

Together we are changing lives... one girl at a time.

## Famine Relief Field Report

### Amboseli National Park Region 2006

I am Joyce Tannian, BEADS Program Volunteer, based in Kenya from January 2005 through January 2007. Debby Rooney, BEADS Co-founder, asked me to write about why I thought BEADS had to respond to the drought and ensuing famine gripping parts of Kenya right now, since we're officially in the "girl's education business" not the "food relief business." This is my answer:

During February and March, on my daily 7-kilometer walk across the plains to work with the BEADS teaching interns at Enkong Narok Primary School in Amboseli National Park, I gagged and wept at the stench of decaying animal carcasses. Outside each village the pile of carcasses grew daily. The stench stayed in my nose, in my heart, in my mind for days. That is the reality of the drought here. People seeing their sole source of income and food for their family disappear. There were reports in the community of fathers taking their own lives in despair at their loss.

BEADS has a passionate and close connection to some of the most seriously affected communities. This is where all our sponsored girls' homes are located. How could we help the daughters go to school and ignore the possibility that their families at home have lost all their livestock in the drought and are facing starvation?

I asked myself, "Why am I here, what can I do, and what do I bring to this situation?" The answer is: I have contacts, information, and access to resources that nobody else has here. So, with help from Debby and Rukia and others, I collected information, got contributions, set things in motion on the ground, and we have thus far been able to feed about 7,000 people for several weeks. In Ilmarba in Amboseli, we fed approximately 750 people; in Namelok, where a large group of sponsored girls and their families live, we fed about 250; in Olgulului, where there is another pocket of sponsored girls' families, we fed 2,000 people. In Enkongu Narok, we fed approximately 1,300; in Osoit, 1,500; and in Risa, 500. Now the challenges are to pass on the knowledge of how to self-start this kind of relief effort and to teach water conservation strategies.

In conjunction with the food distribution in Ilmarba on March 16, 2006, Dr. Hamisi from AWF discussed strategies for trapping rainwater for use during times of water scarcity. The communities around Ilmarba are also getting water from recently restored boreholes, although paying for the diesel to fuel the pumps is challenging with the loss of income from the death of so many animals. Dr. Hamisi's recommendations for water conservation were introduced at a recent meeting of Ilmarba borehole shareholders, and leaders thought they were great suggestions and are discussing implementation. In terms of passing on self-start skills, I am trying to teach it along the way, hoping that by example and by answering questions, passing along information, and coaching when they come to me with ideas and projects of their own, my friends and colleagues here will learn. The team that I worked with in Ilmarba and successive food distributions were amazing—great at organization, planning, and trouble-shooting as we set about shopping for, transporting and distributing several tons of food. And on the day of the food distribution, they took such good care of me.

In the report below, you will find our food relief accomplishments to date.

We know our BEADS mission is to educate girls. It is critical to help our girls become people who can think creatively, see things in a larger perspective, know how to access information, envision solutions for crises like this famine, and to develop long-term strategies in their communities to avoid crises like this famine in the future.

Thank you,  
Joyce Tannian  
BEADS Volunteer



Maasai wait for the food delivery truck to arrive.

In 2006, we were able to feed a total of 7,800 people with staples for approximately for 3-4 weeks per person and spent approximately \$13,500. I have compiled a contact list to pass on to my colleagues, who are members of the community in Amboseli, with the hope that they will continue to cultivate relationships with those who helped us during our relief efforts. Unfortunately, in this semi-arid region, considering the current meteorological trends, drought and famine are something that communities in Kajiado district, of which Amboseli is a part, can expect to happen again soon. The next time, hopefully they won't have to wait so long for relief because they will have the knowledge to access necessary resources.

**Food Distribution undertaken by BEADS for Education team and Maasailand community members funded by generous contributions from private donors in the US.**

**BEADS for Education Team:** Debby Rooney, Joyce Tannian, Rukia Kadidi, Joseph Sankale, Joseph Larasha, Patrick Papatiti, Karat Lesinko, William Nadany, James Leposo, with special assistance from Peter Waweru, headmaster, Top Ride Academy

**Ilmarba** - HIV / AIDS training and Food Distribution  
750 people  
Thursday, March 16

**Namelok** - Food Distribution  
250 People - we targeted Families of Beads Sponsored Girls  
Monday, March 20

Ilmarba and Namelok funded by \$3,000 in Private donations from the state of Delaware, USA, with which we purchased:

- Maize - 5040 kg
- Beans - 560 kg
- Unimix - 225 kg
- Cooking Oil - 250 liters
- Labor
- Transport & Fuel



**Olgulului**

2,000 people

Friday, March 24

partnered with Olgulului  
Councillor, Joseph Saiyalel

**Transport and Fuel donated  
by Kajiado County Council**

Clerk of Council - lorry

Chairman of Council - fuel

**Donated from Red Cross,  
Kajiado**

900 kgs of maize

540 kgs of beans

800 kgs of maize flour



BEADS food supplies are divided.

**Donated from NIA - Neighborhood Initiative Alliance, Kajiado**

264 - 12 kg boxes of oil – 3,168 kg

150 - 20 kg bales of ujimix – 3,000 kg

**Purchased during Ilmarba Food Distribution, distributed at Olgulului**

150 kgs of Unimix

**Risa - Food Distribution**

500 people

Weekend of March 31

Food distribution executed by Serena Lodges, which came as a result of a letter proposal submitted to Serena management by BEADS.

**With private donations totaling \$10,000 from a church group in Delaware, and generous donations through BEADS we purchased and distributed food to the following communities in the following amounts:**

**Enkong Narok** - HIV/AIDS training, Water Conservation lecture and Food

Distribution

Wednesday, April 26

1,300 people

Maize - 6,480 kgs

Cooking Oil - 325 kgs

Beans - 630 kgs

Unimix - 550 kgs

Transport

Labor

Expenses

**Osoit** - HIV/AIDS training and Food Distribution

Thursday, May 4

1500 people

Maize - 7,470 kgs

Cooking Oil - 375 kgs

Beans - 750 kgs

Unimix - 550 kgs

Transport

Labor

Expenses

**Risa** - Food Distribution, will return to do AIDS training

Thursday, May 4

500 people

Maize - 2,500 kgs

Cooking Oil - 125 kgs

Beans - 250 kgs.

Transport

Labor

Expenses

**Esiteti** - Food Distribution and AIDS Training

Sunday, May 28

1,000 people

Maize - 5,040 kgs

Cooking Oil - 225 kgs

Beans - 400 kgs.

Transport

Labor

Expenses