



M.E.A.K - Report for Fondation Eagle: Two missions: January & February 2021 - Report: April 2021

MEAK Feeding Programme, Samburu North, near Maralal, Samburu County, Kenya

Donor:

Fondation Eagle, Switzerland

Donor's reference:

FF 0576 - 62

Charity:

Medical & Educational Aid to Kenya (UK)

Date of acceptance:

29th December 2020

Date donation received:

7th January 2021

Amount of Donation:

A one-off donation of £19,787.35 to fund the purchase & distribution of 1,555 sacks of goods
*2,809,803.7Ksh at the exchange rate of £1 to 142 KSH

Duration of project:

The project was completed in two separate locations, over 4 days in each location:

- First programme (mission 1) – 21st – 22nd January, 2021 in the villages of Nomotio, Rongau, Makongeni, Angu, Nkutoto, Lkuroto, Lonkuruma, Soipus & Sirai
- Second programme (mission 2) – 8th – 11th February, 2021 in the villages of Lpuros, Lngusoro, Lpnitas, Yare Lowaobob, Lgoss, Lakira, Laankiro-Maruumur, Lpetpet & Ntim.

Villagers with their sacks, with cabbages & bars of soap visible



Estimated number of beneficiaries & mission costs:



In total, **1,555 households** received sacks of goods containing staples such as cereals, cooking oil, salt, cabbages & face masks. From the documentation provided by the team, the average number of dependents that benefitted from each sack of provisions was at least 4 (& up to 11 people in some cases). Thus, the **total number of beneficiaries was in excess of 6,220 persons and most likely double this.**

The total cost for the missions was 2,924,300Ksh, which equates to £20,593.66 (at a rate of £1 to 142 Ksh). From the initial donation amount of £19,787.35, this represents an overspend of £806.31, which has been funded from MEAK reserves.

Project background:

After the completion of the last mission to the Samburu, the team witnessed first-hand just how many people had been plunged into poverty as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic & adverse weather conditions. It was unanimously decided by the MEAK Trustees that further help should be provided in the Samburu, but in different townships, where there is also much need.

Samburu County is one of the 47 county governments in Kenya. It has three sub-counties (Samburu east, Samburu west & Samburu north) & is located in the arid & semi-arid lands of Kenya. The main economic activity is nomadic pastoralism. The severe lack of rains across the county has led to steep decline in access to water, alarming rates of food insecurity & heavy strain on livelihoods, in addition to the strain associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. The Kenya national bureau of statistics has declared that 60.1% of the population currently live below the poverty line, a shocking statistic.

Once again, the project was run by MEAK Kenyan representative, Teresa Wanjiku Nyawira, who has thus far completed the last two missions in an extremely professional & efficient manner, together with her efficient team of helpers.

The mission was planned in collaboration with local administrators & regional leaders. On previous missions there had been a particular focus on marginalised groups & those who were felt to be exceptionally vulnerable in these difficult times, However, this time the need was felt to be so great throughout the community that there was no particular focus on any groups, but instead on getting the most food to the largest number of people that they could. That said, many



Section of the Manyatta, showing the dry, arid conditions

of the recipients were older members of the community, who had large numbers of dependents.



of

The contents of the packages were altered slightly to be more specific to the diets of the community & thus had more cereals & maize flour included than on previous missions.

Once again, it was necessary to obtain prior permission from the local area officials & the police to conduct the feeding programme, as distributing food in areas of extreme poverty can be a hazardous occupation. This ensured the mission ran smoothly & the maximum number of people benefitted.

Project outcome:

The feeding programme was extremely successful. A conservative estimate of **6220 people benefitted** from the distribution of **1,555 sacks of provisions**.

On mission 1, **574 sacks** weighing **25.5Kg** were packaged & distributed. In addition, due to the 'dire need for food' another **257 smaller sacks** of provisions were hastily constructed as demand quickly outstripped supply.

On mission 2, the overwhelming demand that was documented on the first mission was taken into account & **724 smaller sacks** were created & distributed, weighing approximately **20Kg** each.

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 placed in sacks & then delivered to the various small townships & villages to be distributed to the 1,555 households.

It took the team nearly 2 days to weigh & pack the large sacks of dry goods into smaller packets for distribution. The journey to the Samburu began at 04:00am and by 10:00am the first of the sacks of goods were being distributed on each of the missions.

Mission 1: This mission took place over the two days from January 21st – 22nd. The team delivered sacks of provisions to two locations on Day 1 & one location on Day 2. The main 574 sacks contained 26kg of staple foodstuffs, which were packed in a re-useable sack.

These included:

- 5Kg maize flour
- 4.5kg maize
- 4kg rice

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



The additional sacks that were hastily created to satisfy the unexpected additional demand contained the following, most necessary items:

- 3Kg maize flour
- 1 cabbage
- 1 mask
- 0.5Kg bars of soap

Utilising the help of the area chiefs & a well prepared list of beneficiaries, the packages were delivered by large lorries to pre-designated open areas where the locals were assembled & the sacks were duly distributed.

Mission 2: The mission took place over two days. Three locations were visited on the first day, each being about 15km apart. In total, 431 sacks were distributed to households with the last of the sacks were distributed at 19:00pm. On the second day, two locations were visited & 293 households were given sacks of provisions.

The recipient demographics were very similar to those on mission 1 & therefore the contents of the sacks were very similar. However, in view of the high demand seen on the first mission, the amounts in each sack were decreased slightly from the first mission to allow more packages to be created & thus assist a greater number of people within the community.

On this mission, 634 packages were created, which contained approximately 21Kg of goods, which included:

- 4Kg maize flour
- 3Kg maize
- 3Kg beans
- 3Kg rice
- 2Kg porridge flour
- 2Kg sugar

- 1Kg salt
- 1 litre cooking oil
- 2 cabbages
- 250g tea leaves
- 1Kg soap bars
- Washable masks



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. Local chief Robert & the sub-chiefs were on hand to assist the MEAK staff with helping the elderly & disabled to get the heavy packages back to their homes, where necessary.

Mission logistics:

A procedure has been established for each feeding program, which runs as follows:

1. The MEAK team arrive
2. Brief introduction from the area Chief to the villagers, who are already seated and waiting.
3. Hand sanitizing, temperature recording & a MEAK voucher card is issued. This gives priority to the elderly & disabled.
4. Issue masks
5. Teresa introduces MEAK & describes the contents of the sacks, while the team delivers food sacks to people while they are still seated. While this is ongoing, one of the MEAK team is recording the patient details & temperature data on the database.
6. Cabbages issued
7. Soap issued & the vouchers collected back from the community
8. A vote of thanks from the locals & dances & everyone free to leave

**The arid terrain in the Samburu area,
where the mission was held**





Challenges:

As expected, each feeding programme faces similar challenges (poor roads & fluctuating food prices, for example) but also raises new problems that had not been previously foreseen. With each mission the MEAK team continues to learn from their experience & as a result each subsequent mission becomes more efficient.

Yet again, one of the biggest challenges was the sheer number of people who were food-insecure in these small townships. Having run out of packages on the first part of the mission, necessitating having to create smaller packages 'on the fly' so that more people in need could benefit, resulted in smaller sacks of provisions being created for the second part of the mission, so that more households could benefit from a wider selection of goods.

The terrain & roads, coupled with the weather, again proved a challenge. Bad weather hindered the distribution of 10 food sacks on mission 2, when a heavy downpour & poor roads prevented the lorries from reaching 5 manyattas. To overcome this, the relatives were sent for & they met the lorries at the closest, most convenient point to receive their sacks of provisions.

Lastly, it is always necessary to work with & 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 & collaboration with local area chiefs helped to ensure that order was preserved for the distribution of the sacks.

Project impact:

This was another highly successful project devised, funded & carried out in a timely manner with thousands of people benefitting from the mission.

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.

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.

A local community member in need of the feeding program



Budget details & summary:



On mission 1, 574 sacks & 257 smaller sacks were packaged & distributed. The total cost for this mission was 1,493,475Ksh (approximately £10,517.43 at an exchange rate of £1 to 142Ksh).

On mission 2, 724 smaller sacks were packaged & distributed. The total cost for this mission was 1,430,825Ksh (approximately £10,076.23, using the above exchange rate)

In total, this amounts to 1,555 sacks of provisions distributed, at a cost of £20,593.66 (2,924,300Ksh). This represents an overspend of £806.31 from the grant amount of £19,787.35, which has been funded by MEAK reserves.

MEAK is in receipt of 67 folios of small invoices & receipts, which comprise the expenditure above, along with two excel spreadsheets containing the names, genders, ages, & number of dependents of each of the recipients of the food parcels. These can be forwarded in a separate document at the request of the FE board.

Feeding Programme Accounts For Nomotio, Rongau, Makongeni, Angu, Nkutoto, Lkuroto, Lonkuruma, Soipus & Sirai, January 2021

Folio No.	Quantity	Type	Description	Price Ksh	Total Ksh
1	29	cartons	packets Kenya salt x 20	610	17,690
2	26	sacks	90 kgs Beans	7,300	189,800
3	13	sacks	90 kgs Millet porridge	9,050	117,650
4	1148	loose	cabbages	22	25,256
5	29	sacks	90 kgs maize	2,900	84,100
6	500	pieces	washable face masks	65	32,500
7	32	sacks	90 kgs Maize flour	3,600	115,200
8	23	sacks	50 kgs sugar	5,200	119,600
9	92	sacks	25 kgs rice	2,200	202,400
10	48	cartons	fresh fry oil x 12	2,500	120,000
11	15	cartons	Eden tea x 40 packets	3,630	54,450
12	58	cartons	Ndume soap x10 bars	900	52,200
36	Extra budget spent at Maralal for providing an extra 257 sacks				
	9	sacks	90 kgs maize flour	4,000	36,000
	257	loose	cabbages	22	5,654
	5	bundle	packaging bags x 50	450	2,250
	13	cartons	Ndume soap x10 bars	1,000	13,000
	7	cartons	disposable masks x 50	500	3,500



13 - 35	Miscellaneous purchases as per separate sheet provided to include labour for weighing, packing and loading sacks and bags of individual foodstuffs - sanitizer spray & bottled water - car fuel - packaging bags and printing - hire of two lorries -wages & meals for helpers, all as receipts provided	302,225
Total		1,493,475

**Feeding Programme Accounts For Lpuros, Lngusoro, Lpnitas, Yare Lowaobob, Lgoss, Lakira, Laankiro-
Maruamur, Lpetpet & Ntim, February 2021**

Folio No.	Quantity	Type	Description	Price Ksh	Total Ksh
1	32	cartons	packets Kenya salt x 20	610	19,520
2	22	sacks	90 kgs Beans	7,300	160,600
3	15	sacks	90 kgs Millet porridge	9,050	135,750
4	1000	loose	cabbages	27	27,000
5	22	sacks	90 kgs maize	2,900	63,800
6	1000	pieces	washable face masks	65	65,000
7	29	sacks	90 kgs Maize flour	3,600	104,400
8	26	sacks	50 kgs sugar	5,200	135,200
9	77	sacks	25 kgs rice	2,200	169,400
10	53	cartons	fresh fry oil x 12	2,500	132,500
11	16	cartons	Eden tea x 40 packets	3,630	58,080
12	64	cartons	Ndume soap x10 bars	910	58,240
13 - 31	Miscellaneous purchases as per separate sheet provided to include labour for weighing, packing and loading sacks and bags of individual foodstuffs - sanitizer spray & bottled water - car fuel - packaging bags and printing - hire of two lorries -Accomodation & meals for helpers,gratitudes and aid, masks all as receipts provided				301,335
Total					1,430,825



Community members with their sacks of goods & cabbages

Summary & thanks:



**Grateful recipient
already wearing her
MEAK mask!**



Once again, this was a very successful mission to small townships near Maralal who are suffering at this time. 1,555 households received sacks of vital provisions, benefitting at the minimum 6,220 people.

The MEAK / Fondation Eagle feeding programmes are of enormous benefit to the recipients, which is plainly obvious by the queues of people & the heartfelt thanks the team receive when they hand over the generous sacks of provisions.

MEAK whole-heartedly supports the decision to focus on food distribution at this time when other forms of aid are either difficult or impossible. We are extremely grateful to the team, led by Teresa Wanjiku Nyawira who carried out these missions with expert local knowledge & skilled logistics.

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 this year.