

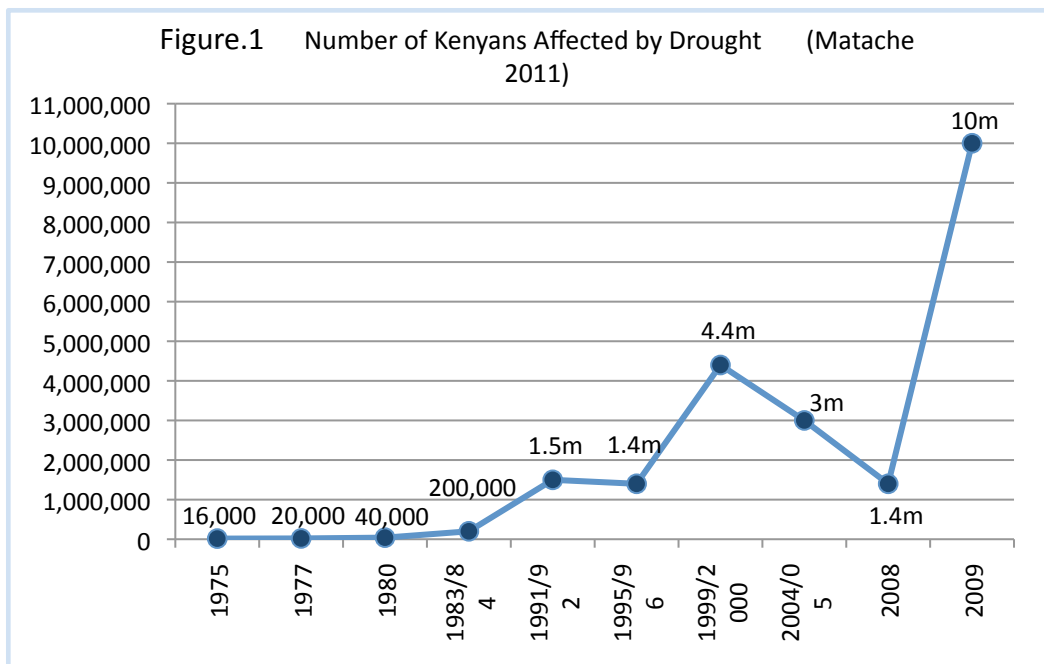
## About FAB Projects

### History and General Information

#### History – *Our reasons why...*

FAB Projects (or FAB) stands for Food Aid and Building Projects. We are a UK charity working in Africa to develop and provide sustainable solutions challenging problems related to hunger, thirst, sanitation and financial poverty. FAB was established in 2009 in response to the desperate situation faced by many Kenyans due to an extended period of drought and ongoing post-election violence. In late 2007 allegations of vote fixing in the presidential elections caused turmoil and outbreaks of extreme violence as opposing Kenyan tribes fought each other to defend the rights of their chosen presidential candidates. Across Kenya it is estimated that 268,300 individuals were displaced from their homes, 1,200 individuals were killed and 41,000 homes were destroyed leaving many with absolutely nothing (UN 2008:8). Other sources claim that the displacement was greater and affected over 650,000 individuals (Sheekh et al 2012:5). The violence had another disastrous effect on the local population as due to the disturbances many farmers and families were late to plant crops. In mid 2008 drought struck Kenya and those who had not planted crops or, due to the violence, were living in temporary camps for internally displaced people (I.D.P's), had no source of food or water. Many of the I.D.P camps were the worst affected and were not acknowledged by the government or local authorities. When visiting Kenya in 2009 the effects of this period were still evident and in response FAB Projects was born.

“Estimates in 2011 put the number of those who remain displaced in Kenya as a result of localised conflict, human rights violations, impact of cross-border raids, cattle rustling and drought at around 400,000” (Sheekh et al 2012:5). When exploring the problems these people faced it became clear that many lacked basic human needs and commonly they were hungry, thirsty, had poor levels of sanitation (adding to the spread of disease) and had little or no financial savings. Many only earned a small daily wage of around 100ksh (Kenyan Shillings), equal to 0.77gbp. Thankfully, since 2009 efforts have been made to prevent post-election violence and conflict prevention has become a priority for the Kenyan Government and other NGO's. Sadly the same can not be said about the worsening problem of drought that has an increasing effect on the Kenyan population at every new occurrence, (see Figure.1). “The cycle of drought has reduced over the years, from every ten years, down to every five years, further down to every 2-3 years, and currently every year is characterized by some dry spell” (Matache 2011). The chart shows the number of people affected by drought.



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Figure.2 Main Benefits Provided by the Design of the 'FAB-Tank'

#### Benefits of Water Tanks:

- The ability to store a large amount of water to provide for the daily needs of a school throughout a period of drought.
- The ability to use rooftops to harvest up to 700,000litres of water each year.
- Financial relief for the school that would otherwise have to purchase water (our research shows on average schools would spend 10,000ksh a week on water).
- Allow improved sanitation by providing for hand washing and classroom and toilet cleaning.
- Health benefits provided by rainwater which is of a much higher quality than borehole water.

#### Added Benefits of a 'FAB-Tank':

- Use of the water tank roof to harvest an extra 9% of the total amount of water collected annually.
- Direction of spilt water from the taps and excess water from the overflow pipe towards crops and agriculture.
- Lowered cost of construction due to innovative building techniques, for example the roof is formed around a metal frame coated in potato sacks instead of creating an expensive wooden structure.
- Extended life of the tank due to maintenance friendly finishing to the tanks exterior.

In order to tackle the problems presented by drought FAB Projects has developed a specially designed water tank. The design of the tank includes a number of benefits some of which are not provided by the construction of existing stone built water tanks, (see Figure.2). In addition to these benefits FAB develops agriculture and plants over 100 cypress trees in every school to improve the environment and encourage the development of a sustainable food source. In 2012 FAB completed the construction of two 70,000litre water tanks, one located at Menengai Hill Sec. Sch, Nakuru and the other at Gitumba Sec. Sch, Naivasha (see Figure.3). These projects have been a large step towards achieving our objectives and have proved the effectiveness of our custom designed water tanks.

Figure.3 Pictures of the 'FAB-Tank' Constructed at Menengai Hill Sec. Sch.



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#### General Info –

FAB has achieved a total water storage capacity of 190,000litres to ensure that 1,240 pupils will have enough water to provide for their needs, even if there was a drought of 100 days. In total our rooftops will collect over 1.99million litres every year further providing for the schools sanitation and agricultural activities. By providing water we also save the school the financial burden of buying and transporting it. This costs schools as much as half of their annual grant from the government. By providing schools with a reliable source of water and teaching them how to use it to aid their agricultural projects and improve their sanitation and health, we begin to create sustainable communities with the opportunity to develop and the financial flexibility to do so. Two of these projects are shown below with a little more information. Details of all our projects are available via the FAB Projects website ([www.fabprojects.co.uk](http://www.fabprojects.co.uk)).

- Summer Project 1 – construction of a 100,000litre water tank at Nairobi Road Sec. Sch. in Pipeline, Nakuru. The benefits of the project to the school include the provision of water to support the school lunch programme, improve the level of sanitation, provide water for agricultural purposes, prepare the school for drought by giving the ability to store a large amount of water. It will also allow the school to plant 300 cypress trees to improve the schools harsh microclimate. Furthermore the benefit is even more appreciated by local people as this school was established in response to the arrival of over 2,000 I.D.P's who have settled in this area.
- Summer Project 2 – construction of a 100,000litre water tank at Lakeview Pri. Sch. in Nakuru. This over populated school with almost 800 students has no current water supply and serves a relatively poor and rapidly growing community. The school is located just ½ km from the entrance of Lake Nakuru National Park and needs water to help with hunger and thirst (as above), but also to ease the financial strain of purchasing over 15,000ksh of water each month. The school has existed since 1997 and the original timber classrooms are still in use. The ability to save the money that is currently being spent on water will allow important improvements to be made to the schools other facilities.

The projects above represent a minute fraction of the schools in East Africa that desperately need your help. The next year is especially exciting for FAB as we are going to be officially registered as a UK Charity by the by the end of January. In 2013 we intend to expand our fundraising activities whilst working to increase the public benefit of our projects by investigating sustainable food sources. Potentially such a programme would be able to provide enough food for the school pupil's lunches and generate an income of 200,000ksh a year by selling fruit and vegetables at the local market. Currently we are working in partnership with nutritional scientists to investigate the typical Kenyan diet and what crops could be grown to supplement their nutritional needs. Although agricultural programmes provide many benefits including financial profit for the school, most can't afford to develop such programmes as the total cost is too high. The combination of a reliable source of water and the cultivation of land for agriculture is a perfect relationship and will greatly assist schools, pupils and local communities.

If you would like more information about us or to be involved with FAB Projects visit our website ([www.fabprojects.co.uk](http://www.fabprojects.co.uk)) or get in touch with our [team@fabprojects.co.uk](mailto:team@fabprojects.co.uk).

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