

Helping Kenya's Turkana People Help Themselves

Difficulty:

DIFFICULT

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Discussion activities to be done after completing this EA lesson

Today's report was about the lives of the Turkana people in Kenya. What is life like for them? What problems do they have to face? What is being done to help them?

Extension discussion topics

A. Talking about and going over the specific topic / idea / issue in listening text

Introduction = Where is Turkana? What is life like for the Turkana people? What problems do they have to face? What is being done to help them?

1. What do we learn in the report about Turkana?
 - In the northwest of Kenya.
 - 77,000 square kilometers in size.
 - Largest district in Kenya.
 - Semi-arid climate.
 - Almost no rainfall in recent years.
2. How have the persistent droughts affected the Turkana people? What other problem do they have?
 - They have to keep moving around to find pasture and water for their animals.
 - Most animals end up dying.
 - Livestock was their trade; now they have none.
 - Many suffering from malnutrition.
 - No water to grow crops.
 - Also have to suffer cattle raids from communities in neighboring countries.
3. What did we learn in the report about aid programs? How is USADF different? What is USADF doing for the Turkana?
 - Aid programs often fail because the money doesn't get to the grassroots.
 - Also, the communities are not empowered so when donors leave, many projects collapse.
 - USADF goes directly to the local producers and communities develop their own projects.
 - They will provide grants to the Turkana for irrigation, livestock and fisheries programs.

Turkana is in the northwest of Kenya, so there is no coastline. How do you think they can develop a fishery program? If there is no water, how can they develop irrigation schemes? (*research if necessary - rivers, boreholes, etc.*)

B. Expanding on (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

Topic = US African Development Fund.

1. The USADSF has the following seven key principles:
 - (1) Model HIGH EFFECTIVENESS AND LOW OVERHEAD operations.
 - (2) Focus program activities on MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES in Africa.
 - (3) Invest in African ideas through PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT.
 - (4) Ensure projects result in more JOBS AND HIGHER INCOME LEVELS.
 - (5) Promote AFRICAN LED AND MANAGED field project support.
 - (6) Achieve the highest levels of OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY.
 - (7) Support and develop an equal opportunity, RESULTS DRIVEN STAFF that rewards hard work, dedication to the mission, and personal success.

Which one do you think is the most important? Why?

2. Check out the website (<http://www.adf.gov/>). Choose one of the success stories and tell in your own words the others in your class about it. Why do you think it is a success story?
(Teacher: if students will not have internet access during the lesson, there are downloadable pdf files on each success story, which you print out beforehand)
3. The USADF currently works in 21 African countries. Choose any two of these countries and describe the projects in those countries. Were you surprised by any of the projects? Why? Are there similarities between the projects in each country or are they completely different? Why do you think this is?

OR, Topic = The Turkana.

Find out all you can about the Turkana and give an oral presentation of your findings to a partner or to your teacher. Did you learn anything surprising?

C. Extending discussion of (one of) the topics / ideas / issues in listening text

Topic = Foreign Aid to Africa Debate.

1. For many years people have debated the pros and cons of sending aid to Africa. Have a look at some of these websites:
<http://www.debate.org/debates/Giving-Away-Foreign-Aid-to-Africa-is-a-Good-Idea/1/>
http://debatepedia.idebate.org/en/index.php/Debate:_U.S._aid_to_Africa
<http://debatewise.org/debates/687-is-aid-killing-africa>
2. Divide your class into two groups, one in favor of foreign aid to Africa, the other against.
(Teacher can organize and choose a leader for each side, but each person must speak)
Using some of the arguments you read about, and thinking about some of your own, conduct a debate on the question *Should Foreign Aid to Africa Be Stopped?*
3. Which side won the debate? Did you agree with them? Do you / would you personally contribute to Aid to Africa? Why / why not?

Audioscript

Times are hard for Kenya's Turkana people. They rely on aid to survive, having suffered through prolonged drought, malnutrition and the loss of livestock. But a US agency is hoping to change that by providing the Turkana with grants for home-grown food security projects.

Turkana is Kenya's largest district, some 77,000 square kilometers in the northwest of the country. It's semi-arid and even in the best of times has little rainfall. In recent years, it practically hasn't had any.

Timothy Nzioka is a regional representative for the US African Development Foundation or USADF. "The persistent drought continues from year to year, like the whole of last year it only rained in March. But from March all the way up to December there was no drop of rainfall. So the communities have to start moving from one location to another one, looking for pasture."

The Turkana are pastoralists and livestock is their trade - or was. "Most of the animals end up dying because of lack of pasture and water." To make matters worse, Turkana is surrounded by communities in neighboring countries, who wage war through cattle raids.

"The Turkana people either they are messed up by the people from the north, the people from the east, the people from the south, people from the west."

Nzioka says farming was not an option. "Due to lack of rainfall then they have very little options to grow their own crops. So, seventy-five percent, according to current statistics, rely on relief."

Earlier this year, the African Development Foundation launched the 5-year, \$10 million Turkana Food Security Program. It's providing grants for irrigation, livestock and fisheries programs.

Nzioka says in the long run grants can be more effective than providing aid. "ADF works directly with the grassroots. We do not work through other international NGOs. We don't pass our money through the government, but it goes directly to the local producers."

He says it's important for communities to own the projects. He says if the projects are operated simply to satisfy donor expectations they will collapse once the donors leave. "That is why we have many white elephant projects across Africa, where donors went in and did it for the communities. As soon as the project ended nothing continued because the communities are not empowered. The communities are not in charge."

The foundation designs projects to help increase local incomes and create jobs. In turn, those who benefit often contribute so others may take part.

Nzioka says for projects to succeed USADF talks directly to the people. "We do not go and talk to the politicians. We do not go and talk to the provincial administration. We just don't go and talk to the chief. But we go and announce our presence and the need to talk to the community about their own challenges facing them."

But talking's not enough, he says, there's a need to listen. "These people know the problem they are faced with. They have the solution, but they lack the resources. ADF is going in to provide those resources, but must listen to them."

He says in the end, people on all levels get involved and the community decides who'll lead the project.

This has been a record year for the US African Development Foundation, which operates in 21 sub-Saharan countries. It's provided 250 new grants worth nearly \$26 million. It says those grants will generate more than \$60 million in additional income through 65,000 new and existing jobs.

Joe De Capua VOA News, Washington.