For Abshiro Dalacha, a mother of three in Qoloba village, the goats brought a new beginning. “I was selected by elders because I had no livestock. I received three goats. All of them gave birth and now I have five, though one kid didn’t survive,” she said.

Dalacha now milks two of the goats. “We use the milk at home, and I sell the rest to my neighbours at Ksh. 100 per litre. It has helped my children to stay healthy,” she adds. In nearby Antut village, Galgalo Guyo had lost nearly everything; 40 goats, 10 camels, and 20 cows during the drought. Water sources remain far. “If we don’t get assistance from government, we walk 17 kilometers to Qoloba for water,” he says.

Guyo who has a family of eight, received three goats through the project. “It has helped us stabilize. I now have milk and if a financial need arises, I can sell the young ones,” he said.

As a community-based coach, Guyo tracks the herd progress from birth and death to health alerts. “I do regular checks. If any sign of disease emerges, I advise families on what action to take.”

The goats have become a step toward recovery and peacebuilding. “Now, you can walk through the village and see goat sheds that were once empty, occupied again,” says Guyo.

In both Antut and Qoloba, the restocking program has helped reduce dependency, while strengthening community cohesion. Families are once again able to access milk and sell animal for basic needs.



CARITAS-GFFO PROJECT: Historic Peace Deal Aims to End Century-Old Conflict in Marsabit

ILLERET, MARSABIT COUNTY—In a landmark moment for peace in Northern Kenya, the Gabra and Daasanach communities have signed a historic peace agreement, aiming to end a century and a half of conflict that has claimed countless lives and stalled development.

The signing ceremony took place in Illeret, North Horr, and was a show of strong commitment from both sides. The peace deal was witnessed by a number of high-ranking officials, including Dr. Raymond Omollo, the Principal Secretary for Internal Security and National Administration, North Horr Member of Parliament Hon. Wario Guyo, and the Eastern Regional Commissioner.

“Today we have witnessed history,” said Patrick Katelo, the CEO of PACIDA, the organization that facilitated the agreement. “This is a fresh start of hope. I call on these two communities to sustain peace.” The agreement is a result of extensive peacebuilding efforts by PACIDA under the Caritas Germany GFFO Project. This marks the first time the two communities have formally committed to a shared peace, aligning with PACIDA’s Humanitarian, Peace, and Development (HDP) Nexus model, which seeks to integrate humanitarian aid with long-term peace and development goals. The historic pact is a beacon of hope for a region long plagued by violence, promising a new era of stability and progress.



DFAT II PROJECT

Families Turn to Farming to Tackle Malnutrition

In the heart of South Horr, Marsabit County, Jenifer Lenkurikuri and Fabian Lesigude bend over leafy rows of spinach, sukuma wiki, and cowpeas under the morning sun. Their farm, part of a community initiative by the group Namayana, is more than a patch of green in an arid land, it's a lifeline.

Traditionally pastoralists, Lenkurikuri and Lesigude represent a growing shift in Kurungu village, where communities once reliant on livestock are now embracing farming to tackle malnutrition which has affected children under 5, the elderly, pregnant and breast-feeding women.

“Our families come first. After harvesting, we make sure our children eat, and then we

sell what's left to buy other foods, clothes, and pay school fees,” said Lenkurikuri

Limited rainfall, long distances to markets, and a reliance on milk, meat, and grains have made access to vegetables scarce. As a result, many families especially pregnant women, and children miss out on critical nutrients.

But with the introduction of vegetable farming through a project led by PACIDA with funding support from the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the landscape and perception on farming is changing.

The intervention couldn't have come sooner. According to a 2023 survey by the Ministry of Health and partners, Marsabit has a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 12.9%, while the prevalence of severe malnutrition is at 2.1%.

On dietary diversification, the survey showed only 24.1% of households consumed more than 5 food groups, while the minimum maternal dietary diversity showed that 88% of women aged 15 - 49 consumed less than five food groups.



Children once marked as underweight, now show signs of recovery, monitored by health workers at local clinics. Families are consuming iron rich vegetables that boost immunity and support healthy growth.

“We are happy when we see our children are in good health and transition from the program,” said Lenkurikuri. The vegetables are also a source of fibre, folate, vitamins A, C and E.

The programme addresses this by training community groups on good agricultural practices, providing them with seeds and tools, networking and linking them with markets “We started with capacity building, then distributed jembes, pangas, and seeds,” said PACIDA’s Project Manager, Hokile Boku.

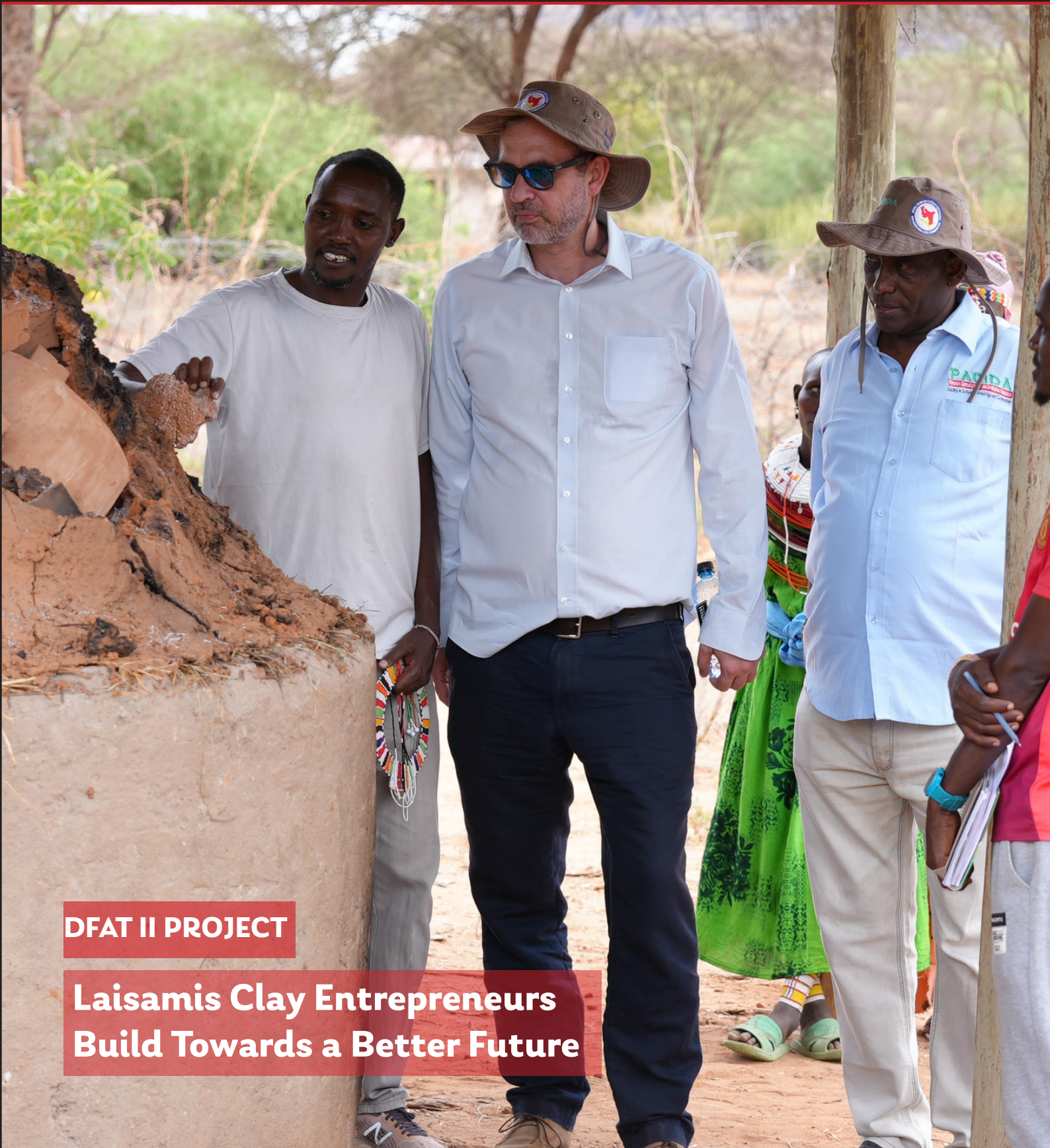
“We’ve learned how to prepare nursery beds, transplant, weed, and water. And when a seedling dries, we replace it,” said Lesigude.



PACIDA worked closely with professionals from the Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture, Trade, and other relevant departments to educate the groups more about entrepreneurship and farming methods.

To ensure the project is a success, the members have scheduled days marked for watering the crops.

The farmers hope to expand their plots despite ongoing water shortages. “We’re seeing the benefits. With continued support from PACIDA, we can grow even more,” Lesigude adds.



DFAT II PROJECT

Laisamis Clay Entrepreneurs Build Towards a Better Future

Every day, Nathan Lepatoye joins 15 other members of the Naiserian Self-Help Group in Ngurunit, Laisamis Constituency, to bring their clay-based enterprise to life making bricks and energy saving stoves. The group, made up of five men and eleven women, started as a grassroots initiative to earn a living and support their families.

make decisions, and carry out daily activities.

A typical day starts with transporting clay from a nearby farm, crushing it into fine particles, mixing it with water, and moulding it into bricks and modern stoves (jiko). Once shaped, they are left to dry before being fired in a kiln to harden.

Their production site has become more than just a workplace. It is where they gather to brainstorm,
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The group received Ksh 330,000 in funding from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), through PACIDA.

Before receiving the grant, the group used wheelbarrows to carry the clay across long distances which is a tiring and inefficient process. "Using wheelbarrows was tiresome and time consuming. After the grant, we can now hire trucks to transport the heavy clay in bulk," said Lepatoye.

In addition to the financial support, they also received training on market linkages and business management. This has significantly improved their productivity and ability to meet growing customer demand.

Naomi Lbalang'a, the group's secretary, said the modern

stoves offer several advantages. "Compared to the traditional three-stone fires, our stoves use less firewood, produce no smoke, and cook food faster due to their energy efficiency," she explained.

This innovation has reduced indoor air pollution and improved health outcomes, particularly for women and children who are often responsible for cooking.

In a bid to diversify their income, the group has also established a tree nursery. The seedlings are sold to community members and are especially in high demand during the rainy season. The project has improved the daily lives of the members. "The income I earn helps me provide food, pay school fees, and take care of my four children," said Lepatoye. The group sells each brick at Ksh 20, while their two

stove varieties go for Ksh 300 and Ksh 500, respectively.

One of the major setbacks for the group is the lack of a clay crusher, which would help them process the clay more efficiently. "Sometimes the stoves crack because large particles remain in the mixture. A crusher would really help. PACIDA has already been a blessing, and we hope they can assist further," said Lepatoye.

According to Hokile Boku, PACIDA's Project Manager, the success of such community-led projects is a collective achievement. "The credit belongs to both the group and the wider community. When a project thrives, everyone wins. I believe this group has a bright future ahead," he said.



DFAT II PROJECT

Inside a Village's Journey to End Open Defecation

As we drive through Soito village in Marsabit County, a group of children run excitedly alongside us, waving and calling out in their local dialect. “Do you want to see the toilets?” they ask, pointing towards the manyattas scattered across the field.

In this community, also known as Lorukushu, pit latrines have become a source of pride. Every homestead now either has a completed latrine or one under construction, each a sign of the village's transformation. Leading us through this change is Peter Leisido, a respected elder coordinating the project in Lorukushu, which includes more than

65 households. So far, 25 latrines have been built.

“Each family committed to building a latrine just a few metres from their home. We've also encouraged everyone to set up a handwashing station outside the latrine, usually a 2 or 3-litre jerrycan filled with clean water,” said Leisido.

For women like Celina Letore, the transformation has been life changing. “We used to relieve ourselves in the bushes. It was dangerous, especially at night we risked snake bites or attacks from wild animals. But now, we feel safer,” remarked Letore.

According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Marsabit and Samburu are among the 15 counties where 85% of open defecation occurs. During the rainy season, human waste gets washed into water sources used for drinking and cooking, increasing the risk of diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and stomach infections.

With funding support from Oxfam and Australia's Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), PACIDA rolled out a hygiene and sanitation program to improve public health in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) like Soito.

The initiative follows the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) model, urging households

are now champions of sanitation awareness. The cultural shift has been significant. "We no longer have to worry about contaminated water or illnesses. Our children are safer, and our homes are cleaner," said Leisido.

A ceremony to declare Soito open defecation free (ODF) is planned once every household has a functioning latrine. "The community's response has been inspiring. The CHPs and CHWs are doing a great work to sustain these changes," said Boku.

From bushes to cemented pit latrines, Soito's journey reflects the power of local action, education, and dignity. In a place once defined by open fields, the community now stands united by something far more powerful: ownership of their health and future.

For lasting impact, there is a need for greater government involvement in ending open defecation by prioritizing sanitation in national and county policies.



"Since building the latrines, we've seen fewer cases of stomach illnesses, especially among children and the elderly," said Letore.

Nationally, over 6,600 children under five die annually from diarrhoea, and 80% of those cases are linked to poor sanitation, hygiene, and unsafe water.

When we first arrived, we asked, why are there no toilets? We learned that no one had explained the importance of having a latrine. Our first task was to change that mindset," recalls Hokile Boku, PACIDA'S Project Manager overseeing the sanitation project.

to construct latrines using locally available materials like timber, tree branches, cloth, and ash.

Training sessions were delivered in partnership with county health promoters (CHP), community health workers (CHW), and public health officers. "We learned how to dig a proper pit, use cement for the base, and timber for a secure structure," said Leisido.

Not all change came easily. "Some elders believed the latrines being dug were a symbol of graves surrounding their manyattas. But after we explained the health benefits, many embraced the idea," said Boku.

Today, those same elders





SERVE PROJECT

Hygiene Kits Offer Hope to School Going Girls in Marsabit

Christine Nure stood up with a calm confidence that silenced her classmates. A grade 9 student at Lakartinya Primary and Junior School in Saku, Marsabit County, she was the only one brave enough to demonstrate in front of her peers and their parents how to correctly place a sanitary pad on a pair of underpants.

While most students shied away, Nure's boldness was met with applause from the parents. Her demonstration was part of a menstrual hygiene training organized by Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA) in partnership with

Saku Sub-county health department, led by Public Health Officer Christine Owaga.

"Many parents don't discuss menstruation with their children and today was a good opportunity to deepen their understanding and break the myths and taboos around menstrual cycles," said Owaga.

She added that there is a need to scale up such training in more schools, especially in remote areas, to ensure more girls are enlightened on menstrual hygiene as a normal biological occurrence every woman experience.

The session covered critical topics such as the dangers of douching, how to place and dispose of sanitary pads, why frequent changing is important, and how to prevent infections like candidiasis and UTI's. The aim was not just hygiene education but empowerment and confidence.

As part of the initiative, 60 junior high school girls at Lakartinya received sanitary pads and two pairs of undergarments from USAID through Concern Worldwide. Their parents also received four bars of soap and 38 water purification tablets (Aquatabs) to improve overall hygiene in their homes and prevent water borne diseases.

The program supported 51 schools in four different Sub-counties of Marsabit: North Horr (21), Laisamis (15), Moyale (6) and Saku (9) while ten institutions received 100 liters of handwashing soap. 3,000 pupils received pads to sustain them for a period of 6 months and two pairs of undergarments.

Nure expressed her gratitude but also pointed out that many girls still lack access to basic menstrual products. "Most of our parents can't afford pads. We are lucky to receive them today, but I hope more girls, especially in the lower classes, can also benefit," she said.

In remote parts of Marsabit like Saku, access to sanitary pads remains a major challenge. The nearest shopping center, Karare, is kilometers away, and transport options are limited.

Nkinoya Lbilish, a parent

from Guram Primary School, highlighted how lack of pads contributes to school absenteeism. "When girls start their periods, they miss school. Today's support from PACIDA will help them stay in class and maintain their hygiene," she said.

Lbilish also received soap and Aquatabs for treating water at home which she sees as vital for improving her family's hygiene practices. "In the past, we used to drink water directly from the dams and often fell ill. Now, with Aquatabs and better awareness, our children rarely get diarrhea," she said.

Another parent, Raphaela N. Leado, said her household previously used ash to treat water which proved unreliable. "We still got sick. But now with aquatabs, things have improved," said Leado.

While most programs focus on girls, there are calls not to forget boys. Jedidah Kaaria, a teacher at Kargi Primary School, acknowledged that boys often feel left out. "They ask, What about us?" Some of them don't even own proper underclothes and vests. Supporting them too will motivate them to stay in school. If boys aren't engaged,

they may become the ones who endanger the girls," she said.

Hussein Harub, Deputy Director of Education in Marsabit County, agreed. "We must engage boys through mentorship and skills programs like sports and psychosocial support. Cash transfers to vulnerable families can also help keep boys in school," he noted.

He still emphasized the focus on girls is justifiable. "Girls face greater challenges: from early marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), pregnancies, and lack of access to pads," he said.

Harub praised NGOs for helping reduce menstrual stigma and promoting education. "But we must push more families to enroll all their girls in school, because that's who these programs reach," said Harub.

Lack of water in Marsabit County remains a barrier in sustaining these hygiene efforts. Schools and homes in this arid, semi-arid region depend heavily on rainwater. During dry seasons, the nearest water sources can be several kilometers away.

"We sometimes have food at school but no water to cook it. I urge the government and other partners like PACIDA to drill a borehole here. It would make a big difference for this community and students hygiene and health," said Lakartinya School Head Daniel Lekesike.





CARITAS-GFFO PROJECT: FEEDING HOPE IN DROUGHT STRICKEN MARSABIT

Every evening, Sabdio waits outside her family's homestead, eager for her older sister Adho Dabello to return from school. Today, the rain trickles gently on the roof of their hut as she stands by the entrance, eyes fixed on the distant footpath.

Moments later, she hears Adho exchanging goodbyes with classmates and rushes out to greet her. This daily ritual carries a deeper meaning. It signals the arrival of the only food Sabdio might have that day. With excitement, she grabs her sister's basket, which holds a portion of githeri, a meal of boiled maize and beans served at school.

"Every time I get food at school, I remember my younger sister because I know there's barely enough at home. I always save some for her," Adho said. Marsabit is one of Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid

Lands (ASAL), a region plagued by recurring droughts, water scarcity, and unpredictable weather patterns brought on by climate change. In these harsh conditions, families often migrate in search of pasture and water, leading to an increase in school dropouts especially during dry seasons.

"We are purely pastoralists. We don't have land to farm like others," said Adho's mother, Morme Dabello.

A 2022 Rapid Gender and Needs Analysis by Plan International in Marsabit showed a troubling drop in school attendance from 61.5% to 51.1% during the drought. The data revealed that more girls (13.9%) than boys (9.3%) were already out of school before the crisis.



These numbers rose to 14.3% and 13.5% respectively as the drought worsened.

PACIDA implemented a school feeding program with funding support from Caritas Germany in July 2023 targeting 45 of the most affected schools in Marsabit and Samburu. The initiative provides daily meals to pupils to keep them in school.

meals. When the lunch bell rings, students rush to the kitchen area, their faces lit with joy. For many, school has become a refuge not only for education but for food security.

Lochi discovered that some students hide part of their lunch to take home. “Through my investigations, I found that some students eat half and save the rest in their bags. That’s how dire the situation is,” he said.

In addition to meals, PACIDA provides porridge flour (Unimix), cash transfers to vulnerable households, and relief food to support families. Special attention is given to the elderly, pregnant women, and children under five years.

The organizations have also initiated hygiene education, mentorship programs, and kitchen gardens to improve student nutrition.

“The availability of food has created a conducive learning environment. It’s no surprise that our students’ grades are improving. My appreciation goes



to PACIDA and Caritas,” Lochi said.

Godana points out that there are still challenges to overcome “Some schools have no kitchens and cook under trees. To give students an equal opportunity, we need better infrastructure like more classrooms, good kitchens, toilets, and improved teacher housing,” notes Godana.

Parents and teachers alike hold out hope that their children, armed with education, will one day lift their communities out of poverty. But for that to happen, Godana believes the government must prioritize long term solutions. “Timely disbursement of food will ensure students are in schools all year round,” he said.

The school feeding program must be sustained and scaled to reach the most vulnerable populations. Drought may be inevitable, hunger shouldn’t be.



“The community here is still food insecure,” explains Godana Said, Project Manager at PACIDA. “Most families lost their livestock which is their main source of livelihood. The school feeding program is helping prevent more children from dropping out,” he said.

At Rage Primary School, headteacher Budha Lochi sees the difference firsthand. “Before the feeding program, students came to class hungry. Attendance was irregular. Sometimes we’d close school early because learners couldn’t concentrate. But now, we have regular attendance and better performance,” said Lochi.

Adho is among the 302 students benefitting from the





Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance
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