



M.E.A.K - Report for Fondation Eagle: Final report

MEAK Feeding Programme – Stage 1 – January 2023 Arid & Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) areas, 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 £10,000)

*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 1.

- **Stage 1 – 09th - 15th January 2023 (7 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.



Packed sacks waiting for loading onto the truck to be driven to the Samburu

Estimated number of beneficiaries & mission costs:

A total of **700 households** received **18kg of foodstuffs**. We estimate approximately 5.4 individuals are in each family unit. Thus, approximately **3780 individuals benefitted from the programme**.



The total cost for the missions was 1, 480,380 KSH, which equates to £9968. 89 (at a rate of £1 to 148.5 Ksh). From the initial donation amount of £20,000, this represents an underspend £10,031.11, which has been allocated to funding stage 2 of the programme, at a different site.

Project background:

Foundation Eagle and MEAK have been working collaboratively to alleviate acute food insecurity in Kenya by providing the locals with food packages on a consistent basis.

Three major droughts have impacted the ASAL area of Kenya during the last decade (2010-2011, 2016-2017 and 2020-ongoing). The historic patterns of the long and short rains have altered significantly, making the process of growing food and raising animals fraught with instability and unpredictability, resulting in the failure of farmers to harvest any substantial crops for five consecutive growing seasons.

The current situation is critical: pastoralist households in Kenya have lost over \$2.4 billion in income and food because of the loss of more than 2.4 million animals.

It has been estimated that nearly 25% of the ASAL population (4.2 million people) are experiencing severe, acute food insecurity currently with over 2.7 million individuals at the “crisis” stage.

Project outcome:

In another successful feeding mission, MEAK and Fondation Eagle have managed to successfully help cushion the most vulnerable community members from this disastrous situation.



During our first visit of the New Year (2023), we have managed to feed 700 families which equates to approximately 3780 individuals.



Project report:

The MEAK team purchased, transported, stored & then sorted nearly 12,600kg (12.6 metric tonnes) of foodstuffs into individual packages, which were then delivered to various locations & distributed to the 700 households.

Food is packaged over the course of two days 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

The night before the mission, the dedicated team guarantees that everything is organized and in place. It takes them about five hours to get to the distribution point, which therefore necessitates departing for the mission at 2 A.M, in order to arrive at these points at 7 A.M.



Locals with 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 the elderly & disabled to get the heavy packages back to their homes, where necessary.



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:

- **Clean water:** The majority of the seasonal riverbeds have dried up due to the drought. The population is now compelled to trek several kilometers in search of extremely polluted sources of water, such as drying riverbeds, open wells that are not protected and boreholes. As you can see here, the drought has aggravated long-standing water problems and in addition sparked an excessive bloom of algae in the riverbed.



- Habitually, marginalized populations live in distant, isolated communities, lacking easy access to electricity, water, roads, and reliable transportation. Our trucks cannot traverse the terrain which forces us to use administrative vehicles together with ours, in order to access those who are old, too weak to travel, sick and the disabled. As you can see from the picture below, the terrain is bleak and desolate, with nothing but dry bushes for miles.





- The protracted drought has resulted in the loss of cattle in pastoralist communities and the failure of farmers to harvest any substantial crops for five growing seasons consecutively. This persistent drought has forced life to become a grim survival sport. Approximately two dozen elderly people, in the area we visited, are on the verge of death through starvation, and many more are severely malnourished as a result of drought and hunger. The situation in these regions is precarious with ongoing lack of available food and clean water. Evidence of pale, thick dry skin, and bloated stomach were apparent on the children, as well as the achy joints and the frail damaged skin seen on the elderly, visually demonstrates how the ASAL regions bear the brunt of this catastrophe.

As before, the price for the foodstuffs is a consistent challenge with seasonal fluctuations & inflationary increases.

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 devised, 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 and immobile and the severely malnourished.

Budget details & summary:

On this mission, 700 packages were handed out with a total expenditure of Ksh 1,480,380, as seen below.

Aiding the extremely malnourished



Feeding Programme Accounts for Jan 2023 - ASAL Samburu						
Folio No	Quantity	Type	Description	Price KSH	Total KSH	Total GBP
1	55	Sacks	90Kg Maize	5,400	297,00	2000.00
2	35	Cartons	20 packets Kenya salt	720	25,200	169.70
3	24	Sacks	90Kg Beans	9,600	230,400	1551.52
4	31	Sacks	90Kg Millet porridge	11,300	350,300	2358.92
5	55	Pieces	90Kg Maize milling	950	52,250	351.85
6	85	Sacks	25Kg Rice	2,580	219,300	1476.77
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	2060.13
TOTAL					1,480,380	9968.9

The total cost for the missions was 1,480,380 Ksh, which represents an underspend of £10,031.11, which has been allocated to funding stage 2 of the programme, at a different site.



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 MEAK / Fondation Eagle feeding programmes are of enormous benefit to the recipients & the team is met with enthusiasm and relief in all the areas where they have distributed food packages.

The comment below is from Alex Thiru, who together with Teresa Wanjiku Nyawira, manage the MEAK feeding programmes:

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank Foundation Eagle for their continued support. Your donation has helped us start the year on a high note. We have managed to feed 700 families, which is approximately 3,780 individuals. Thank you once again for your generous donation and for standing with our marginalized brothers and sisters. It is your continued support that sustains our mission and makes all the difference. Your donation is extremely important to our cause and has allowed us to keep excelling. Together we are making a difference!”

