



## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2023



***Pastoralist women of peace- Ewuaso Kidong-Kajiado County***

Once upon a time like today, in a Mozambique village there was no rain for a prolonged period of time; as a result, many people and animals died. One day an eagle from a far land had a branch of sorghum in its beak. As it was flying up above that village, unfortunately it fell down as the eagle wanted to catch another bird. This branch of sorghum fell right in front of a mother's house who was wailing as she watched her children cry due to hunger and starvation. Surprised, she looked up, looked down, looked around and saw no one. She took the sorghum, crashed it and quickly made porridge and gave her children. In many cases God knows what we need and He provides without us knowing how it will happen.

In the nation of Kenya, the government declared the drought as a national crisis and emergency. All 47 Counties in the nation are severely affected. In Turkey and Syria, more than 40 thousand people are reported to have died so far due to the effects of the earth Quake, while rescue missions are still ongoing. In Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) violence is

spreading from one area to another; as a result, more than 608 thousand people became Internally Displaced, while more than 483 thousand became refugees to neighboring Countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia, etc.), some parts of the America facing winter storms. These are but few challenges the world is witnessing.

In such challenging situations, what would be the role of a peacemaker, disciple maker, teacher, clergy or business person? We all cannot do the same things, but God has enabled each one for a particular task and season. All it takes is being available to be used by God for His glory.

Psalms 147:3 gives us an opportune encouragement: *'He (God) heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds healing their pain and comforting their sorrow'.*

**May we all find comfort in the Lord!**

In this month, PHARP in partnership with ministry partners managed to minister to several hurting communities: Ewuaso-Kajiado county, Marigat-Baringo County and Kibera slums through feeding and teaching of God's wonderful love for humanity.

**On 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>:** Peacebuilding and Discipleship class at Redeemed Gospel Church-AMREF grounds, Kibera slum continues to impact on community and religious leaders. Pastors, lay leaders, teachers, students are appreciating the teachings as they learn and assess their own lives, families and communities on those things that trigger conflicts amongst them.

*Am a graduate in business studies from one of the local universities. I studied from bursaries and well-wishers helping my parents pay for the four years. But for the last 2 years it has been hard to get a job or even an internship opportunity. Luckily two months ago my pastor helped me get a security job with a company in town and I am now a watchman. Am grateful for the opportunity, but still, I don't feel very happy. When we learnt about the types of conflict, I learnt that am struggling with intra-personal conflict. Am not happy, am bitter, am angry because the life I had envisioned, the career I thought I would have done not go as expected. So, the conflict within me has been causing me stress and to some extent physical sickness. Now I understand myself and I seek to change as the Lord makes a way for me"- Philip*



**Top: group discussion and sharing. Below: Philip (standing) sharing his testimony**

**On 17<sup>th</sup>:** PHARP ministered to beneficiaries at Lutheran church, Ewuaso Kidong- Kajiado county and Loruk- Baringo county, both grouped under the counties in the alarm phase of serious drought in Kenya. Currently more than 5 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity with about 2.7 million people in the crisis phase and about 700,000 people in the emergency state within 22 counties termed as the alarm phase. In one of the public schools in Kajiado County, parents and elders are daring to go and queue for free lunch from the school. PHARP was able to minister to about 40 families (with an average of 7 members each home, a total of 280 people) with two weeks supply of some food stuffs.

One woman from the pastoralist community in Ewuaso Kidong who had walked for 7 kms to come to the Lutheran Church under the scorching sun was more than grateful. *If pastor had not sent some herdsmen to call me, I don't know what my 7 children and I would have done. We were beyond hopeless and were just waiting to die. We have lost 13 cows and 9 goats. My children wake up early to go look for whatever leaves we can boil and drink its water so that we may live. The word we received that God is our shepherd, indeed today we have seen the hand of God. Even for my family members who don't trust in God, will now know that there is a God.*





Top: PHARP team with the help of Rev. Konana (Lutheran church pastor) encouraging the beneficiaries.

Below: Grateful Maasai women who had to walk long distances in order to receive help for their families.

**Loruk, Baringo County:** Bishop Apetha read the words found in Matthew 28:19-20, where God commands each one of us to go and make disciples. We are not to only preach through words, but even through our actions.

*Through this support from PHARP and the friends of PHARP, you have shown us a great love. 20 households here are in awe of God's love and provision through you. So many among us have died, lost their wealth, (cows, goats and sheep), lost their homesteads and those who have survived are scattered in the forests. Keep us in prayer as we are in the midst of violent conflicts of insecurity, military operations and drought. Pray that as we plan an outreach to our brothers and sisters who are living in a volatile area known as Ngaratuko the Lord shall go before us and use us to be peace ambassadors and disciple makers.*



*17 Loruk pastoralist pastors fellowship receives relief support from PHARP amidst the drought and famine in the area. The fellowship was formed in 2017 as a result of peacebuilding and conflict transformation conducted by PHARP in Marigat- Baringo County to embrace interdenominational pastors as a means to promote peace during the hard times of violent conflict due to cattle rustling.*

**PHARP Jilore, Malindi:** We thank God for all the 6 active groups that continue to meet, pray, study God's word and engage in activities that can enhance their livelihoods. The tailoring group and the farming groups that comprise of vulnerable women and girls are very much involved in their projects. However, the challenge of hard economic and harsh climate has seen these groups face severe challenges. Please let us keep these 90 beneficiaries in prayer.

*Teacher, thank you for visiting us. Pray for us because we don't want to loose hope. This is the fourth year without significant harvest. The river which was the source of our water; whether home or farm use has dried up. You can see that we are standing on the soil of the river. Our children are home, our girls have to walk long distances for water; please pray for us. Mama Adija*





*Mama Adija showing us the failed crops of the group 2*

### **Thanksgiving and prayer requests**

- 1. We thank God for this month and the activities carried out. We thank God for stable health and provision for the ministry.**
- 2. In January we highlighted the plight of a 12-year-old girl in Malawi who was raped and killed in a tea estate; we thank God that the evil doers were caught and arrested. We continue to pray for the family.**
- 3. We continue to pray for Turkey, Syria, Russia, Ukraine, DR Congo, New Zealand, America, Kenya among others that are facing challenges one way or the other.**