

ENGISHON MICROFINANCE

Account on drought effects on
Indigenous communities in
Northern Tanzania.



ARTICLE BY

Engishon Microfinance



Lack of rain across East Africa has caused one of the most severe droughts in recent history. People are currently experiencing the fifth failed rainy season in a row, with critical and long-lasting consequences.

Famine struggles

Earlier this month, Pastoral Women's Council a community-based organization devoted to supporting Maasai pastoralists in Northern Tanzania, organized a food delivery in Longido District.

East Africa has been suffering from severe drought for two years in a row. This is one of the numerous impacts of climate change that drastically affects people who have least contributed to it.

Pastoralist communities, such as the Indigenous Maasai in Tanzania, have had to give up their nomadic way of life as all pastures have dried out. They have already lost millions of cattle because of lack of feed, and the remaining are starving. Besides hunger, the situation is causing depression among the Maasai, to whom the cattle are the backbone of their identity, culture, and livelihoods. They love their cattle and are hesitant to let them go.



Affiliated efforts

In addition to the loss of livestock, drought also affects the availability of grazing land for the remaining animals. This can lead to overgrazing and degradation of the land, making it even harder for the community to recover from the impacts of drought.

ENGISHON Microfinance is dedicated to helping pastoral communities that have been affected by drought and famine. Through providing loans to these communities, ENGISHON seeks to diversify their livelihoods and help them establish small businesses. The loans are tailored to each community's individual needs and are designed to help them become self-sufficient.

ENGISHON also works with local governments and organizations to ensure that the loans are used effectively and that the communities are able to access the resources they need to create sustainable livelihoods. By providing these loans, Engishon is helping to empower communities that have been affected by drought and famine and helping them to create a better future for themselves.

The prolonged drought is just one of the numerous impacts of climate change that we are currently witnessing. The ones who have least contributed to climate change, are the most vulnerable to it, and the first to be impacted.

As world leaders are working on policies to accelerate a green shift, Pastoral Women's Council (P.W.C) would like to remind them of the importance of placing the rights of Indigenous Peoples at the core of these efforts. Too often are projects that are intended to be sustainable, lead to rights violations of Indigenous Peoples.

Devastating Impacts

The prolonged drought period has persisted in the Northern part of the country affecting more than 10 semi-arid districts in Manyara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions. In the said Regions, the predicted drought has lasted for more than 4 months now which has caused livelihood impact to more than 2 million people.





Where we come in

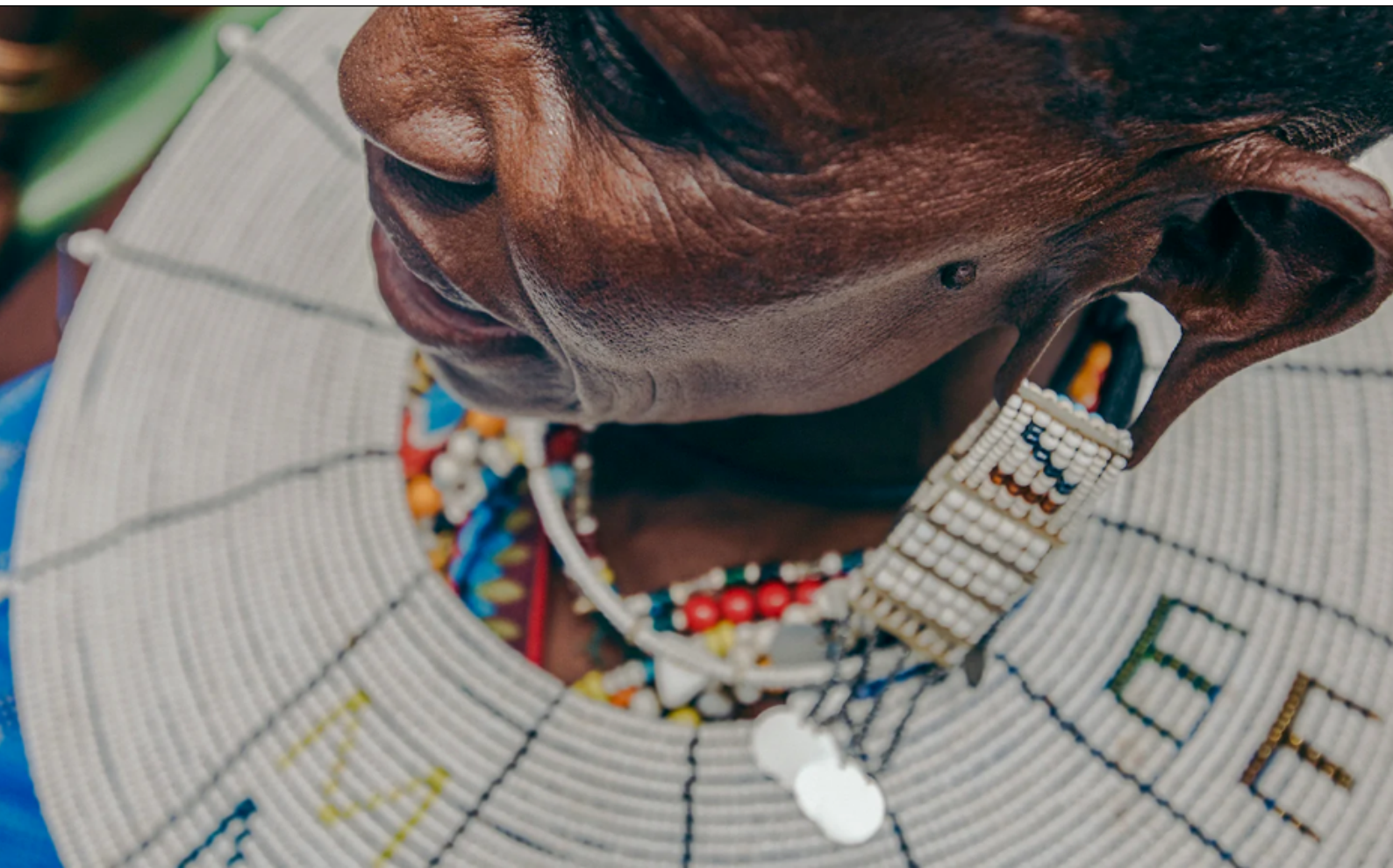
ENGISHON has helped many people who would otherwise be struggling during droughts or other harsh times maintain a secure livelihood without leaving home.

As climate change continues to impact communities, access to water and food is increasingly an issue for pastoralist women, who are at greater risk of hunger and malnutrition than their male counterparts.

There was initial skepticism from men but women were able to overcome that and achieve success. Especially in communities where only men traditionally had access to money or cash crops such as maize and beans, this project has helped several women become financially independent while gaining skills they can use over time as they start their own businesses.

The training sessions have also been very helpful for social development: after completing the first phase of education last year, many participants said they were able to help other community members by teaching them about entrepreneurship too!

Call to Action



The Maasai people of East Africa have been severely affected by harsh drought conditions and famine. Cattle, their main source of sustenance, have been dying due to lack of water and food.

To support these indigenous communities, you can donate on our website. Your generous contribution will help provide resources such as food, water, and medical aid to those affected by the drought. Your donation will also help to protect and sustain the Maasai's traditional way of life, which is heavily reliant on their cattle. Thank you for your support! Together, we can make a difference and help the Maasai people survive the drought.