



Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance

Building on Indigenous Knowledge and Institutions



Building Back Better

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

OUR VISION

The word 'OUR' is in red, and 'VISION' is in green with a hand-drawn, textured font. A stylized eye icon is positioned above the 'I' in 'VISION'.

A peaceful, progressively prosperous and resilient community

OUR MISSION

The word 'OUR' is in red, and 'MISSION' is in green with a hand-drawn, textured font. A target icon with an arrow is positioned above the 'I' in 'MISSION'.

To improve the well-being of vulnerable ASAL communities through sustainable development.

VALUES

The word 'VALUES' is in green with a hand-drawn, textured font. An icon of a hand holding a star is positioned above the 'A' in 'VALUES'.

- **Transparency and accountability**
We are open in our all our work and we endeavour to live a life beyond reproach, always
- **Commitment and service to community**
We take service to humanity as a calling and a higher purpose.
- **People centeredness**
Our interventions are aimed at delivering lasting impact in people's lives.
- **Integrity**
We uphold the highest level of honesty in our engagements.
- **Professionalism**
We strive to be professional in all our engagements.



Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance

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Building Back Better

Cushioning and Enhancing
Communities Resilience

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Dedication

This report is dedicated to the Late Dr. Lawugger of Austria, the devoted supporter of The Tiigo School. Through your generous support, thousands of children from Marsabit County and beyond will acquire education – a fighting chance to a bright future.

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Statement from the Chairman



Statement from the Chairman

The year 2020 was a critical year in PACIDA's work. It was the last year of implementation of the organisation's Strategic Plan 2016-2020. It was also the year that the organisation was tested to its extreme by disasters: the Covid-19 pandemic, locusts' invasion and drought. These disasters thrust the organisation to the frontline of emergency work in a manner never seen before.

To address the Covid-19 pandemic, the organisation reached every village in Marsabit County sensitising communities on the disease preventive measures and donating masks, soaps and sanitisers to them. The locust invasion also took us to the frontline of fighting the disaster as well as cushioning communities from shocks of food supply.

While the threat of these disasters still looms large and may even get more potent in the coming years, PACIDA will always be at the frontline of ensuring our communities are cushioned and resilient. In realising this, we are encouraged that we can count on our partners' support and the participation of our communities in our interventions.

Apart from combating the disasters, PACIDA made tangible strides in the implementation of its strategic plan in all its thematic areas. We built resilient and sustainable communities, bolstered our brand, told great impact stories and sustained and grew great partnerships and networks with key development actors.

In 2020, after years of seeking registration in Ethiopia, PACIDA got authorisation by the Government of Ethiopia to start operating in the country from 2021. While the organisation was engaged in cross-border interventions, the formal registration will definitely pivot PACIDA to confidently scale its work in the country. On behalf of the Board and Staff of PACIDA,

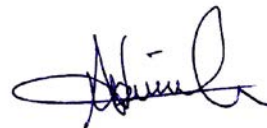
I thank the Ethiopian Government for their support towards this effort.

In this Annual Report, we reflect on our journey with the communities and share our learnings and impact stories. The report reinforces our theory of change that is hinged on acknowledging that the communities we work with understand their challenges and terrain. We see our work as being the catalysts that inspire these communities to fully own and participate in addressing their challenges.

To capture the spirit of resilience and rising from the ashes of a tough year, this year's Annual Report's title borrows from the global call to action: 'building back better'.

As we reflect on the year 2020, we know we could not have realised our success alone. This great work was enabled by our Board, staff, donors, partners and our supporters. On behalf of the Board, I send our warm appreciation to all our supporters.

Asanteni Sana.



Dr. Chris Field

2 Statement from **the CEO**



Statement from the CEO

In January 2020, we started the year with our usual enthusiasm and hope of a great year. We thought we had everything well figured out: clear work plans, our partners on our side and our staff ready to do what they do best: delivering change. Then, life changed.

In March 13th 2020, Kenya reported its first case of the novel coronavirus – Covid 19. With our experience of implementing emergency interventions, we knew this was an even bigger risk with a lot of unknown variables. At the time of the announcement, Marsabit County was already grappling with other disasters: drought, locust invasion, livestock diseases, cholera and malaria outbreak and devastating floods in late 2019 into 2020. “How ill-timed can a pandemic be? We have enough challenges already,” we wondered.

Within a short time, PACIDA embarked on an aggressive sensitisation campaign and donating the needed preventive materials. In most instances, we were the only organisation or entity that the communities encountered on the ground. While the pandemic is still getting more potent with new waves and strains reported, we know that our interventions are playing a critical part in saving lives and securing livelihoods.

In the past year, PACIDA dealt with another disruptive disaster: the worst locust invasion in Kenya in 70 years. Working closely with our donors, national and county governments and other partners, PACIDA combated the locust invasion while at the same time supporting the most affected households through cash transfers. With new locust swarms still forming, this disaster is projected to remain in Kenya for a while. Despite this, we are encouraged that we can count on our partners for continued support.

In 2020, PACIDA also registered tangible success in implementing other thematic areas. For instance, the organisation coordinated peace dialogues in the volatile areas of the county. These dialogues bolstered inter-community relations in the region. The organisation also supported communities to adapt to the effects of climate change through interventions such as goat farming, hay farming, among others. In addition, PACIDA also worked closely with the Marsabit County Government and other actors to launch the Marsabit Climate Change Fund Bill 2020 – a best practice in the region.

As the CEO, I am very proud of the commitment, long hours and passion that our staff demonstrated in their work. I am also grateful to the Board for guiding the organisation in a very difficult yet fulfilling year. I also appreciate in a very special way our donors for their continued support to PACIDA over the years.

This report is a testimony of resilience, power of partnerships and the centrality of communities in building back better. It is dedicated to all our supporters.

May God bless you all.



Patrick Katelo Issako

3 PROGRAMMES

REPORT



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Disaster Risk Reduction Programme



Man Facing a Swarm
of Locusts in Marsabit
County

Cushioning Communities from Disasters

Under this programme, PACIDA works with communities to ensure that negative effects of drought and other disasters are reduced significantly to save lives of the community members and their livelihoods and foundation of community assets.

2020 was a unique and very challenging year. We faced twin disasters that we were not accustomed to. The first one was the Covid-19 pandemic. The second was the locust invasion disaster. Both are projected to continue wreaking havoc in communities for a while.

“We have never seen anything close to this in our lifetime. We have a pandemic that is shaking the whole world, huge swarms of desert locusts eating our crops and pasture in an area with the poorest of the poorest people,” Wario Adhe, the Director of Programmes and Partnerships, PACIDA; was quoted saying while making an appeal to the organisation’s traditional partners.

Our DRR work in 2020 was essentially aimed at cushioning communities from these disasters. In addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, PACIDA in collaboration with Caritas Germany, National Emergency Response Committee and County Government of Marsabit undertook an aggressive awareness campaign in Marsabit County. Dubbed Romesha Corona Campaign, the initiative was launched by His Excellency the Governor of Marsabit County Mohamud M. Ali on 17th April 2020 – way before the first case was reported in the county.

To facilitate the exercise, PACIDA dispatched six vehicles mounted with public address systems and a support team. The team covered all the four sub counties - Saku, North Horr, Laisamis and Moyale reaching at least 87% of the total population. In all its stops in the community, PACIDA distributed re-usable masks, liquid soap and sanitisers to the communities. In the countywide door-to-door awareness campaigns that were conducted in collaboration with the department of public health, songs and poems on Covid-19 were composed in local languages and shared widely and played during the project period using the public address systems mounted on the

vehicles. In these hard-to-reach areas, PACIDA’s efforts went a long way in ensuring that communities were well prepared and cushioned for the disaster.

In December 2019, swarms of desert locusts descended in Turbi Ward, Marsabit County, decimating crops, and depleting large swathes of pasture that had just been realised after the short December rains. Other swarms landed in other regions of the county between February and June 2020 bringing a wave of anxiety and helplessness to communities.

With support from our development partners such as Malteser International, CARITAS Germany, Diakoniekatastrophenhilfe, DKA-Austria Caritas Austria, Oxfam GB, FAO, and Concern Worldwide, PACIDA conducted ground surveillance of the situation in Marsabit, relayed data to Kenyan authorities and also conducted ground spraying of the locusts to complement the authorities’ aerial spray.

With their food support the most affected households as through cash transfers to enable them afford food and basic necessities as they recover from the effects of desert locust infestation.

To realise this, PACIDA, engaged the County Steering Groups to identify the most food-insecure villages in food insecure villages in Laisamis, Moyale and North Horr Sub-Counties, Marsabit County. From these engagements, the following villages were identified as the most food-insecure: Bubisa, Turbi, Demo, Segel, Mudhe and Shurr. Imperative to note, the selection of beneficiaries was entirely community-driven and conducted openly in public barazas (meetings). During the public barazas, communities came up with the selection criteria and formed a complaint and feedback committee made up of five members in each village.

A total of 5,255 households benefited from two cycles emergency locust and Covid-19 cash transfer response. The targeted villages for the cash transfer included Barambate, Elbesso, El-Boru Magado, El-Gadhe, El-Gufu, El-Isacko Malla, L-Mudha, Gaas, Maikona, Malabot, Olom, North Horr, Qorqa, Turbi, Bubi-sa, Burgabo, Turbi, Bubisa, Kambi Nyoka, Tiigo, Yaa Odhola, Yaa Galbo, Dukana, Hurri Hills, Illeret, El-Hadi and Forolle in North Horr Sub-county. In Laisamis, Farakoren, Hargura, Illaut, Kargi, Loiyangalani, Elmolo, Sarima, Ngurunit, Tirgamo, Loglogo, Kamboe, and Karare.

Another 1,620 households in Laisamis, Moyale and North Horr Sub-counties benefited from two cycles of assorted food distribution to cushion them against food crisis resulting from the locust invasion and Covid-19 pandemic. The targeted villages for the food and hand wash distribution included Demo, Mudhe, Rawana, Walda, Funan, Qumbi Segel and Shurr villages in Turbi ward of North Horr Sub-county with either no mobile network coverage or mobile money agents. Each household re-

ceived two cycles of assorted food items worth of Ksh. 4,800 per distribution.

Another intervention implemented by PACIDA under this programme included the identification and training of Climate Justice Champions across the county so that they become the frontline champions inspiring their communities to address climate change.

PACIDA also co-Supported development of Marsabit County's Climate Change Fund Bill. This was passed and launched by the county governor H. E Mohamud M. Ali on 26th Nov 2020. This will see climate change mainstreamed into the county budget.

The organisation also trained the county staff on strategies of mainstreaming of climate change into the annual county departmental planning and budgeting process. In line with this, 40 women supported to attend annual development plan forums at County level.



Supported

5,255

households benefit for **7months** at Ksh **4,800**/month through cash transfer programmes in North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties. Cash transferred through Mpesa to the beneficiaries is meant for food.



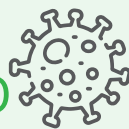
Benefited

1,620

households benefit from food distribution for 6months at Ksh **4,800** in Turbi and Uran wardsward.

Reached

87%



of the Marsabit County population reached through **Covid-19 awareness** campaign by use of public address system.



Reached

180,000

people reached through radio broadcast messages on **Covid-19** and **desert locust**.

Benefited

15,000

000 households across the four sub-counties in Marsabit County benefit from the provision of **face masks** and **liquid handwash**.



Distributed

6,000

posters with **Covid-19** and **desert locust** messages printed and distributed.



Peace and Governance Programme



Community members engage as they identify their priorities.

Building Peaceful Communities that Participate in Governance Processes

This programme targets to contribute towards creating an atmosphere of sustainable trust and harmonious co-existence of communities in the region. To realise this, PACIDA facilitates conflict resolution dialogues, mediation and strengthening of local community governance institutions. The organisation also equips communities with knowledge and skills to actively participate in governance processes.

Under the governance component of the programme, PACIDA facilitated a gender thematic working group that coordinated the development of Marsabit County Gender Policy under the SNV EOWE project.

This working group comprised of individuals with broad technical expertise from various county departments, national government and civil society organisations (CSOs) and women representatives. This team spearheaded the formulation of the policy after which a validation meeting was held with representatives from organisations (CSOs), women groups and county departments. Women, men, youths and persons with disabilities from across the county were involved through ward level public participation exercises.

In the past year, PACIDA also supported the participation of women in planning and budgeting process. The women were drawn from 10 wards targeted by the Climate Change Action initiative supported by Christian Aid. The ten wards were Illeret and Turbi in North Horr Sub County, Loyangalani, Kargi/South Horr, Laisamis within Laisamis Sub-County, Karare and Sagante/Jaldesa within Saku Sub-County, Uran, Sololo and Golbo within Moyale Sub-County.

Appreciating how crucial inclusive budgeting is to development, PACIDA also conducted community awareness sessions on county planning and budgeting process in the same target-

ed wards. The forums involved community representatives that had women, youth, elders, persons with disabilities and ward administrators. County government officers from department of water and environment, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Civic Education were facilitated to guide communities to come up with their own priorities and participate in the planning and budgeting process ready with their priorities.

Another milestone in the year was the development of the draft Marsabit County Gender Policy. Facilitated by PACIDA, the development process incorporated valuable contributions from women leaders, civil society organisations, women in their communities and county government officers.

Under the peace component of the programme, PACIDA worked with communities to organise peace dialogues among leaders and community members in Kargi bringing together the Gabra and Rendille communities. The organisation also facilitated dialogues between the Borana and Gabra communities in Uran, Moyale, Dabel and Sololo regions. These two regions have in the past had tribal conflicts with fatalities.

As the Kenyan constitutional review process goes on under the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) and indeed gears up to hold elections in 2022, inter-communities tensions are likely to increase. PACIDA, in partnership with other stakeholders, will remain the neutral facilitator of peace dialogues in the county.

Sustainable Livelihoods Programme



A happy woman basks in her green farm following her adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture at Kinisa village

Cushioning Communities from Adverse Shocks

The overall goal of this programme is to increase the incomes of households within the ASAL regions of Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia through facilitating better access, control and management of available community resources. In particular, the programme focuses on agriculture, livestock development as well as micro enterprise development for livelihood diversification and food security.

In 2020, PACIDA supported communities through various interventions that secured their livelihoods. For instance, with support from Malteser International (MI), through the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the organisation implemented a project aimed at strengthening of drought resilience of the agro-pastoralist Dassanach communities in the Omo River Delta in South Ethiopia and in northern Kenya by means of improved food security and livelihoods as well as access to water. This project targeted Illeret in Marsabit County/Kenya and the Omo Delta in southern Ethiopia, are both situated in the arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs).

Among the specific interventions that were implemented under this project were the Construction, completion and handing over of 2 solarised shallow wells with pumps and storage facilities, support of a pilot project for sustainable livestock farming by following up on six breeding stock groups and conducting refresher trainings for three of them and training and continuous support of the local 4 Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLA) groups. The six groups were restocked with 198 gala goats to improve the breed of Dasaanach goats. These communities therefore accessed water for the use by humans, irrigation and livestock through the construction of wells and irrigation systems and dams.

In Saku Sub-County, PACIDA deepened its capacity building efforts equipping women with financial and entrepreneurial

literacy skills. For instance, 10 women groups were trained on various financial products that they can adopt, agribusiness options tailored to value addition as well as group dynamics. In Sagante village, PACIDA organised 12 training sessions that imparted beneficiaries with knowledge in household dialogue, planning and consulting in resources matters (potential source of conflicts among others).

Under The Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF), PACIDA worked with communities in Turbi, Illeret, Loiyangalani, Kargi/South Horr, Laismis, Karare, Sgante, Uran, Sololo and Golbo wards supporting them to identify their priorities. Communities were also trained on Climate SMART Agriculture, milk hygiene and handling, poultry keeping, beekeeping, tree nurseries and value addition methods such as home-based manufacture of fruit jam. Further, men groups were trained on animal husbandry focusing on how to raise healthy animals, sourcing for markets, among others.

With the Covid-19 pandemic and the locust invasion disaster expected to affect communities for a while, PACIDA will prioritise sustainable livelihoods interventions to cushion them from the adverse effects of these challenges.



Education Programme



Tiigo School pupils learning ready for a 'greening Marsabit' initiative.

Promoting Education through Environment

The programme targets to contribute to increased access, equity and quality of education for children in ASAL regions. PACIDA awards bursaries to bright pupils and students from underprivileged backgrounds and also learning infrastructure and materials for schools.

In 2020, education was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Schools were closed for most of the year due to measures announced by the national government's Ministry of Health (MOH). Despite these challenges, PACIDA managed to carry out a number of interventions in this thematic area as follows:

- **5 rural schools** in Marsabit County schools with a total population of **1,250 pupils** benefitted from provision of revision books text books therefore improving their learning situation.
- **2 rural schools** in **Marsabit County** schools with a combined population of **160 pupils** benefitted from **desks** and **lockers** therefore improving the learning situation.
- **5 mobile schools** in North Horr Sub County targeting **330 pupils** through mobile **ECD benefitted** from mobile blackboards.
- **3 mobile ECD schools** with **183 pupils** benefitted from provision of metallic boxes for books and teaching /learning materials storage for mobile schools.
- **10 rural schools** in the county benefitted from **benches**.
- Provision of **text books**, chalks and teaching aids for mobile schools increased the enrolment, retention and transition rates in Marsabit County.
- **6 mobile pastoralist schools** in North Horr Sub County benefitted from **provision of uniforms** for poor children.
- **120 pupils** in **Tiigo School** benefited from the **Provision of solar lanterns for mobile school** creating a child friendly environment.
- **240 learners** in **6 mobile ECDs** schools for pastoralist in North Horr Sub County benefited from monitoring conducted by officers from county department of education facilitated by **PACIDA therefore improving their learning situation**.
- **240 learners** in **6 mobile ECDs** schools for pastoralist in North Horr sub county benefitted from **refresher training of their teachers** and **school committees**
- **Nutrition subsidies** and outreach to parents through talk shows and village meetings increased enrolment, retention and transition rates in Marsabit County.
- **203 high school** students benefited from bursary funds from PACIDA therefore guaranteeing their enrolment, retention and transition rates in schools.
- **Capacity building** sessions for Tiigo School's Board of Management led to improved learning situations in 1 rural schools in Marsabit County where **90 pupils** of The Tiigo School benefitted.

For children living in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, education remains a far-fetched dream. Schools are as scarce as water in the desert they live in. Marsabit County, the largest county in Kenya, paints this grim picture. The county exhibits the poorest education indicators in Kenya, with literacy levels

as low as 20%. With this reality, education will remain a top priority in PACIDA interventions. Children, no matter their backgrounds, deserve a fighting chance in life through education.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Programme



A woman fetches water from a pre-paid metre water kiosk in Bubisa

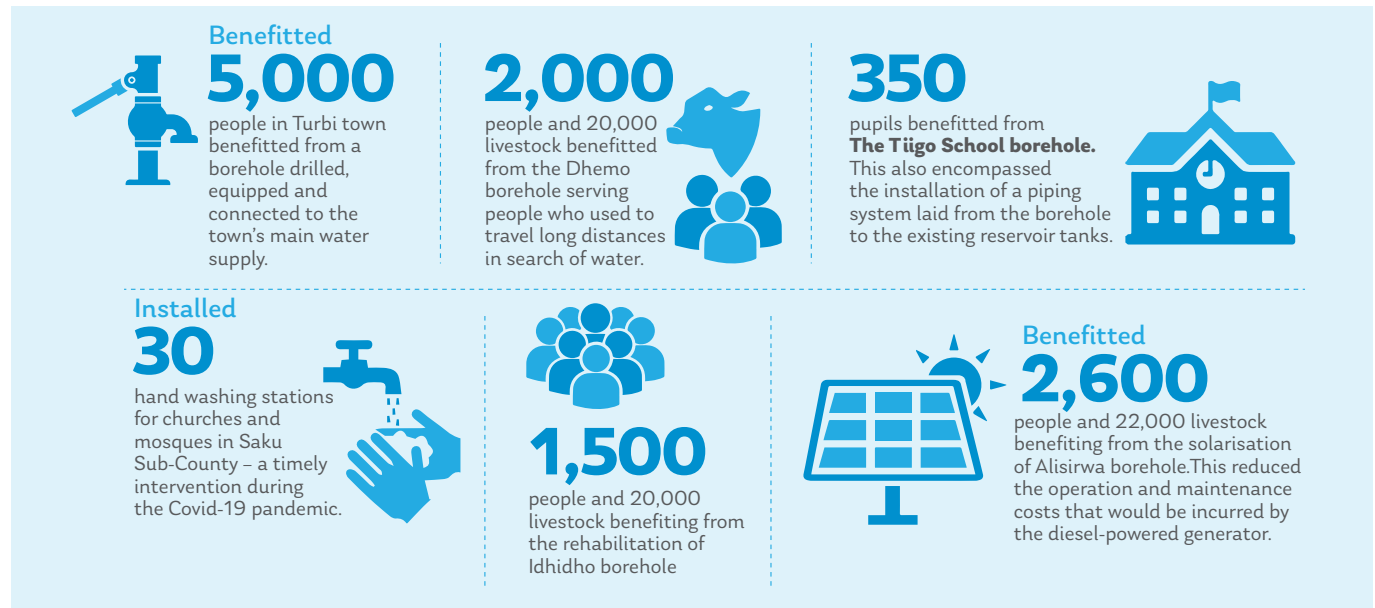
Health and quality of life through water and sanitation

The main goal of this programme is to contribute towards improved health and quality of life and reduce poverty levels through provision of water and sanitation services to communities on a sustainable basis.

PACIDA also fosters community awareness on water related diseases; improve capacity for managing sanitation facilities, support appropriate solid and liquid waste management programs, use of suitable hygiene and sanitation approaches and

messages for change of behaviour.

The following were the WASH activities implemented in 2020:



Sanitation and Hygiene Projects

- Constructed six (6) double door ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines with hand washing facilities in six primary schools in Marsabit County therefore improving sanitation standards in the targeted schools.
- Constructed four water closets at Tiigo School improving the sanitation standards at the school.
- Excavated a pit for the construction of a proposed bio digester plant at Tiigo School. This will improve the waste management system at the school.
- Excavated trenches for the proposed sewer system at the school. This will improve the hygiene standards at the school.

With the risk of Covid-19 pandemic, the world has been forced to reset. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) will be a big priority in communities. Experts have noted a drastic reduction in water borne and air borne diseases due to enhanced hygiene following the Covid-19 pandemic. In this regard, PACIDA will continue to bolster this programme in the communities.

4 News and Impact Stories



PACIDA Team Donating Protective Materials to Communities.

Covid-19 Awareness Campaigns Reach Over 300,000 People in Marsabit

The overall goal of this programme is to increase the incomes of households within the ASAL regions of Northern Kenya and Southern Ethiopia through facilitating better access, control and management of available community resources. In particular, the programme focuses on agriculture, livestock development as well as micro enterprise development for livelihood diversification and food security.

On 12th March 2020, Kenya reported the first case of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19). Immediately after this, the government, county governments, faith-based organisations, nonprofit organisations and the media embarked on an aggressive awareness campaign on the pandemic and preventive measures.

PACIDA in collaboration with Caritas Germany, National Emergency Response Committee and County Government of Marsabit undertook an aggressive awareness campaign in the county of Marsabit. Dubbed 'Romesha Corona' Campaign, the initiative was launched by His Excellency the Governor of Marsabit County Mohamud M. Ali on 17th April 2020. The event was attended by other non-state actors.

After the launch, the awareness campaign was executed from 18th to 26th of April 2020. To facilitate the exercise, PACIDA dispatched six vehicles mounted with public address systems and a support team. The team covered all the four sub counties - Saku, North Horr, Laisamis and Moyale reaching at least 87% of the total population.

How the Campaign was Executed

1. Drawing of a clear movement plan to make sure no village or location was left out due to the vastness of the county (16% of country's landmass).
2. Use of pre-recorded audios (songs and poems) in local dialect such as Samburu, Rendille, Borana and Swahili.
3. Use of health officials to pass the information and government directives.

4. Use of print materials in form of IEC materials (posters and banners). A total of 6,000 pieces of posters on COVID-19 were pasted in strategic locations and distributed.
5. Reaching out to people through their opinion leaders such as County Commissioners, Chiefs, Members of County Assemblies, Ward Administrators, Council of elders, Women and Youth leaders and Youth groups.

One of the main challenges experienced by the Covid-19 Campaign Field Teams was heavy downpour which rendered some of the areas inaccessible. Poor road infrastructure delayed the timely dissemination of information. However, the teams still managed to reach over 87% of the target population all the areas.

In addition, songs and poems were used throughout then year to continue reminding the communities in Marsabit on Covid-1-9 pandemic.



Reached
324,428
People

87%
Residents of
Marsabit



53,832
Households

A woman from Jaldesa basking in the glory of a bumper harvest



Community 'Reaps Big' in Fodder Farming

Jaldesa, Marsabit-Kenya: The front yard of Fatuma Molu's home is a hive of activity. To the center left, green leafy kales sprout from a kitchen garden adjacent to a cows' shed with mooing calves and a conspicuous silo-like structure with bales of fodder. At the bottom of a gentle slope beyond the compound lies a 10 acre fenced rangeland fodder-farm; visibly, a group of youth is preparing the land ready for another season of fodder planting.

Fatuma, 55 years and a widow is the chairperson of Jaldesa Sauti Moja Group - a community-based organisation with 40 members (38 female and 2 male). The group has found passion in fodder farming and its members are now reaping the benefits of selling hay and grass-seeds.

"We sell a bale of hay for Ksh 300 to non-members of the group and Ksh 250 to the members. Additionally, 1 Kg of grass-seeds goes for Ksh 1,000," says Fatuma. She adds that the group has been able to harvest four times since the onset of the project, with the total yields in the year 2020 amounting to 320 bales of hay and 200 kilograms of grass-seeds.



With Ksh 40,000 savings in the groups' bank account as of August this year, members are optimistic and anticipate even more cumulative investments in the future. Fatuma attributes the groups' success so far to the frequent technical training they have received from Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA).

"With funding from Christian Aid, PACIDA has been working to build the resilience of communities against the effects of climate change, particularly the adverse effects of perennial drought in Marsabit region," says Ibrahim Adan, the Programmes Manager at PACIDA. Ibrahim adds that community

based groups such as Fatumas' Jaldesa Sauti Moja, have already benefitted from frequent technical training on fodder production, hay conservation, fodder marketing and linkage with the pyramid of partnerships through which the program is being disseminated in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of Kenya.

In partnership with Marsabit County government department of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries, the trainings programs on fodder conservation are tailored to enable the group to be self-sufficient in fodder throughout the year. Besides, the group is trained on sustainable agricultural practices that withstand the harsh weather partners in the region.

Since its onset in 2017, the group has tremendous myriad support from PACIDA. In 2019, PACIDA facilitated the fencing of the 10-acre rangeland fodder farm to keep wild animals such as elephants at bay, hence reducing human-wildlife conflict. The group was also supported with a unique breed of grass-seeds that are drought-adaptive and offer high nutritional value to livestock.

Fodder farming has been lauded by the members as a well-thought initiative that has off-loaded the bulk of economic burdens that they were exposed to previously. Most of the members having tried their hands in subsistence crop farming and rearing of livestock, but failed due to erratic climatic conditions in Marsabit region.

"In the last two decades, I have been engaged in maize farming on a subsistence scale but the returns have been meagre. Having ventured into fodder farming two years ago, I'm now earning a living from forage farming. I use the money to buy necessities for my Family," Says Fatuma, adding that through the benefits reaped from the project they have been able to put up houses for two needy members and also pay school for their children.

Although the Jadesa Based group has beaten all the odds to emerge among some of the best fodder producers in a county attributed to adverse climatic conditions, their major challenge remains lack of a transportation mechanism to ferry bales of hay to customers from far-flung areas.

"We incur a lot of expenses while ferrying the fodder to our consumers who are mostly dairy farmers in Marsabit town, about 50 kilometres away. Transport costs have, however, reduced our profits," she says.

The group has also bought watertanks for 20 of its members as plans are now underway to procure more tanks to the remaining members. Besides, individual members' success, the group targets to acquire hybrid cattle for large-scale and commercial milk production as a means of business diversification and expansion.

PACIDA Supported my Family at its Lowest Moment

In the heart of Chalbi Desert, the only true desert in Kenya, lies Maikona Village. This is an area that very few Kenyans can locate on map. If Darwin needed a location test his evolutionary theory of survival for the fittest, this would have been the area. Life here is tough in every sense. During daytime, winds blow pebbles and pebbles of sand and dust. Then sweltering heat takes over, converting the sand and ground to be a furnace for bare-footed locals. The nights are ice-cold.

Atho Barako grew up here. Her life, a script of how tough life can be, but also a test of human resilience and will. In 2014, after several doctor visits, she received the bad news: “you have cancer.” It felt like her life crashed. “I saw darkness all around me, as hope dried up, like the land I was brought up in,” she says.

“I used to wash clothes for other people and get paid to survive. Now, here I was, ravaged by this disease and weakened. I couldn’t do it anymore,” she adds. Her survival and that of her several children rested on the narrow shoulders of her husband – a burden too heavy for one. Against all odds, her husband worked really hard, putting food on the table and educating her children, like any father would.

But then, as fate would have it, two years ago, he was involved in a road accident and was rendered helpless. “All the strength that my husband had that was the fortress of our survival. I had never seen him that helpless. We had been both hit in the worst possible way,” Atho says.

Aware of her challenges, PACIDA took up her children and is currently sponsoring their education. The organisation has also supported her through its cash transfer programme.

“PACIDA supported my family in its lowest moment. We had given up. They are now educating my children. There is no way I would have taken them to school. Now I have hope that these children will have a better future than us and may be lift us out of this indignity of poverty, she says.”



Commercial Farming Thrives in a Barren Area

Members of community self-help groups in Marsabit County have a reason to smile thanks to the impact of the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Project in a region considered to be relatively barren to food production due to severe drought spell and low rainfall.

One such group is Rufa Uluqa Conservation Group in Jalde-sa Ward, Marsabit Central whose members have embraced a paradigm of shift from the traditional pastoralism activities to commercial farming of kales, fruits, and bee-keeping as an alternative source of livelihood.

Members work in shifts, regularly planting and tending to kales, citrus and pawpaw on the groups' half acre piece of land. Upon harvesting, the kales are transported to the market in Marsabit town for sale, while the pawpaw fruits are processed to produce paw-paw fruit jam.

The group which was established in 2018, is made up of 46 members (30 male and 16 female). Majority of them used to earn a living from charcoal burning before a ban on logging was imposed by the Kenyan government.

The group is now a model of emulation by other Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the county due to their efforts in introducing horticulture as an alternative source of livelihood for the community - Darmi Molu, the groups' chairperson knows this all too well. "Our farm now attracts so many visitors who want to learn about our model of farming." Says Darmi, as she happily fills a watering can to water kales at the edge of the farm. As the group leader, she assumes all responsibilities of the farm at both the horticulture section and the apiculture sections.

She has always wanted to venture into business to assist her husband to provide food and pay school fees for their four children, but she had no starting capital. Through the group, she has been able to secure a loan to venture into entrepreneurship.



Although the group has achieved commendable success since its inception three years ago, Darmi notes that water is the main challenge to their farming activities because they rely on a communal borehole for irrigation purposes. "Our hope is to be entirely independent. We look forward to the day when we will have a borehole or an alternative water source to water our crops," she says, adding that such a project will boost their farming venture in terrain that many consider barren.

Communities Rebuild amid the Desert Locust Invasion

In December 2019, desert locust swarms descended on Marsabit County decimating crops and depleting grazing lands. This subsequently affected livelihoods in the communities that depend on livestock for survival.

Paulina, 52 years and mother of six from Yomoo in Loiyangalani, knows too well the effects of the desert locusts.

“When the locusts landed here, they were flying all over. They landed on the grazing fields, feeding on the grass,” she Paulina, adding that the locust infestation left nothing for her goats to feed on. The locust invaded her village earlier this year, around February 2020, just when they were recovering from the effects of floods that hit the region in months of October and November of 2019.

As the community in the region was recovering from recurrent threats, including the COVID-19 pandemic as well as climate-related shocks such as drought and floods, affected people such as Pauline and her family received emergency cash assistance to support them in purchasing essential items and to compensate for their losses.

Through the Kenya Cash Consortium programme, the worst affected households received Ksh 4,711 a month to bolster their recovery efforts from the desert locust disaster.

According to Paulina, the money was disbursed at the right time - just when she needed a helping hand. Her husband is a herdsman and a livestock trader. However, the livestock markets in Kenya were closed earlier in the year as the government put in place measures to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Due to the disrupted markets and declining pasture as a result of the desert locusts devouring vegetation, her husband started fishing in Loiyangalani’s Lake Turkana. Through the cash support, Paulina has now teamed up with her husband to start a fish business to diversify their livelihood. She looks forward to growing her business and buying more livestock.

Paulina’s progressive recovery is a testament to the success of Kenya Cash Consortium’s project in supporting households affected by the triple threats the country has been facing, including desert locust, floods and Covid-19 pandemic.

Funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the Kenya Cash the Consortium is led by ACTED in partnership with Concern Worldwide, Oxfam and members of the ASAL Humanitarian Network including PACIDA.

Standing in front of her small mud retail-shop, Halima Adan, stares at her grandchildren play hide-and-seek game as there are usually not many customers visiting her shop at this time of the day. She takes time to engage with the kids.

Life took a new turn for Halima, a 50 years old-widow residing in Kinisa Village in the north eastern side of Marsabit County, when she was given a business starter kit worth Ksh.15,000 by PACIDA. She then took a loan of Ksh. 15,000 from Kinisa Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) to supplement her starter kit, and started a shop.

“Before venturing into my retail shop business, my only source of income was selling goat milk,” she says. “The income was hardly enough to buy food for the family, pay school fees for her children and cater for other basic needs. At the end of every year, I was deeply in debt due to the money I borrowed from people.”

Halima was introduced to the VSLA under a project dubbed ‘Strengthening Resilience of Agro-Pastoralists’ Livelihood in Eastern Africa’ implemented by PACIDA, and co-funded by German Cooperation (BMZ) and WELTHUNGERHILFE Hill-



fe (WHH). Through the project, PACIDA provided a business starter kit to its members of VSLA groups to supplement their loans and enable them actualise their business ideas.

She saw an opportunity to improve her entrepreneurial skills and transform her family's lives. After months of occasional training on savings, business skills and livestock management, she put the new acquired knowledge into practice. "I used the Ksh. 15,000 loan from my VSLA group to buy stock; mostly food staff to sale to my neighbors" she says, adding that she was able to repay the loan within five months.

Hussein Mohamed, the chairman of Funanyatta VSLA group knows too well how the scheme has enabled him do more by enhancing his livestock business.

"My whole life has changed since I joined the group, you can see how I'm looking." He says, while smiling and showing pictures on his phone of the goats he had just sold the previous

day. Hussein took a loan of Ksh 30,000 in May, 2019 from Funanyatta VSLA group to boost his business of selling goats. He then received the business starter kit from PACIDA and used the cash to increase his stock. He ended up buying small goats at Ksh 2,000 each, breeding the goats and selling each goat at Ksh. 5,000, making a profit of Ksh.3,000 per goat. Currently he has 45 goats which he hopes to sell and make savings of Ksh 75,000.

According to Ibrahim Abdi, a group coach from Funanyatta who is responsible for training the VSLA groups in Moyale, the initiative has provided an opportunity for livelihood diversification in an area synonymous with livestock keeping only.

"I have seen many members venture into small business, and most of them are doing fairly well," he says. "The groups are forever grateful to PACIDA for introducing the Village Savings and Loans Association and providing the business starter kits to support group members with business ideas," he adds.

Tiigo School: The School Raising Stars to Light up the North and indeed Kenya

The best anti-poverty programme, Barack Obama said, is world-class education. But what happens to children from poor backgrounds who can't access this prized ticket? This can only be answered when you put yourself in their shoes. Imagine where you would be today if you didn't have the privilege of quality formal education?

For children living in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, education remains a far-fetched dream. Schools are as scarce as the water in the desert they live in. Marsabit County, the largest county in Kenya, paints this grim picture. The county exhibits the poorest education indicators in Kenya, with literacy levels as low as 20%.

Keen to give these children a fighting chance in life, in partnership with the local community, PACIDA established The Tiigo School in 2016. Referred by many as 'The School in the Middle of Nowhere,' Tiigo School (www.thetiigoschool.sc.ke) is literally 'nowhere'. It is the only primary school in a radius of 50 kilometres in one harsh, larva rubble, dry and poor place.

The Tiigo School imparts pupils from poor nomadic communities with quality holistic education. The school currently has 344 pupils. Working with its partners who gave it the 'seed funds' enough to just establish it, the school attracts pupils from Marsabit County as well as the neighbouring counties.

Being the only school in the region, the demand for admission at this school is very high. Yet it is severely limited in terms of infrastructure. Hundreds of pupils from underprivileged backgrounds needing admission are turned back every year. The school needs to increase its facilities so that it accommodate more pupils. For instance, its current dormitory capacity is already overstretched and pupils end up sharing beds. Others are forced to sleep on the floor which causes congestion and an

unsafe living environment that negatively affects the health of these young children.

The school depends on well-wishers support to supplement the little fee that parents from the neighbouring communities afford. The pupils therefore end up paying drastically subsidised fees – which they still struggle to pay within the term.

The school is also located in an area known for very harsh weather, sporadic inter-ethnic clashes. Many girls go through dehumanising female genital mutilation and end up married off early. Being a boarding school, The Tiigo School is also a rescue centre and refuge of hope to such girls.





HELP US

Raise the next Generation of Stars to Light Up the North and Kenya

Tiigo School is designed as a centre of excellence. The school targets to raise outstanding pupils (stars) that are brilliant, mentored and all-rounded to light up the northern region and indeed Kenya.

To realise this, we need to raise resources for these priority areas:

1. Infrastructure: We target to build the urgent amenities needed at the school e.g. dormitories, classrooms, sanitation facilities, health clinic, computer lab, teachers' houses, water infrastructure, school bus
2. Bursaries while at The Tiigo School: We shall sponsor some bright pupils from underprivileged backgrounds through primary school
3. Bursaries for Secondary Schools and Tertiary Schools: We shall set up an endowment fund with part of the support so that we can sponsor promising and bright pupils not to drop out school but transit to the high school.

Buy Stars to Raise Stars

To raise stars, we need to buy stars literally. One star is going for Ksh 1,000 (10 USD). You can buy as many stars as possible. To buy stars, please talk to us through the contacts below:

The Target:

Infrastructure development



Kes **75million** (USD750,000)

Tiigo School Bursary Endowment Fund



Kes **50million** (USD500,000)

High School and Tertiary Education Endowment Fund (Nyota za Jamii Fund)

Kes **75million** (USD750,000)

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 RES	2019 RES
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	12	42,520,306	44,024,662
Current assets			
Receivables and prepayments	7	3,856,716	1,960,000
Cash and cash equivalents	6	43,399,216	35,805,984
		47,255,932	37,765,984
Les: Current liabilities			
Payables and accruals	11	37,444,434	24,851,477
		9,811,498	12,914,507
Net current assets			
		52,331,804	56,939,169
Net assets			
Finance by:			
Opening accumulated reserves		56,939,169	62,316,636
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(4,607,365)	(5,377,467)
Accumulated funds		52,331,804	56,939,169

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020 RES	2019 RES
INCOME			
Grants income:			
Unrestricted		16,310,829	22,801,643
Restricted	3	282,812,464	266,989,501
Grants brought forward		20,857,735	-
Grants received in advance	4	(35,685,470)	(20,857,735)
Total income		284,295,558	268,933,409
EXPENSES			
Direct projects costs	5	182,293,319	164,448,552
Projects support costs	8	30,253,976	30,796,218
Other projects & administrative costs	9	76,355,628	79,066,106
Total expenditure		288,902,923	274,310,876
Surplus/(Deficit)		(4,607,365)	(5,377,467)

THANK YOU

We thank our **partners** for standing with us in the year **2020**





PACIDA

Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance

Building on Indigeneous Knowledge and Institutions

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