



# BRIGHT CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER

2017 Issue 1



## ACTING TOGETHER DIFFERENTLY

Strengthening Preparedness and Emergency Response Capacities by vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya (SPERC-NK)







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# OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

BRIGHT (Building Resilience through Innovation, Gender sensitiveness, Humanity and Transparency) consortium is composed of six National and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) who came together to synergise their different strengths and competencies to work together toward building sustainable and resilient livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Kenya. These organizations are: VSF-Germany, ACTED, Action Against Hunger (AAH), WHH and two technical partners; REACH and Transparency International.

Two of the current consortium partners, ACTED and VSF-G, have been implementing La Nina project in Northern Kenya until April 2016 when they teamed up with AAH and successfully secured funding from ECHO for a project named 'Acting Together Differently – Strengthening Preparedness and Emergency Response Capacities by vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya' (SPERC-NK). The project is being implemented by the three principal partners with supports from REACH and TI Kenya in five counties; namely; Turkana and Marsabit (by VSF-G), Samburu and Mandera (ACTED) and Isiolo and Mandera (AAH).

The primary objective of the project was to strengthen preparedness and emergency response capacities in these counties through developing capacities of vulnerable communities and their institutions as well as enhancing linkages between community institutions, County and National structures.

The project activities cut across different sectors namely: Disaster Risk Management, Livestock and Animal Health, Gender, Conflict and Governance.

It sorts to achieve the following three key results: Strengthened Community /County/National Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) capacities and linkages for effective humanitarian and development interventions.

Enhanced capacities of community and county institutions for;

1. Improved, reliable and gender sensitive early warning information and early action
2. Enhanced gender sensitive conflict mitigation to ease community cohesion
3. Peaceful coexistence.

Through working with individuals, households and relevant county government structures, the project directly target 737,199 people in the five counties.

Over the last 9 months, the consortium team has been implementing the project in the five counties with notable success. 85% of the Community Disaster Management Committees (28 out of 33 CDMCs) targeted by the consortium, for instance, now have practical, relevant and detailed Disaster Management Plans (CDMPs). In addition, through effective linkages to county planning and private sectors by the consortium partners, some of the communities have successfully lobbied for allocation of resources for implementation of priority activities in their Disaster Management Plans. The project has also enhanced understanding of the communities on hazards, risks and how to manage its related shock as well as triggered some to initiate own disaster preparedness measures like season grazing control in Samburu and development of wells in Turkana counties.

By supporting government led livestock and nutritional disease surveillance initiatives, the consortium continue to build structures and systems for effective and functional early warning systems at the county and national levels. The recruitment and training of Community Diseases Reports (CDRs), for example, have filled critical gaps arising from inadequate animal health workers in provision of animal health services in remote rural areas of Northern Kenya. Examples are abound in Marsabit and Turkana counties of timely and appropriate responses that have averting potential death of livestock triggered by reports of diseases outbreak by CDRs. Con-



Community Disease Reporters (CDRs)  
with drugs from Community Drug Store  
in Turkana



▶ Livestock from different communities converge at the Lokore borehole. It is a water reservoir for pastoralists

vinced of their invaluable roles, Turkana County is actually working on a framework to integrate these 'doctors on foot' as part of county personnel in the department of veterinary services. The project has also supported development of DRM legislative framework at the county to institutionalized disaster management to enhance long-term sustainability.

Through training and supporting communities to uses Integrated Complaint and Referral Mechanisms (ICRM) commonly known as 'Uwajibikaji Pamoja', the consortium has empowered communities to not only take part in their development process but also mitigate corruption. In Turkana, for instance, Nakururum community used free toll mobile number to addressed shoddy water project done by an agency

Moreover, the project's conflict mitigation component has further facilitated creation of harmonious coexistence between warring communities especially in Mandera and Samburu counties evidence by prevailing peaces in areas which usually experience resource-based conflicts during lean season like now.

These are just some of the successes achieved by the BRIGHT consortium among many others reaching a total of 496 753 (67 % of the total beneficiaries).

This first issue of BRIGHT consortium Newsletter consolidates a few of the success stories witnessed across the counties and thematic areas.

Hope you will enjoy reading it!

Stories and photos in this book titled 'Acting Together Differently', shows how the Strengthening Preparedness and Emergency Response Capacities by vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya (SPERC-NK) consortium has made a difference within its project areas.

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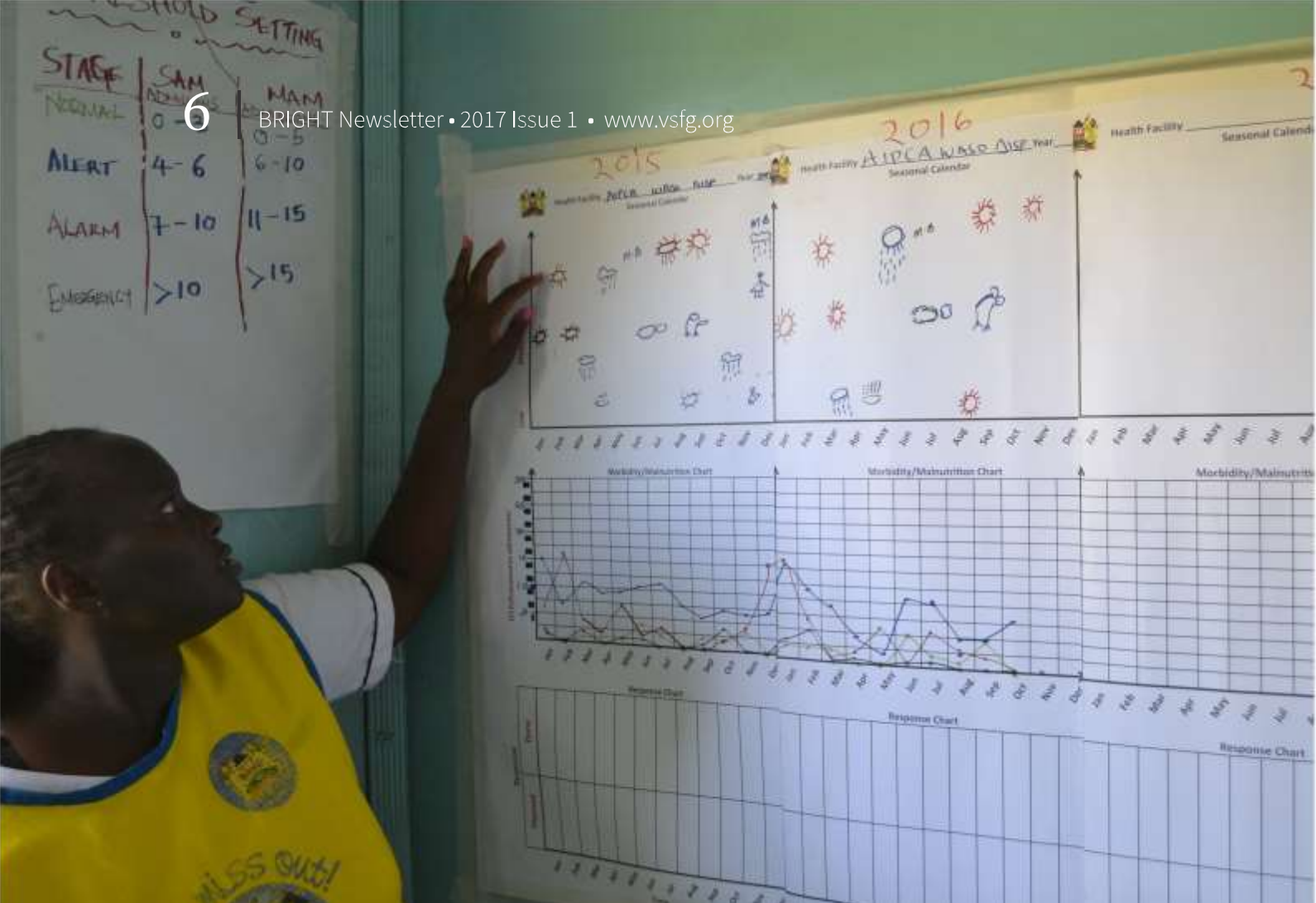
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▲  
Purity Ndubi, the nurse in charge  
at Waso dispensary in Isiolo Town-  
ship

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS WITH NGO'S TO DEVELOP INDICATOR FOR MALNUTRITION SPIKES

"It is always easy to manage acute malnutrition if you are prepared for it, because it becomes very difficult to plan during an emergency," said Purity Ndubi.

**T**he government of Isiolo County has teamed up with nongovernmental organisations to use past data on malnutrition cases related to climate variation, so as to project and prepare in advance for possible future cases.

"It is always easy to manage acute malnutrition if you are prepared for it, because it becomes very difficult to plan during an emergency," said Purity Ndubi, the nurse in charge at Waso dispensary in Isiolo Township. The dispensary is one of the facilities participating in the government-led Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) through funding from ECHO.



Under IMAM surge model, the challenges being addressed are lack of early warning data on malnutrition, untimely and inappropriate responses from relevant stakeholders and overall poor preparedness to manage spikes. The objective of this activity is thus to strengthen Early Warning Systems (EWS) for timely and appropriate response.

With technical support from Action Against Hunger, practitioners at health facilities in the county have been monitoring and recording the number of malnutrition cases on monthly basis, indicating whether the cases are normal, alert or acute. They also monitor the weather conditions during those months, noting whether it was windy, rainy or dry.

When it is windy, it means that children will mostly suffer from common cold, and therefore there is need for early preparation. When it rains too much, it also means that water will be contaminated, and therefore cases of diarrhea are likely to increase. In such cases, it means there is poor absorption of food, hence poor health, which calls for intervention. And when it is dry, it means there is likely going to be increased cases of malnutrition because of food scarcity.

“If you compare results for say three consecutive years, you will find some similarities in these cases,” said Ndubi. “Once

we notice what is likely to happen during a given month, we always suggest the most appropriate intervention that may be needed during those months, and if it calls for particular drugs or services, then we alert the county government and other development partners so that those drugs and services are availed long before it happens,” she said.

It also enables the government and partners to launch campaigns against malnutrition in particular areas as a way of disaster preparedness.

A study by Action Against Hunger in 2014 showed that high child morbidity linked to inadequate access to safe water for household use coupled with poor access to appropriate age-specific foods, including milk in the dry season, are the three major causal factors underpinning acute malnutrition in Isiolo County.

During drought periods, herders from pastoral communities always move several miles from home in search of greener pastures, leaving children home without access to milk, which leads to malnutrition.

So far, IMAM monitoring units have been set up in ten health facilities across Isiolo County, to help practitioners monitor weather variations in relation to malnutrition in order to facilitate adequate preparedness.

A mother with her child at a health center







## COMMUNITY DISEASE REPORTERS INSTRUMENTAL IN CONTAINING CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

**I**n the January 01, 2017, Leteriyon Ejeret woke up to a devastating reality. As people celebrated the ushering in of a new year, 15 goats from one of his herds had succumbed to a strange disease, forcing him to take quick action before the disease spread to the remaining 105 goats in the herd.



I did not establish immediately what it was, but I suspected it was goat plaque, given the symptoms.”

I did not know what the disease was. But given that I have been trained as a disease reporter, I quickly called the personal number of the Veterinary officer for Laisamis Sub-County of Marsabit County, despite of it being a public holiday,” said Ejeret, a village elder and a trained Community Disease Reporter (CDR).

Ejeret and other CDRs were trained specifically to ensure that there is timely Early Warning information on disease outbreaks to trigger early intervention. This has gone a long way to supplement efforts by few government animal health workers in the county.

After receiving the report from Ejeret, veterinary officer Michael Baariu quickly rushed to the scene to see what the problem was.

“I did not establish immediately what it was, but I suspected it was goat plaque, given the symptoms,” he said.

Baariu collected some clinical specimen and transported it to Nairobi for proper diagnosis. But in the meantime, he organized for an immediate immunization of all the animals in the area, to ensure that the disease does not spread to as many more animals.

Goat Plaque, also known as (PPR) is a relatively new viral disease, highly contagious and often fatal to sheep and goats. The disease has caused devastating losses in Kenya since it was first officially reported in 2007 in Turkana County.

However, Veterinary San Frontiers (VSF) Germany has already trained several disease reporters, who observe symptoms and report them to the government veterinary officers immediately.

The organization has also equipped them with simple mobile phones, and loads airtime on them just to make sure that they report any anomaly in their areas of jurisdictions. In total,

one CDR support approximately 2000- 3000 pastoral households and a total of 42 CDRs in Marsabit and Turkana, the project is able to serve about 84-129,00 pastoral families.

Ejeret and his team of CDRs also mobilise people from different villages which are very vast, to avail their animals for vaccination.

“This is a community that never used to vaccinate or even treat their animals. And when there is an outbreak of a serious disease such as PPR, it used to kill tens of thousands of animals in a very short period, especially during drought seasons,” said Baariu.

When it is dry, most of the water points usually dry up, forcing animals to share the very few water drinking points available, .

Veterinary Officer and livestock owners assist in vaccinating their animals and protect them from a disease outbreak

60 year old Leteriyon Ejerre, who lost livestock to natural calamities, now helps to save their lives

Veterinary Officer Michael Baariu, receives a call from a community member informing him of livestock diseases





## RIVAL PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES SHARE RESOURCES DESPITE RAVAGING DROUGHT

**T**he Pokot and Samburu pastoralist communities in Northwestern Kenya have been archrivals since time immemorial, maiming and killing each other whenever there is drought, as they try to possess and control resources, particularly livestock animals, water, and rangelands.

But today, despite the ongoing drought situation in the country, the two communities can dine together, share markets places, roads, water and other resources, thanks to a 'Resource Sharing Agreement' signed after lengthy

negotiations by community leaders.

On a market day at Lolmorok Market in Samburu County, Evans Leyaburia, a reformed Samburu warrior moves around in his new position as a ranger, just to ensure that people from Pokot, his former rival community are trading well with the Samburu community without a problem.

"We have undergone rigorous training, and instead of fighting against the Pokot community, I always ask my fellow warriors to respect the blood that has so far been



shed by our warriors from both sides by ensuring that no more blood is shed,” said Leyaburia, who was always on the battle front-line whenever his community went to war. He vividly remembers and highly regrets some of the dark days when his community ambushed and killed members of the neighbouring community, and when the neighbouring community ambushed and killed his colleagues.

“On the seventh day of July 2007, there was an ambush in Lolukoch village, where six people were killed in cold blood, and 12 sustained very serious injuries,” said the ex-warrior in a soft tone.

He also recalls the very last raid that happened in the area on 12, June 2012 in Lolmorok village in Samburu, where two people were slaughtered, one from each side. “These are very regrettable events, and my prayer is that we should never get back to those days,” he said while manning the Lolmorok market.

However, the peace brokering process was not an easy one, according to Antony Njengi, the Head of Office in Samburu County for Agency for Technical Cooperation and

Development (ACTED), one of the organisations that brokered a peace deal for the two communities.

“We kept inviting them to meetings to discuss peace, but many times, they would always disagree on particular issues, creating tension during the sessions,” he said.

But through counseling, sharing meals and drinks, encouraging dialogue, and vigorous campaigns dubbed ‘Do no harm’, the two communities can smile at each other without cocking a gun.

Today, some young warriors have been employed by county governments from both communities, while others have been absorbed by private conservancies as rangers.

The rangers are now community watchdogs, making sure that animals stolen and brought home by community members are returned back to the owners.

According to Ruth Lomothoni, a trader at Lolmorok market, it is a miracle that the two communities are trading from the same market. “How I wish this could continue forever,” she said.

▶ The former warring communities of Samburu and Pokot, freely mingle at the livestock market



▶ Twenty six year old Evans Leaburia, a former Samburu cattle rustler is now a ranger, who advocates for peaceful coexistence, mingles freely at the livestock market

# PASTORALISTS LEARN HOW TO BEFRIEND DROUGHT

The community lost up to 70% of their livestock animals during the 2011 drought. But since then, the situation has been rectified by the current rangeland planning system.

With livestock being the main source of livelihood in most of the Arid and Semi-Arid areas one community in the northern part has learnt how to utilize the available range land by dividing it into sections.

since 2013 when the initiative was implemented, the Borana community in Garbatulla and Merti regions in Isiolo County have lived in peace, feeling very little impact of drought, and losing the least of livestock compared to other communities in arid and semi arid areas.

“People always have solutions to their problems at their fingertips, and all they need is just capacity building, so that they can



Livestock from different communities converge at the Lokore borehole. It is a water reservoir for pastoralists





translate their knowledge into action,” said Joseph Macharia, the Nutrition Programme Manager for Action Against Hunger (AAH) in Isiolo County.

AAH, is one of the main organisations that supported the Borana community to analyse their risks, identify interventions, and put them into practice as a way of building resilience against drought. This was done through facilitating the community to develop a disaster management plan with support from ECHO.

“As a result, the communities identified rangeland and pasture regeneration as one of very important intervention areas that would mitigate total loss of livestock herds and associated livelihoods,” said Macharia.

“We used to have constant conflicts in this

area whenever there was drought, because the rangelands were never managed, and by the time the rainfall subsides, we had nowhere to graze our animals, forcing us to move to neighbouring communities, who would always resist,” said Salad Boru, one of the village elders, and the Assistant Chief for Gubadida Sub-County in Isiolo.

But since the entire rangeland was divided into three and a committee of elders formed to ensure that people adhere to grazing rules, the community has found a lasting solution for drought situation, and can now engage in other income generating activities regardless of the prevailing situation.

“So far, the only additional thing we can do is grow some more grass in our homes to assist in fattening young animals which cannot sur-

vive in rangelands during extreme conditions,” said Makai Kalok, the Chairlady for Malk Bisan Adi Cultural village, an income generating initiative by residents of Gubadida.

The community lost up to 70% of their livestock animals during the 2011 drought. But since then, the situation has been rectified by the current rangeland planning system, which guarantees them of pastures all year round.

According to official government statistics, livestock contributes 10% of Kenya’s GDP and 50% of the Agriculture output. The arid and semi arid areas host about 70% of the national livestock herd with an estimated value of about Sh70 billion.

# A GOLDEN DRINK THAT HAS KEPT DISEASES OFF THE RESIDENTS OF LOKORE

**D**iarrrhea, typhoid and other water borne diseases have always been a challenge for pastoralist communities in dryland areas whenever there is drought. But in Lokore village, some 20 kilometres out of Kakuma town in Kenya's Northwestern County of Turkana, such cases have drastically reduced, following to what residents say is because of access to safe water for drinking.

"The very few water points are always shared between human and animals both wild and domestic, which often urinate and defecate directly into the water making it risky for human consumption," said Ndubi. "But because this is the only available source of water, people end up drinking it, which often leads to water borne diseases, some of them fatal," she said.

However, despite the drought, residents of Lokore area have sunk a borehole, from which they pump water to water kiosks for human consumption, and more to concrete troughs for animal consumption.

As a result, says Jacinta Akiru, a village woman from Lokore, the community has sufficient water for domestic use and for their animals. "It is now two years, I none of my family members has been treated of any stomach disease," she said.

The community took the initiative to sink the borehole, and the Veterinary San Frontiers (VSF) Germany supported them with the solar water pumping system, through which they get the water pumped up without any struggle.

"This water has not only improved the status of our health, but has saved us from long distances we used to walk in search of it," said Akiru, a 55 year old mother of five children.

She says that she can now allow her children to go to school because availability of water has made life easier. "Without water, there was no way my children could go to school. They had to trek with me to Kakuma River to fetch water," she said.

Today, there are 625 registered households which use the water from the solar powered borehole every day. Each household pays Sh100 (one dollar) per month to access the water, and according to Angeline Namudang, the treasure of Lokore Disaster Management Community – the community group that sunk the borehole, a minimum of 20,000 litres of water is consumed by the households daily.

One of the water kiosk where residents from Lokore community get sufficient water for domestic use





# ENHANCING RESILIENCE THRO' VICOBA

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“I initially received a loan of ten thousand shillings that enabled me to roof my house, which I faithfully paid back,” she proudly says.

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A Ministry of Devolution survey reveals that Kenya's El Molo ethnic community, that lives on an island within Lake Turkana, are among the poorest in the entire country. But this misfortune is no discouragement. With support from VSF Germany, residents have embraced Community Village Banking (VICOBA), that has economically empowered them, transforming the community and lending credence to the old adage, when life hands you lemons, make lemonade. Vicoba is an initiative that allows members borrow money from a pool, that is then paid back with small interest. This initiative has empowered members economically.

Anjela Lenapir, the Treasurer of the El Molo Community Drought Management Committee (CDMC) proudly shows projects on the tiny island, 64 Households and a total population of 374 residents.

“VSF Germany gave us an initial grant of six hundred thousand shillings, which jump-started our vicoba. We subdivided it equally to benefit residents of Komote and Layeri, the two villages that are on this island” she says.

She is happy that cases of defaulters are minimal, with borrowers respecting the set rules and regulations that do not include having guarantors as happens in major banks.

The group also runs a water project that was constructed through support from a VSF Germany grant, which allows them

access clean water. The water tank has a capacity of 20,000 litres that can support the island's residents for one month, when full. The surrounding water is salty, Loyagalani is prevalent with cases of water-borne diseases, sanitation poor with high many housing open defecation.

Thirty year old Arupe Dabalén, a beneficiary of Vicoba, who has five blood children but supports another four concurs with the treasurer. She says the Vicoba Naretote Women Group that has twenty-six members is their backbone.

“I initially received a loan of ten thousand shillings that enabled me to roof my house, which I faithfully paid back,” she proudly says.

She says that after this, she has been able to access four more loans, that enabled her to improve her home into a permanent structure, but also increase the stock within her shop, which has granted her financial independence.

“I am very happy that I am now able to save one thousand shillings every month towards the future education of my first born child. I hope to save a similar amount for all my children,” she tells me.

She says that as a mother, her major priority is to ensure that all her children receive decent education that will secure their future,” she says..





Water project constructed by the project or / Arupe Dabalen shop whose stock was expanded through VICOPA

Anjela Lenapir, Treasurer of the El Molo Village Community Banking CDMC



A vendor drying his catch of fish gathered from the lake. He is a beneficiary of VICOPA



# THE COST OF PEACE AMONG CONFLICTING PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES

## Staff Experience

Most pastoralist communities in Kenya are always rocked with conflicts. When there is drought, they fight for pastures, water and sometimes just for supremacy. And when a member of one community is killed, the warriors from where the slain member comes from will always raid the other community to kill at least one person for revenge. As a result, such communities do not see eye to eye. They live as enemies.

However, there is evidence that such conflicting communities can still become friends, dine together, share resources and live in peace with each other. ANTONY NJEGI, the Head of Office at the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) in Maralal, Samburu County tells how the Lolmorog/Nasur (from Samburu County) and Nasur (Pokot ethnic group from Baringo County) communities brokered a peace deal, and for the first time, they have lived in peace, sharing pastures, water resources and trading together without cocking the gun.

**Q.**  
How do you compare the relationship between Samburu and Pokot Communities in 2010 when ACTED started working in Maralal and today?

**A.**  
In 2010, it was terrible. People from Samburu community could not see eye to eye with those from Pokot community. Sounds of gunshots were a normal thing. Bullets and spare parts for guns were sold openly in open air markets. It was normal for people to test their guns at the market centre without causing a stampede.

But today, there is a huge difference. People from the two communities now walk together, they graze together, they trade together and the entire region has become safe and friendly even for strangers.

**Q.**  
What did it take to bring the two communities together?

**A.**  
It took courage, wisdom, and dialogue. As an organization, we approached each community separately, talked

to them, and agreed to have a meeting together at a neutral place, away from the two communities. The main aim of these meetings, which were attended by warriors from both sides, elders and administration officers was to identify the problem, and find a lasting solution.

But it was not going to be easy. The very first meetings became chaotic, and we left without a clear resolution. But we did not give up. We kept on trying until the day we succeeded. We later changed the venue for the meetings to bring them closer home. If one meeting was to be held in Samburu, then the next would be in Pokot, as a way of bringing the two communities together.

**Q.**  
What did you identify as the main problem?

**A.**  
Apart from ego from each of the two communities, warriors from Pokot and Samburu fought for resources. During drought seasons, they fight for water and control of rangelands given the diminishing pastures in such conditions.

But during the rainy season, the communities raid each other to steal animals in a desperate move to replenish their stock that may have succumbed to drought.





▶ Twenty six year old Evans Leaburia, clutching a gun, a former Samburu cattle rustler is now a ranger, who advocates for peaceful coexistence

◀ Trader at the Lolmolo market where former warring communities, Pokot and Samburu now freely trade in livestock



Q.  
How did you solve the problem.

A.  
Of course a solution to a problem always comes from the problem itself. And the problem here was with the resources. Through dialogue, we agreed on ways of sharing the resources in a structured way.

A committee was formed with equal representation from each of the conflicting communities, and they agreed on how pastures should be shared, how water points should be used by each of the communities, and they both agreed on how to control animal theft.

The agreement to share water and pastures was then formalised through a Resource Sharing Agreement (RSA) signed between the two communities

For example, rain patterns are not the same in the two regions. So when it rains in Samburu, the Samburu elders have to demarcate some area and allow animals from Pokot to graze from there. And when it rains in Pokot, the Pokot elders have to do the same.

Q.  
How successful was the intervention.

A.  
The success is clear. Today, People from the two communities now trade together from same market centres, they share resources, and

above all, Samburu warriors have for the past few years traced animals stolen from Pokot and have returned them to the rightful owners, and vice versa.

Q.  
How is this going to be sustained beyond the existence of ACTED in this area?

A.  
First, we have encouraged people to enroll their children in schools within neighbouring communities, so that they grow up together, and learn to tolerate each other.

Second, the county governments must take the challenge and move this forward.

But most important, the county government has to find alternative livelihoods for the Morans (young warriors) by providing some kind of employment, or equipping them with skills that will keep them busy, and still earn them some income.

It is also important to note that the project has enhanced strong linkage of community and county peace structures. Most of the peace meetings are spearheaded by community elders with RSA build on traditional conflicts mitigation system. Elders with support of local leadership are also the custodian of the RSAs with the project only facilitating the process.







# SONGOT RESIDENTS IN TURKANA TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR ANIMAL'S HEALTH

▶ Ramadhan Ekai a Community Disease  
Reporter treating livestock in Songot



At the foot of Songot hills, in a village known as Aposta off Lokichoggio – Kakuma road in Turkana County, a small permanent structure stands alone amidst several Turkana Manyattas. It is a precious structure for hundreds of households within the entire Songot region because it is the epicenter for the health of their livestock, which is their main source of livelihoods.

The livestock drugstore, which was constructed with funding from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) through Veterinary San Frontiers (VSF) Germany in 2014 has come in handy for the local residents, who, just a few years ago, had to travel tens of kilometers to Lokichoggio township to buy the drugs.

“This is the biggest relief for hundreds of residents in this region,” said Ramathan Ekai, the salesman at the drugstore, which is now run by Songot Community Disaster Management Committee, a self help group that brings together 25 members, all of them pastoralists.

“We have been losing animals to different diseases, one, because we lacked knowledge of identifying particular diseases, and two, because we had limited and sometimes no access to animal drugs,” he said.

During the year 2000 for example, residents of Songot region lost tens of thousands of goats to Goat Plaque (PPR), an acute highly contagious viral disease of goats, characterized by fever, erosive stomatitis, enteritis, pneumonia, and death.

“During that period, I lost 150 animals in less than a week,” said Ekai. Simon Lomor, the chair of the group lost about 100 mature goats and several kids. Sellina Naperi, a Aposta Village elder and a member of the group also lost 40 goats out of 70 she owned, while another member, Elitela Kariwo was reported to have lost 78 animals.

“It was a very sad situation that saw some people attempt suicide after losing their entire source of livelihoods,” said Lomor, the group chairman.

The group has identified 15 energetic members who follow herds-men in the bush to vaccinate the animals, and offer treatment whenever it is needed.

“VSF Germany has also trained us on how to treat our animals of common diseases, how to vaccinate them, and how to identify diseases, and once we find that it is a disease we cannot manage, we usually call the County Government livestock office so that experts can come down and handle the disease long before it spreads to other animals,” said Ekai.

And now, the community group has taken full ownership the drugstore, where they have converted it into a business entity. “We sell the drugs at a commercial price to anyone who pops in to buy them,” said Rebecca Edukon, the group secretary.

So far, the group has generated a revenue of Sh80,000 since 2014, and they plan to open another branch of the drugstore within the county.

## AN OASIS IN A DESERT; LOKORE RESIDENTS NOW HAVE CONSTANT ACCESS TO WATER

As drought intensifies in Kenya, residents of Lokore village, over 800Km north of Nairobi and 21 kilometers out of Kakuma town in the arid Northwestern Turkana County are happy people, now that they have had access to clean drinking water, and more for their livestock for the past two years.

After the 2011 drought which claimed several human lives and thousands of livestock animals, residents of Lokore village through a self help group that is today known as Lokore Community Disaster Management Committee joined hands and manually sunk a borehole besides the seasonal Lokore River. Luckily, the borehole yielded to a lot of water, though, they could only fetch using a manually operated hand pump donated by a local church.

“Fetching water from a borehole using a hand pump was a very tedious process, tiring and time wasting,” said Lotit Agirai a 68 year old husband to six wives and father to 30 children.

To avoid the tedious process, most of the residents could trek all the way to Kakuma in search of the precious commodity. “We often lost thousands of animals in such extreme dry periods,” said Agirai, who lost 68 goats to drought in 2011.

However, in 2014, the group was supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) through Veterinary San Frontiers (VSF) Germany to install a water pumping machine that is powered by solar energy, which has since changed lives in the vast Lokore village.

Today, there are 650 registered households with an average of 7 children each, who access the water daily for domestic use and for their livestock which runs into several thousands of goats and camels.

For the maintenance purpose, we charge them a very manageable fee to ensure that pipes are always kept intact, and that we have someone to watch over the facility every time of the day and night,” said Angeline Namudai, the group treasurer.

Each household pays Sh100 (one dollar) per month to use the facility for domestic purposes, and Sh200 (two dollars)

for livestock access. And for the first time after several years, nobody has registered death of an animal due to the dry spell so far, since the onset of drought last year.

The residents now have two water kiosks where people fetch water for domestic use, and two points where domestic animals drink from.





A sign post near the water point



Longore residents at a water point. Registered 650 household access the water-point daily for their use.







## DROUGHT RESPONSE THROUGH NUTRITION SENSITIVE CASH TRANSFER IN SAMBURU COUNTY

Subsequent 2016 failed rains, led to unprecedented high malnutrition rates among vulnerable pregnant and lactating women, and under-five year old children in northern Kenya. As a result, Samburu County has a dismal Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 20.1%, exacerbating biting drought.

Drought indicators such as vegetation cover index (VCI) and trekking distances for water lend credence to this situation. The overall VCI for the county stands at 15.81%, which is far below the long-term mean. Herders trek between 7.5-9 Kilometres to access pasture and water. Most water points have dried up.

The worsening malnutrition trend triggered off launch of a crisis modifier within the ECHO funded Strengthening Preparedness and Emergency Response Capacities by vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya (SPERC-NK) project. ACTED received thirty thousand Euros (€30,000 or Ksh. 3.3 Million) grant to complement the food needs of malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers and children aged less than five.

This grant supported the distribution of an unconditional cash transfer of Ksh. 2700 to 475 Households scattered across villages in Lodung'okwe, Marti, Suguta Marmar and Nkaroni within Samburu county. In addition, chronically ill patients suffering from TB and HIV were enrolled into the program, after listing at the health facility.





Post-distribution meeting with beneficiaries  
at one of the facility

Documentation of select targeted beneficiaries was informed by Out-patient Therapeutic Programs (OTP) and Supplementary Feeding Programs (SFP), informed by lists from four health centres (with high malnutrition enrolment). This was under the IMAM (Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition) program that is run by the International Medical Corps (IMC) and the Ministry of Health in Samburu county, with UNICEF's support.

Safaricom's M-pesa (mobile money transfer) platform was used as a medium of transmission due to associated safety features, ease of access and convenience offered to beneficiaries. The unconditional cash disbursement to 475 people was done in two phases; (December 2016 and January 2017).

After distribution, follow-ups by ACTED's accountability and monitoring officers revealed that unconditional cash grants were being used to meet basic food needs within households, supplementing the food basket. In addition, two consecutive monitoring missions by community health work-

ers linked to targeted health facilities identified beneficiary households as having bought maize flour, rice, cooking oil, sugar, salt, tea leaves and beans based on their food basket.

Ms. Basilan Leakanoi, from Suguta Marmar, is one such beneficiary of the cash transfer. She says "...I am expectant and cater for two school-going children. My husband is a casual unskilled worker and has failed to secure employment due to the prevailing drought...The farm is now desolate and parched as the maize I planted in November wilted and died." Speaking during a distribution monitoring meeting, Baslan thanked ACTED, and their donor ECHO, for supporting the unconditional cash transfer within Samburu county.

However, there are 112,000 needy people who are adversely affected by Samburu county's worsening drought. The Samburu Steering Group has identified for prioritisation food assistance, cash transfer, peace-building, asset protection, critical water point rehabilitation and livestock offtake, that will address the county's ongoing emergency.



# ACTING TOGETHER DIFFERENTLY

Strengthening Preparedness and Emergency Response Capacities  
by vulnerable communities in Northern Kenya (SPERC-NK)

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