KENYA: SECURING THE FUTURE

INTRO:

When water and food are scarce and violence a constant threat, the future looks bleak. But in the arid lands of northern Kenya, a new approach to building secure lives is starting to bear fruit. (14’)

VIDEO

OPEN SUNRISE
LETTING GOATS OUT
MONTAGE

NARRATION
Like his parents and grandparents before him Maraka Lomariakipi (Ma-ra-ka Lo-ma-ria-ki-pi) rises with the sun each day and looks to satisfy the morning hunger of his goats. (12”)

WALKING DRY RIVER
BED

At the same time his wife heads out of camp too on a mission to quench her family's thirst. (6’)

BACK WITH GOATS

But while daily routines may not have changed much through the years, what they get back for their efforts, has. (7’
Pastoralists like Maraka and his family-- here in Turkana county, Kenya, -- work harder now… struggling to locate food and water for their animals … and themselves. (12")

MARAKA LOMARIAKIPI: (In Turkana)  
A long time ago, our animals were well fed and healthy. Nowadays we don't get enough milk. // whenever I slaughter 1 of them, I don't get enough meat, only bones.(23")

WATER FETCHING IN DRY RIVER BED  
NARRATION  
With an average annual rainfall of less than 300 millimeters, drought and unpredictable weather patterns make an already difficult nomadic lifestyle even more challenging. (12")

CATTLE //  
Pastoralists like Maraka always moved with the seasons … their own health depending on the health of their cattle. (8")

MIGRATING FAMILY  
Lately though, uncertainty caused by climate change is making these journeys more urgent … changing people’s traditional migratory routes and splitting up families. (13")

MARAKA  
While Maraka and the youngest of his fifteen children remain with their goats -- near the settlement of Lobei, his older boys and girls left days ago to find greener pasture for the rest of their livestock. (13")
These family members eventually set up camp here about nine-hours away by foot... not only far from their parents but also any schools, or health services should some get injured or fall sick. (13”)

Life in such an unforgiving landscape is fragile... as Maraka knows firsthand. (6”)

MARAKA LOMARIAPKI : (In Turkana)

it has been 2 to 3 years now with no good rain. // I keep thinking about the harsh climate conditions, the hunger, children missing school, and the lack of water but when I wake up, I can do nothing about the situation. (23”)

Pressure bears down on Maraka and the others in his small settlement... leaving little untouched. (6”)

Poor nutrition impacts health, health effects education, and education influences economic opportunity...some of the basic requirements for a safe and secure life and the bedrock for everyone’s security. (16”)

FATMA SAID: (In English)

Human security just does not address one aspect of security. It looks at crosscutting issues. Threats to human life, which affect their livelihoods, their dignity and their survival. (13”)

Fatma Said works for the International Organization for
Migration… the coordinating agency in an innovative effort designed to tackle all of these issues in an integrated fashion. (12")

FATMA ON CAMERA

FATMA SAID: (In English)

*The predominant problem in this area I would say is caused by climate change. The resources are so scanty, such that they have to fight for it.* (10")

NARRATION

This competition for resources pits neighboring communities against one another turning parts of Turkana into a dry and deadly battleground. (9")

Maraka understands these dangers as well as anyone. (3")

He no longer owns cattle, they were stolen in multiple raids by a nearby tribe. (5")

Six years ago he was shot trying to keep his camels from being taken. (3")

And a little more than a year ago his oldest son died in a raid. (4")

He’s not just a victim though – he too used to participate in raids. Thinking of his safety and his family’s future he says, he quit. (9")

MARAKA LOMARIKIPI: (In Turkana)
MEETING UNDER THE TREES

I saw if I continued with raiding, where would my children end up? Where would my wife go? Who would take care of my children, there would be no one to take them to school. (11”)

NARRATION
So as a member of the Reformed Warriors project, a peacemaking program sponsored by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security … Maraka renounced his violent past and now tries to guide the community’s youth on a more diplomatic path. (16”)

But the abundance of guns in the area holds everything back. (4”)

At this meeting, warnings are given about an impending raid … people are told to prepare to protect themselves. (7”)

MARAKA LOMARIAKIPI: (In Turkana)
At night I am always ready for any attack, and I am happy when morning reaches, and no raiders came. (8”)

NARRATION
But with his children living out in the bush at the moment…fear continues to weigh him down. (6”)

MARAKA LOMARIAKIPI: (In Turkana)
Their mother is going to visit and I am going also, to see them and my animals, and make certain they are safe
Because Turkana’s pastoralists frequently travel great distances The World Health Organization sponsors health education and outreach programs designed to detect disease quickly and keep it from spreading. (13")

And UNICEF supports mobile schools … simple tents where basic lessons are taught. (6")

The ultimate goal of these programs, to reach difficult, at risk populations, and give people options for their future…something the whole country can benefit from. (10")

PETER EKAI LOKOEL: (In English)

We want out there one day to have more engineers, to have more doctors, to have more development workers, to see to it that as a county we are actually in the modern world. (11")

Turkana County Deputy Governor Peter Ekai Lokoel (Peter E-Kai Lo-Ko-el) believes only careful and coordinated planning can prompt that transition. (9")

He’s happy to partner with the Human Security project because even as some pastoralists move further afield… others are settling down … increasing the
populations of townships and putting additional pressures on government services. (14”)

PETER EKAI LOKOEL: (In English)
We recognize the fact that as a county we cannot do everything and that also resources are meager. // We realize that we need a multi-pronged approach, a multi-faceted approach to the problems of Turkana, to issues of climate change. Unless we join hands with others, we cannot do it alone. (19”)

NARRATION
And so Lokoel welcomes international support to help make immunizations and pre-natal care routine and available at local health centers… just a normal part of everyday life. (14”)

But it’s not just outsiders making things happen. (2”)

SHOVELING FOR IRRIGATION
Community involvement is critical to insure progress to truly takes hold, says Fatma Said. (6”)

Take for instance a water well. (2”)

FATMA SAID: (In English)
If you set up a borehole somewhere, it’s going to breakdown at some point. So what we do, we form water users association committee or water management committees to be able to manage that borehole. (12”)

NARRATION
Maraka also wants greater control over his future...
BUT at the moment he’s more focused on the safety of his children … out caring for livestock in a DANGEROUS part of the county…(12”)

MARAKA LOMARIKAPI : (In Turkana)
The safety of my children is a constant concern. I am worried about the situation right now, (9”)

CAMP GENERAL SHOTS

NARRATION
He sets off to find them and eventually arrives at their camp… (4”)

The girls greet their father … But his son has gone with the camels... looking for water and pasture. (6”)

Reassurance will come only once he returns. Maraka’s quest to ensure the safety and survival of his family, is mirrored by many others in Turkana. (11”)

Former pastoralist Hellen Long’oli Kamareat Lokirdi (Hellen Long-oli Kam-ar-et Lo-Kir-Di )has found her own path to greater security. (7”)

A widow, mother of seven, and grandmother of one Hellen used to worry about how she’d feed her family. (6”)

HELEN LONG’OLI KAMARET LOKIRDI: (In Turkana) I felt pain, because life was hard when my husband died. I was stressed and thinking all the time about my
children’s future. (10")

WALKING TO FIELDS

NARRATION
Then she joined women’s groups and received agricultural training from the government. (5”)

WORKING THE FIELDS

In the end she chose to replace regular long distance migration with a daily 15-minute commute… from her homestead to this nearby plot of land – (10”)

SINGING/CLAPPING

For her, the change has worked out well. She now leads a small farming cooperative, cultivating the land with her partners. (8”)

FATMA SAID: (In English)
As opposed to it being an emergency every time we have drought, we want the communities to be able to adapt, to have the coping mechanisms necessary to adapt to these climate changes. (10”)

NARRATION

Helen’s cooperative sows seeds provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization, a human security program partner – drought resistant crops, like sorghum, cereal grasses, fruits, and mangos… and they even grow enough to sell their surplus. (18”)

Solar power drives the irrigation pumps here… and Hellen harvests hope. (5”)

ON CAMERA

HELLEN LONG’OLI KAMARET LOKIRDI: (In Turkana)
My life has changed because. I don’t wait for food anymore, with pastoralism one gets milk and butter only during the rainy season, but with farming you get food all time. (15”)

WATER FLOWING

Of course irrigation schemes ALSO depend on rainfall to raise the Turkwell river and the surrounding water table, so the National Drought Authority employs signal flags to indicate regional water levels to the local population and warn of looming shortages. (17”)

FEEDING KIDS

Armed with this knowledge, Helen not only feeds her children, but she regularly feeds her neighbors’ children as well. (7”)

HELLEN LONG’OLI KAMARET LOKIRDI: (In Turkana)

What I can say is that, when there is peace, better education and enough food available for the whole population and increased medical facilities. Development will flourish, helping the next generation to live. (20”)

NARRATION

Helen’s dreams are shared by many in Turkana… but remain a long way from reality for most, including Maraka Lomariakipi. (9”)

MARAKA LOMARIAKIPI: (In Turkana)

I am a person with many problems. (3”)
NARRATION
Maraka’s most immediate concern … the safety of his oldest son… (5”)
Comfort comes only once the shadows become long…and this reformed warrior assists his son, armed for his protection, driving their camels back to camp. (12”)

CAMELS

MARAKA LOMARIKAPI: (In Turkana)
the life I want, in Turkana and here in Kenya, // to live here peacefully // I don’t want to deal with raids anymore. // Let us embrace peace. (10”)

NARRATION
SINGING Lending their voices to Maraka’s call for peace, the Turkwell Theater Association performs as part of the human security program’s public awareness campaign. (11”)

DANCING

GOATS Their message is about getting children into school, ensuring food supplies through farming and peaceful negotiation. All this can help pastoralism survive the challenges of climate change … and secure the future for everyone in Turkana… in every aspect of their lives. (22”)