



PENHA NEWSLETTER - Issue 5, December 2010

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

Dear PENHA friend,

This issue of the PENHA Newsletter comes with greetings for a Happy Eid el Adha, a Merry Xmas and prosperous New Year. We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find it of interest. We have appreciated the comments that you have made on previous ones. It is also on our website: <http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Newsletter.html>

You can unsubscribe from this newsletter via a link at the end of the newsletter.

More support for PENHA



We are delighted to report that the Rotary Club of South Holland has contributed to our education project in Ghulsa and other surrounding schools near to Kassala in Eastern Sudan. They have given three Trade Aid boxes for the support of schools. These are assembled and dispatched by the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven. The boxes contain a whole cornucopia of useful items for a school including pencils and paper, black board paint and chalk, world maps and some calculators. The selection was agreed with PENHA in Sudan (so no cricket bats!) and the boxes were sent by air in the middle of November.

We have also linked up with a number of NGOs in other parts of Europe and successfully obtained money from the European Union to work on sustainable agriculture in developing countries and its support in Europe in a project called "Time to Seed". As a global action, the basic concept of the project is to support sustainable agriculture in order to ensure food security and environmental protection in both Africa and Europe.

PENHA at the local level is also raising support in both money and goods. Thus, in Sudan, our local representative has obtained gardening equipment and seeds from the local Food and Agricultural Organisation to help local women in three villages to grow their own vegetables (and sell any excess). In addition, she has raised funds for a workshop in business skills for women to be held early next year. These came from the local EU representative. It is PENHA's aim and determination that it should be locally based in the countries where it is working.

But we need your help as well

PENHA is a small charity – and much of the work is done by volunteers and by part time workers. The volunteers are not just in the UK but include many local people working in many parts of the Horn. But we obviously do need support. This Christmas, why not

make a one-off (or regular) donation to the work of PENHA for the benefit of pastoralists in the Horn of Africa? Look at the end of this Newsletter to see how to do this.

Research by PENHA

One of the major aims of PENHA is to help government policy makers to make the right decisions for their local communities.

PENHA has just published a study on the **price and supply of food** in the Kassala area of Eastern Sudan. Kassala is a regional centre very near to the border with Eritrea – and the assumption has been that the supply of food in the urban area and the rural area ran quite independently. The policies for making sure that the food supply systems ran smoothly was based on this assumption. However what the PENHA research showed was that this was incorrect and the food supplies for both areas are closely linked to each other – and it made a number of specific recommendations to the policy makers with the aim of making food more available to both the rural and the urban poor.



Picture 1 : “Gebena” meeting with livestock owners at a grazing point of Rimela 95 Kms outside Kassala Town

A more detailed description of the research can be seen by going to the PENHA website here:

<http://www.penhanetwork.org/home/details.php?id=40>



PENHA’s Director (Zeremariam Fre) led a team of four Sudanese experts and seven enumerators to conduct an extensive survey for the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of the Sudan on **the supply of water for drinking and irrigation** involving 600 poor households in and around Kassala city in Eastern Sudan. This study of water for irrigation and for human use along with a socio-economic survey in Eastern Sudan had two aims: improving the quality of drinking water and developing more reliable food production by improving the water supply for irrigation. In both cases this focused on improving the water supply for poor households in and

around Kassala city.

The irrigation water survey involved 300 small farmers (using the wadi (riverside) irrigation system) around Kassala city. An important aspect of the assessment was to establish the importance of traditional irrigation systems and their role in improving household food security for thousands of small farmers who depend on wadi irrigation systems. Two reports were produced and accepted by the JICA who intend to fund a multimillion project in the next five years.

Somaliland

In October, PENHA organised a three day “self-assessment” workshop in Hargeisa for five organisations from south-central Somalia with the objective of helping these organisations to make gender part of the main stream of their work. Five organisations (plus one from Somaliland itself) sent delegations of five people each, both women and men. The workshop used material provided by NOVIB, a Dutch based agency and it provided a useful opportunity for organisations to compare experiences and ideas on policies and programmes. In this way, they learnt both what is effective and what needs to



change. In addition, it is helping the formation of a network of organisations which are promoting gender equality in Somali speaking countries.

PENHA is committed to supporting and promoting peace in the region. In the last few months, it has been involved in planning to establish a forum for dialogue between the local communities in Somaliland and Puntland, next door – and not entirely peaceful – neighbours. It has been doing this in conjunction with the NOVIB supported regional Resource Based Conflict programme with its office in Nairobi. The first stage, which involved representatives from both sides of the border, has resulted in detailed plans for the forum. PENHA also organised the visit to Hargeisa by Dr. Redie Berekteab of the Uppsala (Sweden) based Nordic-Africa Institute. Dr. Berekteab is a member of the Greater Horn Horizon Forum. His research focuses on the links between state building and regional stability – and how the internal problems of weak states with poorly developed institutions can foster conflict in, or with, other neighbouring countries.

22nd April 2010

Uganda

Following on from the Women's Economic Empowerment workshop which was held in Masaka in February, PENHA received the following letter from a woman, Teddy Muhumuza, who had attended the meeting. She subsequently represented PENHA at a conference organised by AGRIFICA in South Africa. Apart from running her own yogurt making business, she will also be working with local women's groups in the Lwengo District.

To PENHA

I have done a number of businesses but ~~it~~ until recently when I attended a PENHA workshop that I became aware of the cause of my failure to manage them leading to their fall. I had never thought that book recording, or marketing was important until then I used to leave everything for chances which didn't work. But now I started marketing and knowing what my customers needed which has helped my business of ~~yogurt~~ yogurt work so well. I now keep financial records and I see that the progress is in my control of finances because of awareness is big. I really thank PENHA for the success of my business. There is a big improvement. Thank you PENHA.

Teddy Muhumuza
Kabakugi quality Yoghurt
Mbirizi - Lwengo.



PENHA works with other organisations in Uganda – and was recently involved in two field visits with representatives of Oxfam Uganda and VSF (Vétérinaires Sans Frontières) to the Bahima in Western Uganda and to the Karamajong in Eastern Uganda. In all cases, the pastoralists they met (and they were mostly women) took the opportunity to make clear their needs. Water is a very basic and urgent need – and in order to get water many women have to walk three or more miles. They also saw the men and women who had graduated from the Pastoralist Field Schools in Moroto. The training was focused on helping them to develop their own environment. The picture shows them singing at their graduation.



Sudan

PENHA Sudan has recently had the pleasure of a visit by a representative of the Dutch donor, Novib. Novib is a member of the Oxfam International group of donors and has been supporting PENHA for some years. Karin van Dijk went to Kassala where she was hosted by members of PEAKS, the Pastoralist Environment Association in Kassala State. The photo shows her with some of the women who are demonstrating their handi-crafts.

If you think that PENHA's work is valuable and makes a difference to nomadic pastoralists' life, then please consider making a [donation](http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Donate.html) to our organisation. You will be helping PENHA empower women, men and local organisations in the Horn of Africa. Put this address into your browser: <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.

If you don't want to receive the PENHA Newsletter, please put this address into your browser and follow the simple instructions <http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Newsletter.html> - or write to us.

If you have changed your email address, are subscribing for the first time or want to ask a question or make a comment, please click on this address: <http://www.penhanetwork.org/pages/Newsletter.html>

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 the support of pastoralists.

We also have a com-

calendar for 2011. It has six photos from the region and a number of ments from recipients of the work done by PENHA. These can be obtained for £2 each which includes the cost of posting. Email PENHA using the above address.

