



PENHA NEWSLETTER - Issue 4, August 2010

This is the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa's Newsletter. Our website is <http://www.penhanetwork.org/>

Dear PENHA friend,

We are delighted to send you the fourth issue of the PENHA Newsletter. We hope you enjoy it and find it of interest. We have appreciated the comments that you have made on previous ones. However if you do not want to receive it there is a link to unsubscribe at the end of the newsletter. You can also get this as a pdf in the Newsletter section of our website: <http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Newsletter.html>

10 km. Sponsored Walk

On Spring Bank Holiday (31st. May), five of us walked the ten kilometres through Thorndon Park in Essex in support of PENHA. Unfortunately, our Director was working in Eastern Sudan at the time and could not join us. You can see us two thirds of the way through the walk in the photo below:



You can still sponsor us if you did not manage to do so before. The best way is through our special donation page on the JustGiving website. The address is:

<http://www.justgiving.com/PENHA-Spring-Walk>

Either click on this or paste into your browser.

Reports from the Field

Somaliland



A homestead near Riiga Village

Somaliland (and Somalia as a whole) is the only country in the region in which pastoralists make up a majority of the population. It also has a democratic government – which has just peacefully changed following a general election. PENHA-Somaliland, established in 2001, continues to work to address pastoralists' concerns at the grassroots and policy levels, collaborating with government ministries, district authorities, village

committees, a number of local NGOs and CBOs, as well as with international NGOs and UN agencies.

As a result of the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme funded by Denmark, 40 women from groups with a combined membership of over 200 members took part in a training workshop for small businesses. A Somali language business skills handbook for participants ("Buuga Tababarka Ganacsatadda")



been produced it is intended to produce an audio-cassette aimed at illiterate group members. In this way, the training will be more widely effective. In addition, the workshops were used to make participants aware of the new mobile phone banking services offered by Telesom, one of Somaliland's leading phone companies.



Asad Women's Group

has and

A photo-essay of some of PENHA's activities in Somaliland can be downloaded by control clicking this address <http://www.penhainetwork.org/attachments/Somaliland Dec 09 web.pdf> (766 kb) or through the website itself.

Uganda

About 5% of the population of Uganda are pastoralists. In the East, the vast semi-arid Karamoja region is the home of the Karamajong. In the West, Hima pastoralists, having lost traditional grazing lands, have embraced modernity, adopted "progressive farming", combining agriculture with cattle keeping and cross-breeding with European cattle. In all of these communities, women's subordination remains more acute than in society at large.



Knitting machine from Brentwood

In May, the PENHA team visited the women pastoralist groups in Sembabule, West Uganda, and distributed goats from the Nkoma Farm as well as equipment to set up small businesses. With support from a church group in Essex, a knitting machine was provided and is shown in the attached photo. This machine was very shortly in use in making sweaters – because it can be quite cold at night!

Sudan

PENHA works in Kassala State, Eastern Sudan, near to the Eritrean border. This is a very poor area, far from the capital city of a geographically huge country. The government is beginning to focus some attention on development in this area. The pastoralist community, which is large, is joined by many refugees from both Ethiopia and Eritrea. The gradual loss of grazing land to arable farming is resulting in a major change in the life of people who used to be nomadic.

PENHA is working in three major areas:

- to help local pastoralists to develop ways of keeping their animals during the dry season through new methods of providing animal feed
- to empower women to develop an independent economic basis with their own small businesses
- to support the education of pastoralist children (especially, girls) with a relevant curriculum

60 women from five localities surrounding Kassala city were trained in the conservation, preparation and use of fodder for their animals. This training was done in association with government institutions, Sudanese colleges and the Pastoralist Environment Association Kassala State, a new local NGO. Control click <http://www.penhanetwork.org/home/details.php?id=36> to read about the research done by PENHA and its local partners.



A fodder chopper

developed by PENHA

45 women, including many of those from the fodder training, were also involved in the Women's Economic Empowerment Programme. This is based on a study of the needs of

women in the Kassala area of Eastern Sudan. They learnt a great deal about how to run a small business. At the end of this workshop, they gave a show of the many traditional artefacts which they make for their community. A short video of these can be seen control clicking this address: <http://www.penhanetwork.org/home/details.php?id=38>

A number of issues were raised by the women at these courses – such as the need for clean water and the problem of plastic bag litter which is often eaten by the livestock, particularly goats, with resulting health problems. In addition, the brought up the fundamental need for education. About 85% of the women were illiterate – but they were also a group of very competent and intelligent women who were aware of the needs of their community and of their own needs.

If you think that PENHA's work is valuable and makes a difference to nomadic pastoralists' life, then please consider making a **donation** to our organisation. You will be helping PENHA empower women, men and local organisations in the Horn of Africa. Control click on this address: <http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Donate.html> and you will then be sent to our page for donations where you can also have a look at our Financial Yearly Report.

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If you liked this PENHA Newsletter, forward it to a friend!

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Would you like to send your friends and colleagues a greetings card from the Horn of Africa? Contact our Secretariat (info@penhanetwork.org) or [go to our website](http://www.penhanetwork.org) to get an all seasons' greetings card. They cost £5.00 for a pack of five (plus £2.00 postage and packing) and you will be contributing to pastoralists'