

# STUDENT NUTRITION PROJECT MONITORING REPORT FEBRUARY 2011

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## **PREFACE**

The Student Nutrition Programme has a goal of contributing to the reduction of poor nutrition and alleviating short-term hunger in Masai Mara. Specifically the project is aimed at increasing the enrolment of primary education and creating awareness and knowledge of good nutrition, hygiene and sanitation amongst the target groups: students, health facilities, schools management committees and PTAs, school health clubs.

## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **1. DE-WORMING**

It is one of the nutrition components that are conducted after every three months. Each student takes one pill of Alben 400mg, which is a highly recommended treatment for intestinal worms. The exercise was conducted in four schools.



**AKT Team and Tabitha Siteiya conducting the de-worming exercise at Tumperian**

### **2. STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM**

#### **Oloomong'i School**

The Student Nutrition Program has been ongoing in this school for the past two years; constraints along the way are lack of funds and poor weather conditions while transporting food from Nairobi, making the school inaccessible. In spite of these challenges, we have managed to keep the programme running. The school enrolment has increased from 79 students to 120 students. The school has a new head teacher, Mr. Njau who has been a great help sensitizing the importance of the programme to the parents and to other head teachers from different schools.

To create a sense of ownership of the programme, various meetings on Sustainability of the programme have been carried out for parents in schools within the project area in Masai Mara. Carol and Elias are facilitating the meetings. Oloomong'I has contributed Kshs.10,000 for the sustainability of the programme in the school, their efforts are an indication the programme will be successful.



**Students at Oloomong'I served their daily meal of a fully nutritious Insta porridge**

While at the school we checked on 5year old Paul Nkakako, who was attacked by a leopard whilst tending his goats. Thankfully, he is healing well from his wounds.



**Paul Nkakato having his leopard wounds dressed by Dr. Heidi Duncan**

**Pusangi Primary**

Per our previous report the agreement was to terminate the support for Pusangi Primary with the reasons being they were not ready to sustain the program and take ownership of it. During my recent visit, the Pusangi Head teacher called me requesting we give them a little time as the parents agreed on cost- sharing to sustain the programme, thus we are awaiting feed back from the head teacher.

**Tumpelian Primary School**

Tumpelain School have a big urge to start the programme, parents are ready to contribute the 40%, which will be ksh.500 per student, per term.

Tumpelian School has an enrolment of 174 students, 36girls and 138 boys. In the Masai community girls are often married off at the age of 11yrs and this forces them to drop out from school thus decreasing girl education in Masai Mara (It was a disbelief seeing a class six girl 12 yrs of age whose dowry has been already paid off). On our visit there (AKT/CFTW Team) Zainabu-deputy head teacher briefed us about the school and how important the feeding programme is in the school for a number of reasons. It will keep the students in school, especially girls; the improved nutrition contributes to better health and academic abilities as the children can concentrate with food in their stomachs; it lengthens the study time for students as, with lunch, they can stay for an extra couple of hours at school. The Head teacher called the parents for a meeting, whereby they agreed to contribute and start the program.

The chief in that area donated the school with 3 big sufurias and they have existing water storage tanks that were donated to them by World Vision. Around Tumpelian School it is an elephant prone area so they discourage farming as a way of avoiding human-wildlife conflict.

### **Farley and Taylor's Visit**

Anne's daughter and her 15 month old grandson stayed in Kenya for two months; most of their stay was in the Masai Mara. Every morning Farley would accompany Anne to the field to check on the projects. It was a momentous visit for Taylor, any time he identified a man dressed in jungle green suit, he couldn't resist the smile... he had already marked his team (AKT Fund Team). Before you passed him by, his hand would be high for a Hi-five greeting, Farley spent her day in the field with the team and Taylor would be left behind playing – although he did accompany us on a couple of school visits where he was “the prize” amongst the Masai school children who could not put him down. He was passed from arms to arms!



**Taylor addressing school children**



**Taylor receiving a fimbo (Maasai Club) from a school girl.**

### **Duncan's Family Visit at Ololomong'I School**

Anne K. Taylor guests visited the project sites and they were very grateful with the good work AKT Fund and Insta Products are carrying out, they engaged with the young students in various activities. The Duncan's family, said it was a good initiative not only to the students but also to the community at large, she couldn't hold back her tears as she watched the students running to have their meal of porridge with big smiles on their face, YES!

### **Kitty and Anne's Visit**

The team members accompanied Anne, Farley and Taylor Junior at Kichwa Tembo airstrip to welcome Kitty Lansing (T's other grandmother whom he was excited to see!) and Anne Bent to the Mara. They were excited to see the young students at Ololomong'I; it was Anne's first visit to the Masai Mara. The students welcomed them with beautiful Masai songs, and when it was time for their children to have their daily meal of Insta porridge, Anne Bent joined them and found it very palatable, if not delicious!



**Anne and Kitty Visit Oloomong'i Primary School**

Anne and Kitty joined the team for a successful de-snaring patrol that was about 10kms long, though we did not come across any poachers. We did, however, come across an abandoned poachers' camp where the remains of illegally "poached" animals (for bush meat) were scattered around the area – warthogs had particularly been affected. The poachers' tools for hunting were also lying there (long sticks to remove the warthogs from the burrow where they live)

### **Patrol/ Animal Rescue**

Besides having a great educational 10km walk in the thick forest of the Mara with the AKT Team, we all ended up having faces folded with agony when we came across a horrible and disturbing scene of a dead zebra.

Anne K. Taylor, being used to patrols, noticed the dead zebra in the distant bush. She asked Felix to drive near the zebra to check on what happened. She was in tears seeing how the animal had suffered and died. The zebra mare had been shot with a poisoned arrow – probably to test the strength of the poison – and left, meat intact. To add insult to injury she was pregnant. When Anne asked the team to check where the zebra had been darted, they turned her over which caused her bloated stomach to burst open and the poor dead unborn fetus came out. No one said a word; we were all in great shock and disbelief! It was sad; we were unable to rescue it.



**A carcass of a poisoned pregnant Zebra at Olokuruk**



**Anne Kent Taylor and AKTF team member inspecting poached warthog remains.**

## **2. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **I. New Designated Funding Received (Student Nutrition Programme)**

Pope Babcock Foundation- \$5000

Cynthia Cassano- \$2000

Bridget Owen (University of Illinois)- \$700

### **II. Partnerships Created**

University of Illinois

Private Donors

Anne Kent Taylor Fund

Insta Products

### **III. New Concepts or Proposals Developed**

Big Lottery Fund

Jess Atkins

Fast Track Initiative

Rivatex- for uniforms (many students go through the chilly morning with no sweaters and with tattered clothes. Anne raised the idea for us to source a donor who will donate fabrics to make them uniforms)

### **IV. Visitors (Name/Organization)**

The project received several visitors, who visited Oloomong'I primary under Anne K.Taylor.

### **V. Constraints/Unforeseen Problems**

The project area experienced drought during the month of January and February 2008 that saw most of the community moving in search of pasture. This affected the smooth implementation of the programme as most of parents complained that their animals were not producing, which is their only income-generating source. Many of their livestock died as a result of hunger.

### **VI. Lessons Learnt**

- For effective implementation of Student Nutrition Program, it is important to fully involve us in looking for a way forward to keep the programme ongoing.
- It is important to also consider other activities that can boost the school in sustaining the programme, this can be achieved through activities like vertical gardening where the school can sell their produce like sukumawiki and channel the money into sustaining the programme.



**Vertical Gardening - Elias and Carol planting kale (sukuma-wiki).**