

**PENHA  
NEWSLETTER  
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**What's in this issue?**

PENHA's 10 km walk  
Primary Education in Eastern Sudan  
Fodder training for women in Sudan  
Elizabeth Katushabe in Global Gathering  
of women pastoralist in India.  
Pastoralists in Ethiopia  
The Future of Pastoralism in Africa  
Supporting PENHA through eBay  
Volunteering for PENHA

Dear PENHA friend,

This issue of the PENHA Newsletter comes with our greetings. We hope you enjoy it and find it of interest. We have appreciated the comments that you have made on previous ones: please keep them coming. The newsletter is also on our website:  
<http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Newsletter.html>

You can unsubscribe from this newsletter via a link at the end.



**Walking in Thorndon Park, Essex**

**Sponsors needed for PENHA's 10 km. walk in Thorndon Park, Essex**

Last year, six volunteers and staff from PENHA used the Spring Bank Holiday to raise funds for PENHA. This year we will again be walking in Essex on Monday 30th. May. If you want to join us, contact us by emailing us with the address given at the end of the newsletter. If you want to sponsor us, then the best way is through a special JustGiving page:  
<http://www.justgiving.com/PENHA-walk>

**Supporting Primary Education in Eastern Sudan**

The generosity of the South Holland Rotary Club (based in Spalding, Lincs) allowed PENHA to distribute school equipment to seven schools. These were in settlements which were between 15 and 170 km from the regional centre of Kassala, itself only about 20 km from the Eritrean border. The population is mainly pastoralist though with many refugees from Eritrea.

A total of 525 exercise books, 855 pencils, 355 writing boards, 170 rulers, 160 pencil rubbers and 185 pencil sharpeners along with 170 bags for the children's books and writing equipment were given to the school children. Some equipment for games (balls, skipping ropes and a few footballs and whistles) was also provided.

Even the boxes which were used to send the material to Sudan are being used again for sending some material for making fodder to pastoralists across the border in Eritrea. As is so



**PENHA's Director with children from Kassala State**

typical of Africans, nothing is wasted and the boxes will be used again and again.

## Animal fodder training for women in Khashm El Ghirba, Sudan

In days gone by, pastoralists in the Horn of Africa were able to roam far and wide - so that in the dry season (which in this part of Sudan is 10 months of the year) they used to travel long distances to areas where fodder was available for their animals - by rivers and small lakes. With the increase in population and the growth of arable agriculture, much of the traditionally available pastures have either been taken over for arable agriculture or the migration routes have been made less accessible or closed off altogether. To meet this challenge, PENHA has worked with the government's Animal Production Research Centre (APRC) in Khartoum to develop a feed which could be used in the dry season so that it is not necessary to have to migrate such long distances. This research has been able to make a positive use of a recently introduced shrub which had become a major problem in Sudan (and in the Horn of Africa as a whole) called "muskit" (*Prosopis Juliflora*) by the local people. A simple method has been developed, combining traditional knowledge with a new scientific approach, to use muskit with more traditional feeds.

One of PENHA's basic aims is to support women and give them a status in their own society.



**Filling plastic sacks with mixed fodder**



**Weighing fodder ingredients using a balance**

Working through Plan International, PEAKS (the Pastoral Environmental Association Kassala State) and the APRC, it ran a recent training course for 52 women from a number of different villages in the Khashm El Ghirba region of Kassala State. The course was led by woman lecturer from the APRC. The women were trained in modern methods of producing and making better use of the available fodder using simple technologies suitable to their situation. They had both lectures and practicals along with a visit to a veterinary clinic. As the report of the workshop stated: "Participants showed eagerness to know and they enriched their training by negotiation and exchange of information."

In addition to formal training outlined above, the gathering of women in Ghirba from distant villages represented a giant step towards development in terms of travel and of meeting other communities and so gaining new ideas. Indeed at the end of the six days, the women themselves initiated the formation of a women's society called "Um El Gora El Rifiya" with the object of furthering education, health, fodder production and similar aims.

## Elizabeth Katushabe attends the Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists

This event with 32 countries represented took place in November 2010 in Gujarat, India. Elizabeth is a Bahima pastoralist and works for PENHA in Uganda. This gathering took place over a week and finally came up with the "Mera Declaration of the Global Gathering of Women Pastoralists". This declaration highlighted the way in which pastoralists "experienced the leading edge of climate change and its associated problems" and that pastoralists had "much to share with the world about adaptation, mitigation and living sustainably on planet earth". The specific recommendations went into detail as to how this could be done - but emphasised that women pastoralists needed to play an integral part in these developments.



**Elizabeth with Gujarat (Indian) and Egyptian pastoralists**

## Visiting pastoralists in Ethiopia

PENHA staff from Somaliland and the London office made a visit to Ethiopia over the Christmas period. Ethiopia is central to the Horn of Africa - and has the largest number of pastoralists in the region. The PENHA delegation met a range of people including the two Ethiopian PENHA Trustees and colleagues from pastoralist organisations in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian government is developing an effective Pastoral Community Development

## The Future of Pastoralism in Africa

PENHA was invited to make a presentation of its work among pastoralist women in the Horn of Africa at a major conference in Addis Ababa. The meeting was organised by Future Agricultures Consortium, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University, and the Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, Addis Ababa.

Everse Ruhindi from Uganda gave a paper on behalf of PENHA on "Economic Empowerment for Pastoralist Women". This was written in partnership with John Livingstone. The presentation pointed to the effectiveness of business skills training for women's groups in pastoral areas, when combined with grants for rotating funds. This enables women to acquire productive assets and expand their micro-enterprises. The paper can be downloaded as a pdf

Programme (PCDP) with aid money from the World Bank. In the discussions which took place during the visit, PENHA's intellectual legacy from the 1990s was highlighted. It was recognised that PENHA had brought new ideas and perspectives to the country. The importance of Ethiopia as a country with a large pastoralist population was emphasised - and is recognised by PENHA.



**Road side micro enterprise in Uganda**



**Conference session in process**

marginalisation and severe poverty? How can pastoralist 'drop-outs' be supported after they leave the livelihood but continue to interact with the livestock sector? This conference was held in Addis Ababa in March 2011.

## Supporting PENHA through eBay

PENHA received an anonymous donation of just over £400 which came via eBay from the sale of an 16 mm projector. This method of supporting our work was available because PENHA is registered with eBay. It is very simple to make a donation in this way - and it is worth noting that eBay does not make its usual charge in these cases. You can get to PENHA on the eBay website by clicking on Charities and then by putting "Pastoral" into the search box.

from this internet link: <http://www.future-agricultures.org/> Click on "Future of Pastoralism" box and then "Conference outputs" and go to Panel 12. Other papers can be downloaded. For example, Prof. John Morton from the University of Greenwich and a PENHA Trustee gave a paper on "Responsible companies and African livestock-keepers: teaching but not learning". This is in Panel 6.

The theme of the conference was that the future of pastoralism in Africa is uncertain. Radical changes are affecting pastoralist areas in terms of access to resources, options for mobility and opportunities for marketing. These changes also bring new possibilities for making pastoralist livelihoods stronger but many questions remain about the sustainability of these changes. Is there opportunity for a productive, vibrant, market-oriented livelihood system or will pastoralist areas remain a backwater of underdevelopment, mar-

## Volunteering for PENHA

PENHA largely depends on volunteers for its work. Many of these are young people from the region or who are just starting out on their careers. However we are at the moment also looking for more experienced people who have just retired but are still full of energy. Our main need is help with fundraising. If you think you could contribute in this way, please contact us by clicking here:

<http://www.penhanetwork.org/home/details.php?id=45>.

PENHA' s latest volunteers are:

*Bereket Tesfagergis* (Research and Communication Officer, MA in Public Management - Specialization in Development Studies and Public Policy Analysis)

*Menbere S Hailemariam* (Volunteer, DVM, MSc Animal Biology and Welfare)

*Rushini de Zoysa* (Volunteer, B.A (Hons.) in International Development Studies)

If you think that PENHA's work is valuable and makes a difference to the life of nomadic pastoralists, then please consider making a [donation](#) to our organisation. You will be helping PENHA empower women, men and local organisations in the Horn of Africa. Put this address into your browser:

<http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Donate.html>

and you will then be sent to our page for donations where you can also have a look at our Financial Yearly Report.

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**Training pastoralists in Soroti, Uganda**

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