

DELAVNICA ZA POUK ANGLEŠČINE



## INVESTIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE



### Stories from Kenya (student worksheet)

#### For teacher:

Personal stories are a strong and powerful way to bring an issue to life. Encourage your students to read these stories keeping in mind what they have learned so far and how they apply to the lives of these Kenyans.

Aim: to develop the students' skills of applying knowledge to different scenarios.

Key words: Depending on the abilities of your students, you could discuss these key words with your students, before reading the story, discuss what they mean and then encourage them to link the words in the story.

Give each pair of students either Mary's or Silas's story to read. Ask them to discuss the story between them and answer the questions on the sheet.

Invite one student to share Mary's story and one to share Silas's – what issues are the same/ different for both of them? What do you think life will be like for Mary when she is Silas's age if our earth keeps warming?

As homework, the students could take on the role of either Mary or Silas and write a diary entry in their journals.

### Mary Amodoi's story

My name is Mary Amodoi. I am from Turkana in northern Kenya and live with my father, my grandmother and my 3 younger brothers. Our home dwelling is located in a very rural and isolated part of Turkana with the closest town 50kms away. My mother died last December during childbirth and since then ,I have had to take on a lot of responsibility for my family and our home. My grandmother helps me as does my father and brother, Nangiuro. I have never been to school as it is not the tradition for Turkana girls who live in rural areas to do so.

During the day, my first job is to go and fetch water from the river, which is about 1km away. Sometimes, when there is drought, we must dig deep down to find some water we can use. I also prepare the meals for my family. In good times, we will eat twice a day. We eat a dish called posho, which is like a porridge made from maize flour.

Here in Turkana, most of the people are pastoralists. The land is very dry. It used to be a semi-arid area, now it is arid. People say that in time, it will be classified as a desert. Because it has always been dry in my region, traditionally we depend on our livestock to survive and provide us with milk. It is Nangiuro's job to look after the goats and ensure they get enough pasture to eat so that they will produce enough milk for the family.

Life is hard for us because of drought. When my grandmother was my age, she says life was so much smoother. People knew when there was going to be drought so they could prepare.

Also, droughts didn't occur so often, so communities had time to recover from one before the next drought hit. Nowadays, there is much more drought and fewer trees and pasture. Lake Turkana, which isn't too far from our home is slowly drying up also. Sometimes, we have no food at all and we depend on the food relief distributed through our community.

My grandmother is now about 75 years old. I wonder what our land will be like when I am her age.

#### key words

Mary	Kenya	rural	school	water	drought	Posho (porridge)
arid	goats	Lake Turkana		drying		

**Silas Ngera's story**

Hello my name is Silas Ngera. I'm 38 years old and live with my wife and 3 daughters in Tharaka which is not far from Mount Kenya to the north east of the capital, Nairobi. I have lived in this area for the past 20 years and in that time, there has been a negative change in rainfall patterns and the quality of my harvests. I am a small-scale farmer with a small plot of land just beside my home.

My family depend on this land to provide us with enough food to eat and maybe even some left over to sell on to earn some money.

My farm has produced nothing at all this year. My millet crop failed and produced no food. When I planted the seeds in March I was hopeful for a good crop but the rains were too short so nothing came of all our hard work. I am going to try to plant again in October but am unsure what will happen as I'm not sure that the rains will come. My wife has already run out of food supplies for this year so I may have to sell the small number of goats that we have. I am worried to think what we will do if the next crop fails and we have no goats to sell then.

Before, we used to get two rains every year. The short rains between October and December when it would rain for a short time most days and the long rains between March and April when we would get heavier and longer lasting rains. Now, you can never be certain so if you plant your seeds in March and the rain doesn't come, those seeds have been wasted, and, if it rains in May, I may not have any money left so buy more seeds or be sure that it will rain long enough for the crop to grow. Life has become so uncertain and insecure. It is difficult to know what to do when the crops fail. Sometimes, I travel to nearby towns to find work but then my wife is on her own. An organization called Caritas Tharaka encourages us farmers to stay at home and provide training in ways to try to improve the soil on our farms and prevent against soil erosion. They also supply us with food for our families while we are working and training with them. My oldest daughter, Sharon, is 5 years old. I wonder what her life will be like when she is my age.

**key words**

Silas	wife and 3 daughters	Mount Kenya	farmer	Land	crop (millet)
two rains	insecure Caritas Tharaka	training	soil	food	life



How different is my life compared to that of my relatives years ago?

Can you tell my story on 3 sentences?

What am I thinking?

How does climate change affect my life?



Povzeto po Trocaire (Caritas Irske)  
Pripravili: Saša Eržen in Mojca Urh