



American Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation
Hunger Bites Hard



As the famine situation worsens in the larger West Pokot, families are abandoning the elderly and young children in the church grounds with the hope that well wishers will drop by and leave them some food. Former Pokot county council chairman, who is also a civic leader in Kacheliba councilor, Joseph Tomitom has led a team of civic leaders from the area to appeal to international donors to come in and save lives.

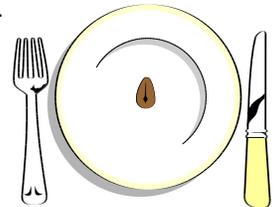
He pointed out that families were running to churches with a hope that good Samaritans will pass by and drop some relief supplies, but regretted that none had responded to the distress calls. He observed that the food crisis had been aggravated by the recent death of sheep and goats through a viral disease, which the government took a long time to combat. Pestes des Petis Ruminates - PPR broke out in a larger West Pokot in September 2006, killing over 600,000 sheep and goats. The government imposed a quarantine, closing all livestock sale yards to traders. Tomitom said the ban impacted negatively to the pastoralist because their moving bank - goats and sheep could not be sold or exchanged for grains.

A KNA spot check along the Kapenguria - Kacheliba - Alale road found groups of elderly men, women, and children lying along the roads on market centres. They stand up at every glance of a car carrying any visitor or civil servants on duty and extend their hand of greeting followed by 'nisaidie maji na chakula' (help me with water and food).

Before we could make it to Kasel, where Baptist of Kenya Moderator Julius Mbagaya was delivering some relief supplies to his congregation, all the water and snacks we had carried had been given out to the starving. Mbagaya said the situation was a humanitarian crisis that needed urgent intervention by all stakeholders - churches, government and other donors included.

Tomitom say the situation is worse in the unreached areas of Nauyapong and parts of Kasei, where there were no roads network to access in order to assess the situation. He reiterated that the situation was getting out of hand and that the wild animal had either going into hiding or were also affected by the food crisis and were on the verge of dying also. He added that the wild fruits were also scared since cattle that had not migrated in search of pasture to neighboring Uganda were in competition with human beings.

I hope you heard the cries of these women, children and elderly that need your assistance. You can make a difference in the lives of these and so many others. No gift is too small to help someone who needs a hand up not a hand out.



We are asking individuals to contribute at least **\$1** to this cause. Amounts over \$250 are tax-deductible through the American Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation. You can go on-line at usajalink.org and make a contribution on our PayPal account or send a check/money order made payable to:

American Jamaican Link Charitable Foundation, 114 Ragans Dr., Gray, GA 30132

Name: _____ Amount: _____

Address: _____

_____ E-mail address: _____

Send your donation today and be a part of the solution to change a nation.