

PENHA

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PASTORAL & ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

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Camels on river bank in Kenya

PENHA plans for its future

PENHA is an African network – and last December, it had two meetings in Ethiopia which reflected the reality of the network.

The first was a workshop to follow up the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme which had taken place over the previous three years in Somaliland, Sudan and Uganda. This is an important programme for PENHA and was funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Evaluations made in the three countries were very positive about the aims and the results of the programmes. Some of the comments are given in greater detail on

page 3, along with the experience of a Ugandan beneficiary. PENHA is not the only organisation to be working on this type of programme – and reports of their experience were given by two Ethiopian organisations. The meeting finished by planning for the future.

In the second workshop, PENHA staff, partners and associates began to work towards a strategic plan for the next five years. This workshop was also supported by DANIDA through a consultant who gave very clear guidelines on how to proceed. The participants were able to make a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) of PENHA in their country, and then look to the future. It was agreed that the lives of pastoralists were changing rapidly so that past aims were no longer as relevant as they once were. In addition, a greater emphasis on environmental issues in the Horn of Africa was needed in the new plan. The plan will be finalised in the next few months.

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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: www.penhanetwork.org

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



Participants in Addis Ababa workshop

Food Security for Pastoralists in Sudan and Eritrea

With the support of Oxfam Novib of the Netherlands PENHA has been working on food security in both Eastern Sudan (Kassala State) and in Western Eritrea (Gash Barka). In Sudan, PENHA has a local support committee with Dr. Abdulhameed Elias of Khartoum University as PENHA's voluntary official representative. Its partner organisations include the Animal Production and Research Centre (APRC) of the Federal Ministry of Animal Resources, with Dr. Nuha Hamid as PENHA's counterpart, and the Pastoral Environment Association Kassala State (PEAKS) with Mr. Mustafa Fayd who is its chair. In Eritrea, PENHA has been working with

An important part of the programme has been to support local organisations. In Eastern Sudan this has especially meant the support of PEAKS – which now has over 100 subscription paying members with an out-reach of over 2,000. PEAKS has run Oxfam NOVIB funded training courses for women (in particular) on the conservation, preparation and use of fodder. PEAKS also developed an early purchasing scheme to obtain fodder when it is readily available (and thus, inexpensive) for use at the time of shortages – and high prices.

This has taken longer than hoped for, but it was planned for completion at the very end of 2011.



Chopping animal feed



Goats in animal market, Eastern Sudan

the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) for the last ten or more years. Mr. Mohamed Ali is PENHA's representative there. However, sadly, this relationship and PENHA's work in Eritrea has come to an end on 31st. December 2011 with the decision by the Eritrean Government to close operations of all non-governmental organisations.

The overall objective of the two year programme was to improve food security among pastoralists in both countries. This has been done by consolidating and institutionalising the fodder initiative that it has been developing over the last few years with the APRC. The aim has been to provide a range of activities to empower local communities to tackle food insecurities themselves.



Taking notes at training session, Kassala

The Gash Barka region of Western Eritrea is very similar in being arid and semi-arid and inhabited by people with similar cultures and ethnic background. With the help of NUEYS as the implementing agency and with trainers from the Eritrean Ministry of Agriculture, who themselves received training from PENHA in the 1990s, there were two fodder preparation training sessions. The fodder uses local material,

including the pods of *Prosopis Juliflora* which is usually seen as an invasive and very problematic bush. Both sessions were for 40 pastoralists. In the first session, only four were women, but in the second, there were 14. In addition, with the enthusiastic support of local pastoralists, a community centre has been built.

The programmes in both Sudan and Eritrea were supported by market feasibility and other studies which were important in making sure that what was being provided was actually needed. In addition, in both cases, there were monitoring visits from both PENHA and Oxfam NOVIB headquarters staff from the Netherlands.

Women Building Peace

PENHA members attended a workshop in Hargeisa in February this year dealing with this important subject. It was organised by the Club de Madrid under the *Women's Leadership for Peace and Security in the Greater Horn of Africa Project*. One of the contributions presented at this meeting was by Sadia Ahmed, the Country Representative of PENHA. The workshop included women leaders across the Horn of Africa, along with delegates from the Institute for Security Studies, Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange, United Nations and Intergovernmental Authority on Development experts. The former Prime Minister of Norway, Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, represented the Club de Madrid. PENHA was delighted to be involved in a project which is confronting some of the issues which has made the Horn of Africa such an insecure part of Africa.

Empowering Women in the Horn of Africa

The PENHA regional meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in December marked the end of the DANIDA (Danish International Development Authority) funded Women's Economic Empowerment Programme in Somaliland, eastern Sudan and Uganda. It also began to plan for the future of this programme. It heard the reports of the three evaluations. It had comprised socio-economic baseline and mapping studies of the position of women in the areas which were targeted, value chain analyses of how the value of a product increases as it goes from the initial raw material to its final delivery to a user, business skills training for the women, and, finally, policy advocacy workshops which were held to inform those involved on how to develop policies which would be of benefit to small entrepreneurs.

The evaluators assessed the programmes - whether they attained their initial goal and whether they were effective in empowering the women for the future. In addition, they contacted the groups to find out what support was needed and to identify the critical challenges which face pastoralist women entrepreneurs.

In Somaliland, Fouzia Musse found that over 360 pastoral and agro-pastoral women from 11 villages had received business skills training. One of the effects of this was to increase women's confidence in themselves. They began to participate in political discussions and decision making in their villages – and this had been met by a willingness on the part of the local village heads and councillors to include them. In their small enterprises, women were co-operating in reducing the cost of purchasing in the main town (Hargeisa) by sending one person to buy for the group. In addition, they were planning to diversify their activities in order to avoid unnecessary competition.

In Sudan, Zenab Idris found that 770 women from 11 agro-pastoralist villages around Kassala had been to sessions with trainers from Kassala University, from banks and from the Animal Production

and Research Centre. In addition, a visit was made to Khartoum by some of the women. The evaluator said how important activities outside the home were for women from what are deeply conservative communities. The policy and strategy for marketing looked good. However she expressed concern that the “men were still at some distance from the point at which they will offer positive assistance”.

In Uganda, Hilda Akabwai evaluated the programme there, and the three training



Women's group in Uganda

sessions in Masaka and Nakasongola with 128 women attending from 69 groups. The programme resulted in women who were infused with new ideas, developed new business enterprises and networks and, at a very practical level, had a better grasp of how to price their

services and products. PENHA also joined with another NGO in Uganda, the Africa Women's Economic Policy Network (AWEPON), to meet with government officials to discuss how to deal with marketing problems. For example, one successful group which produced high quality ghee had their labelling illegally copied and an inferior honey was being sold as their honey.

All three evaluations highlighted the problems caused by the low level of education of many (in some cases, most) of the women and the low rate of literacy. They also reported the difficulty of getting start-up capital needed for the women to be able to make use of their training. However women were inventive in their determination to get into business. In Uganda, for example, the sale of a chicken allowed one woman to get the capital necessary to get into the banana business (plantain is a staple food there). In both Uganda and Somaliland, women have worked as labourers – in a quarry and in digging canals – to get the necessary start up capital. The continued support of these groups remains a challenge for PENHA.

The project was part of the major “Women in Africa” programme by the Danish Government. PENHA has been very pleased to have been part of it.

Conversation with the leader of a Ugandan women's group

I am Anek Betty ... and I am from Kanyaryeru subcounty. My group is for Bakyala Tweyombekye. We have started this group. We were ten members. We are now 24 members. As members of the group, we have been contributing 1,000/- per month. Afterwards we joined the PENHA programme. They called us for a nice meeting, a workshop in Masaka. We went. They taught us, they improve our skills in business. So when we came back, we worked very hard. We got experience. PENHA has also given us six goats. Now we are having our goats we have light in our future. Now we are going to make a very nice business. But we are lacking some funds. We have hope in PENHA – and if they will support us, they could make a better future.



Now we thank PENHA very, very, very, very, very much because they have improved our standards and skills of business here. We are very happy about PENHA and we are wishing them good luck in whatever things they are doing for us.

Where are our volunteers now?

Much of the work done in the UK is by young volunteers after higher education. They come from a wide range of countries – and stay with PENHA for a year or two. Over the years, we have had twenty or more. Here we highlight the experience of Rushini de Zoysa, a Canadian of Sri Lankan origin.

"I volunteered with PENHA to gain more exposure and experience working with an NGO committed to fight for the rights of Pas-

toralists in the Horn of Africa."

"The working environment of PENHA creates a platform where its volunteers can actively contribute their thoughts and ideas to

ongoing/upcoming projects.

These ideas are welcomed and discussed in an open forum with the full time staff. Such an environment for volunteers develops creati-

ty, team work and problem solving skills. "



"The internship benefitted my growth in several ways. The staff members at PENHA are very knowledgeable about the dynamic factors that affect the Pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa and have a wealth of experience in Project Management from which I can learn from.

"Because of the experience at PENHA, I applied to Save the Children Canada, which is implementing a Food Security program in Ethiopia. I was hired there as a paid-intern for six month to support its Canadian funded program."



'Food We Want' – Sustainable, Local, Fair Project Launch

In the developing world there are 800 million children, women and men who are malnourished or starving. This is an immediate challenge to agriculture. Although modern agricultural methods have resulted in spectacular increases in productivity, the proportion of undernourished people remains very high (e.g. in Kenya 33% (FAO)). According to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, major adjustments are needed in agricultural, environmental and macroeconomic policy in developed as well as developing countries to create the conditions for sustainable agriculture and rural development. Despite this recognition, the European and international trade policies and the current industrial agriculture model have favoured a technological approach to food production and distribution. This undermines the family-based agricultural enterprise that in a continent like Africa provides more than 90% of agricultural production, employs more than 60% of the population and manages more than 95% of agricultural land (World Resources Institute).

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Text: PAST00 (two zeros) then your donation (such as £10) and send to 70070

This project, funded by the EU and being launched at the end of March by PENHA/IIED in the UK along with partners in several European and African countries seeks to begin a debate on how to produce and distribute food sustainably, locally and fairly.

PENHA's Fourth Sponsored Walk

This is the fourth year that PENHA has had a sponsored event. The first three were held on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday – but this one is a little later, on Saturday 16th, June. We have also moved to Epping Forest and will be walking the 10 km past an Iron Age fort from about 500 BC. If you want to join, email us [by clicking here](#). If you want to contribute, you can do so online by [clicking here on JustGiving](#), or on our website donate page.

Investing in the Pastoral dry lands of Africa

The African Union's Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources invited PENHA to send a representative to a workshop in Arusha, Tanzania, this February to discuss investment and related issues of importance to pastoralism and the drylands of Africa. Elias Guyo, of the Ethiopian Agro-Pastoral Development Agency, represented PENHA as well as EAPDA. Elias' direct and practical experience of pastoralism was of particular value to the meeting.

Most African countries face similar issues with pastoralism and the African Union is giving special attention to it. Its 2010 statement can be obtained from PENHA's website.

The meeting concluded by supporting the intensive research being conducted on pastoralism. The rehabilitation of pastoralist land was seen as vital as was developing ways of helping pastoralists and arable farmers to be good neighbours to each other. The profile of pastoralist issues still needed to be raised so that proper account could be taken of them.

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