



Update from John Lokeno July 2021

Greetings! Here are updates from West Pokot:



Thursday fellowship at the home of members of AIC Oron where Pastor Joseph Poghiso was invited to share the word of God. Christians are continuing with fellowships during these difficult times even as they exercise caution. Pastor Poghiso also laid hands on and dedicated newborns named Miriam Cheruto, Esther Chemoina, and Gladys Chepkarkar. The body of Christ is growing!

CCMP and MMGs (Good Samaritan Groups)

Nyuki ni Uhai (Bees for Life): Bees are a natural resource that God has provided. The Pokot people have long valued honey and have traditional hives, but with better hives and management, people should be able to enjoy better quality honey as well as earn an income from it. Firmly resting on two basic principles of relationships (between people and environment) and locally available resources, this project has a lot of potential for Good Samaritan Groups.

General Animal Health Interventions

There have been sporadic outbreaks of serious diseases of goats and cattle necessitating calling the county veterinary department to plan mass vaccinations.

Farmers in AIC Kakogh were trained on routine herd management practices and were enthusiastic about the 'Nyuki ni Uhai' project. The farmer groups want to be part of the Church and Community Mobilization Process (CCMP)—an encouraging sign that people are seeing the value of CCMP.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

Nyuki ni Uhai-Honey Project

To the right is a modern beehive hanging at the farm of a local Christian. It has remained un-colonized for close to two years now. These hives were supplied by the county government of West Pokot in a beekeeping project which is said to have flopped for reasons ranging from non-involvement of the locals and failure to recognize their indigenous knowledge. Failures can often lead to new lessons and ways to do things.



During the CCMP planning meeting this month, committee members gladly welcomed the ‘Nyuki ni Uhai’ project and made a solemn promise to support it. However, they insisted that the project should also consider engaging local bee farmers as well, especially those who are practicing it at the moment even though some of them may not be members of the targeted churches.

The project officers, with the help of community members, were able to identify several trees in Alale that are known as best bee forages. They emphasized the need to encourage communities to grow those trees in large numbers or take care of the existing ones to ensure sustainable honey production.

Success Story—Poultry Value Chain

As a way of promoting economic empowerment for communities through the introduction of viable business ventures, the rearing of chickens for sale has been one of the areas of focus over the last year and a half. Through offering technical support to chicken-rearing farmers, especially in disease control through timely vaccination, this sector has grown. Last August alone, a total of 511 birds were successfully immunized against new castle disease (NCD) and fowl pox. While NCD is fatal, fowlpox causes stunted growth and low egg production, rendering the overall business unprofitable. The timely vaccination programs have generally alleviated the situation.

Donkeys of Alale

The Pokot people have traditionally only used donkeys occasionally for transportation. As a result, most of the donkeys are in very good condition and freely roam the countryside. Recently, more youth and women have started using the donkeys for water transportation and soon enough donkeys will be an important livelihood animal. Amazingly, many downplay the value of donkeys but, from FSK studies, it has been established that donkeys play critical roles in semi-arid areas, particularly in offering transport services. When these services are monetized, it is very clear that donkeys contribute more to household income in a year than some of the most valued livestock, such as cows.

We praise God for progress seen in so many areas of life in West Pokot. Please continue to pray that people will be drawn to saving faith in Jesus as they see how he is changing people, families, and communities. Thank you for praying!

John Lokeno