



Grassroot Voices against Climate and environmental crisis

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Impacts of climate change:

The case of Kanyaman of Baringgo

Interviewer: Roseline Leiro of the Mwafrika Development Initiative

Case Study Area	Baringo South sub-county around Lake Baringo
Village	Sintaan, Nbambo Location
Date	19th September, 2022
Community	Ilchamus
Country	Kenya
Interviewee	Kanyaman Lemeiguran's pointing his abandoned house
Age	78 years
Number of wives	7 living with 5 one dead and 1 divorced
Number of children	40

Testimony

My Name is Kanyaman Lemeiguran, 78. I am an illchamus (a marginalized and indigenous community in Kenya). I was born and bred in Sintaan ,Ngambo. I have lived here since



Kanyaman Lemeiguran's pointing his abandoned house

I was born. I am also the chair to the illchamus council of elders. When I was young, this area used to be serene, with plenty of pasture for our livestock. Our livestock used to have a lot of grazing land. As young morans (young men) our lives were so full, enjoyable and with plenty to eat. Lake Baringo and the rivers were clean, provided clean water for

drinking, fish and safe for children to swim. Livestock used to drink water from them without limitation. By the time I got married, I had grown my animals to 3000 sheep, 200 cows and 500 goats and I could sustain my family adequately .I paid dowry to my seven wives at once. There was peace, plenty and wonderful moments. But of course with time, and increasing population, land siz-

es began to shrink. People turned to cutting down trees to burn charcoal and without realizing it, pastures started to reduce and increasingly, we found ourselves going far in search of pastures for our animals. To make matters worse, rainfall began to be scarce and drought incidents became frequent. We could no longer sustain our livelihood on our lands. I have also witnessed extreme rise in temperatures. We work on our farms for few hours because of the high temperatures. Again, the rain calendar or season has changed. Instead of the normal long rains beginning in March/April, the rains come in June/July. This has occasioned big loses on part of farmers because the rains come when the seeds are already dry. There is prolonged drought and many livestock have died due to lack of pasture. During wet season there has been extreme rains and has caused floods and displacement of people, closure of schools and narrowing of land for grazing. With the displacement of people occasioned by rising lakes and swelling rivers, other challenges like emergence of IDP camps. The camps are poorly organized and the People living in squalid and dilapidating, undignified conditions. Occasionally, there have been outbreaks of disease such as typhoid and cholera. The adolescence and teenagers due to limited parental care engage in unplanned sexual activities resulting in early pregnancies

increased STDs and prostitution. The recent phenomena of rising waters of lake Baringo has caused much suffering to community and us. Nearly 40% of Ilchamus ward and 70% of Mukutani ward is submerged and thousands of people and livestock have been displaced. Over seven secondary schools are under water and students were relocated to other schools. Farmers have undergone serious loses from the new crop diseases that has no cure due to climate change.



Extend floods in Sintaan Village, Baringo South sub county



Remnants of Ngambo Secondary school

Lake Haromaya's revival

Irrigation water use, soil and water preservation, as well as forestry should be given due attention to sustain it

Reported by : Yewbdar Aklilu
Translated by: Biruk Abdu
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Belachew Tamiru grew up in Bate district where Lake Haromaya is located and he used to swim in the lake before it went dry. He had swum and fished in the river during his childhood along with his friends. His honeymoon trip was even made on a boat over the lake in the 1980s. Although he currently lives further from his hometown, he was shocked by what he was when he returned to see his family members two years ago. He felt sad that that lake had dried.

Similarly, Fekadu Tamrat, a resident in Dire Dawa town in Eastern Ethiopia spend his honeymoon by the sides of the lake in the 1990s. He

shows videos of small boats serving couples that want to cross the lake. Like Fekadu and Belachew, residents of Harar and Dire Dawa towns had enjoyed their time with the lake. But their hopes have been restored when they see the reappearance of the lake that carries their good memories.

Lake Haromaya used to lay on 475 hectares of space with a maximum depth of eight meters but it was reduced to a small oasis that dries up during the sunny seasons. This dry space that seems barren for any observer now holds 318.5 hectares wide water with four meters' depth, thanks to the heavy rains this year.

Following the heavy rain Lake Haromaya has reappeared and it now covers 67 percent of its original space, says Asfaw Kebede (PhD), water resources expert at the Haromaya University.

According to him, extensive efforts were exerted by the University community to restore the disappeared lake. Based on researches and various studies conducted, tree plantation and basin development were given due attention. Because of the use of the lake's land for housing construction and agriculture, tributaries to the lake that used to flow from Damot mountain and Tinike tributary lake were cut. And, as a result of silt that filled the space, the amount of water that the lake held is only 67 percent of its capacity. Asfaw also fears that the lake's sustainability is in question as people pump water from the water wells by the banks of the lake despite efforts by the University to distribute tree seedlings that help soil preservation selected by researchers.

He also says that there are awareness creation efforts by the University to help the community better



understand effective irrigation and soil and water preservation methods. But he recommends ensuring the lake's territories are respected and reducing water wastage are expected from all stakeholders.

In the University's efforts to restore the lake, the town's administration, Agriculture Bureau, and Water Works Enterprise's support was rendered to the researchers, Asfaw gratefully reminds.

If the restored lake is to be sustainably maintained, he recommends planned and effective irrigation, soil and water preservation as well as forestry should be conducted in a carefully planned manner.

Titus Murithi

Farmer

Name of Subject	Titus Murithi
Gender	Male
Marital status	Married
Age	58 yrs
Occupation	Farmer
Village	Ntumburi-buuri , Meru county
Country	Kenya
Date	19/9/2022



My name is Titus Murithi from Ntumbiri location, Buuri sub-county in Meru County, Kenya. My village is located in arid and semi-arid areas. I grew up in a farming family and saw how my parents faithfully prepare land and plant maize and bean seeds before March because, they were sure that every March, rainfall would come. However, in my adult life, I can no longer predict rainfall. Over the last two decades, rainfall has reduced in frequency; duration and amount to enable residents practice maize farming. This has forced me and my village mates shift to onion farming as an alternative. The onion farming is done on a small-scale basis due to scarcity of water. We use piped water provided by the County government but this is rationed and can never be enough for sustainable farming.

Climate change is real and a big threat to my farming occupation. Climate change is causing shrinking

of water sources in this region. If my I do not get an alternative source of water, together with my village mates, we may experience massive loss of lives in future since the available sources are shrinking day by day. Alternatives such as sinking of boreholes and increasing supply of piped water may help this community. I have been forced to live below my potential because I cannot plant food crops due to lack of water for farming. The meagre earnings I get from onion farming is spent on buying food such as maize and beans which is the main staple food in this region. Failure to grow food crops has increased the lack or shortage of food for consumption therefore causing massive malnutrition among children and the elderly in this region. The scarce income earned from onion farming is not enough to buy enough food for the families.

COUNTRY	KENYA
COUNTY	WEST POKOT
SUB-COUNTY	POKOT CENTRAL
SUBJECT	FLORA CHEROP
CASE STUDY	26/9/2022



My name is Flora Cherop Ngurialuk, 24. I am from Pokot central sub county, West Pokot county in Kenya. I have grown up seeing my land dry. I have heard of stories about how things were long time ago. But my history is one that revolves around drought. Climate change has resulted in unseasonal rains and subsequent drought which leads to failures and lack of green pasture for their cattle, the pastoralist from Kotulpogh are forced to travel further away to Turkana sides in search for water and Greener pastures for their cattle. When it get severe, my father and brothers all leave the area to search for water and pasture for our animals. I have seen my father lose so many cows and goats for lack of pasture. Now, like many others girls in the village, I cannot go to school since my parents have nothing to sale and get money to take pay for my school fees. What has happened

now is that because of climate changes, there is change in gender norms and practices whereby families in Kotulpogh send girls to herd cattle, goat and camel. This was never the case before. Herding was only meant for male. Due to changing climatic condition, I have seen lots of cases of kala Azar disease. In addition, there is rising cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) , which is recognized as an issue of global health concern and violation of the human rights. FGM entails the cutting of parts of the female external genitalia for non-medical reasons. I think this is because, we are having many girls at home since their parents cannot afford school fees. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is recognized as an issue of global health concern and violation of the human rights. The practice entails the cutting of parts of the female external genitalia for non-medical reasons.

Nandawa Sesay

Farmer

Name of subject	Nandawa Sesay
Age	34
Country	Sierra Leone



I have observed and witnessed Extreme Climate events unfolding in Sierra Leone that go underreported with little or no emphasis on mitigation or awareness raising.

The same weekend that flooding hit Pakistan, Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone was drenched in flooding too, coupled with mudslides and rising sea levels.

I have noticed that this has been a consistent occurrence every year since 2017 in Sierra Leone, this year's flooding affected me and my family leading to the loss of essential documents and properties worth thousands of Leones. On a personal note I lost most of my belonging and I was forced to move in with a

friend living in another community, I was not able to remove most of my things due to the brutal nature of the flooding. This led to personal distress as some priceless valuables that took me years to acquire through hard work was lost.

Places that were never used to flooding are now reaching high levels of water, in the process disrupting traffic and destroying lives and properties.

This shows that there is much more to do to focus on mitigation and holding duty bearers accountable for this.

As these heavy rains continue, it has been observed that the recent flooding and mudslide in Sierra Le-



one, a small nation, went under-reported with little or no humanitarian assistance mobilization on a grand scale.

Much must be done to address the yearly floods and landslides re-occurrence. To me, It will take the collective efforts of the Government, CSOs, and us citizens to pull in the same direction to address these challenges.

Awareness raising on the activities of citizens and how they lead to flooding and landslides is necessary. Government-making policies that will prevent the reoccurrence of flooding and landslides are of great necessity, and a robust CSO check - holding citizens and government agencies accountable could be a good thing.



Time to rethink on reducing household waste disposal in order to save on the environment.

Case of Kipkenyo Dumpsite in Uasingishu County

By Monicah Jepkosgei- AfriNov Program Manager

Case Study Area	Kipkenyo ward
Country	Kenya
Interviewee	Jackson Mutole-

My name is Jackson Mutolo a resident of Chebarus village in Kipkenyo Ward, Eldoret City. The growth of the Eldoret town has some positive and negative influence on the environment my family live in. I am an immediate neighbor to the town's dumping site and sewerage treatment plant. Living here is coupled with a lot challenges from the surrounding to the health hazards we daily encounter. From my observation, the dumpsite is not properly being managed as its evident. Trucks come to dump the trash collected anywhere even including along the road. During the rainy sea-



son, the road connecting Huruma and Kipkenyo is rendered impassible as the waste is all over. This does not speak at all about sustainable city that our city fathers have subscribed to. The County government recently brought in excavator to





Polluted water getting downstream to River Sosiani

clear the road for trucks to be able to dump waste in the site unfortunately the driver did a short distance and parked the excavator saying that it's not fueled. So trucks would just continue dumping the waste all over. Just down the stream of the dumpsite is Sossiani River one of the major rivers in Uasin Gishu that faces critical pollution challenges from upstream in town and downstream. Many people are using this river as

a source of water. But the waste get washed to the river during rains. Sometimes people burn tires and plastic waste here filling the area with heavy smoke that even makes breathing difficult. It has also become a home to insecurity as many people come to collect plastic bottles and sells to some traders from Nairobi and thus even steal from households around.



Wastes dumped outside the dump fill and along the road.

Elgeyo Escarpment a place where you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see, and nobody calls the cops

Interviewer: Edwin Ronoh from Real Empowerment for Sustainable Transformation Hub (REST HUB)



Case Study Area	Keiyo North sub-county, Tambach ward
Village	Kipka sub-Location
Community	Keiyo
Country	Kenya
CASE STUDY	26th September, 2022
Interviewee	Edwin Ronoh
Age	39 years

Testimony

My name is Edwin Ronoh, 39. I was born and bred here in Kipka sub location in Keiyo Marakwet County. My village faces the breath-taking Elgeyo escarpment, which is one of the most beautiful places on earth. Elgeyo Marakwet has is a high alti-



Past Grassroots mobilization and sensitization on the need to stop the drivers of climate change

tude and the cold weather used to ensure that mosquitoes could not survive here. Temperatures have increased in the last few decades, even during the rainy seasons – a strange scenario in Elgeyo Marakwet indeed. Unlike 20 years ago, the dry season at present is hotter to the extent that all the grass dries up. However, one of the effects of the higher temperatures is the increased number of mosquitoes resulting in increased incidence of malaria in this County. This started in the 1980s. Now, people are even dying from malaria, something that was virtually unheard of 20-30 years ago in the highlands. The area has always been a semi-arid but has of late faced intense and frequent droughts, which is getting worse with each passing year.



Cultivated fragile Elgeyo escarpment in Kipka and Tambach , Keiyo North sub county

Although rainfall is rare, interestingly, when it rains, it is so heavy that it often causes flush floods, mudslides, soil erosion and landslides.

Due to these factors, cases of food insecurity have risen badly affecting school attendance and stoking malnutrition. The worst is that as pastoralists, we are struggling to take care of our livestock. This was not the case before, when grass would remain green even during the dry season. This means that there isn't enough fodder for my cows, leading to a drop in milk production and also income. The soils are also left bare during

the dry season leading to erosion at the onset of the rains. Some of the edible insects that the people in my area depended on during scarcity of foods have also gone extinct. This means that my community has become more dependent on what we grow, and more vulnerable to decreasing rainfall and failing crops. I have also noticed that, with the warmer weather, there are more pests affecting our crops. As a result, more pesticides are being used. The additional cost of pesticides means our farming business becomes less profitable.




Cultivated fragile Elgeyo escarpment in Kipka and Tambach , Keiyo North sub county






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