

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN GARISSA DISTRICT, NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCE

Garissa District is one of the four districts of the North Eastern Province. It borders the republic of Somalia to the east, while Wajir, Isiolo and Tana River districts are to the north, north-west and west respectively. The community keeps livestock on the open ranges and very few make a living from irrigation agriculture along the stretch of Tana River on the western periphery of the district. UN Volunteers assist UNDP to make Peace and Prosperity a reality. UNV's under this Security Unit's project are Pamela Matagaro and Rukia Subow. Michael Lund is the Coordinating Programme Officer, UNDP.



Main cause of conflict in Garissa district is over livestock, pasture and watering points. This is a common problem throughout the pastoral regions, which stretch across northern Kenya. **Pictured on the left** is a water pan. Once it rains, water collects and remains there for a long while to sustain the residents.



In between the rivers and the boreholes is a large and lengthy stretch of grazing land with water pans. However, most of these water pans are heavily silted with little capacity to hold water, hence the intervention by UNDP-Kenya through Arid lands secretariat and National Steering Committee-Office of the President.



With the infrastructure from UNDP/Pastoralist People Development Initiative, the community identified and de-silted Shimbirey and Hagarbul water pans. PPDI identified and trained Shimbirey water pan committee members. Identification and training of a second water committee is on-going. However, more water pans need to be de-silted at strategic locations to provide a balance in access to water sources, which will reduce conflict among the community.



Disarmament (weapons collection), addresses the issue of violence directly. By strengthening the **Police Armory** at Garissa, the project will enhance the capacity of local mechanisms not only to reduce violence but also engage in peace building and development in an otherwise drought stricken district.



UNDP/Pastoralist People Development Initiative and the community identified 54 marginalized groups (women and youths) within the society to benefit from a 40,000 kshs grant by UNDP. Beneficiaries include widows whose husbands died because of violence-related incidences. The widows are pictured on the left selling vegetables at the Garissa Market.



UN Office in Nairobi Staff association mobilized its staff to contribute 182,000 Kenya shillings towards mitigating the effects of drought. Pictured is Mr. Joseph Migire-Treasurer, handing out this cheque at **Jilango** shopping centre on Kismayu Road. This is 58 kms from Garissa town. Looking on is Mr. Farah of ARID lands secretariat.



As mentioned earlier, the UNDP/PPDI project mobilized the communities in Garissa District to identify and prioritize 54 women and youth groups from 11 divisions who will benefit from the micro-grant. Such beneficiaries are **BENGI group** (50 members) in Modogashe –about 168 kms from Garissa town.



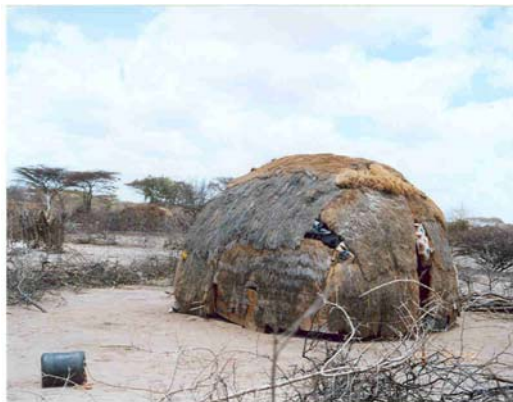
Another beneficiary is the **Muungano** women's group in Modogashe who also keep goats for trading. They started with a revolving fund where each member contribute 200kshs. They had 6,000 at the end of each month, which was given to one member. "With the 40,000 kshs UNDP grant we now own 25 goats and 1 camel" says Sahan Salah their Chair lady.



The **Sankuri** women's group began trading goats 14 years ago but flopped due to the prolonged drought. They now have 22 members. who re-started a business in 2002 through support from Arid lands secretariat. They have not incurred any loss and infact have now 85,000 kshs in the bank. They do not use the profits, instead we re-invest in the slaughterhouse and also have to pay running costs such as the 50 kshs to transport to the market and the 'male herder' is paid 200(to and fro) to accompany the goats to the garissa market.



At Alinjukur, we met **Bisimilahi** women's group who also are in the business of trading goats. They have 14 goats and are a total of 15 members. They have invested 5,000kshs of the initial 40,000 in vegetable business. This is however very risky as vegetables are a perishable good.



Pictured is the traditional hut made of grass thatch. This thatch also fetches a high price in the market because it is rare and makes a good shelter.



Dadaab refugee camp has three camps. Hagardera being the 'richest' while Ifo is the 'poorest'. UNDP gave the 40,000 grant to a youth group. "The **Ifo Youth Development group in Dadaab** has now a thriving butchery business which employed 8 youth to graze, slaughter and man the butchery. We also collect garbage around the camp for free" says Ahmed Hussein the chairman.



Another beneficiary of the grant is **Lailaf** women's group in Dadaab. They run a shop which makes a profit of 5,000 to 10,000 per month. "We used the 40,000 kshs to 'borrow goods worth 140,000 from a garissa wholesale trader and we are now paying back slowly. So far we have paid back 40,000 kshs." Says Ms. Afron Abdi Farah, the chairlady



100 kms from Dadaab is **Welmerer** centre. The Welmerer youth group here used the 40,000 kshs grant to buy a sewing machine. This is the only sewing machine in the market. "Welmerer market is an ideal point for setting up because being a watering point for animals; it's very busy due to the presence of a large number of pastoralists.



The mission had to coincidentally end on the **International Peace Day-21st** of September 2006. Among the recommendations brought to the table were:

1. Extension of the project (which ends in 2006)
2. More involvement of other partners in this project so as to ensure Peace for Prosperity initiative is perpetuated further.

THANK YOU-Jemaiyo Chabeda