

Dear Friends,

At a November 4 food distribution, we received many expressions of appreciation from the beneficiaries who received food aid. Some of them specifically asked us to thank the farmers in Canada. Many people, unable to speak English, used non-verbal gestures and hugged us in thankfulness for the provisions.

“The food we are receiving now came from far away, and that involves God and God alone”, commented one beneficiary named Kahindi. As we oversaw the food distribution, we talked to many people who shared their stories. These are some of the stories we heard.



Purity

Purity came to us with a huge concern about her 13-year old child with spina bifida. She has no wheelchair for her and must pay for all the supplies needed to manage her incontinence. Living with her husband and 4 other children, they try to provide for the family by burning charcoal, which requires cutting down green trees. They have some chickens, but no food to give them so they are not laying eggs. Purity was very happy to receive the food from CRWRC so they will not have to worry about what to eat for the next few weeks.

Simon

Simon shows us the fruit of a cactus plant, which is dangerous to eat unless one peels it correctly.

Simon recently went on a 28-km trip with a donkey to collect food for his family of 8. He does casual work such as looking after farmers' cows, digging, and using his donkey for transport. He commented that the drought has caused the elephants to come closer to the villages and they destroy gardens and kill people. Through our interpreter, he bitterly stated “the government likes the elephants better than the people.”

He is very grateful to receive the food because he did not have to struggle to find work to buy it and it will nourish his children.

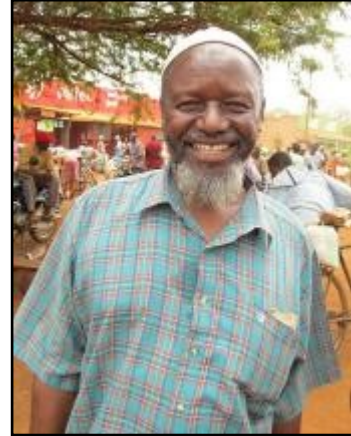


In the Ganzi District, Chief Elisha Mwakazi and councilor Jonas both expressed sincere appreciation for the provision of food for their people. Both stated the current drought has lasted 4-5 years, making life very difficult for the people. They are very grateful for the provisions. They would also appreciate drought-resistant seed so the people would not have to rely on relief food.

Amir

Amir is a Muslim. He was so pleased that CRWRC's beneficiary selection was not based on religious affiliation. He is trying to support 8 children and 4 grandchildren while his farm is under water. He is from Kitivo where the river has silted in, so the water which is supposed to drain into Lake Jipe is overflowing the river bank onto his land. He has not had a harvest for 3 years due to the flooding.

In excellent English he asked us to express his thankfulness to the Canadian farmers.



Each area of Kenya has its own problems. In the Taita/Taveta district, elephants are a huge problem and people come later to receive their food, as they need to wait until the elephants have left the area before it is safe for them to travel.

**Julius**

It is challenging for Julius to provide for his two wives and 11 children. He stated that before the drought, he planted crops and raised plenty of food for his family. Now he has to depend on NGO's food distributions. "It is a miracle to receive this food", he said. His children are all casual workers and try to help him, but they have problems finding enough work.

Julius expressed frustration with the government's lack of control of the elephant population, and stated that it is discouraging to even plant because the crops are destroyed by the elephants.

In the West Pokot and Turkana district (northern Kenya), there is no security for the people. Cattle rustling and robbing persists. The people in this area rely on their livestock (cattle and goats), but lose many due to the raiding and the drought conditions.

Isaiah

Recently married Isaiah still helps to support his 7 siblings as well as his wife. His main source of income is burning charcoal. He lost 20 goats due to the drought and has 10 goats left. He uses his bow and arrow to protect his herd from wild animals, and if he is fortunate he might be able to hunt and kill a dik-dik (small antelope) for food.

He appreciates the food and hopes it will last for 2 weeks.



PRAISE POINTS:

- for smiling faces and pleased expressions as the people receive the food
- for the rain that has fallen and prayers that it may continue
- for safety during the long trips to the distribution sites on rough roads
- for opening devotions prior to the distributions

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- that the rains will be sufficient for a harvest
- that the spiritual needs of the people are met.

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Alice

Alice, her husband and 7 children have recently migrated to the Turkana area due to insecurity in the interior. To earn some money, Alice goes into the forest to collect firewood to sell and sometimes she can wash clothes for others.

She is thankful that she knows God's word and that it has changed her life. She is grateful that He helps them, like on days like today when she receives food to eat.

In the Turkana area, there are 2 camps for Internally Displaced people (IDP) whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed in the post-election violence of December 2007. A report from the UN Human Rights Team stated that more than 1,200 Kenyans were reported killed, thousands more injured, over 300,000 people displaced and around 42,000 houses and many businesses looted or destroyed.

The people in these camps have no means of earning a living and rely totally on relief food. IDP Camp # 1 has 250 households, and IDP Camp # 2 has 450 households.

Margaret

IDP camp resident Margaret depends totally on relief food for her husband and 8 children. They used to live in the city of Eldoret and have been in the camp since the political violence. They own nothing and cannot even plant a garden. She is thankful that there is water available in the camp and a nursery school for the younger children. The older children go to school in Katilu. Two of her children came to the food distribution to help her carry the food. Margaret is very appreciative of the food, as they have no other resources.



Dama

Through 2 translators, Dama informed us that her husband has died and she is supporting 8 children and 1 grandchild. She will be drinking the water that she just retrieved out of a borehole (well). To obtain an income, she digs for others which sometimes nets her 50KSH (\$0.50) per day. Her 1.5 acres of land has not produced a crop and she owns no animals.

Dama stated that she has lost hope and often goes without food. When she does receive food, like today, she is very thankful to God.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers!
Margaret & Rients