



CULTURE INFORMATION AND PASTORALIST DEVELOPMENT

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## **SOLOLO COMMUNITY HAS NOT RECOVERED FROM THE LAST DROUGHT**

Northern Kenya was affected by worst drought in the last 40 years. The drought killed all the livestock which was the main livelihood of the community. Pasture and water was depleted. The impact was very severe lack of food, affected all ages but children elderly and pregnant mothers were the most affected.

Latest survey shows food insecurity has doubled since the last six years from 15% to 28 %

Main causes included

1. loss of livelihood to the drought hence no income at household level
2. increased inflation due to high cost of living
3. increased taxation which hiked food prices
4. high rate of unemployment for the youth
5. lack of adequate information or civic education to diversify economic activities

Food insecurity has caused many illegal activities to flourish in Sololo areas especially among the youths

1. Unemployment has resulted in idleness and crimes like smoking marijuana, drinking alcohol and theft among youth. use of guns to commit crimes has increased
2. Prostitutions causing risk of infection and unplanned pregnancies
3. School dropout and very low performance due to lack of school fees for the children.
4. Rebellious teens and adolescences behavior among school going age children – want to become bodaboda rider motor cycle rider) instead of concentrating and education

There is very high reliance on food relief and cash transfers from GOK and development partners causing dependence syndromes of not working to gain income.

Malnutrition level has increased among children under-fives years, pregnant and lactating mothers.

People have slowly and unwillingly turning to small scale farming in small plot around homesteads and vegetable gardening around water point like Ramata dam.

Due to death of livestock no animal are brought to market for sell. The households who have been solely depending on animal byproducts are in very dire needs of support to normalize their lives. Very few goats are seen at the site of the market and the prices is very high for the butcher men to buy and sell for meat approximately 8,000 – 15,000 per one goat or sheep

Relief distribution is the big event in Sololo community. People turned out in their numbers and the villages to receive very few kilos of rice and cooking oil. The last distribution i witnessed was food planned for 700 families but distributed among 2400 households. The food does not run for more than 3 days. The hunger cycle continues.

Majority of the population lives on 1 meal per day and not nutritionally balanced. Many mothers walk to the neighbors and shops to beg for food.

I believe this situation can be turned around through participatory integrated development approached where the choices of the community is at the center of implementation and guided by right information and capacity to make individual choices to get out of the extreme poverty. Investing in the youthful age, education and the energy can bring positive attitude change and future prosperity in Sololo Sub County

Thank you

Gufu Guyo

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