



Newsletter March 2014 (1/5)

Natural Resource Management & Livestock Value Chain in Marsabit

JICA ECoRAD Project (for enhancing community resilience against drought in Northern Kenya)



The ECoRAD project started in February 2012 and is implementing activities for "Natural Resource Management", "Livestock Value Chain", "Livelihood Diversification", and "Peace Building" in Marsabit County.

This newsletter is a summary of Progress Report-3.

Natural Resource Management

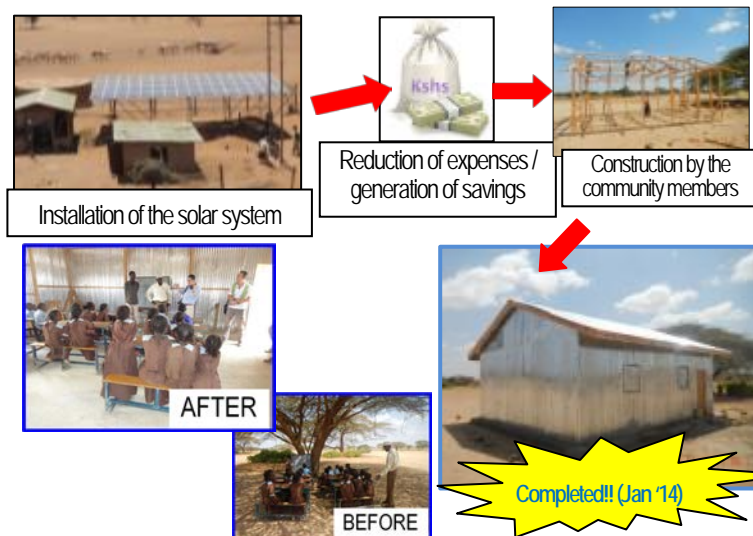
The Project is constructing the following water facilities under natural resource management program in order to facilitate pastoralists resilience against drought.

Facilities	Places, Communities	Status
Rock Catchment	Ngurunit	Completed
Pipeline System	Arapal	Completed
Water Pan	Humi Hills, Turbi, Dirib Gombo, Gar Qarsa, Halo Girisa	Ongoing/ Completed
Solar Power Pumping System	Korr, Kubi Qallo, Shurr	Completed

Community Development Fund The Project has installed solar power modules at three existing boreholes in order to reduce operation costs of supplying electricity which has been generated by existing diesel generators. Such savings is kept in the bank for repairing and maintenance cost of the facilities. Furthermore, in Shurr community, the community decided to allocate a part of such saving as "Community Development Fund". In December 2013, the members of Shurr community gathered and discussed how to use this funds for the community. It was unanimously decided to use about Ksh 380,000 for classroom construction.

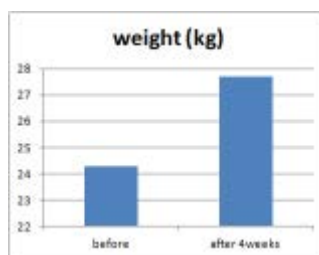
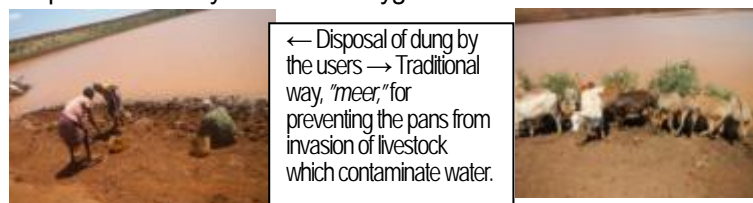


Fattening Activities in Feedlot To fatten emaciated livestock in the dry season, the Project has implemented a feedlot programme in Kalacha where abundant water is available for cultivating pasture. Facilities have been completed before a last rainy season, and pasture grows well in the feedlot, even in a dry season.



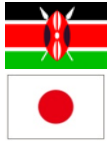
In January 2014, they completed the classroom successfully. In this activity, the community collected water fee, decided and implemented its usage by themselves. We hope that they continuously implement such development activities by their own funds in future. The accumulation of experience and achievements shall make them strong enough to combat drought without external support.

Water Pan Operation Water pans collected rain water in the long rainy season of this year, and people started to use the pans immediately after the rainy season. Now the Project is shedding light on activities for educating and training on pan users in order to utilize the pans sustainably and maintain hygiene in the facilities.



After fattening for 4 weeks in the feedlot, an average weight of 20 goats (24.3kg) became 27.7 kg increasing 3.4kg and 14% in total. In terms of selling prices for 7 goats after fattening, an average price of Ksh 2,414 for emaciated goats rose Ksh 3,028 in average, an increase of nearly 25%.





Newsletter March 2014 (2/5)

Livelihood Diversification Program in Marsabit

JICA ECoRAD Project (for enhancing community resilience against drought in Northern Kenya)



Almost one year has passed since the program commenced, and the various activities under the livelihood diversification program are ongoing. In this edition, current progress and future schedule are reported.

Summary of Livelihood Diversification Program in Marsabit

As reported previously, in the livelihood diversification program, there are two types of "JICA's ECoRAD Approaches": namely the livestock utilization type (goat and chicken), and the local resource utilization type (salt, and resin and honey). As shown in the table below, four kinds of sub projects have been implemented with 27 target groups in six locations since its inception in February 2013.

Sub Project Sites	Contents of Sub Project	No. of Groups	Main activities of the Project
North: Kakacha	Salt Business	1	Entrepreneurship/VICOBA training and mentoring activities
North: Kakacha	Goat Merry-Go-Round	4	Goat technical/VICOBA training and mentoring activities
Central: Dakabaricha/Jirime	Chicken Merry-Go-Round	8	Chicken and poultry houses (only representative), chicken technical /VICOBA training, and mentoring activities
Central: Gar Qarsa	Goat Merry-Go-Round	9	Goat technical/VICOBA training and mentoring activities
South: Arapal	Goat Merry-Go-Round	2	Goat technical/VICOBA training and mentoring activities
South: Ngumit	Resin Honey Business	3*	Entrepreneurship/VICOBA training and mentoring activities

*: Individuals, who participated initially, formed one group later.

Progress of Sub Projects by Type

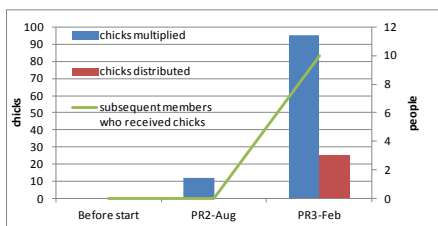
Goat Merry-Go-Round Sub Project

As of February 2014, 21 kids were born (male: 10, female 11) with increase from the data of August 2013 13 kids (male: 7, female: 6), and five subsequent members have received female kids. Though it is taking more time than we assumed due to environmental conditions and several abortions, it is expected to transfer more female kids to additional recipients since around 40 pregnant goats have been reported.

In an Arapal group which has around 40 members, the project selected 35 members for this particular merry go-round sub project. However, the group decided to accommodate the other five members to benefit from this sub project. Further, they divided the group into smaller sub-groups to make the distribution faster. Both come purely from their own initiative. Likewise, the cases that they by themselves develop the system given by outsiders are being observed.

Chicken Merry-Go-Round Sub Project

As reported previously, the groups had difficulty in multiplying chicks. Since additional technical training and daily monitoring were given by the project, they have gradually been acquiring the skills of multiplication, and as a result, now 95 chicks are alive, and 25 chicks have been transferred to a total of 10 subsequent members with great improvement from 24 chicks (0 subsequent members) as of August 2013.



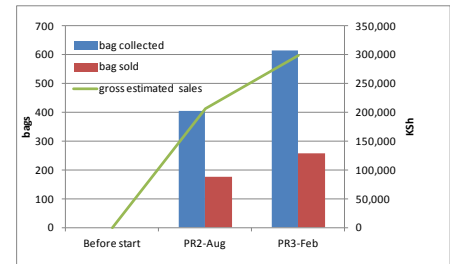
According to the initial project plan, the first recipients multiply chicks and pass them to subsequent members. Since Sasso hens don't sit on eggs, local hens are used for hatching. Surprisingly, one group invented a new method to pass eggs instead of chicks to subsequent members who have local hens, and they were able to distribute more chicks faster. Like the goat sub project, this is the case that community people themselves improved the progress by their own efforts.



Chicken distribution to the subsequent member (Dakabaricha)

Salt Business Sub Project

Since assistance to this groups started in the last dry season in 2013, the group collected 615 bags of salt from the Chalbi desert, delivered 515 bags to identified markets, and sold 258 bags with estimated KSh 300,000 of gross benefit.



In addition, through these business activities, positive impact on group cohesion has been observed, such as holding a Christmas party in celebration of the success of the business. On the other hand, they need some improvements such as incomplete collection of accounts receivable and poor record keeping, and this will be assisted during the next monitoring period.

Resin and Honey Business Sub Project

For honey business, progress has been observed. During the period of Progress Report 2, new plastic containers were introduced by the project (cost borne by the groups). Before this introduction, they used soda bottles as containers for honey and thus had not sold many of them. However by now, the new bottles work much better, with 3,198 sold, or around 90% out of total 3,690 bottles introduced.

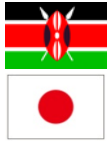


Future Schedule

Monitoring and mentoring activities will be continuing with advice given as necessity arises, and also PFS (Pastoralist Field School) approach will also be taken to provide opportunities to learn from each other. As such, the project team will continue to foster communities' "Self Reliance" (= KUJITEGEMEA in Swahili) keeping the exit strategy in mind.

Remarks

As seen in the above, the community people have thought, discussed, and decided by themselves to modify and improve the rule set by the outsiders in order to make it suit them. The outsider ideas may sometimes create confusion in the communities perhaps because of insufficient time to get to know the communities really deeply along with practical limitations such as the limited project period. The community people have a long history to live with the harsh conditions in the northern Kenya, and must have knowledge to cope with it and ability to adapt to some extent. We cannot forget this and must be modest and sincere to the community people in implementing the project. Likewise, we will continue our activity together with the community people.



Newsletter March 2014 (3/5)

Drought Management Committee in Turkana

JICA ECoRAD Project (for enhancing community resilience against drought In Northern Kenya)



Application of CMDRR approach in Turkana

CMDRR approach can be effective when applied appropriately and with adequate intervention. In the context of Turkana County, we will examine what constitutes 'appropriate intervention'.

Due to the drought emergency situation in recent years, a huge amount of external aid was donated, most of which aimed to provide relief from the emergency. As the needs for community resilience got met, external interventions have shifted from relief aid to disaster risk reduction. However, people's minds and life have been accustomed to getting relief aid, such that external aid has become a part of their lifestyle. In such situation, what was the 'improvement'? Is it better to revive the traditional system that had worked before external aid came? Or can an compatible alternative be invented?

Basically, people neither expect that all the external support will vanished soon, nor do they feel the need to prepare and manage everything by themselves. In such case, what seems to be necessary for people at the moment is improve the system in the community through which they can make the most of external assistance for the benefit of the community and in which they can manage to improve the situation by themselves when they cannot expect immediate external support.

ECoRAD project, in Turkana County, is creating opportunity for the Drought Management Committees (whatever names they are called), to enhance their ability of managing the situation with their own effort so that they can have confidence enough to survive even when they do not receive support from outside.

It is extremely difficult for people to accept that a donor funded external project will not provide any monetary or material support. From their viewpoint: 'Why do we need to work with the project that will not provide anything while there are other projects that can give us things free'. As long as donation of free resources are available, it is hard for people to prepare by themselves for an uncertain future.

The biggest issue is then what ideas and approach can be adopted to change people's behavior. What the external project can do is to widen people's choice by providing possible options and opportunities for them to try. The Project has been introducing different ideas, concepts and activities for people to choose. If people are interested in them and try to take action, the project supports their action technically and with some initial investment that will support their sustainability.



Progress of DMC Activities

After a series of discussions, DMCs, most of which had not been taking action without financial support, have started their activities with their own initiative. Even though the activities they are currently conducting are small without any budget, it is a great step for them to build the foundation for community action. The following are the activities conducted by the DMC so far to start with.

- Community awareness and learning on:
 - Drought Early Warning System of traditional and modern method
 - Rangeland management and reseeded of pasture
 - Early animal off-take
- Formation of sub-committee to handle each specific issues such as water management and range land management
- Organising existing committees and groups in the area to collaborate on development issues.
- Apportioning field plots for reseeded activities
- Demarcating rangeland for dry and wet season

Although most of the activities are still in preparatory stage, making discussion with the community to agree on, some DMC have taken steps forward to start activities. Lokichoggio, Loritit, Lopii and Kangakipur have identified and apportioned field plot for reseeded activity to start from the coming rain. Even though they requested wire fence to be provided, further discussion encouraged them to start with the local materials.



DMCs are also taking initiatives in coordinating and facilitating in water resource development projects, organising meetings with people in the target population, encouraging enhancing their responsibilities for the water source.

Leadership in the community

How can DMC be expected, as representatives of the community, to take leadership in changing the situation in Turkana?

Elders in the community have been recognized as traditional leaders who are opinion leaders and decision makers of the community in Turkana. They are still respected and powerful in their community. On the other hand, new concepts of administration and representation have been brought in from the outside and it seems people have adopted the newly induced systems in their community, at least this is true for communication with external agencies. Through their experience to be recipients of external support, they have their way of forming representatives of the community for external support, understanding the ethnic idea of community representatives. When external support comes, they can select a committee with expected composition: chairman who is strong enough to negotiate, secretary who speaks English or at least Kiswahili, having some literate people to handle expected recording works, including a good number of women and representatives of youth groups, which they think are adequate to deal with the external agencies. People know that they should select fairly in geographic area, gender balance, and distribution among age groups, etc. to be a 'good recipient'. In response to 'why are there so many women in the committee?' the answer of people in a village was, 'now, any groups or committee should include at least 30% of women and youth!'. Others also mention, nowadays donor support requires community contribution for us to work!'

Although the externally brought policies are different from their original leadership and representation of the community, it seems those committees have been managed in parallel with their traditional structure, or they are adjusting their system to survive in the unstable situation taking external intervention as one of their resources. While their original system is strong, the new structure is currently functioning for external agencies. Is this wrong or acceptable?

Considering the situation that the traditional community has been highly influenced by the changing socio-economic situation and external change, the project should provide options for the community to apply aid in the way they feel is sensible.



Newsletter March 2014 (4/5)

on Natural Resource Management & Livestock Value Chain in Turkana

JICA ECoRAD Project (for enhancing community resilience against drought In Northern Kenya)



The ECoRAD project started in Turkana in April, 2013, and is implementing activities for "Natural Resource Management", "Livestock Value Chain", "Livelihood Diversification".

This newsletter is a summary of Progress Report-3.

Targeted 11 Pilot Communities

The Project selected the following 11 pilot communities in view of water resources, rangeland condition, traffic accessibility, security and equitable balances between 6 sub-counties.

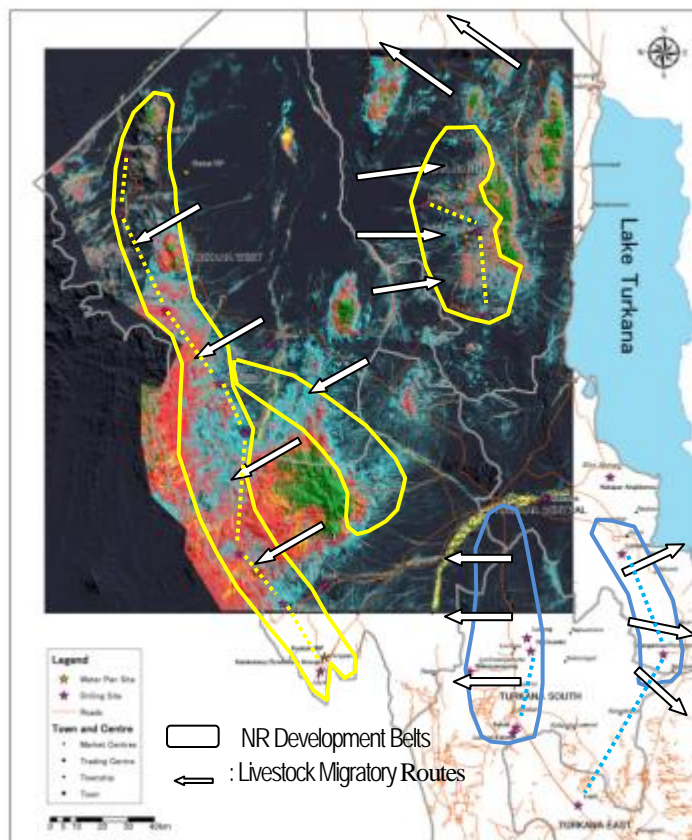
Sub-county		Sub-locations:	Location
North	1	MILIMATATU	YAPAKUNO
	2	KANGAKIPUR	KAERIS
West	3	LORITIT	LETEA
	4	LOKICOGGIO	LOKICHOOGGIO
Loima	5	LOKIRIAMA	LOKIRIAMA
	6	LORENGIPPI	LORENGKIPPI
Central	7	ELIYE	KANGATOTHA
	8	KERIO	KERIO
South	9	LOCHWAN-GAMATAK	LOCHWAN-GAMATAK
	10	LOKICHAR	LOKICHAR
East	11	LOPII	KOCHODIN

Sustainable Natural Resource Management

In the natural resource management sector, the Project is implementing the following activities to improve drought resilience.

Water Pan	Community	Type of work
Kabilikeret Water Pan	Milimatatu Sub-location	Improvement
Nakisira Water Pan	Mogjla Sub-location (Lokichoggio Location)	Improvement
Edukon Water Pan	Nanam Sub-location (Nanam Location)	Improvement
Kaalale Water Pan	Lorengippi Sub-location	New construction
Boreholes	20 sites	New construction

Drilling new Boreholes A project team has been drilling new boreholes since February 2014. Incredibly, the success rate of the works is 100% so far. In other words, all the 10 boreholes were successfully accomplished hitting underground water. Since those boreholes include 3 sites near existing dry boreholes (failed borehole without water) made by other donors, villagers were excited to have water from the new boreholes. In addition to the hardware development, the Project held meetings and strengthened water user committees and villagers in order to operate and maintain the facilities sustainably in the future.



Since water and pasture are indispensable for livestock at the same time, the Project considered availabilities of water resource, pasture, and livestock routes on maps, and formulated "Natural Resource Development Belts" which were marked in yellow line in the above figure. The water facilities in the Project were planned basically to be in or near those belts.

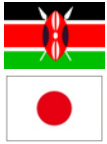
Livestock Value Chain

The Project is trying to improve the drought resilience through the following activities in livestock value chain improvement.

	Activities	Communities
1	Kerio livestock market improvement	Kerio
2	Livestock market linkage and revitalization	Lodwar, Lokichar, Kakuma, Kerio
3	Reseeding programme	Lokichoggio, Loritit

Reseeding programme provide rainfed growing field for pasture, which is surrounded by spiny twigs in order to prevent animals from grazing inside during growth period, in particular, in rainy season. Pasture cultivated in the field will be consumed by adult or young shoats which are always kept near houses, even in migratory seasons, due to milking purpose for household, its infancy, its weakness, or its emaciated condition.





Newsletter March 2014 (5/5)

on Livelihood Diversification Program in Turkana

JICA ECoRAD Project (for enhancing community resilience against drought In Northern Kenya)



The activities of the livelihood diversification program are being implemented in Marsabit County, and the activities in Turkana County have commenced as well. In this newsletter, the activities in Turkana are also introduced.

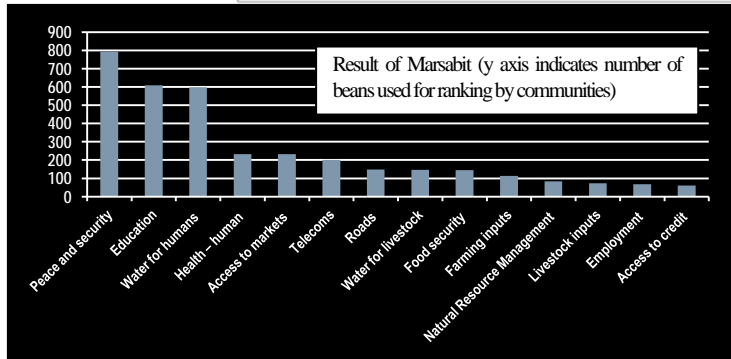
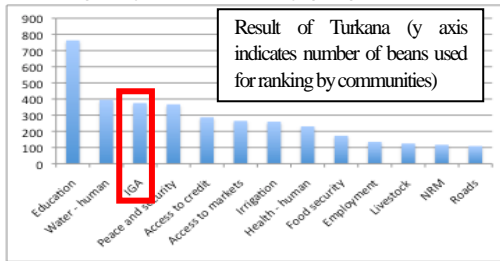
Examination on Livelihood Diversification Program in Turkana

Difference in Socio Economic Condition between Turkana and Marsabit:

Turkana County has in general relatively better infrastructures (e.g. almost daily commercial flights between Nairobi and Lodwar, tarmac road networks, and wider mobile coverage than those in Marsabit). There are several economic centers, such as Lokichoggio, Kakuma, Lodwar, and Lokichar. Especially near Lokichar, Tullow Oil invested for oil production. There are major rivers such as Turkwell and Kerio, and some agriculture activities are worked along with these rivers. Fishery is also worked along with the shore of Lake Turkana. In this sense, opportunities of economic activities are considerably more than in Marsabit.

Result of CoBRA Study by UNDP:

CoBRA (Community Based Resilience Analysis) study assisted by UNDP states that IGA (Income Generating Activities which here means small business) is the important livelihood to prepare for the drought in Turkana as shown in the two figures. The results show clear differences in desired preparedness for drought by the community people in Marsabit and Turkana. This provides clues on needs for the community people, and IGA is the one that the community desires in Turkana.



Source for the above two figures: materials for CoBRA Workshop held in October 2013 in lodwar

Examination in the Project

Like Marsabit, the participatory planning process following the concept of CMDRR (Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction) was implemented. Opinions of the communities in the selected target 11 sub locations on issues including mitigation of drought damage and livelihood diversification, were compiled as the CAPs (Community Action Plan) in October 2013. In addition, the project team visited all the 11 sub locations to grasp general socio-economic conditions in the target sites. As a result, similar to the result of the CoBRA study, it was revealed that the communities' needs are IGAs and local resource based livelihood measures (such as agriculture and fishery).

Relationship between CMDRR and Livelihood Diversification:

The project proposes as a development model that a "Drought Management Committee" established by CMDRR approach in a sub location is the main institution to implement various activities enhancing

resilience against drought at a community level. By nature, activities of the livelihood diversification are individual person/groups-activities oriented. Therefore, the committee in principle to oversee overall drought preparedness and response in the jurisdiction of sub locations, do not engage in specific livelihood activities. Rather, it is expected to pass the knowledge to those who want to acquire such livelihood knowledge in a particular sub location to enhance individual resilience.

Livelihood Diversification Program in Turkana

Based on the above discussion of relatively good economic opportunities compared with Marsabit, and other donor findings, the activities of the livelihood diversification in Turkana focus on building capacity of people mainly for their IGA. Selection of target sub locations under the program was made mainly with balance for sub projects of the other two programs, micro geographical/spatial conditions of sub locations. The communities' opinions in the CAPs and five sub locations were identified as shown below. Already, the participatory planning process to select groups was done in all five sub locations together with assistant chiefs, elders, and the committee members; in total, 11 groups were identified.



Table with 3 columns: District, Targeted sub-locations for Sub-projects, and Livelihood Activities for Sub-projects. Rows include West (LORITIT), Loima (LOKIRIAMA), Central (ELIYE), South (LOCHWANGAMATAK), and East (LOPII).

The concept for the livelihood diversification program in Turkana is summarized below referring to the one established for the Marsabit activities for a model/approach of the livelihood diversification program:

Table with 2 columns: Type and Livelihood Measures (candidate sub projects). Rows include Livestock utilization, Local resource utilization, and Provision of necessary goods and services.

Current Activities and Future Schedule

Currently, various trainings are being implemented (entrepreneurship/business, agriculture/fishery technique, etc). For this training, the drought management committee members will also be invited since they function to disseminate the knowledge to other community people.



After the trainings are completed, individual activities done by the selected group/members will be assisted by monitoring and mentoring them.

In Turkana, the program has now begun. Basically, the activities were planned based on the communities' needs using their current livelihood works. As the program progresses, the communities will definitely teach us something better to improve the livelihood works. We, as "the development implementer", should always remember this for the rest of the project period, and be humble to be with the target community people.