



# KAINUK AREA PROGRAMME

## Stories of Change & Impact



## About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian, relief, advocacy and development organisation that is committed to improving the well-being of children, families and communities in Kenya. For over 40 years, the organisation has served alongside the poor and oppressed in the country, as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people. World Vision partners with communities, the Government, sponsors, donors and corporates to help the most vulnerable children overcome poverty and enjoy life in all its fullness. It implements sustainable development projects in education, health, child protection, food security, economic empowerment, as well as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. The organisation has a vast reach in Kenya. Its transformative development initiatives are spread across 37 counties, nationwide. World Vision serves all people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

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## World Vision's Kainuk Area Programme (AP)

**W**orld Vision's Kainuk Area Programme (AP) is located in Turkana South Sub-County, Turkana County, Kenya. It has ten (10) primary focus areas, which are equivalent to administrative sub-locations. They include: Kainuk, Kalemngorok, Lokapel, Katilu, Loyapat, Lorogon, Kanaodon, Kakong'u, Kalomwae and Nakwamoru. The AP, which is largely supported by World Vision donors from Hong Kong, began in January 2006 with the aim of addressing the root causes of poverty in the area. Since its inception, the programme has been focusing on improving the quality of life of residents, through its goal of contributing to the sustained wellbeing of 47,305 children (27,321 girls and 19,984 boys) within their families and communities in Kainuk by 2021. This has been achieved through the implementation of successful projects in the following areas: Health & Nutrition, Education & Child Protection, Livelihoods & Resilience, Disaster Management and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene.

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## Vote of Thanks

**W**e are grateful to all our partners and stakeholders that have walked with us in this life changing journey - from 2006 to 2021 - so as to transform the lives of children, families and communities in the area. In a special way, we would like to recognise the support of the National Government, Turkana County Government, World Vision Hong Kong donors and the Kainuk community, which made it possible for us to achieve our goals and bring about long lasting change in this community. May God Bless You.

# Impact Figures

Key highlights for transformative change	2016	2020
Proportion or percentage of people living below the poverty line	74.9%	54.1%
Proportion or percentage of Parents / care givers able to provide well for children	26.6%	61.7%
Proportion of households adopting recommended climate smart or environmentally sound principles and practices	12.3%	46.3%
Proportion or percentage of households with high crop, livestock or aquatic practices	14%	44.9%
Proportions of boys and girls able to read with comprehension	21%	65.5%
Proportion of women who gave birth to their youngest child in a health facility	59.5%	63.5%
Proportion of children who are exclusively breastfed	19.3%	58.6%

## STORY 1:

# Transformed rural school revives bright future hopes for children

Pupils of Naroo Primary School at Kainuk in Turkana County, Kenya, are confident that they will excel in their studies and have a bright future.

The children enjoy learning, as well as spending time together in school, as they get knowledge that opens their young minds to the world.

This enjoyable experience is a far cry from what these children were forced to endure six years ago, when the school lacked sufficient infrastructure to accord pupils quality education.

“The school didn’t have enough classrooms. So, children used to learn under trees, sitting on rocks. The wind would blow dust on pupils and make their eyes itch. It would also make books and clothes dirty. Also, when it rained, children couldn’t learn as there was nothing to shield them from the water,” says Roselyn, a pupil at the school.



“We used to be sick almost all the time, suffering from stomach pain, diarrhoea, cholera and other diseases. But we didn’t know that this was linked to the contaminated water we were drinking,” says Roselyn.

Upon learning about the plight of the children, World Vision embarked on tackling the infrastructural challenges through sponsorship funds raised from donors in Hong Kong.

The organisation built a classroom block for the school, as well as a modern toilet. It also installed a tank and funded the establishment of a pipeline network that supplies clean and safe water to the school.

“We thank World Vision for building the classrooms and also purchasing the desks and benches that make us comfortable in class. Our backs no longer hurt us and we have enough space, compared to the days when we had to squeeze ourselves under trees so as to take advantage of the available shade,” says Roselyn.

Thanks to the clean piped water, she notes that they no longer need to waste time, going to the river to fetch contaminated water for drinking and for cooking school meals.

As a result of the transformative change brought about by World Vision to the school, the performance of children has greatly improved.

“Last year, we were the best in this area based on the good performance of our children in the national primary school exams. Many parents who had previously taken their children to other schools are now bringing them back to Naroo Primary. The population in the school has also doubled due to the increased enrolment,” states the Head Teacher.



The school’s Head Teacher, Nelson, notes that the infrastructural challenges hampered the performance of children at the school.

“Their concentration was always affected. While learning outside, they would be distracted by people, noise from neighbouring homes or passing vehicles. They were therefore unable to grasp much in class,” he says.

Aside from the lack of classrooms, the school also lacked toilets. As such, the children used to rush to nearby bushes to relieve themselves at breaktime or lunchtime, when lessons were not going on.

When it rained, water would wash away the faeces and other types of waste from the contaminated environment, and proceed to drain them in the river that the school and community relied on for drinking and cooking.

## STORY 2:

# Pastoralists embrace dry land farming to fight drought and boost food security

The Turkana people are mainly pastoralists who rely on livestock keeping as their main source of livelihood. Communities often walk for long distances in search of water and pasture for their livestock.



Land degradation caused by overstocking as well as frequent dry spells that are exacerbated by climate change - such as droughts - are increasingly making this way of life difficult. "Before, we used to easily get pasture and water for our livestock. But now it's hard due to the high temperatures and droughts," says Mark, a resident of Kainuk in Turkana County.

World Vision sought to address this challenge through the implementation of water projects and training on climate-smart agriculture that enabled the community to diversify their livelihoods instead of relying solely on livestock.

"We never used to grow crops but after the training, we began doing so and we are enjoying it. Thanks to the water points established near our farms, we irrigate our crops all year round and enjoy bumper harvests irrespective of the hot weather here," says Mark, a father of four.

World Vision in collaboration with the Turkana County Government supported Mark and other farmers to acquire high quality seeds and learn about best farming practices such as crop rotation, spacing plants, pest control and keeping the soil fertile through the use of manure.

"Since we still have livestock, we can easily get cow or goat manure which has enabled us to cut on fertiliser costs and make savings," he says.

Compared to livestock keeping, he notes that crop farming is less tiring and more profitable. "I used to walk for long looking for pasture for my livestock and it would take long for them to be mature and

ready for the market. But with crops, once you do the planting and irrigation, you wait for a few months to harvest and sell the produce, he says.

Jacinta, his wife, notes that embracing crop farming has enabled them to have more family time.



"My husband used to be away for months, moving with cows from one place to another in search of pasture and water. And back home, the children and me would tend to goats, collect water many kilometres away and do other house chores. We used to be tired all the time. The children would miss school sometimes and they didn't have enough time to play with friends," she says.

Now Mark seldom leaves home as he keeps a few goats and cows that he can comfortably take care of. With the increased access to water and proceeds from crop farming, he can easily grow fodder or purchase it during the dry seasons. "By combining crop farming and livestock farming, we are also able to give children a balanced diet that has kept them healthy," states Jacinta.

Aside from enhanced food security, the income that the family gets from the diversified livelihoods has helped them to provide other basic needs - such as clothing and a good house for their children.

## STORY 3:

# How I escaped child marriage and attained my dream of going to school

Jane (not her real name) was forcefully married off to a man in his 50s, at the tender age of 11. Her grandmother, with whom she was living at the time, was poor and suffered ill health. In as much as she wanted to save her grandchild from the ordeal, she could not stand up to Jane's uncles who forcefully abducted her and took the girl to her matrimonial home.

"I was crashed and felt alone in the world, with no one to help me. I cried and pleaded with my uncles to spare me but they wouldn't listen. I even begged them to wait until I was much older before marrying me off but they would hear none of it," recalls Jane.

Her uncles were keen on marrying her off so they could increase their wealth through her bride price, which was given in form of livestock. At her matrimonial home, Jane felt like she was dying slowly as they forced her to partake wifely duties that she knew nothing about. She felt violated and abused.

One evening, while her husband and co-wives were preoccupied with other activities, she escaped and ran into the forest with one of her younger sisters who had come to visit her.

They deliberated on the issue and made a decision to have the girl stay with a relative who would offer her foster care and enable her to pursue her education in a safe and loving home. "Her story really touched us and we went ahead and contributed for her upkeep and school necessities such as purchasing uniforms and stationery," notes Philip.



Now Jane is in school, studying hard and enjoying the warmth and love from her family and fellow pupils. They welcomed her wholeheartedly into their lives. "My dream is to become a teacher. You know, teachers have a lot of influence in my community. People listen to them and they are respected. So, becoming a teacher will enable me to not only teach but also create awareness about children's rights and help protect them from abuse," she says.

Jane adds that education was a lifelong dream that she had almost given up on. She is therefore grateful to God for giving her the hope and courage to break free from the forced marriage and get support from well-wishers.

World Vision has been building the capacity of these local kangaroo courts to preside over family disputes, child protection cases and rescue children affected by acts of violence committed against them.

These local courts help fill the legal and justice system gaps which exist in most rural areas that lack official courts.



"I didn't know where I was going or whether I would survive but taking the risk was better than the suffering I was going through. I chose the forest to make it hard for my uncles to find us and kept running so I could be as far away from the village as possible," she says.

At around three o'clock in the morning, herders who were in search of pasture for their livestock saw them and immediately reported the matter to the area chief. The matter was taken up by a paralegal community officer, Philip, trained by World Vision on child protection matters. He presented the matter at the Kraal Elders Council (informal court).



## STORY 4:

# Water project saves community from wild animal attacks, violence and abuse

**E**sther, a mother of two, enjoys fetching water from a borehole that is located less than a kilometre from her home.

This is one of the many water projects that were implemented by World Vision to improve access to clean and safe water for communities at Kainuk in Turkana County, Kenya.



Before the construction of the borehole, Esther and other women used to walk for over six kilometres to fetch water from a river situated in one of Turkana's forested areas.

This forest was home to poisonous snakes and other wild animals such as leopards, antelopes and warthogs that would pose threats to community members who relied heavily on the river as their sole water source. Crocodiles were also in plenty.

"We used to get scared while going to the river. We were forced to go in groups for safety purposes. But still, there were incidences where people were attacked by wild animals and even killed in their search for water," Esther says.



Aside from the wild animals, the forest surrounding the river was also a hiding place for warring groups that fuelled numerous inter-communal conflicts in Turkana County.

"Whenever these wars broke out, women would be attacked, raped and even killed as they fetched water in the river. We were soft targets because the warriors targeting our community knew that we had to go there since it was our only source of water," she says.

The community had to risk their lives continuously and overcome various hurdles to access the river water that was not even safe. It was heavily polluted and would expose families, especially young children to waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera, which are leading causes of child deaths in the country.

"When World Vision constructed this borehole, it was a dream come true for us and something short of a miracle! This water came near our homes and solved all the problems we used to face before," Esther says.

She notes that the easily accessible borehole has freed her and other women to spend quality time with their children and dedicate more time to their income generating activities.

Aside from supplying water to households, the borehole also serves a nearby school and health facility in Kainuk.

"I can say without doubt that our lives have been changed in a big way, thanks to this water project," states Esther.



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