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Beyond Immediate Relief Support:


Cash transfer Samburu County(2023)





“The program has truly enabled our communities to achieve food security as we cope with the effects of drought and now the floods in our area. Personally, I have noticed a transformative shift in the health and well-being of our children. This program has genuinely transformed the lives of pastoralist communities in Nachola ward.”

**~Moses Modo, Village Administrator
Natir, Nachola Ward**



In the years following five consecutive failed rainy seasons, Kenya was hit by heavy rains that caused destructive floods between October and December 2023. These floods led to significant damage to agriculture, livestock, and infrastructure, resulting in increased food insecurity in the affected counties. According to the latest Integrate Phase Classification analysis, an estimated 2.8 million people in the ASAL regions were already affected. Among those experiencing high levels of Acute Food Insecurity, 2.3 million are classified in IPC Phase 3 - Crisis, and nearly 500,000 are classified in IPC Phase 4 - Emergency. Samburu, one of the affected areas, is an arid and semi-arid region with a pastoralist community heavily reliant on cattle as their primary source of livelihood.

Samburu, with a population of 347,336 and a GAM rate of 15.8%, is one of the areas with the highest malnutrition rates. To address this issue, the Enhanced Drought Emergency Response for Food and Nutrition Security (EDERF) project was established. This USAID-supported initiative aimed at improving the food and nutritional security of vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities affected by the drought emergency in Samburu County. In addition to addressing food and nutrition security, the project has elevated the livelihoods of residents, who now have a sustainable source of income.

The Journey

So far PACIDA in partnership with ACTED has implemented 4 cycles of cash transfer. For each cycle a comprehensive beneficiary targeting process using community-driven and participatory approaches was conducted. Collaborating with sub-county leadership, local administration, and nutritionists, they identified specific groups such as children under 5 in the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), those in the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP), and malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers as per Ministry of Health's MOH 100 registers.

Community members initially identified potential beneficiaries within their villages, ensuring that they were not already receiving other assistance. This list was then verified through public barazas (community meetings) where eligibility was confirmed. Validated beneficiaries received unique identification cards.

The registration occurred in two stages: first, using physical registers at the village level, followed by the Kobo Tool, a digital data collection platform, to improve efficiency and accuracy. A 10% verification exercise was also conducted in all targeted villages to ensure the integrity of the process.

A total of 3,295 beneficiaries (2,662 females and 633 males) were registered across Samburu East (1,353 - 1,021 females and 332 males), Samburu North (1,772 - 1,552 females and 248 males), and Samburu West (170 - 116 females and 54 males) to receive cash assistance.

1. Community mobilization

2. Selection and Training of village committees.

3. Validation of selection criteria

4. Selection of beneficiaries

5. Public validation and Validation of beneficiaries List

6. Registration of beneficiaries

7. Provision of unconditional cash transfer to households in Samburu.

The Journey





“As village accountability committees we supported PACIDA and ACTED during community mobilization, registration and verification exercise. We were trained on our roles as accountability and CRM committees which included supporting communities during selection process and addressing and reporting complaints and feedback.”

~ Village accountability committees in Lodua and Tangar



“The PACIDA cash transfer programme has been of great impact to me and my family. Now I am not worried about food the money I get from charcoal business helps with other household purchase but cash transfer we purchase food with it. I am very grateful for the assistance.”

~ Sabina



A stitch in time

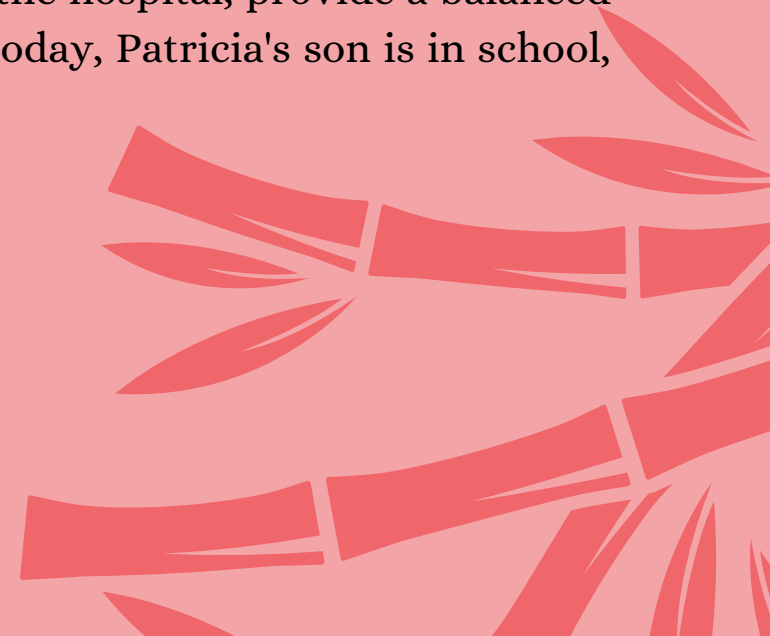
“Before the cash transfer program, my life was a daily struggle. I relied on charcoal burning and odd jobs to make ends meet, often going to bed hungry and worrying about my child’s future. My child was enrolled in a supplementary program.”


~Patricia Lekalo



Patricia Leikalo, a passionate young mother of five, has been facing financial difficulties in providing for her 3-year-old son and her grandmother. Patricia had to leave school because her grandmother couldn't afford to send her. She was working odd jobs that didn't generate enough income to cover their food expenses and her grandmother's medical bills. Consequently, her grandmother's health deteriorated. When the cash transfer program was implemented in her village, things turned around for Patricia as she met the selection

criteria. She was able to use the money to take her grandmother to the hospital, provide a balanced diet for her son, and save some money to enroll her son in school. Today, Patricia's son is in school, and her grandmother's health has improved.





Dependence to Empowerment

“Ever since PACIDA offered us support, we no longer go to bed hungry. I even took a bold step and started my own small business. Now I am able to purchase diverse foods to improve nutrition of members in my household such as vegetables, beans and rice”

~Naimalo Lentaaka


Naimalo Lentaaka, a 34-year-old mother of three, relied on relatives and well-wishers to feed her



children when her husband was away in search of pasture for their livestock. Being entirely dependent on her husband meant that sometimes she did not have meals for an entire day. This led to severe malnutrition for her second child and difficulty breastfeeding her youngest child, who was 7 months old at the time.

After enrolling in the cash transfer program, Naimalo was able to provide nutritious meals for her children. She also started a small business that is currently supporting her household.





**From struggle to
strength**

“Before the cash transfer program, my life was a daily struggle. I relied on charcoal burning and odd jobs to make ends meet, often going to bed hungry and worrying about my child’s future.”

~Napiyok Lekutano

Napiyok Lekutano is a 25-year-old woman and a mother of two in Lchurai Village. Before benefiting from PACIDA, her life was a daily struggle. As the sole breadwinner and a single mother, she relied on charcoal burning as her main source of income.

Being the main caregiver for her children meant not going to work some days, she was unable to consistently provide for them, resulting in going to bed hungry from time to time. Her children started getting sick and experiencing delayed milestones. Following clinical check-ups, the children were enrolled in a supplementary program due to malnutrition. After receiving the unconditional cash transfer she was able to provide her children with nutritious foods and other household essentials including WASH items like soap and water. She also gained the ability to identify a variety of locally available foods for her family. Additionally, Napiyok decided to stop her charcoal burning business and seek other informal job opportunities.



From selling illicit brew to owning my own shop

“Gone are the days when I resorted to selling illicit alcohol just to provide my family. I have not only learned the importance of nutritious meals and dietary diversity but also, used my entrepreneurial skills to start a small shop.”

~Ntemuni Lealo



Ntemuni is a hardworking mother of five children in SereOllipi who was having a tough time making ends meet. As a mother with a passion for education, she struggled to make ends meet. Providing meals was difficult, and many times her children went to school without a meal and even slept hungry. Despite the heartbreak, Ntemuni was determined not to let any of her children drop out of school. To make ends meet, she started a business making and selling illicit brew, which brought in some income but didn't cover all their expenses. This led to her providing only one meal a day for her children in order to send them to school, unaware of the health effects this would have. Her youngest child was the most affected and had to be enrolled in a supplementary program.

Cash transfer was a turning point for her. It lightened the load, enabling her to start another business while still managing to provide balanced meals for her children on a daily basis. Ntemuni opened a small shop in her village and is using her entrepreneurial skills to empower other women to start small businesses and save.





PACIDA Restored My Dignity and Hope as a Person With Disability

“I am so grateful to PACIDA and its partners for enabling me to afford a meal. During the drought, I would go hungry. The cash transfer was timely and has really cautioned me against hunger.”


~Simon



People living with disabilities are often more vulnerable to disasters, and this was Simon's reality. During the drought, Simon lost all his livestock, his main source of livelihood. This loss hit especially hard because Simon was the breadwinner for his family. His disability made it difficult for him to graze his livestock over long distances like other community members, leading to their loss. Finding a job was also very challenging due to the community's stereotypes. Simon often went hungry, relying on the hope of support from

neighbors who were also struggling during the drought. Simon's situation improved significantly when he was enrolled in a cash transfer program. With this support, Simon could afford daily meals and budget for his needs until the next disbursement. His health improved, and his resilience and determination to address stereotypes against people living with disabilities became more evident. Recognizing his efforts and potential, the community selected him as a member of the accountability committee.





It has been a transformative Journey

“Provision of cash transfer to people is empowering. When a disaster strikes for example drought or floods, money is often the first thing people need to buy basic needs such as food and water.

The unconditional cash transfer has increased purchasing power and improved food consumption index of households”

~ Abdiah Lalaikipian, Project manager

As I reflect back on when we started Drought Emergency Response for Food Security (DERF) in 2021 to now the Enhanced Drought Emergency Response For Food Security (EDERF) I am elated by how transformative this program has been to communities in the past 2 years of implementation. This was made possible by the commitment of partners; USAID -BHA, ACTED, county government, and local administration to make the program a success. A specific case scenario involved a woman named Margaret who lived in Wamba. When we met her during community mobilization, we learned that her hands were completely burnt due to her involvement in charcoal burning activities to generate income for her household. She was a beneficiary in both programs. Recently when I visited her in her, was pleased to meet a happy and healthy woman who as a result of the program was able to start a small poultry business and feed her children.



Food insecurity remains a big challenge in Samburu County but with the provision of the unconditional cash transfer to food insecure and vulnerable households we were able to witness increased purchasing power for households and improvement of general health and well being of beneficiaries. The communities continue to grapple with different climate related shocks. PACIDA and its partners are committed to strengthening resilience of pastoralist communities while addressing effects of climate related risks.



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

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