SEED SAMBURU

Samburu Empowerment through Education and Development

INFORMATION SEED SAMBURU

SEED Samburu
www.seedsamburu.com
seedsamburu@hotmail.com
There are 223,947 Samburu\(^{(1)}\)

87.5\% of the total Samburu population is illiterate\(^{(2)}\)

63\% of the Samburu children above 3 years in Samburu Central do not attend school\(^{(3)}\)

58\% of the boys and 63\% of the girls in Samburu Central didn’t finish Primary School\(^{(3)}\)

Only 2,185 Samburu students are in Secondary School\(^{(3)}\)

319 are following Tertiary Education\(^{(3)}\)

120 are in university\(^{(3)}\)

30 are studying Polytechnic\(^{(3)}\)

\(^{(1)}\) 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census
\(^{(2)}\) Kenya Literacy Survey 2006
\(^{(3)}\) This information is generated from the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census volume 2 that covered all the population 3 years and above. 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, supplied by SNV Kenya.

SEED Samburu

Samburu Empowerment through Education and Development – SEED Samburu – is a Community Based Organisation (CBO) founded in May 2007. It is registered (register number SBU/CBO/98, 10-05-2007) and based in Maralal, Samburu County, Northern Kenya. SEED Samburu has a constitution (May 2007) and a bank account (KCB Maralal Branch). The geographical areas covered by SEED Samburu are remote, rural and neglected and are located in the highlands of the western part of Samburu County. SEED Samburu Trust is being established.

SEED Samburu works with the inhabitants of Samburu County. The Samburu is the biggest tribe. They live in the remote and rural arid plains and semi deserts of Northern Kenya. Their economy is based almost entirely on the raising of livestock.

Samburu County covers about 21,000sq km and has heavily remained behind in development. Before the independence of Kenya in 1963 people could only enter the area with special permission. The area was not even accessible to the missionaries and they are the once who established schools and hospitals in developing countries.

Persistent problems in Samburu County

Majority of the Samburu people live in poverty. There are many structural problems like:

- Drought
- Soil erosion
- Insufficient amount of drinking water for people and animals
- Bad infrastructure (no paved roads and no electricity in most of the areas)
- Insufficient health care
- Increase of HIV/AIDS infection
- Few schools especially in rural areas that lack teachers
- Negative judgment of nomadic life style by urban people and government
- Less employment. Samburu County is hardly integrated in the economy of Kenya
- Many frustrated youngsters who are educated and have no meaningful source of livelihoods
- Many problems with alcoholism and drug abuse especially khat.

The nomadic life style of the Samburu is getting more difficult. Agricultural land is shrinking and the population density is getting bigger. Prolonged periods of drought pose a challenge to human beings, environment and animals. The
outcome is the barren ground. Because of less food reserves the Samburu people are becoming more and more vulnerable.

**Mission and vision SEED Samburu**

The mission of SEED Samburu is to empower and improve the living conditions of the Samburu community and to discourage early marriage and female genital mutilation through capacity building, advocacy and socio-economic development as a means of poverty reduction and a focussed society with peace and gender equality.

The vision of SEED Samburu is empowered and independent communities respecting its own identity.

SEED Samburu is not be guided by any Political, Ethnic, or Religious influence during the development of its policies and strategies and the implementation of its projects.

**Programs**

The main programs of SEED Samburu are: Education and Training, Sustainable Economic Development / Food Security, Sexual Reproductive Health and Water and Sanitation.

**Education and Training**

In the Education and Training Program SEED Samburu achieved:

- An increased access and enrollment in education of Samburu children, youth and adults by successfully reviving Lchekuti / Shepherd Education in eleven centers. Lchekuti Education is education during late afternoon and evening hours for children, youth and adults who have to take care for the livestock or are engaged with other activities in daytime;
- An increased retention of school going children by carrying out community sensitization and awareness campaigns on the importance of and right to education;
- An improved quality of education through in-servicing teaching staff and building capacity of parents, community leaders and School Management Committees;
- An improved relevance of education through initiating the Samburu Social Studies program. Main goal of this program is teaching school going children in their own language about their own culture and traditional knowledge and culture conservation.

**Civic Education**

Decentralization of public funds as provided in the Constitution provides unique opportunities for the people of Samburu County to improve their living conditions and to overcome poverty. However, due to illiteracy and the fact that many people live in remote areas, the vast majority is ignorant. They have no idea what the County has to offer them and what their rights are. Ignorance leads to exploitation; there are those who abuse the ignorance and poverty of the people, use resources for their own benefits and are able to intimidate, threaten and bribe people for their own interest. The available resources are not used for the purposes for which they should be used and billions of Kenyan shillings disappear in ‘pockets’.

In 2012 and 2013 SEED Samburu implemented a unique project; through a toll free line residents of Samburu County were informed about the Constitution, County, leadership, etc. in the languages Kiswahili, Samburu and Turkana.

In 2015 and 2016 in cooperation with the East African Center for Law and Justice and the Samburu Girls Foundation SEED Samburu implemented an extensive Civic Education process in Samburu County with the main result that a group of eligible voters – 7 women and 13 men – decided to file a Constitutional Petition to remove their Ward Representative who is also a Member of the County Assembly (MCA).

**Sustainable Economic Development / Food Security**

With the program Sustainable Economic Development SEED Samburu achieved the improvement of livelihoods of Samburu families through the introduction of agricultural and income generating activities.

- Agriculture fields, 5 acres each were ploughed, sowed and harvested in three villages. A part of the harvest was sold;
- A corn mill was installed in one very remote village and its managed by the youth;
SEED Samburu and the communities started livestock business;
- Women started small scale business with Samburu jewelry;
- In three villages blocks for the class rooms and school desks were made by the youth and bought by SEED Samburu;
- SEED Samburu employs community members during every construction of school facilities.

The main target groups of this program are women and youth.

**Sexual Reproductive Health**

In Sexual Reproductive Health programme, SEED Samburu has been able to change the attitude and practices towards Sexual Reproductive Health and related issues among the Samburu youth.

- Both Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment surveys were carried out to establish the level of Sexual Reproductive Health impact in Samburu. This resulted to a Sexual Reproductive Health policy framework;
- Several meetings with school youth and youth out of school were held to talk about Sexual Reproductive Health and related issues;
- SEED Samburu implemented The World Starts with Me, an computer-based comprehensive sexuality education programme targeting children and youth, in seven Secondary Schools, two Primary Schools and the Teacher College.

**Water and Sanitation**

In the area of Water and Sanitation SEED Samburu carried out a Geophysical and Hydro Geological Investigations and realized two boreholes in two of the remote communities where SEED Samburu works. Furthermore SEED Samburu provided water tanks and gutters in Pre Primary Centers, Primary Schools and Lchekuti Schools.

SEED Samburu trained several groups of women with regards to sanitation and hygiene to reduce hygiene related infections among Samburu women. Head teachers, teachers and pupils were trained to improve the hygiene at schools.

**Holistic approach**

These strategic programs are not isolated from each other. SEED Samburu believes in a holistic programmatic approach. All the strategic programs are connected.

- How can you ask women to come to school (Education) or to start income generating activities (Sustainable Economic Development) if they are busy with fetching water (Water) the whole day?
- How can you demand parents to send their children to school (Education) if they cannot afford to buy a school uniform (Sustainable Economic Development)?
- How can you demand the school children to be in time in school (Education) if they have to fetch water for the school and the water is very far away (Water)?
- How can you ask women to wash and clean themselves (Sanitation) if they don’t have enough water for making tea for their children and giving water to the livestock (Water)?
- How can you reduce poverty if the Samburu community is not practicing family planning (Sexual Reproductive Health)?

**Strategies**

To achieve the goals and objectives of the strategic programs SEED Samburu follows strategies. The strategies are:

- Direct poverty alleviation
- Civil Society Development – capacity building
- Lobby and Advocacy / Policy influencing
- Community involvement and participation
- Profit for learning (linking importance of education with benefit of education)
- Peace building
- Networking, partnering and collaboration
Communities and capacity builders

SEED Samburu works closely together with the communities. SEED Samburu is the community and the community is SEED Samburu. SEED Samburu works with capacity builders in the community. The communities are involved in every step SEED Samburu takes.

Partnerships and lobby and advocacy

SEED Samburu is a strong and important player in the field of education, Sexual Reproductive Health, Economic Development and Water and Sanitation. SEED Samburu is coordinator and member of several partnerships and works together with many stakeholders, inclusive the Government. Lobby and advocacy is a very important part of the job of SEED Samburu. SEED Samburu lobbies for different issues, like more and more competent teachers and the recognition of Lchekuti / Shepherd Education by the government.

Innovative

Looking at the background / context of Samburu Central District SEED Samburu is innovative in many ways. For instance the way how SEED Samburu works with illiterate people to improve parent’s participation in their children’s performance and school management is unique in Samburu County, maybe in whole Kenya.