



M.E.A.K - Report for Fondation Eagle: February 2023

MEAK Feeding Programme – Stage 2, Maralal and surrounding areas (Loikas, Shabaa, Sagumai, Milimani & Oropoi), Samburu County, Kenya

Donor:

Fondation Eagle, Switzerland

Donor's reference:

FF 0662

Charity:

Medical & Educational Aid to Kenya (UK)

Date of acceptance:

13th December 2022

Date donation received:

21st December 2023

Amount of Donation:

A one-off donation of £20,000* (stage 1 expenditure £9968.89), equating to £10,031.11 available for stage 2.

*1,484,833 KSH at the exchange rate of £1 to 148.5 KSH

Duration of project:

The project was completed in two separate stages. This is the report for stage 2.

- **Stage 2 – 31st January – 5th February 2023 (6 days).** This includes time to purchase, measure & weigh the goods for distribution, travel to & back from the Samburu & distribute the sacks of provisions to those in need.



Grateful recipient with a sack of provisions



Estimated number of beneficiaries & mission costs:

A total of **708 households** received **18kg of foodstuffs**. We estimate approximately 5.4 individuals are in each family unit. Thus, approximately **3820 individuals benefitted from the programme**.

The total cost for the missions was 1,484,833 KSH, which equates to £9998. 89 (at a rate of £1 to 148.5 Ksh). From the initial donation amount of £20,000, minus the cost of the stage 1 mission (£9968.89), this represents a very small underspend of £32.22.

Project background:

This region of Kenya has been experiencing severe food insecurity due to the cumulative effects of:

- Poor and erratic rainfall due to prolonged drought
- Extreme levels of poverty
- Low agricultural productivity

The country's drought situation has worsened as several parts of the arid and semi-arid (ASAL) regions have stayed relatively dry and hot. The high number of people in these areas needing urgent food aid is expected to rise further, owing to the increased intensity and shortened intervals between droughts, which are exacerbating communities' vulnerability and capacity to manage. The decline in livestock prices, the increase in cereal prices, and the overall increase in the cost of most consumer products continue to undermine household purchasing power, worsening food insecurity in ASAL areas, pushing many people close to starvation.



Over the last several years Fondation Eagle in collaboration with MEAK, has been able to help address the intense food shortages faced by the people of the Samburu county by continuously and frequently supplying them with food, such as dietary grains, which has complimented the drought mitigation efforts by the government.

Project outcome:

In stage 2 of this mission, MEAK and Fondation Eagle have managed to successfully help the most vulnerable in the community by supplying a generous amount of staple foods.



During this visit we managed to feed 708 families which is approximately 3820 individuals.

When added to stage 1 of the project, **MEAK has delivered 1408 packages of food and helped over 7,600 individuals**, which is an incredible achievement.

Project report:

The MEAK team purchased, transported, stored & then sorted nearly 12,744kg (nearly 12.75 metric tonnes) of foodstuffs into individual packages, which were then delivered to various locations & distributed to the 708 households.



The food was packaged at the central store, where the consumer-sized bags are filled with the food items. Each package contained 18kg of staple foodstuffs, which were packed in a re-useable sack. These included:

- 7Kg maize
- 3Kg Rice
- 3Kg Beans
- 4Kg Millet porridge
- 1Kg salt



In recent years, the rate of food inflation has nearly doubled. High food costs have actively lowered our buying power, limiting the amount of food that can be bought. Wheat, cooking oil, maize flour, milk, and potatoes are some of the key products impacted by food inflation. Our feeding program is struggling with these high costs. However, even with the high prices, our team was able to negotiate and get reasonable prices from suppliers, which made it possible to create 708, 18Kg sacks of supplies.

The process of packing food took only one day, instead of the usual 2 days and was done by our skilled casual workers. We usually have a team of 10 members, but this time we had an extra 3 people who offered to volunteer. We were so grateful to have our MEAK Founder and Director Dee Belliere, MEAK Trustee Martin Nighy's wife, Marion & guest Pauline DeCarli join to help pack and do the food distribution together with us. They had an amazing experience! This packaging was done at the central store, where the items were weighed and put into packaging bags before being put into one big sack.

Rice packaging at the central store



The team coordinated their efforts to make sure that all the items were well packed before departing in two vehicles at 2:30am in order to arrive at the collecting site on time at 7:00am.

The local government gave us details of those needing 'to door' services to deliver the food packages which go to those who are too weak to walk or are disabled. This was carried out before the main distribution and whilst the able families were gathered at the designated collection points, awaiting their deliveries.



The team in Samburu, ready to deliver their sacks of provisions



We recognise that older people are also more likely to miss out on food distributions, especially when getting a ration requires long queues under the hot sun. Thus, we always conduct a door-to-door service to ensure the frail and the sick get their food packages too.

As always, collaboration is key & local support was given by district administrators, chiefs, sub-chiefs & the police, who all helped to ensure the distribution process ran smoothly. MEAK helpers were on hand to assist families if they needed help in getting heavy packages back to their homes.

Challenges:

As expected, each feeding programme raises problems that are not foreseen. However, MEAK team continues to learn from each mission & as a result the operation becomes more professional.



Some challenges are however particular to an area. These were the challenges faced by the team on this mission, as they directly reported:

- The present drought is the most severe and longest in history, causing severe starvation, loss of sources of livelihood, and displacement. Thousands of people are food insecure and require urgent need for treatment of acute malnutrition. As you can see from the images below, the terrain is flat and desolate, with nothing but dried up shrubs for miles.



- The high number of school dropouts; the continuous drought has had a significant impact on schools, with hundreds of thousands of children dropping out due to the effects of hunger. The problem has been exacerbated by the national government's delayed provision of food for the free school meal programmes. A large number of children are malnourished. We witnessed incidents where children have collapsed due to lack of energy. Malnutrition in children is still rampant and the team regularly sacrifice their packed lunches for sake of these children.





- **Poor infrastructure:** Generally, impoverished individuals reside in remote, secluded settlements. They lack access to power, water, roads, and dependable transportation. This isolation restricts access. Our trucks are unable to navigate the terrain, therefore, we use team or administrative vehicles to access the various collecting spots.
- **Pestilence and diseases:** Several residents we visited were bed ridden and the major contributing factor was lack of access to food and clean water. In almost all cases, we arranged to have motorcycle to help them transport food to their homes.



As before, the price for the foodstuffs is a consistent challenge with seasonal fluctuations & inflationary increases, which has been reported earlier in the report (see the Project Report section).

Lastly, it is always necessary to work with and obtain the necessary permissions from the local area officials as well as getting police approval to conduct the programme. Distributing a valuable commodity can be a hazardous occupation when facing hundreds of people in need. The presence of the government officials helped to ensure that order was preserved for the distribution of the packages.

Project impact:



This was another highly successful project resourced, funded & carried out in a timely manner.

Many thousands of people benefitted from the programme from a broad spectrum of the community, including the frail, elderly, immobile and the severely malnourished.

We successfully managed to feed 708 families which is approximately 3820 individuals with enough food to sustain them for approximately three weeks. This included, the 25 sick, weak, and old less fortunate people in society, whose sacks were taken to their homes.



A happy recipient!

We cannot emphasize enough how this vital distribution of staple foodstuffs brought hope and comfort to so many people and was a resounding success.

Budget details & summary:

Feeding Programme Accounts for Feb 2023 - Maralal, Samburu						
Folio No	Quantity	Type	Description	Price KSH	Total KSH	Total GBP
1	56	Sacks	90Kg Maize	5,400	302,400	2036.36
2	36	Cartons	20 packets Kenya salt	720	25,920	174.55
3	24	Sacks	90Kg Beans	9,600	230,400	1551.52
4	32	Sacks	90Kg Millet porridge	11,300	361,600	2435.02
5	56	Pieces	90Kg Maize milling	950	53,200	358.25
6	87	Sacks	25Kg Rice	2,580	224,460	1511.52
7 to 13	Miscellaneous purchases as per separate sheet provided to include labour for logistics, weighing, packing and loading sacks and bags of individual foodstuffs. Bottled water. Car fuel. Packaging bags. Printing. Hire of two lorries. Accommodation and meals for helpers. Stipends and gratuities and aid. All receipts provided.				305,930	1931.67
				TOTAL	1,484,833	£9,998.89

On this mission, 708 packages were handed out with a total expenditure of Ksh 1,484,833. This represents a total very small underspend of £32.22 from the initial donation amount of £20,000, minus the cost of the stage 1 mission (£9968.89).



MEAK is in receipt of many folios of small invoices which comprise the miscellaneous expenditure described above. These can be forwarded in a separate document if required by Fondation Eagle.

Summary & thanks:

The summary and thanks below are directly reported from Alex Thiru, who together with Teresa Wanjiku Nyawira, manage the MEAK feeding programmes:

“We would like to thank the Fondation Eagle for their continued support. Because of your donation we have managed to yet again feed 708 families, which is approximately over 3,820 individuals. Its ongoing donations like yours, that help keep our endeavor of feeding the community’s vulnerable populations alive. Your support throughout the years has been greatly influential and we are deeply grateful for the positive impact we have managed to create together. It is your continued support that sustains our mission and makes all the difference”.

“A big thank you to Dee, Marion and Pauline for travelling the huge distance to join us to feed the vulnerable Samburu community. We really appreciated your effort and attendance, especially for the door to door deliveries and crowd feeding. May God bless you all.”

Delivered: 1408 packages of food

Fed: At least 7,600 individuals