



# SUPPORTING PROGRAMMES

THE LARGELY PASTORALIST COMMUNITY OF TURKANA ARE REGULARLY AFFECTED BY DROUGHTS AND POVERTY LEVELS ARE HIGH. HELIOS HAS BEEN SUPPORTING OXFAM PROGRAMME TEAMS TO MANAGE AND DELIVER QUALITY PROJECTS IN TURKANA.



Photo: Ruth Dorrell/Oxfam

*“HELIOS has improved accountability for everyone involved. Now, everyone knows what is required for their project.”*



▶ Oxfam have worked in the region of Turkana for over 40 years

## GABRIEL EKUWAM, PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Gabriel is part of the Programme team in Turkana, Kenya. He and the team have been using HELIOS since 2010. We asked him about his experience with HELIOS and how it has helped improved the way Oxfam delivers programmes throughout the region. ▶▶▶▶



**“Planning has really helped us to deliver to beneficiaries because there is now a way for us to actually see what we need for a procurement.”** Gabriel Ekuwam, Programme Coordinator

### How has HELIOS improved the way you work?

We do not have to ask someone where we are in the process now, because we are on top of the entire procurement process. I can actually go into the system, check the status of that particular procurement and I'm able to more easily follow up if there are delays. We can make sure that what was planned for is procured in time. You are also able to make decisions at every level of the procurement process.

### Does HELIOS help save money?

You can't budget beyond what has been allocated, so HELIOS is able to prompt if you go beyond. It helps you to look again at areas where you need to make some cuts so that you work within the budget provisions.

▶▶▶ *"There are very few chances where we are able to overspend thanks to HELIOS"*

### Can you tell us a bit about Collaborative Planning?

When we started doing the first supply plan, some of the items had not been foreseen by the project team as requirements. We started to see many request orders and adding these to the supply plan. Of course, the risk is you can overspend because these weren't things that were planned. So we have now agreed that all the procurements should follow the entire cycle. It has to be collaborative planning right from the outset to the end. It also minimises the chances you will have poor relations with the donor because we all know donors don't like surprises, they want to really know the plan ahead of time.

### Does information from HELIOS help your decision making?

As management I have certainly used information from HELIOS to make decisions. When we went live with HELIOS most of the stock had not been moved through. I convened a meeting and we discussed with the Senior Management Team on how we might

actually be able to utilise those project items. The decision we made was to move those items to the existing projects and I think as a result of that we also stopped some of procurements related to items we were transferring. So that was a saving in terms of the project cost, and we actually utilised those surplus items from other projects that we were implementing.

### What is the biggest benefit for you using HELIOS?

I feel HELIOS is so dynamic, very agile, it can be updated as and when. It has never been static since we began, we've had several phases. We've also had several challenges that have been addressed in HELIOS and I feel it has made it easier than when we were using the paperwork. So to me, it's really very, very nice software. If it was never kept updated, it would be very frustrating for the teams. But we've kept on giving our suggestions on areas that needs to be improved and seen them captured.

▶▶▶ *"We've had our improvement suggestions heard and added to the system."*

I feel it's really a very good system that with time has made the logistics of procurement easier than it was before.



Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

▶ The women of Nawoyatir village sing and dance in celebration of the arrival of clean water from boreholes installed in 2012. The community is overjoyed at how this vital source of clean water will impact their lives.

## WHAT IS HELIOS?

- ▶ HELIOS is an online system designed for programmes in the field to help staff to plan, monitor and track all the supplies needed for their projects.
- ▶ It helps project team to deliver quality programmes to beneficiaries on time, to budget and be accountable both to those beneficiaries and donors.
- ▶ Since 2010, Oxfam has been rolling out the system and introducing better Supply Chain Management processes to countries with high supply chain spend.
- ▶ As a result of reducing wastage of stock and increasing efficiencies, Oxfam has realised £2.5 million of financial savings to December 2012



▶▶▶▶ email [HELIOS@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:HELIOS@oxfam.org.uk) for more details

**HELIOS LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE** ▶▶▶▶ **ASIA** ▶ Bangkok ▶ Dhaka ▶ Jakarta ▶ Islamabad  
**HECA** ▶ Addis-Ababa ▶ Dar-es-Salam ▶ Dire Dawa ▶ Jijiga ▶ Lodwar ▶ Kampala ▶ Kitgum ▶ Kotido  
▶ Nairobi ▶ Somalia Programme **LAC** ▶ Port-au-Prince **SAF** ▶ Harare ▶ Pretoria **WAF** ▶ Dakar ▶ Morovia