

Fondation Eagle
Final Project Report
July 2023

Supporting Community Health & Livelihoods During Severe Drought Conditions

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Donor Reference: FF 0631

Date of Acceptance: 4th April 2022

Project Duration: April 2022 - April 2023

Donation Amount: £26,350

Number of Beneficiaries: A minimum of 6,300 in first year, comprising:
4,800 Well deepening, 6 communities x 800 people
1,500+ Mobile Health Outreach

Plus, those reached by new health & family planning content on Haller Farmers App

Location: Nguuni, Kisauni District, Mombasa, Kenya. S 03° 59' 35.7" E39° 41' 45.4"

Project Description

In early 2022, both the World Food Programme and the Kenyan Government issued appeals calling for relief to avert a humanitarian crisis, due to the severe protracted drought in the eastern Horn of Africa. The most severely affected countries being Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Acute food insecurity and severe water shortages had been experienced since October 2020, with 3 consecutive poor rainy seasons and millions affected by failed harvests. Front loaded relief was called for, building on the lessons of past droughts in 2011, 2017 & 2019.

Locally, the length & severity of the drought conditions had, for the first time, impacted Haller Kenya's ability to provide water security for the rural communities supported in the Kisauni region. Dr Haller's personal records recorded the lowest reported rainfall in the region in 93 years. Rain-fed dams were empty, wells had run dry or were saline and the soil was bare. Smallholders were again having to travel long distances to find food and water. These conditions hugely demotivate the rural smallholders, with extreme hunger weakening immune systems, leading to a cycle of disease, and more malnourished children.



Haller Kenya identified key areas of need, and Fondation Eagle's donation was used to support:-

1. Water security improvements - deepening and repairing community wells to provide access to failing groundwater levels.
2. The provision of Haller's vital fortnightly Health, Family Planning & Education outreach clinic with programmes to help mitigate the impact of drought.
3. An update of the Haller Farmers app to include transformative health & family planning content, to reach those with little or no access to health facilities.

Executive Summary

"People in the Horn of Africa are on the front line of the climate emergency." UNOCHA

In May 2023, the UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) stated that "the people and the countries of the Horn of Africa have faced a monumental set of challenges that would test any country or region to the limit. Five consecutive poor rainy seasons has caused one of the worst droughts in recent history. Conflict and insecurity, massive displacement, and high food prices caused by global economic shocks, deepened the crisis and have left millions facing acute levels of food insecurity, malnutrition and hardship. In 2022...famine was prevented...but the humanitarian emergency is not over."

"This year, while improved rains have started to ease the impacts of drought, they have also brought a new set of risks and challenges, including disease challenges. The dramatic food insecurity situation in drought-affected areas is expected to persist across the region, driving inflated humanitarian needs well into 2023, with a sixth failed rainy season in March-May 2023, where harvests have yielded little, and water sources have dried up."

Kilifi County (where Haller Kenya's communities are located) is currently classified by the UN as "level 2-Stressed" in the Acute Food Insecurity IPC Phase Classification, (with an estimated 237K suffering acute food insecurity), with level 3 being "Crisis" and level 4 -"Emergency". Following a protracted period of little rainfall, the local region has experienced very heavy relief rainfall outside of the typical months classed as the rainy season. (see stats below). Though non- seasonal it has filled community rain-fed dams to the brim, and increased the level of the water table.

The impact of this has required Haller to change the content of training programmes we deliver to farmers. Dryland agriculture techniques to enable food production during the drought period aren't necessarily appropriate today to ensure food security, but may well be needed in the future. This means that training is needed to remind farmers when and how to plant in more typical scenarios, whilst balancing that message, with the uncertainty as to future rainfall patterns and the potential need for dryland farming again.



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Encouragingly there was some relief from the drought in June. More rain has fallen in the past 2 months than in the previous two years. However, these extreme weather variations have had some impact on project delivery. See local rainfall statistics below.

Period	Jan - May Rainfall	Jan - Dec Rainfall
2023	547 mm	TBC
2022	327 mm	602 mm
2021	83 mm	410 mm

Water Security Improvements

This project has somewhat been at the mercy of unpredictable weather over the course of the funding period. Irregular and unseasonal rainfall patterns, and the fluctuations in the usual level of the groundwater water table hindered the scheduled programme of works which had been organised to deepen 6 community wells.

Despite this, 4 of the 6 identified wells have now been successfully deepened at Ufanisi, Three Hills, Jitegemee (I) and Muungano communities. At the other two sites interim emergency extensions to the well pump piping was put in place, which meant they community at least had access to drinking water. At all of the 6 sites the water pumps, the well platform and thatched roof repairs have been completed since this could be done despite the weather. The wells are important for community cohesion since they become a gathering place for Bahasa's (community meetings) and it is important that they are kept in good condition. The repairs schedule in each community was combined with a 3 day long refresher farmer training programme, compost making activities and the provision of assorted vegetable seeds and basic farming tools.

With the high-water levels in the wells, communities are now able to devote their efforts to using it for domestic and horticultural use, as opposed to travelling long distances to source both food and water. It has enabled all the communities to restart fish farming initiatives – which provide essential protein for families.

The deepening exercise in the remaining two wells at Nguu Tatu (2016 Fondation Eagle CBO) & Jitegemee II (2017 Fondation Eagle CBO) has been halted after several attempts at pumping out the water. The water catchment area in both communities is quite wide which leads to an accelerated rise and rapid inflow from local water table levels, making the conditions for excavation extremely dangerous. Weather patterns and water tables will be observed over the next few months, and a new schedule of works will be put in place as soon as feasible.

See photographs of refurbishment and deepening of 4 community wells on the following pages.





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Health and Family Planning Support

Haller's health outreach service is particularly crucial at a time of increasing health issues, exacerbated by food insecurity. Its' fortnightly service provides primary healthcare services, family planning and jigger clinics. There has been a particular focus on health education workshops to re-educate attendees on family planning, nutrition, hygiene and infection prevention, given the drought conditions.

During the period of this funding, April '22 to April '23, **20** Haller health outreach clinics have taken place in Haller supported communities. Usual attendance at a health outreach is between **30 - 40 people**. A clinician, nurse, lab technician and librarian attended from the Nguuni Health & Education Centre, in two SUV's due to the difficult terrain. The clinics cover a wide area, with communities chosen based on needs and the date of last visit. Those visited were formed between 2013 to 2021, with the health needs tending to be different, depending on how well-established the CBO's are. Newer communities require more re-iterative education, particularly with family planning, where myths and misconceptions still prevail.

Over the funding period, **757 (116 men, 433 women and 208 children)** have been treated by the outreach service for diseases, particularly those exacerbated by the climate conditions.



Skin diseases and infections have been very prevalent, especially in children, due to poor hygiene practices. In the newer CBO's most children were suffering, with 4 children being treated for severe jigger infestation on legs and feet, which can prove very debilitating, if not caught early. During these visits, hygiene workshops were particularly tailored to educate the adult attendees. Childhood malnutrition continued to be monitored and RUTF (ready to use therapeutic food) has been dispensed when needed, although numbers have been relatively low. This improvement suggests the emerging impact that farmer training is contributing to families nutrition, which has also been supported by the delivery of a porridge programme at community schools (funded by Fondation Eagle)

Very high number of upper RTI's have also been treated, caused by the prevailing dust & wind in the very dry climate conditions. Other ailments have ranged from hypertension, anaemia, gastroenteritis, diabetes, malaria and UTI's. Incidences of malaria have been lower than typically experienced

Additionally, family planning (FP) has been dispensed to **111 families** during the clinics, with obligatory attendance at educational workshops, prior to prescription. The depo injection has been most popular with community women, with the contraceptive pill and condoms also commonly dispensed during outreach. A small number of males have also attended family planning clinics. It has been apparent during the 12-month period, that the women at the older communities are far more knowledgeable than the newly established CBO's, which will factor into the planning of the next outreach re-visit.



The mobile health service also delivers the full Under 5 Vaccination Programme for all community children registered at the outreach clinics.

Haller Kenya's librarian attended all 20 clinics with a mobile library box, to entertain the children with learning activities and reading, which has enabled their mothers to visit both the health & FP clinic. These sessions proved very popular and simple tyre gardening is now demonstrated to the children also, to encourage an early interest in farming.





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Haller Farmers App Development

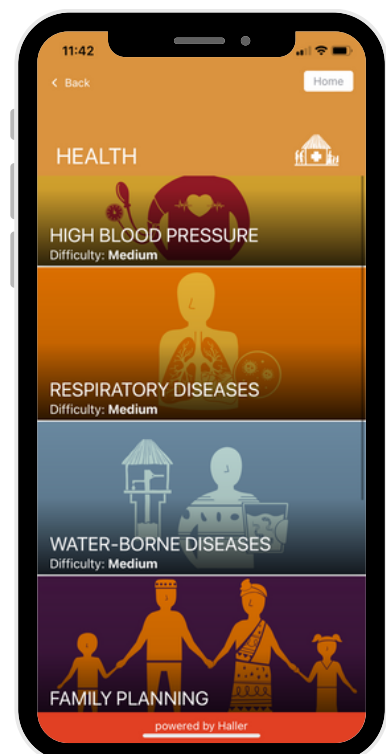
The Haller Farmers app was updated during the first half of the project to incorporate life-changing information on health and family planning, with the new content placed at the forefront of the app in the 'Get Started' section, highlighting its significance. Eight articles spanning common diseases, nutrition and family planning methods were devised by the nurses at Haller Kenya's Health Centre and displayed in a simple bullet point format so any smallholder, regardless of age or literacy levels, can understand the content.

The highly visual Haller Farmers app, incorporates unique iconography and photography, relevant to an East African audience of smallholder farmers, with selected photos visually explaining the activity or procedure described.

Haller Kenya actively endorses and encourages adoption and use of the app, with App Ambassadors being appointed to spread the knowledge in its communities, and Haller nurses stressing content at health outreach visits. Smallholders and visitors to its learning hubs are also engaged with the app, with an app awareness stand at recent open days at the Farmer Training Centre, as well as promotional material displayed at the new adult learning facility at the Nguuni Education Centre.

Haller UK continues to promote the app widely, both with partner organisations working across Africa, and publicly across our website and social media platforms, to raise awareness of this unique digital lifestyle tool, designed specifically for African smallholder farmers.

Scan the QR code to download
The Haller Farmers App



Final Project Expenditure

Improving Water Security	Budget £	Actual £	VAR £
Deepening shafts of 6 wells by 10-12 feet			
Materials, Labour, Transport x £2000*	12,000	8,000	4000
Review & repair of hand pumps	750	800	-50
Water quality testing	300	350	-50
Project co-ordination & management	1,200	1,200	0
Total	14,250	10,350	3,900
Improving Health and Family Planning	Budget £	Actual £	VAR £
Health Outreach			
Provision of health education workshops	1,200	1,200	0
Provision of counselling & life skills teaching	600	600	0
Contribution to staff health costs	2,000	2,000	0
Fuel Contribution	300	300	0
Project co-ordination and management	500	500	0
Total	5,600	5,600	0
App Development	Budget £	Actual £	VAR £
Written content, research and development	3,000	3,000	0
Design Support	1,500	1,600	-100
Photography and audio content	600	570	30
App awareness and marketing	400	400	0
Training of trainers	1000	890	110
Total	6,500	6,460	40
GRAND TOTAL	26,350	22,410	3,940

*Notes: to date, only 4 wells deepened due to unsafe conditions

Conclusion

Thank you to all at Fondation Eagle for their continuing support during such extremely difficult times. The situation has demonstrated that drought is much more than just the lack of rain, it impacts health, nutrition, employment, education and resilience, and that the effects of climate change strongly depend on how vulnerable you are and what resources you have to withstand the impacts. By educating smallholders accordingly, the hope is that they become robust enough to withstand future environmental shocks.

This project has been critical to our work supporting vulnerable Kenyan community health and livelihoods, during these severe conditions. This 2022 funding has supported improved access to fresh potable water for 4 large communities to date, the provision of 12 months of health, family planning and education outreach to 20 different communities, and the update of the Haller Farmers app to incorporate vital health and family planning content, to assist those with little or no access to health services.

Given the difficult weather conditions, the deepening of the final 2 wells remain outstanding. Due to the persistently high-water table over the past few months, after heavy downpours, it has not been deemed safe to attempt the excavations necessary. We will update you further on this final element of the project in the coming months. There remains a **budget surplus of £3940.**

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The Deepened wells providing water for fish farming - even in the dry period in March 2023