Climate Adaptation and Resilience in Kenya - a Pastoralist Perspective

We share the experience of pastoralist communities in Samburu County, Kenya as they struggle with climate change and its impact on their livelihood.

*Nairobi, November 16, 2021*
Who We Are - Children Peace Initiative Kenya

Hilary Bukuno (right) is director and founder of CPIK. Hilary is from the Gabra tribe and has worked with pastoralists for 18 years. Monica Kinyua (below center) is CPIK Associate Director.
Part 1 Crisis
Where we work - Baragoi sub-county, Samburu

- 8,175.80 sq.km
- Population: 83,759
- Conflict between Turkana and Samburu tribes over land and cattle
Hearing from the Herders

We hear directly from pastoralists - and they are terrified...
Cows - a Way of Life

- Prestige
- Wealth
- Culture
- Food
- Competition
Water

- Drying up
- Water tables falling
- Bore-holes add to the problem
Drought and Cattle

- Dying younger
- 9 days without water
- Cost more
- Worth less

George Ngamia has lost half his herd to drought
Traditional pastoralist food - blood, milk and meat - is disappearing.
Pasture

- Disappearing
- Grasses lose nutrients
- Can’t sustain herds
- Overgrazing
- Competition
Women

- Kitchen gardens abandoned
- Crushing stones to earn money
Charcoal

- Trees cut
- Charcoal
- Greenhouse gases
- Global warming
Conflict

- Herders seek new pasture
- Encroach on land of other tribes
- Guns
- 31 deaths in 6 months in Baragoi (2019)
- 14 dead 2 weeks ago
- CONTRIBUTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE!
Scared and Uninformed
Discussion
Part 2 Response

Our model...

- Personal relationships
- Unite communities
- Share resources
- Create interdependency
- End conflict
Children

- Frontline Villages
- Warring Tribes
- Peace Camps
- Friendships and stayovers
- Families
- **21,243** direct Beneficiaries
Women

- Mothers!
- Yearn for peace
- Support their kids
- Meet other mothers
- Develop friendships
- Influence husbands!

*Mama Caleb, Samburu inspiration*
Warriors

- Warriors are parents!
- Friendships across the lines
- Give up raiding
- Retrieve and return stolen animals
- Alternative livelihood
Elders

- Have the authority to decide on war and peace
- Panicked by climate change
- Understand common challenges and opportunities
- Work with other frontline villages
Security Forces

- Under-resourced
- Need help
- Responsive to civil society
Sharing Resources/Services

- Understanding complementarity
- Pasture
- Water
- Schools
- Clinics
- Animals

*Above: maternal clinic in Longewar; right: Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher at Baragoi Mixed Primary School*
Economic Cooperation

- Social Entrepreneurs
- Common Markets
- Business Cooperation
- Mobile transfers make it easy!

Josephine Lengapiani buys maize from Pokot and sells to Samburu
Raising Animals Together

- *Heifers for Peace - 50 cows shared by 100 families (2021)*
- Creates inter-dependency
- Reduces urge to raid
- Managed by women.
International Partnerships

- German Foreign Office
- Zivik/IFA Berlin
- Advocacy Project Fellows - Ben, Talley, Colleen
- Caritas technical expertise
- Universities
- Alliance for Peacebuilding!

Talley Diggs (University of George Washington) 2017 Peace Fellow
Transforming Conflict

Ending conflict = climate change mitigation!
Discussion