

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you very much and we received your 2016 school fees donation. I hope that you had a great summer. The BEADS for Education High School is doing very well and presently includes classes 9 through 11. We will be adding 12th grade (our first graduating class !!!) in January.

As you know, Kenya has been faced with recurring drought and famine over the past decade. One major focus at the BEADS High School is preparing our girls and their families to be prepared for famine through better agricultural methods by using green houses, which are highly effective, and practicing food preservation.

85% of the girls at the BEADS High School are Maasai pastoralists who have never raised food.



*** I have included below a class essay by Faith, one of our students at Tembea. I know you will join me in recognizing the vast human toll exacted by a drought and the resulting famine.....even more so through the eyes of a child. ***

Thank You,

Debby Rooney

STORY BY FAITH KAYIOR

FORM ONE – 16 years old

BEADS for Education High School – Kajiado Kenya

14TH JUNE 2014

NO. 44

I can remember vividly, it was the year 2009, and everyone had a gloomy face. I was eleven years old and in class four. I remember that fateful day when I woke up very early in the morning and my father told me that I could not go to school because I did not have food to carry and the school was not providing either. Surely I had no choice but to agree with him because I could not disobey him. I knew in my mind that even at home, there was no food but I decided that I am better at home.

My parents were struggling day in day out but they always returned home empty handed. At school, food and text books were not provided so no learning was taking place. At home, animals were dying because of lack of food. People were eating their animals although they were as skinny as a new born cat. I was sure as death that I am not going to carry on with my studies since my parents did not have money to even get us food.

Most of the families were staying hungry for more than three days, but I was lucky I could at least have a bite a day. Pupils were fainting every day at school due to lack of food. We had to help them by giving them salty water for there was no pure water at all. Those taken to the hospital could not afford medication.

I remember that most of our cows died, we tried to give them herbs from some specific trees but it was like looking for a black cat in total darkness. They were dying each and every day; I thought that this was the dog's season since they ate meat every day. Bones were all over, they looked like peoples skeletons. Surely people were so worried about that famine.

Food relief began and if it was not for this, most people would have died. Most of the children were suffering from marasmus, lack of enough food. You could meet a small girl of ten years old with a very big belly and you could think she was pregnant but instead she had marasmus.

Government distributed food although it was first come first served. They were giving 5 liters of liquid oil and we were to share among six people. They also gave us 6 kilograms of yellow maize flour. The animals continued dying and we were forced to migrate to other parts of the country and it was so tiresome.

Most of the places in Kenya are so dry and the government is doing nothing to help them. I will never forget this famine. At my school, Tembea Academy, we are learning how to prepare for famine.

I will share my knowledge with my mother, aunts, and community and know we will be prepared.