

Impact Spotlight

Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project
Q1 2021

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Continuing investments and making progress in educating the community



Unlike the Covid-19 challenges that educators, students and families faced this last year, the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project has seen continued investment and progress in educating local community members.

Most notably, education about bursary allocations and support for key education infrastructure projects funded by community investments have continued.

These infrastructure investments are central to the classroom renovations that will help create a supportive environment that encourages learning and helps increase student enrollment from other schools.





Key infrastructure projects improve access to education

Consistent learning spaces

- ✓ A typical classroom accommodates 40 students yet most of the schools in the area are forced to accommodate between 50 to 80 students. Since the start of the pandemic, the government gave a directive that students need to sit one and a half meters apart. This meant students in smaller classrooms had to study outside or under the trees. With project funding, schools have been able to build classrooms that accommodate more students. They provide a consistent learning space for students and keep students together.
- ✓ In one instance, three classrooms and an office at Mruru Primary School were abandoned and rejected by the Ministry of Education because they were so old and dilapidated. Thanks to the project, the classrooms and office have been renovated and accepted by the Ministry. The new buildings are also expected to reduce congestion in the school.
- ✓ At Mwatate, Manoa Secondary School and other schools, students were learning under a tree. They now have adequate learning space for their students.
- ✓ The classrooms at Marasi Primary school were built in the early 70's with people saying that it looked like a museum. Thanks to the project, the school has now renovated 9 classrooms that follow the government's modern standards.

Access to clean water

- ✓ Gutters and water tanks were included in all school infrastructure, providing access to water that most schools lacked. The schools can now harvest and store enough water for students. This infrastructure has also made a significant positive impact: children used to carry water from home every day due to a water shortage, but they are now getting water from the school. The result: students are not as tired and are in a better state of mind that improves learning. Community members have a better quality of life thanks to these improvements.



Key infrastructure projects improve access to education

Teacher accommodation

- ✓ Teachers at Wangalla Primary School used to have their office under a tree on their compound, or in the shade of the classroom hallways. Thanks to the project, they now have good administration block built to accommodate all teachers and classes of students.
- ✓ Accommodating teachers on school compounds improves performance, as has been found in relevant schools. Teachers' travelling time is now used to teach the students.

Health and sanitation

- ✓ Improved health and sanitation has had a big impact in schools, especially for those where toilet blocks were constructed. There is extra provision to ensure everyone can wash their hands when they come from the toilet to avoid spread of diseases like cholera, typhoid, bilharzia, as well as prevent the spread of coronavirus.
- ✓ Students and teachers at Wangalla Primary School used to share an old toilet covered with polythene. Thanks to the project they are now using a new 8-door toilet that is connected to a water supply. The school had received a notice from the Ministry of Public Health requesting it to close due to the of lack of toilets. Having access to new toilets has allowed the school to stay open, making the parents, students and teachers very happy and continuing to improve community learning, lives and livelihoods.
- ✓ The Ministry of Education had declined to register Busho Secondary School because it did not have good toilets. Thanks to the project that helped fund construction of an 8-door toilet, the school has now been registered.

Educational bursaries

- ✓ Bursaries are provided to as many students as possible, with the focus being vulnerable students. Without the bursaries, students would not be able to complete their studies.



Milestones



- ✓ 36 classrooms and 4 administration blocks were renovated in Mwachabo, Mwatate, Sagalla and Marungu locations.
- ✓ 10 new classrooms, 2 new administration blocks, 3 new kitchens and 2 units staff houses were constructed in Mwachabo, Mwatate, Sagalla and Mackinnon locations.

✓ All renovated and constructed classrooms were connected with gutters and more than 15 water tanks were installed.

✓ More than 8 toilet blocks were constructed and connected with water.

✓ The 6 locations allocated about Ksh. 21 Million to bursaries for the year for a total of 4,210 students (2,034 males and 2,176 females). This includes beneficiaries in university, college, polytechnic, secondary and pupils living with disability (PLWD) in primary schools.



Student testimony: Mary Mwambiji



Mary Mwambiji was sponsored through the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project throughout her secondary education and earned very good marks. After graduating she stayed at home for 2 years because the committee was only giving partial bursaries to university and college students. The committee later decided to fund Mary's education because her parents were unable to secure fees, even from the government. Mary's fees, accommodation and personal items are now paid through funds from carbon credit sales. Mary is now in her second year of getting her Bachelor of Education Science degree at Taita Taveta University.

"I'm Mary Mwambiji, a second year student at Taita Taveta University pursuing a degree course in

Bachelor of Education Science. I would like to appreciate Wildlife Works for the support they have given me from high school until now. For the year 2021 I've received school fees that will keep me in class for the whole semester. Many thanks to Wildlife Works and the entire Kasigau Corridor REDD project fraternity."





The future: sustainable education and high-achieving students



The aim is for community members to have a positive attitude toward education with sustained funding from the government and other donors. Another goal is to have all education resources properly used in order to achieve high education standards.

A near-term priority is the ongoing improvement of learning environments to help attract and retain the best teachers and staff for the schools. Constructing classrooms is emerging as one of the highest priorities in the education sector. In addition, renovating existing classrooms will help continue to improve students' health, behavior, engagement, learning, and growth.