



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity

Creating resilient, competitive and inclusive market systems



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE





Who We Are

The Feed the Future Kenya Livestock Market Systems (LMS) activity was funded by USAID, the U.S. government's development aid agency, and implemented by ACDI/VOCA – a global leader with proven expertise in agriculture, economic growth, resilience, finance, equity, and inclusion.

Our Goal

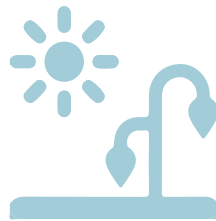
The activity's goal is to improve people's resilience – their ability to cope with stresses and shocks – while reducing poverty, hunger, and chronic under nutrition in six counties in northern Kenya – Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana, and Wajir.



Our Objectives

USAID LMS prioritizes co-investing with county governments and leverages the private sector to:-

- Expanding and diversifying viable economic opportunities
- Strengthening institutions, systems, and governance
- Improving human capital to help individuals become more resilient and prepared for economic engagement
- Fostering collaborative action and learning for market systems



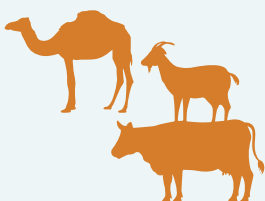
Our Activities

Strengthened Livestock Markets

USAID in collaboration with county governments operationalized 36 livestock markets in northern Kenya to boost trade and income for pastoralist families. To improve market management, USAID LMS trained Livestock Marketing Associations (LMAs) on important aspects like leadership, marketing, record keeping, and inclusivity.

More importantly, LMS actively advocates for the enactment of market-friendly laws to create a supportive environment that encourages trade.

As a result of USAID's initiatives, household incomes for 78,617 pastoralists in Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, and Turkana counties increased significantly by 40 percent between 2017 and 2022. This positive impact extended to approximately 471,702 individuals, making up 20 percent of the pastoral population in these areas.



40%

Percentage increase in household income for **78,617** pastoralists in northern Kenya





Strengthened Key Business Institutions

USAID LMS played a key role in the growth of key institutions like Chambers of Commerce, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) cooperatives, and Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs). By enhancing their access to resources and networks, these institutions were able to deliver better services and drive economic growth.



2,600

Businesses strengthened to deliver better services and drive economic growth

USAID LMS assisted entrepreneurs, particularly those in the livestock sector, with innovative ideas to establish or expand their businesses. This included investments in milk processing, value addition of camel

and goat milk, modernized feedlots, and distribution/cold chain services. USAID LMS also prioritized the diversification of economic opportunities, such as poultry, fish, and beekeeping, to improve livelihoods and reduce pressure on rangelands. Through partnerships with county governments, USAID LMS successfully strengthened over 2,600 diversified businesses.

In addition to supporting business growth, the Activity helped entrepreneurs access financial services and products enabling them to participate in viable economic activities within the market systems. These efforts created job opportunities, increased household income, and boosted the local economy.

With the Chamber of Commerce in various counties, USAID LMS provided training in corporate governance, leadership, policy advocacy, strategic planning, and membership drives. This partnership enhanced the capacities of the enterprises to contribute effectively to local economic development, for a thriving business environment.

Boosted Food Availability for Vulnerable Households

USAID LMS provided economic stimulus support to 5,497 out of a target of 5,755 small-scale food and livestock traders with cash transfers, to boost access to food commodities to vulnerable households and keep businesses afloat. This was crucial during times of economic challenges, such as the drought and the war in Ukraine, which impacted the livelihoods of smallholder traders.



The traders who benefited from the support

5,497 traders

received \$519,360, boosting businesses, and enhancing food availability for vulnerable communities

included livestock buyers, transporters, and food commodity suppliers. These traders play vital roles including providing essential food commodities like cereals, vegetables, and pulses, for vulnerable communities. The support varied depending on the value of the stock and the operational level of the trader, ranging from \$80 to \$400 per trader.

Supported County Governments Legislative Processes

USAID LMS governance and policy work created sustainable and inclusive development in northern Kenya. We worked towards equitable allocation of resources that promoted peace and food security. LMS collaborated with other partners to create an enabling environment for communities to access environmental, social, and economic opportunities within the market systems, to reduce poverty and enhance community resilience.

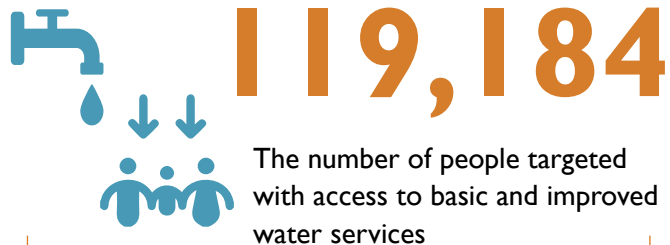
We supported counties in developing livestock, social protection, gender, and youth policies. This was aimed at reducing gender disparities in accessing, controlling and benefiting from resources, opportunities, and services.

Promoted Access to Water Sanitation and Hygiene

USAID LMS worked closely with county governments and ward development planning committees in the six activity counties to rehabilitate 47 community water projects and provide sustainable access to clean drinking water to 119,184 people (19,864 households) and their livestock out of a target of 121,020 people (20,170 households).

The interventions included the repair of damaged borehole components, installing new pipelines and solar-power systems, as well as refurbishing or constructing water kiosks. To sustain water management, USAID LMS trained water users' associations (WUAs) on critical topics such as water resource management, community engagement, environmental considerations, gender and social inclusion, and financial management.

To reduce the spread of germs and diseases among communities and improve school attendance, USAID LMS constructed latrines complete with water tanks in different schools. USAID LMS also reinforced hygiene messaging on hand hygiene, menstrual and personal hygiene, and environmental cleanliness through training sessions in different schools.



Community-led Development

Through a localization approach, USAID LMS strengthened the roles, functions, and interactions of various actors within local systems, such as ward planning committees (WPCs), water users associations, livestock market associations, and Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods (GIRL). This approach empowered





marginalized and underrepresented groups by developing their local capacities and providing them with the necessary skills and opportunities to lead their development. USAID LMS increased funding flows by providing in-kind grants to county governments, small and medium enterprises, and chambers of commerce.

Through collaboration with local implementing partners, USAID LMS supported the development of ward plans through WPCs. This ensured that the priorities identified in these plans were considered during the counties' Integrated Development Plan (CIDP). Additionally, LMS worked closely with local civil society organizations to effectively deliver onward development planning and the GIRL model. The ultimate goal ensured that the solutions implemented were owned by the local community and could be sustained even after the activity's completion.

Promoted Gender and Social Inclusion

USAID LMS empowered women and girls to break free from social norms and stereotypes that hindered their engagement in businesses. This enabled women to actively utilize the available resources and make decisions that gave them control over household income allocation, leading to improved family well-being.

Additionally, USAID LMS advocated for an enabling environment for smallholder farmers,

predominantly women, and youth, to trade in livestock and non-livestock products and services.

24,057



The number of women participating in various activities within 19 livestock markets

As a result, USAID LMS facilitated the participation of 19,982 women and 8,971 youth in various activities within 19 livestock markets. Additionally, USAID LMS provided grants to 216 women and 118 youths to enhance their engagement in market development, business expansion, job creation, livelihood opportunities, and access to markets.

Empowered Girls into Sustainable Livelihoods

The Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods (GIRL) model targeted vulnerable adolescent girls aged between ten and 19 years who faced numerous challenges in their communities including child marriage, child pregnancy, gender-based violence, school dropout, or limited access to economic opportunities, assets, and financial services.

Through the GIRL model, USAID provided support to over 17,000 girls in northern Kenya, facilitating their

transition out of poverty into sustainable and resilient livelihoods. Among these 1,000 girls transitioned back into school, breaking barriers that once hindered their education. This transformative process not only reduced poverty and vulnerability in households but has also empowered the young girls to lead a more promising future.

The program achieved these outcomes through a comprehensive nine-month training and mentoring program within which the girls acquired essential life skills, numeracy, financial literacy, and business skills.

17,000 girls



reached through the Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihood (GIRL) approach

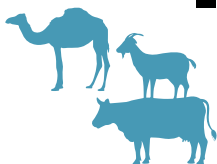
Improved Livestock Productivity

USAID LMS provided 6,712 households out of a target of 10,350 affected by drought in the worst-hit areas of Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana, Samburu, and Wajir counties with nutrient-dense livestock feeds, saving 152,860 livestock valued at \$4.7 million from drought-related deaths.

USAID LMS linked the households to local animal feed stockists to buy the animal feeds at a subsidized rate of \$5 for a 50-kilo bag. This subsidy guaranteed a consistent supply of animal feeds for pastoralists and established formal ties between the pastoralists and the feed stockists. This resulted in improved animal body conditions and better nutrition from milk, particularly for children aged under five years.

USAID also made a significant impact on the community by equipping them with valuable knowledge and access to quality animal health inputs and services to improve their health and increase the number of their animals.

152,860 livestock



survived drought with nutrient-rich supplementary feed to 6,712 households

This knowledge led to a remarkable average increase of 53 percent in animal yields between 2017 and 2022. Moreover, USAID LMS shared crucial market trends with the community, enabling them to sell their animals before their body conditions deteriorated.

Improved Nutrition

Recurrent droughts in northern Kenya led to a rise in malnutrition especially among pregnant and lactating women, as well as children. In response, USAID LMS supported pastoral communities enhance their nutrition practices through training and social behavior change campaigns. The nutrition component also promoted kitchen gardening, boosting the production and availability of nutritious foods.

As a result, the average number of food groups consumed by women increased from 2.9 in 2018 to 3.2 in 2023. While the proportion of women meeting the minimum dietary diversity increased from 9.7% in 2018 to 13% in 2023.

Collaborative Action

Our approach involved working closely with diverse partners, including state and county governments, the private sector, non-state actors like the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG), and formal as well as informal community institutions.

Through this collaborative initiative, partners combined their efforts and integrated activities to enhance market systems. By leveraging the strengths and expertise of each partner, we drove positive and sustainable change in the region's markets and fostered economic growth and resilience.

To learn more about our work or to partner with us, please visit our website: <https://www.acdivoca.org/projects/feed-the-future-kenya-livestock-market-systems-activity/> or contact a member of our team using the information provided below.

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