

Final Report, August 2022

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This summer, I spent 10 weeks in Kenya working with the Children Peace Initiative Kenya (CPI Kenya). After attending [2 peace camps](#) earlier in the summer with CPI Kenya, I felt settled into CPI Kenya's work with a much better understanding of how they approach peacebuilding. The second half of my fellowship focused on helping CPI Kenya create and launch two startup initiatives to help them expand their peacebuilding programs.

Startup Planning

From mid-June until the end of my fellowship on July 20th, the CPI Kenya staff and myself worked to plan and launch 2 startups. After getting over the peace camp hill, we worked in the Nairobi office to set up program outlines and budgets for the two startup initiatives (which you can learn about in the below sections). This gave me some really great experience in how to think through what all is needed to launch a program—from the smaller details like stipends for beneficiaries' time away from their businesses to bigger-ticket items like goats for dinner or fuel.

Our planning period also heavily emphasized the need to prioritize the beneficiaries of the program and not an outside agenda. We could try our best from Nairobi to try and decide what we thought the best startups would be like, but Hilary and Monica, CPI Kenya founders, were adamant that what really mattered were the needs and goals of the beneficiaries who would be part of the program. This led me to reflect on how much of the humanitarian and development worlds are mostly fueled by the priorities of funders and politics in “global north,” high-income countries and organizations. CPI Kenya understands peacebuilding as something that must first and foremost prioritize the needs of the affected community.

We spent about 2 weeks discussing what the startups would look like, how they will operate, how much they will cost, how to begin mobilizing, and what our two-week trip up to Northern Kenya would look like.

Startup Fundraising

Throughout working on creating and launching the two startups, I also worked with a remote Advocacy Project fellow, Daniel, to begin a fundraising campaign that will hopefully fund the startups into 2023. Daniel and I worked together to create the content for the campaign page, and I made sure to take photos and interview beneficiaries during our fact-finding trip that could be used for marketing materials. I also assisted with donor outreach to my own network to help reach our fundraising goal. As of June 26th, the campaign has raised about \$7,500 for CPI Kenya (including matches). **The [fundraising campaign is being hosted via GlobalGiving](#), and is open for donations indefinitely.**

Startup Launches

From June 29th to July 12th, we were in Samburu and Baringo counties laying the groundwork and launching the Women's Entrepreneur Network (WEN) and the Cow Camp. During our two-

week trip, we worked with community leaders to find participants for the WEN, mobilize for the cow camps, and launched both startups.

Cow Camp

[Cow camps](#) are an invention of CPI Kenya co-founded Hilary Bukuno. The cow camps focus on peace outreach to *moran* (pastoralist warriors) and herders to bring them together for a weekend. The goal of the weekend is to begin discussions about how the participants can begin to share resources to end conflict and adapt to climate change. For example, by sharing pastureland with grass and water, pastoralists can adequately feed their livestock and cattle raids aren't as appealing because there are resources to feed their herds. Cow camps are innovative and transformative in one regard because it brings the peacebuilding process to those affected by conflict. Instead of taking them to bigger towns for peace meetings, CPI Kenya meets people where they are.

[Here](#) you can read about my interview with Amosilia, a former Pokot warrior-turned-peace ambassador. [Here](#) you can read about our experience at the cow camp (it was quite the adventure!).



Group photo of the participants remaining at the end of the Cow Camp.



Chiefs, moran, and herders in the midst of discussions about sharing resources and climate change.



Herders and moran brought their cows to stay overnight during the cow camp.

Women’s Entrepreneur Network (WEN)

The Women’s Entrepreneur Network is a startup that aims to connect pastoralist businesswomen from two opposing tribes through business. The WEN is made up of 10 women from two opposing pastoralist tribes in Northern Kenya—5 from Longewan (of the Samburu tribe) and 5 from Amaya (of the Pokot tribe).

Each group of women has come up with their own business plan to run a group business. In Longewan, the women will buy and sell goats at local markets and in times of drought will venture into creating beaded goods and selling food stuffs and winter clothing. In Amaya, the women have also decided to buy and sell goats at local markets. The groups will save a percentage of profits from their group businesses to boost their individual businesses. The Samburu and Pokot groups will meet once a month to trade lessons learned and help each other grow their group and individual businesses.

In addition to their business ventures, the Women’s Entrepreneur Network will foster inter-community peace by helping expand the women’s’ exposure to customers from the opposing tribe. The women will act as a support group for each other and be informants if they hear of any conflict being planned against the opposing tribe.

You can learn more about participants in the WEN [here](#). And, [Here](#) you can read more about our process for starting the Women’s Entrepreneur Network. [Here](#) you can read about pastoralist businesswomen as agents for peace.



The inaugural participants of the Women’s Entrepreneur Network at the launch ceremony.

Telling the Story

Over the course of the summer CPI Kenya summer communications intern, Natasha, along with Daniel, remote CPI Kenya intern at the Advocacy Project, and myself have slowly been updating [CPI Kenya's website](#). Updates include general design and formatting updates and updating written content for website pages.

I've written 11 blogs since the start of my fellowship with CPI Kenya, which you can find [here](#). Some of the blogs are more personal, like exploring my reaction to the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade whilst in Kenya, while others discuss the startup initiatives and conflict. I have also documented my trip with [photos](#) and video.