



Cover Photo: A woman fetching water from a sand dam in Chepkobe West Pokot

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Editorial

Climate change adaptation and resilience

The latest Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report confirms that, as a result of human-induced climate change, global temperatures are rising, oceans are warming up and acidifying the rain. Rainfall patterns are also changing. These changes are already disrupting global weather patterns, resulting in more intense, more frequent, less predictable and longer-lasting floods and droughts.

We all expected to have the long rains from March to May but they delayed not forgetting the high temperature experienced in January and February.

There are parts of our country that experience little or no rainfall such that water becomes a scarce commodity. An example is Turkana which is hot and dry for most of the year with an average rainfall of about 300-400mm. Rainfall is erratic and unreliable and famine is a constant threat. Hence in this issue we focus on the arid and semi-arid area on how to increase water supply for the local communities.

As the development arm of the Anglican Church of Kenya we concentrate our efforts on climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Margaret Kamau

ADS North Rift region covers 6 counties namely: Elgeyo Marakwet, Nandi, Trans Nzoia, Turkana, Uasin Gishu and West Pokot.

The West Pokot County is home to the Pokot community which historically is a pastoral community that has gradually though, reluctantly embraced farming and other alternative livelihood opportunities to shelter their families from the impacts of recurring droughts. When drought strikes, there is lack of pasture for animals in the area. To search for pasture, men migrate to neighbouring communities in Uganda with all the stock. During such periods, women, children, the sick, and the elderly are left at homesteads, often with nothing to eat. When the situation deteriorates further, and most livestock succumb to drought, communities are plunged into famine. The Pokot people have experienced a huge decline in grazing land and water resources in livestock numbers in the recent past. Added to these, cattle rustling makes the local people highly vulnerable. In order to

reduce their vulnerability, ADS North Rift drilled a Borehole cheptany village and equipped it with a hand pump which became the only source of water for the local community. The community was also introduced to innovative water-harvesting technologies such as Sand dams.

In Turkana county ADS-North Rift has been implementing Water and Sanitation projects in Turkana West sub-County in a village called Tulabalany with the support of Church World Service. A borehole was drilled in this village in December 2014 but the water table could not be reached even after 200 metres depth. The drilling was suspended when a solid rock was reached. This encounter did not discourage ADS-North Rift from exploring other alternative to get water for this community.

An expert from the Ministry of Water and irrigation, ADS North Rift Lodwar County staff and community focal people conducted another feasibility study to establish the best water option viable in that area. After analysing the report ADS-North Rift conducted stakeholders' meeting that deliberated at length with an aim of agreeing on the best option in availing water to the community. The meeting was held on 27th March 2015



Assistant to Member of County Assembly addressing the community members

at Tulabalany village. It was agreed unanimously that the best water source option for that area would be a rock-catchment which would provide a long term intervention. ADS-North Rift agreed to engage a specialist to do a profile survey, conduct Environmental Impact Assessment, survey and design works of the project. ADS would also establish water management committee among the community members who would be trained on management, operation and maintenance of the rock catchment.

While access to safe water for domestic use and for the livestock remain a big challenge in the Arid and semi-arid counties, large numbers of families have settled in the particular areas that ADS NR has managed to harness water, this creates an opportunity for regular interaction with the inhabitants of these counties. There is still a huge need for water but with the devolution, we expect priority would be put on access to water. ADS North Rift appreciate the support so far received from Church World Service East Africa, Tear Australia





The mainstream church leaders gathered at Ufungamano House in Nairobi for a national prayer service organised to commemorate the 148 victims of Garissa University College terrorism attack on May 11th 2015. In attendance was Dr. Christina Turner, British High commissioner.

While *preaching peace building and interfaith tolerance*, The Most Rev. Dr. Wabukala said that the 142 students who



Rev. Dr. Eliud Wabukala above lighting a candle

were killed by the terrorist should not be forgotten. He regretted that the country had not learnt any lessons from past attacks. He went ahead to say that we should not continue to condone the culture of short memory, hence we should not forget the attacks. Those who lost their loved ones should get Justice. He also regretted the fact that police had previously arrested terrorist suspects yet the conclusion of cases against them was not always known to the public

Mr Gitonga and Ms Murungi gave their testimonies of how they escaped death. Both of them were Christian Union leaders but for one or another they did not make it for the usual 5:30 a.m. prayer. Ms Murungi hid in a lecturer's house with other students until they were rescued by KDF. On the other hand. Mr Gitonga Hid under the bed for 5 hours. The two and other students have been undergoing counselling facilitated by Fellowship of Christian Unions



Worshippers light candles during the service in memory of Garissa University College students killed by terrorists.

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