



## M.E.A.K - Report for Fondation Eagle: December 2020

### MEAK Feeding Programme, Laikipia & Nyandarua Counties, Kenya

#### Donor:

Fondation Eagle, Switzerland

#### Donor's reference:

FF 0558-41

#### Charity:

Medical & Educational Aid to Kenya (UK)

#### Date of acceptance:

30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

#### Date donation received:

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

#### Amount of Donation:

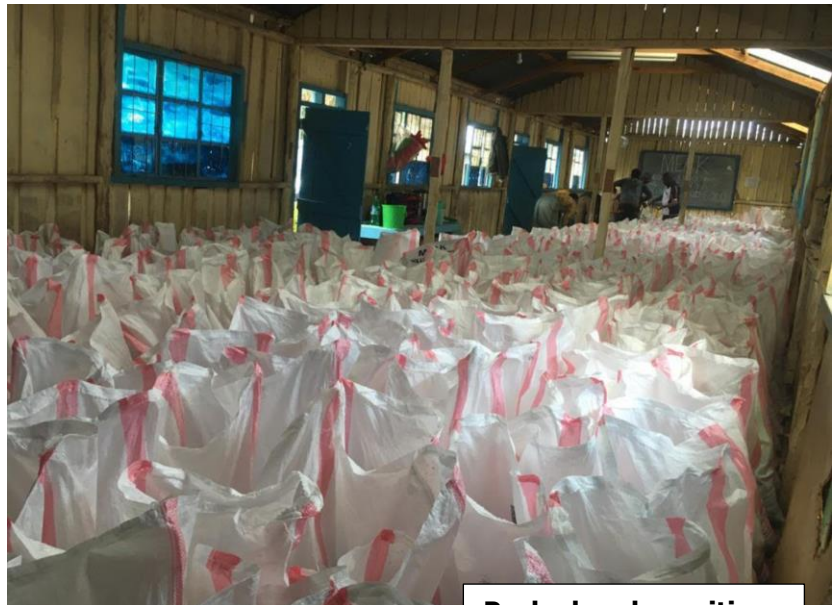
A one-off donation of £16,922\* (plus, £328 carried forward from the previous mission. Total amount = £17,250) to fund the purchase & distribution of 952 sacks of goods

\*2,402,924 KSH at the exchange rate of £1 to 142 KSH

#### Duration of project:

The project was completed in two separate locations, over 7 days:

- First programme – 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 in Shamata, Kiriita, Murichu, Kahutha & Kamukunji areas
- Second programme – 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020 in Subego, Uruku & surrounding areas.



Packed sacks waiting for distribution

## Estimated number of beneficiaries & mission costs:



A total of **952 households** received **26kg of foodstuffs**. In addition, a further **266** households received 6kg of wheat flour. A **100,000 Ksh donation** was made at a MEAK-attended charity Christmas event, which supplied **food packages** to **1,600 people**. The total number of beneficiaries was 4872 persons (952 + 266 households, with the average household size from our records equal to 4 people per family).

The total cost for the missions was 2,541,681 Ksh, which equates to £17,899.16 (at a rate of £1 to 142 Ksh). From the initial donation amount of £17,250, this represents an overspend of £649.16, which will be borne from MEAK reserves.

## Project background:

The decision was taken by MEAK Director Michael Belliere & Fondation Eagle Director, Bhavna Dzuirzynski to re-direct the funding donated for a further feeding programme in the Tana River Delta, in co-operation with the Majamuatul Khairat group, to the Central Highlands areas in Kenya, to be run by MEAK Kenyan representative Teresa Wanjiku Nyawira.

This decision was taken on the strength of an earlier MEAK-funded feeding programme where it was evident that the central highlands recipients represented a broader cross-section of the population & more useful foodstuffs could be supplied. Teresa conducted an appraisal of the local villages to be targeted, which confirmed that they displayed significant levels of poverty. Together with local administrators & regional leaders, they identified marginalised groups of internally displaced persons (IDPs), having fled election-induced violence & people living with disabilities, who were felt to be exceptionally vulnerable in these difficult times. Calorific intake in these groups was estimated to be below that of daily recommended levels.



**Packed sacks being loaded onto the trucks**

## Project outcome:

On the first feeding programme, (mission 1), MEAK supplied approximately 26kg of staple foodstuffs to 536 households, including 46 who had been classed as people living with disabilities (PLWD's). On the second programme, 416 households were supplied with 26kg of staple foodstuffs.

In addition, MEAK attended a Christmas charity event which was organised by the local charitable administrations. MEAK donated 100,000 KSH to the food distribution plan & also supplied a further 266 households with 3 x 2Kg bags of wheat flour, for making chapatis over the festive season. This is an annual event which focuses on helping the elderly, infirm, widows, single parents & those living with terminal diseases.



## Project report:

The 9-person MEAK team purchased, transported, stored & then sorted nearly 30,000kg (30 metric tonnes) of foodstuffs into individual packages, which were then delivered to various locations & distributed to the 952 households.

The packages contained 26kg of staple foodstuffs, which were packed in a re-useable sack. These included:

- 8kg maize
- 5kg rice
- 4kg beans
- 2kg sugar
- 2kg millet porridge
- 2 cabbages or 2kg carrots
- 1kg salt
- 1 litre cooking oil
- 1 kg bars of soap,
- 250gm tea leaves, &
- 1 or 2 face masks



**Sacks of beans & maize for dividing up, to go into sacks for distribution**

The packages were delivered to the dwellings of the elderly & infirm as they would be unable to carry them, allowing them access to the packages, which would have proved difficult otherwise.

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.

**Mission logistics:** **Mission 1:** This mission took place over three days, from December 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. The team worked long days (from 8.00 am until 7.00 pm each day) to ensure the mission was completed on time & all 536 packages were delivered.

- Day 1 – 350 packages were distributed at Murichi & 50 packages to the IDP's at Kahutha;
- Day 2 – 100 packages were distributed at both Shamata & Kiriita (50 at each location);
- Day 3 – 36 packages were delivered by a smaller team to IDP's at Kamukunji.



**Mission 2:** This feeding programme took place prior to Christmas, beginning on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Day 1 – the MEAK team joined the local government administrators at Subego where they distributed 6kg of wheat flour to 266 households, contributing to the aforementioned local charitable initiative.
- Day 2 – the team travelled to Uruku & the surrounding areas & distributed 416 packages each containing the 26kg of foodstuffs described above.

## Challenges:

As expected, each feeding programme raises problems that are not foreseen, but the MEAK team continues to learn from each mission & as a result the operation becomes more professional. For example, with so many people gathered it was difficult to convey instructions for distribution to the awaiting crowd. On the next trip the team will carry a battery powered megaphone to make themselves heard when passing out instructions to large crowds. This will then be taken on future trips.

A new challenge was encountered on this feeding programme, before even a single bean had been purchased! New money laundering regulations were strictly adhered to at the branch of the Kenyan bank where the funds were transferred, making it difficult for the team on the ground in Kenya to access them. After some additional documents were provided and emails exchanged, the funds were duly released.

Safety & protection of the MEAK team has always been a priority. It was suggested that the distributing team be provided with KN95 masks to offer a degree of added protection when mixing with large crowds, which seems a very sensible request. These will be bought locally prior to future missions.

Prices for the foodstuffs fluctuate with seasonality & market influences. Adding in a few extra days to negotiate the best available price for each of the items required would be helpful to ensure that the team gets the best available price & the maximum amount of goods can be purchased for the allocated funds. This will be incorporated into the logistics for future missions.

The roads were poor between villages and it took a long time to move between them. This meant that people had long wait times before getting their packages.

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, whether they received a large food parcel or a three x 2Kg bags of wheat flour.

Another very positive outcome of the programme was that a broad cross-section of the community benefitted, including the often forgotten & marginalised groups, such as IDPs & the elderly & unwell.



**Members of the local community with their sacks of goods**

In addition to the nutritional benefits of the programme, it also provided short term employment for some members of the community. In these turbulent times with many finding themselves suddenly out of work with the collapse of the tourist and other industries, this was a very worthwhile additional side benefit of the project.

## Budget details & summary:

The seasonally fluctuating costs of the various foodstuffs made it very difficult to adhere to an exact budget for each item. The coronavirus pandemic has caused certain items to become scarce and the Christmas demand combined to make them more expensive. However, the team were occasionally able to benefit from discounts for bulk buying or when there were surpluses at harvest times, to attain the best value for money. For example, the price of maize was reasonable as it was harvest time. Overall, MEAK remain satisfied that they obtained the very best price possible to get the best value for money.

On the first mission, 536 packages were handed out with a total expenditure of Ksh 1,321,230. On the second mission 682 households received MEAK aid with a total expenditure of Ksh 1,220, 45, as shown below:



### Feeding Programme Accounts -Kanyagia/Sbuku/Ngamini - November 2020

Folio No.	Quantity	Type	Description	Price (Ksh)	Total (Ksh)
1	31	cartons	packets Kenya salt x 30	595	18445
2	34	sacks	90 kgs Beans	7020	238,680
3	14	sacks	90 kgs Millet porridge	9000	126,000
4	900	loose	cabbages	29	26,240
5	66	sacks	90 kgs maize	3,000	198,000
6	800	pieces	Washable face masks	80	64,000
7	2	sacks	90 kgs maize	3,000	6,000
8	31	sacks	50 kgs sugar	4,550	141,050
9	122	sacks	25 kgs rice	1,830	223,260
10	52	cartons	fresh fry oil x 12	2,030	105,560
11	16	cartons	Eden tea x 40 packets	3,620	57,920
12	61	cartons	Ndume soap x10 bars	850	51,850
13 - 29	Miscellaneous purchases as per separate sheet provided. Includes: include labour for weighing, packing and loading sacks and bags of individual foodstuffs, hi-viz tabards, name badges, temperature gun, weighing scales, measuring buckets, sanitizer sprays, hire of two lorries, signage for lorries, wages and meals for helpers (all as receipts provided)				137,020
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>Ksh 1,330,025</b>

### Feeding Programme Accounts - Subego/Oruku & surrounding areas - December 2020

Folio No.	Quantity	Type	Description	Price (Ksh)	Total (Ksh)
1	21	cartons	packets Kenya salt x 30	610	12,810
2	19	sacks	90 kgs Beans	7260	137,940
3	10	sacks	90 kgs Millet porridge	9,100	91,000
4	832	loose	cabbages	23	19,136
5	37	sacks	90 kgs maize	2,800	103,600
6	1050	pieces	Washable face masks	65	68,250
7	102	bails	wheat flour x 12	1,500	153,000
8	17	sacks	50 kgs sugar	5,150	87,550
9	84	sacks	25 kgs rice	2,200	184,800
10	35	cartons	fresh fry oil x 12	2,300	80,500
11	12	cartons	Eden tea x 40 packets	3,610	43,320
12	42	cartons	Ndume soap x10 bars	900	37,800
13 - 29	Miscellaneous purchases as per separate sheet provided. Includes: include labour for weighing, packing and loading sacks and bags of individual foodstuffs, sanitizer sprays, serviettes, car fuel, packing bags, stationeries, DHL, hire of two lorries, signage for lorries, wages and meals for helpers (all				200,745
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1,220,451</b>



The total cost for the missions was 2,541,681 Ksh (the sums of 1,321,230 & 1,220,451), which equates to £17,899.16. From the initial donation amount of £17,250, this represents an overspend of £649.16, which will be borne from MEAK reserves.

MEAK is in receipt of many folios of small invoices which comprise the expenditure above, along with 24 pages containing the names, genders, ages, temperatures & ID numbers of all the 952 recipients. These can be forwarded in a separate document if required by Fondation Eagle. I am impressed that the team has shown this high level of professionalism & skill running a project that is an entirely new experience to them all – Well done Teresa and team.

### Summary:

The MEAK / Fondation Eagle feeding programmes are of enormous benefit to the recipients & the team is met with smiles & expressions of thanks in all the areas where they have distributed. Food is the first and very basic requirement for the perpetuation of life and it is difficult for those of us living in affluent countries to appreciate what the deprivation of food & consequential pangs of hunger must feel like. MEAK whole-heartedly supports & applauds the decision to focus on food distribution at this time when other forms of aid are either difficult or impossible.

Once again, MEAK wishes to thank Fondation Eagle for the generous grant that has enabled the programme & we very much look forward to carrying out further programmes in Jan / Feb 2021.



**Very happy to be getting a lift home!**