



FEED ^{THE} FUTURE

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



KENYA LIVESTOCK MARKETS ACTIVITY SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTCOMES BRIEF

This brochure highlights major outcomes identified in studies conducted by MERDA and HPRD in 2022 and 2024, respectively





Figure 1. Project Zone of Influence

The Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program that is part of the Feed the Future initiative for addressing poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. The Activity is implemented by ACIDI/VOCA in six counties in Northern Kenya: Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana, and Wajir.

Our goal is to create inclusive and competitive market systems to strengthen people’s resilience to shocks and stresses and reduce the prevalence and depth of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in northern Kenya.

We are achieving our goal by:

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

This brochure highlights major outcomes identified in studies conducted by Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research for Development in Africa (MERDA) and Horn Populations Research and Development (HPRD) in 2022 and 2024 respectively.

INCREASED RESILIENCE OF THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN NORTHERN KENYA



Increased sales have boosted household savings and, together with affordable, nutritious foods and behavior change campaigns, improved household nutrition. Photo credit: Mercy Mbuge/ACDI VOCA

Improved management of livestock markets and the enhanced skills and financing of livestock enterprises in northern Kenya resulted in increased revenue for livestock entrepreneurs. The sales have increased household savings and, along with increased access to more affordable, nutritious foods and behavior change campaigns, enhanced the consumption of nutritious foods at the household level.

The LMS-facilitated SACCO model has proven effective for livestock enterprises in northern Kenya, changing savings and financing behaviors and serving as a buffer to shocks/stressors. Other Activity outcomes, like improved market linkages and enhanced services from government entities, also promote an enabling environment that supports the resilience of the livestock sector in northern Kenya.

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK MARKETS



LMA's improved their relationships with livestock traders and surrounding communities, increasing market safety and resilience. Photo credit: Frank Muriithi/ACDIVOCA

“The community is now maintaining peace in the markets and along the highways to ensure the safe passage of traders. Any suspicious persons are reported immediately to the security agents, peace committees, and others to network and work together.”

~LMA member

\$85m 

In livestock enterprise sales facilitated by LMS

“The activities are becoming almost the same between the supported and non-supported markets. The markets that were not reached have picked good ideas from the supported markets.”

~County Government official

USAID Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity (LMS) improved the management of livestock markets through leadership/management training and exchange tours with Livestock Market Associations (LMAs).

The LMAs subsequently enhanced their relationships with livestock traders and surrounding communities to increase the safety of livestock markets and bolster market resilience.

36 Livestock Market Associations received capacity-building support directly from LMS

In over 20 livestock markets within LMS-targeted counties that did not receive direct support from LMS, the LMS-promoted management model has been replicated. These markets have formed Livestock Market Associations (LMAs) and enhanced their capacity to manage the markets effectively.

\$85 million in livestock enterprise sales facilitated due to LMS assistance

Sustainability. Without a bill that formalizes the sharing of market revenue between the county governments and their respective livestock markets, the LMAs must anticipate risks/difficulties in funding market maintenance and management. Communities around livestock markets in which revenue is not shared have demonstrated an unwillingness to pay livestock market fees, resulting in less revenue for government actors.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO FINANCIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR ENTREPRENEURS



The LMS model built strong networks and social capital in interest groups, fostering trust and social accountability for sustainable activities. Photo credit: Mercy Mbuge/ACDI VOCA

Less than 10% of the population in the arid and semi-arid areas access credit facilities from mainstream commercial banks. The low rate of credit access through mainstream commercial banks created the need for alternative financing platforms (SACCOs and Savings Groups) that could ease access to financial credit at more favorable terms.

Sustainability. The LMS model promoted the building of strong networks and social capital in common interest groups. The members bonded more and built more trust amongst themselves reinforcing social accountability which supports the sustainability of the group activities.

70 cooperatives established and strengthened through capacity enhancement, membership drives, and policy work to improve governance and management



701 savings groups formed with accumulated savings of \$2,675,743 which are gradually transitioning into cooperatives



SACCO loans totaling \$1,131,946 were disbursed to 4,744 individuals

“Our cooperative has built strong foundations and networks through the USAID LMS project, and we have developed sustainable practices and partnerships that will continue to benefit us even after the project concludes. We are committed to maintaining and nurturing these relationships independently to ensure the continued growth and success of our cooperative.”

~Cooperative member

INCREASED EMPLOYMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) in and within the vicinity of the LMS-supported livestock markets made significant contributions to job creation in their efforts to establish a self-sustaining market ecosystem with different players either creating jobs for themselves or creating jobs for other community members in the enterprises that they run.

“LMS activities have resulted in the creation of employment opportunities after we adopted the skills. For example, we are practicing farming hence hiring people to work at the farm and the individual businesses e.g. saloon, bodaboda (transport using motorcycles), kiosks, and hotel businesses have created job opportunities for many youths.”

Sustainability: The sustainability of the income from these jobs is dependent on the continued operation of the livestock markets and the MSMEs. Different factors will influence whether these markets will continue to operate optimally as the guarantee now is on informal agreements on sharing revenues to maintain the markets as the bills are yet to be passed.



7,405 MSMEs supported

68% of the entrepreneurs rated their profits to have increased by 10% to 20%

32% reported a profit increase of beyond 20%



67% of the entrepreneurs had adopted new practices and behaviors due to LMS assistance



• Record keeping (97%) • Finance management (47%) • Sales and marketing (34%)



Livestock markets have increased employment opportunities for youth who provide services including animal loading and transportation. Photo credit: Sheila Obi/ACDIVOCA

INCREASED SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS

LMS facilitated nutrition training, kitchen gardening, social behavior change campaigns, and increased access to affordable, nutritious foods via vendors at LMS-assisted livestock markets. These changes, along with increased incomes, have greatly impacted the consumption habits of LMS participants.

Sustainability. The sustainability of this outcome will be influenced by the availability of nutritious food commodities which is dependent on the continued operation of the livestock markets. Enhanced security in the livestock markets will ensure that traders continue to sell their products at these markets provided the fuel and food commodity prices remain favorable. Since the LMS approach was facilitative, nutrition training offered by the Community Health Volunteers will continue beyond LMS. Additionally, practices such as kitchen gardening, poultry rearing, and beekeeping will continue even without the existence of the markets since this is not where they primarily sell their goods.

"Yes, our mindset has changed. I can be able to decide what to cook for my family and also I can host visitors at home, and make decisions on what to cook for them because I have my income. Before USAID LMS, I could only wait for my husband to provide money and make decisions on what to buy. I can also decide what to plant on our farm, where we grow food crops."

~Isiolo participant

From 2.9 in 2018 to 3.2 in 2023

The average # of food groups consumed by women



9.7% in 2018 to 20.16% in 2023

% growth of women consuming diets of minimum diversity



By training residents in the Activity counties on kitchen gardening, USAID LMS has supported the consumption of nutritious foods. Photo credit: Sheila Obi/ACDIVOCA

STRENGTHENED GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY CAPACITIES AND COLLABORATION IN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (NRM), EMERGENCY PLANNING & CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



*LMS also facilitated establishing and training county resource teams focused on rangeland management.
Photo credit: ACDI VOCA*

LMS supported 1,763 county government staff with training in strategic planning, organization development, resource mapping, and governance to improve community service delivery. LMS also facilitated the establishment and capacity building of County Resource Teams (CRT) which are specialized teams of government staff focused on rangelands management in each county, as well as Ward Planning Committees (WPCs), which consist of elected citizens that encourage community participation in ward development planning and who coordinate with the government on these initiatives. These activities resulted in improved government services, buy-in, and enhanced mechanisms for decision-making around natural resource management, emergency planning and conflict management.

Sustainability. The passing of the Ward Development Fund (WDF) bill is key for the sustainability of the WPCs.



10 policies supported



10 strategic plans supported

\$216,056 government monies/resources leveraged to support NRM, Emergency Planning and Conflict Management



19,733 hectares under improved natural resource management





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