

PACIDA

Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance
Building on Indigenous Knowledge and Institutions

christian
aid

actalliance



DROUGHT RESPONSE AND ENHANCEMENT OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN MARSABIT, KENYA

The Situation Report Just Before the Intervention

The increased frequency and complexity in emergencies have affected the population's coping capacities, which increasingly erodes their livelihood asset base thus resorting to irreversible negative coping strategies such as loss of livelihood, children dropping out of schools and early/forced marriages. As of November 2022, Kenya has suffered four consecutive failed rain seasons with an eminent failure of the fifth; characterised by late-onset, early cessation, below-average rainfall amounts, and poor temporal and spatial distribution, including the target geographical areas of Marsabit County.

The devastating impact of Kenya's climatic shocks are increasing and worsening with the number of people in need of food assistance standing at 4.35 million as of November 2022 affecting 21 counties- seven of which are at Alarm phase including Marsabit. Access to adequate, safe water, improved sanitation and hygiene in ASAL areas continues to deteriorate, especially during dry periods. Both people and livestock are at long distances from water sources that is above the longterm average and SPHERE recommended distances. Marsabit is among the four counties that registered severe vegetation deficit in Moyale, Laisamis and North Horr.

Across Kenya, staple food prices remain high due to low local availability following successive below-average harvests, high demand, high inflation rates, and high transportation costs. The high prices are reducing household purchasing power and limiting household food access. Despite raising an early warning and early action alert, anticipatory actions have delayed due to lack of funding. Current responses are required to avert further deterioration and to support households to better cope.



Our Response

Our response sought to build on PACIDA's other ongoing work on improving food access for hardest hit wards in Marsabit County. The activities sought to cushion the community/groups during this prolonged drought that had threatened to affect their activities, vulnerable people living with HIV/AIDs and the general livelihoods of the community.

1.0 Support for households with cash transfer through MPESA

The intervention cushioned the food insecure households within North Horr, Durte and Maikona. The cash transfers interventions were aimed at enabling vulnerable households to purchase basic commodities and services during the drought period. This helped cushion the communities as they had lost their livelihoods due to death of their livestock which they depended on as their main source of income.

Unconditional cash was provided to households in form of 3 monthly payments each equivalent to 50% of the full Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) as agreed by the Kenya Cash Working Group (KCWG). According to the Kenya Cash Transfer Working Group, the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for Marsabit at Dec 2021 was KES 17,913 and the food MEB was KES 10,880. For this project, PACIDA worked with 50% MEB amount and targeted 295 households in Maikona and Durte and an additional 260 households in North Horr. The proposed MEB transfer value was applied by actors within Marsabit county as recommended by the Kenya Cash Working Group.





2.0 Micro-Enterprise Development

PACIDA has been working with different women and youth self-help groups across the county as a resilience and sustainability approach to disaster management. The micro-enterprise has enabled women initiate income generating activities like small businesses that bring food commodities closer to their homes even as they contribute to household the economy.

With the recent shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the drought, these enterprises continued to survive despite the challenges. The reduced purchasing power of the local population, the ability of the women groups' income generating activities to make profits was affected resulting in low or no income at the household level to purchase essential commodities. Rising fuel prices increased the cost of manufacturing and transport resulting in high food prices. This adversely effected the capital base of the women.

To cushion the groups' income generating activities against the adverse effects of drought, PACIDA provided seed capital to 12 self-help groups to boost their businesses that continued to be a lifeline during the crisis. The project also trained the groups on Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) to plan and implement adaptation strategies, group dynamics and business skills.



Project intervention:

RESULT AREA	ACTIVITIES	ACHIEVEMENT
<p>Result 1.1 Increased access to food through provision of unconditional multipurpose cash transfers</p>	<p>Cash transfers for 295 Households in Maikona and Durte for 3 months at 50% Minimum Expenditure Basket transfer value during the months of January-March 2023</p>	<p>295 Households in Maikona and Durte received unconditional cash transfer for 3 months at 50% Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) transfer value. The funds were used to support who received a monthly cash disbursement of 8,956 shillings for a period of 3 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement was a key component of accountable cash transfer programming. Engaging with communities helped to ensure that beneficiaries were aware of their rights and responsibilities and thus provided feedback on project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. • Cash transfer projects empowered local communities by providing them with the resources they needed to make decisions about their own needs and priorities. This helped to build local capacity and ensured that responses were tailored to the specific needs of the community. • The Cash transfer stimulated local economies by injecting cash directly into local markets. This supported local businesses and helped to sustain the local economy over the longer term. Cash transfer also stimulated local markets by increasing demand for goods and services, which helped support local economic development. Communities that were initially stretched economically and could not afford to buy food items from local retailers was empowered through the cash transfer to be able to off past debts and buy food items for their households. The trickle down benefited the local retailers as well. • Cash transfer project also provided beneficiaries with the flexibility to choose how to spend the funds, based on their individual needs and priorities. • The project bolstered food security whereby the cash transfers enabled households to purchase food, even during a drought emergency when food prices are high. This can in turn help to reduce malnutrition and improve food security and indeed insulated households from vulnerability. • The beneficiaries were also able to pay off their debts and purchase food stuff in bulk. • In addition, the cash transfers helped to build resilience by providing a safety net.

		<p>This expedited community recovery effort from the impacts of the drought.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing needs assessments with local actors and the Government during coordination forums ensured a shared understanding of the needs and priorities of the affected population. This helped to avoid duplication of efforts and ensured that resources were directed where they were most needed. Coordination helped to identify areas of overlap and duplication, which led to more efficient use of resources. This helped to maximise the impact of programmes and reduce wastage.
	<p>Cash transfers for 260 Households in North Horr for 3 months at 50% Minimum Expenditure Basket transfer value during the months of March-May-2023</p>	<p>260 Households in North Horr ward received unconditional cash transfer for 3 months at 50% Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) transfer value. The funds were used to support who received a monthly cash disbursement of 8,956 shillings for a period of 3 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash transfer project helped increase the effectiveness of locally-led responses through empowering local communities by providing them with the resources they needed to respond to crises in their own ways. This was especially important in contexts like North Horr where drought ravaged the community's livelihood and there was urgent need for adoption of alternative livelihoods. The training on business skills, group dynamics, leadership skills, community managed disaster risk reduction and the issuance of seed capital to the four women groups enabled them to acquire knowledge and resources to respond effectively to cushion themselves against the drought shock. It promoted accountability and transparency by involving local communities in the design and implementation of programmes. This helps to ensure that resources were used effectively and that programmes were responsive to the needs of the community. The community mobilisation/sensitisation activities were openly communicated and the expectations shared as well as the transparent targeting and selection processes. The community took the lead in identification, verification and validation of beneficiaries. This was empowering.

<p>Result 2.1 Economic empowerment of women through Micro-enterprise development</p>	<p>4 women groups, namely; Chorora, Sunflower, Siligi and Turbi Camel Dairy received trainings on rules of group dynamics and leadership skills, business management, book-keeping, feasibility study and marketing strategy in the first phase</p>	<p>The Women Groups received training covering the rules of group dynamics and leadership skills, business management, book-keeping, feasibility study and marketing strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The training on group dynamics and leadership skills enabled the group to have cohesive and focused groups, with a shared understanding of their mission and objectives. • The training on business skills and bookkeeping enhanced the women groups understanding of business management, business strategies and feasibility studies. • The business management skills covered business development issues such as market linkages. The training helped enhance the groups to identify the suppliers and the buyers of commodities that they sell. The realisation enabled them to minimise the cost they incur as they usually purchase the commodities through the middlemen.
<p>8 women groups, namely; Moyale Camel Dairy Co-operative milk society, Meitisia Self Help Group, Naliapu Self Help group, Little Sisters Women Group, Yayab Jaba Self Help Group, Tawakaltu Sifa Women Group, Kiwanja Ndege Women Group and Karare Dairy Co-operative Society received trainings on rules of group dynamics and leadership skills, business management, book-keeping, feasibility study and marketing strategy in the 2nd phase of funding.</p>		

<p>Result 3.1 Strengthened livelihoods of women by diversifying and reinforcing their economic base through provision of seed capital</p>	<p>A total of 12 Women Groups were provided with seed capital of Kenya Shilling 200,000 each to boost the group-based business capital</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced women's capacity making them better equipped to cushion themselves against effects of climate change such as drought. • Open the women to imagine a world of better possibilities of livelihood diversification, value addition, savings; as well as better management of their groups. • Increased the purchasing power of the women through the support of seed capital as the ability of the women groups' income generating activities to make profits had initially been affected resulting in low or no income at the household level to purchase essential commodities. • Groups' income generating activities were cushioned against the adverse effects of drought. • The seed capital helped groups to boost their businesses that continue to be a lifeline during the crisis.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



**Pastoralist Community Initiative and
Development Assistance (PACIDA)**

P.O. Box 3336 - 0500

Marsabit, Kenya

For more information

CONTACT:

+254 (0) 20 265 6947

pacida@pacida.org

www.pacida.org