



FEED THE FUTURE

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



LIVESTOCK MARKET SYSTEMS ACTIVITY

Strengthening Community Capacities for Resilience and Growth

Annual Progress Report

October 2020 – September 2021





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Acronyms List

AA1	Associate Award 1	NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
AA2	Associate Award 2	NRM	Natural Resource Management
ACSM	Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization	MC	Mercy Corps
ADP	Annual Development Plan	MID-P	Merti Integrated Development Program
ASDSP	Agricultural Sector Development Support Program	ODP	European Union Funded Omo Delta Program
AVCD	USAID funded Accelerated Value Chain Development	MoH	Ministry of Health
BMU	Beach Management Unit	PRM	Participatory Rangeland Management
CEC	County Executive Committee member	RACIDA	Rural Agency for Community Development and Assistance
CHU	Community Health Unit	REAP	Rural Entrepreneur Access Project
CHV	Community Health Volunteer	RLA	Resilience Learning Activity
CIDP	County Integrated Development plan	RMC	Rangeland Management Committee
CRT	County Resource Team	ROAD	Rights Organisation for Advocacy and Development
CSG	County Steering Group	SAPCONE	St. Peter's Community Network
DLI	Desert Locust Invasion	SCCRG	Strengthening Community Capacities for Resilience and Growth
DSP	Disaster Scenario Planning	SC RMC	Sub County Rangeland Management Committee
EWER	Early Warning Early Response	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council	WASDA	Wajir South Development Agency
GIRL	Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
GIS	Geographic Information System	WDF	Ward Development Fund
GOK	Government of Kenya	WDP	Ward Development Plan
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute	WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
KEFRI	Kenya Forest Research Institute	WRMC	Ward Rangeland Management Committee
KCSAP	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project	WYEF	Women and Youth Enterprise Fund
KFS	Kenya Forest Service	WOKIKE	Womankind Kenya
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service	WPC	Ward Planning Committee
LMS	USAID funded feed the future Kenya Livestock Market Systems		
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority		



Introduction

The Kenya Livestock Market Systems - Strengthening Communities Capacities for Resilience and Growth (LMS-SCCRG) program is an Associate Award under the Leader with Associate (LWA) managed by ACIDI VOCA. This award is implemented by Mercy Corps and 8 local partners and contributes to USAID/Kenya's Feed the Future efforts to sustainably reduce global hunger, malnutrition, and poverty through inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led growth, strengthened resilience, and improved nutritional status of the population. The local partners include St Peter's Community Network (SAPCONE) in Turkana, Wajir South Development Association (WASDA) and Rural Agency for Community Development and Assistance (RACIDA) in Wajir, Womankind Kenya (WOKIKE) and Rights Organization for Advocacy and Development (ROAD) in Garissa, Merti Integrated Development Program (MID-P) and SIDAI Africa in Isiolo, and Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC).

The program focuses on strengthening and building community and county government institutions for sustainable development through

the ward-based development approach, which aims to empower communities to take the lead in determining their development priorities and hold County Governments accountable for resources. This approach integrates community development, disaster risks reduction, and market systems to achieve transformational change. Through Ward Planning Committees, the program also aims to build stable and effective institutions and communities that can successfully manage their natural resources, such as rangelands and water, by strengthening the capacity of community and county government institutions.

In addition, the program aims to develop human capital to help vulnerable individuals, such as adolescent girls, become more resilient and prepared for economic engagement. To achieve this, the program implements interventions that seek to improve health, nutrition, and hygiene practices as well as literacy, numeracy, and life skills.

Executive Summary



A total of 32 WPCs in 32 wards with a population of 695,066 persons.



Community priorities totaling **\$8,585,100** have been implemented across 5 County Governments



The community projects will have an additional contribution of **\$239,111** from communities and county governments

This year, the Livestock Market System - Strengthening Community Capacities for Resilience and Growth (LMS-SCCRG) activities continued to adapt activities according to COVID-19 regulations. Most meetings and coordination activities were conducted virtually to maintain safe distances between participants and avoid any likelihood of COVID-19 transfer. Physical meetings were done in small groups and in open spaces where safe distances could be maintained, and participants wore masks.

Under Objective One, the program supported 17 additional ward planning committees (WPCs). As such, across the whole program a total of 32 WPCs in 32 wards with a population of 695,066 persons developed closer partnerships with County Resource Teams (CRTs), enabling communities to be supported by a localized institution for sustainability. The CRT in charge of rangeland management and Disaster Risk Reduction supported WPCs to begin rolling out Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) and intercountry Disaster Scenario Planning (DSP) and simulation exercises with bordering counties. The PRM model incorporated both grazing plan management as well as the mitigation of resource-based conflicts associated with pasture and water. The DSP ensured a close working relationship between the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and various county government sectoral leads to ensure coordinated, risk-informed and shock-responsive planning, simulation, budget allocation, and implementation.

The program, through WPCs, actively engaged county governments during public participation in drafting the fiscal paper for initiating the annual development plans. The WPCs ensured their development

Through the Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods (GIRL) model, adolescent girls' savings and business values totaled **\$233,125.66.**

Executive Summary

66,690 individuals, composed of 17,166 adolescent girls and young women, 720 adolescent girl mentors, 375 WPC members, and a mixed group of 42,536 individuals targeted with WASH, Nutrition and COVID 19 social behavior change communication.

priorities were included in the fiscal paper to guide technical committees during budget estimations. Across the five counties, community priorities totaling \$8,585,100 have been implemented by county governments due to constant advocacy by the WPCs. The WPCs have also submitted concepts to the LMS program for potential funding. Currently, community projects worth \$627,786 have been approved by USAID, projects worth \$244,782 have been submitted to USAID for approval, and \$120,566 are under negotiation with USAID. Except for those still under negotiation, all the submitted projects have completed the Environmental Impact Assessments and design stages. These community projects will have an additional contribution of \$239,111 from communities and county governments as co-share. Most of these projects address water shortages for human, livestock, and productive uses (irrigation).

The program continued to strengthen government and community capacity in Disaster Risk Management (DRM). The program facilitated the training of WPCs on Early Warning Early Response (EWER) and linked WPCs to NDMA's systems. As a result, WPCs have become integral in the dissemination of early warning and climate information advisories to at-risk communities using WhatsApp groups, local radio stations, and public community meetings.

SCCRG has directly worked with approximately 66,690 individuals, composed of 17,166 adolescent girls and young women, 720 adolescent girl mentors, 375 WPC members, and a mixed group of 42,536 individuals targeted with WASH, Nutrition and COVID 19 social behavior change communication. These stakeholders have

\$627,786

Value of community projects approved by USAID

\$244,782

Value of projects submitted to USAID for approval

\$120,566

Value of projects under negotiation with USAID

Executive Summary

\$31,480

Amount so far received by girls from external sources to expand their businesses

\$103,233

Amount that has been leveraged from LMS small grants

\$10 million

Amount received by Mercy Corps to expand the GIRL model in Kenya, Uganda and Haiti, targeting 70,000 adolescent girls, boys and young women

been engaged as advocacy champions to protect nutrition gains in the face of drought, address drivers of chronic undernutrition, spearhead WASH, nutrition, and COVID-19 social behavior change communication, support county initiatives for improved education, and promote basic literacy and life skills. Through the Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods (GIRL) model, adolescent girls' savings and business values totaled \$233,125.66. In addition, 550 girls transitioned to primary school, 33 girls to secondary school, 268 to adult education, and 248 to Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET). The agri-nutrition training and mentorship provided under the GIRL model also enabled 2,210 girls to transition to farming vegetables for improved nutrition and income generation, while 3,113 began group and individual businesses in their communities. Finally, the program linked girls with both government and development partners to support their transitions. So far, girls have received approximately \$31,480 from external sources to expand their businesses, and another \$103,233 has been leveraged from LMS small grants.

Mercy Corps has also used the lessons learned in implementing the GIRL model to develop a GIRL strategy, which has been used to raise additional funds with private donors. Mercy Corps received \$10 million to expand the GIRL model in Kenya, Uganda and Haiti and reach at least 70,000 adolescent girls, boys, and young women. The program will rely on the LMS AA2 GIRL model, support transition pathways among the current LMS GIRL model participants and reach an additional 10,000 adolescent girls in Kenya. LMS AA2 has also received an additional \$200,000 from Bridges Fund to support the transition pathways of at least 1,500 adolescent girls and boys in Turkana and Wajir through our local partners SAPCONE and WASDA. These gains speak to the substantial effort of LMS AA2 to scale and sustain the impact of the GIRL model.

LMS SCCRG has also received an additional \$200,000 from Bridges Fund to support the transition pathways of at least 1,500 adolescent girls and boys in Turkana and Wajir



Key Achievements

Objective 1. Strengthened Institutions, Systems, and Governance

In Year 4, the activity focused on building the capacity of local partners, County Resource Teams for rangeland management and disaster risk reduction, and county government and development partners to support the ward-based planning process for scale and sustainability.

Achievements

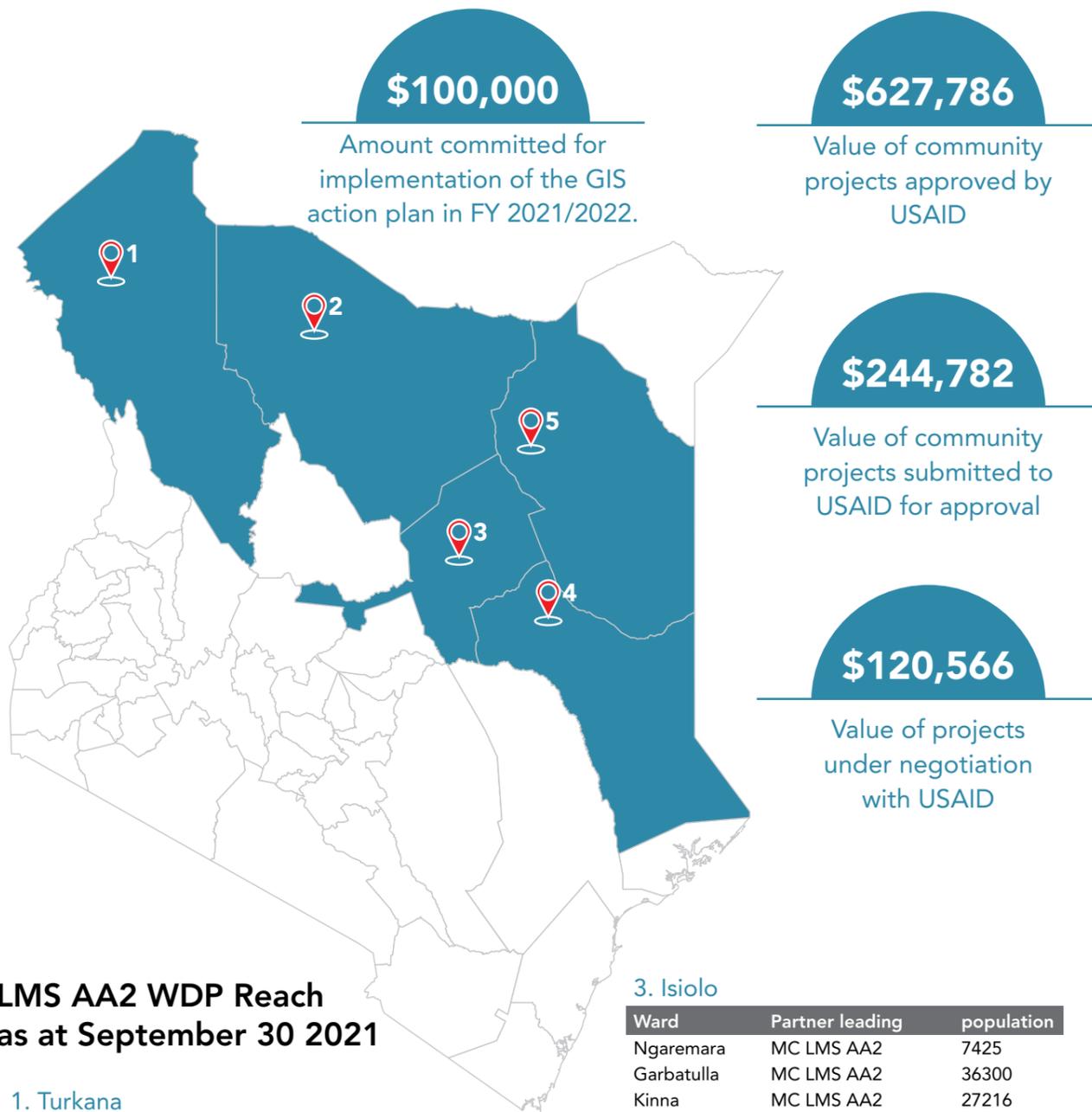
- The activity has reached 32 wards out of the 24 wards proposed in the original proposal. The ability to surpass a minimum of 24 wards is due to stakeholder acceptance and belief that a community driven coordination and accountability platform is necessary to bring devolution to the ward level. As a result, Concern Worldwide through the USAID-funded I-CREATE program has expanded the ward planning process in four additional wards in Turkana County, while the World Bank-funded Climate Smart Agriculture Program has expanded the process in four wards in Isiolo County.
- To institutionalize the ward-based planning process, LMS AA2 through FCDC has spearheaded advocacy of the Ward Development Fund Bill across the FCDC counties. The bill which was drafted by the FCDC Secretariat is ready for public participation and discussions with both the executive and the county assemblies in year 5. Once the WDF Bill becomes an act, all the 10 FCDC counties will be allocated resources

32

Wards reached out of the 24 wards proposed in the original proposal

\$8,585,100

Total amount implemented by county governments



LMS AA2 WDP Reach as at September 30 2021

1. Turkana

Ward	Partner leading	population
Lake zone	MC LMS AA2	35033
Songot	MC LMS AA2	33539
Kaleng-Kaikor	MC LMS AA2	25203
Lopur	SAPCONE LMS AA2	21056
Katilu	SAPCONE LMS AA2	22320
Kalokol	Concern World wide	19477
Kangatotha	Concern World wide	22695
Nakalale	Concern World wide	15488
Lapur	MC ODP program	17430

2. Marsabit

Ward	Partner leading	population
Golbo	MC LMS AA2	31425
Kargi-South Horr	MC LMS AA2	15589
Maikona	MC LMS AA2	23857
Loiyangalani	MC LMS AA2	20124
Obbu	MC LMS AA2	7806

3. Isiolo

Ward	Partner leading	population
Ngaremara	MC LMS AA2	7425
Garbatulla	MC LMS AA2	36300
Kinna	MC LMS AA2	27216
Bula Pesa	MID P LMS AA2	30992
Cherab	MID P LMS AA2	39538
Sericho	KCSAP	36213
Oldonyiro	KCSAP	20137
Chari	KCSAP	7665

4. Garissa

Ward	Partner leading	population
Bura	MC LMS AA2	5316
Benane	MC LMS AA2	13133
Masalani	MC LMS AA2	13450
Waberi	ROAD LMS AA2	20617
Balambala	ROAD LMS AA2	20329

5. Wajir

Ward	Partner leading	population
Bute	MC LMS AA2	26737
Hahado	MC LMS AA2	19264
Habaswein	MC LMS AA2	21750
Eldas	RACIDA LMS AA2	19322
Tarbaj	RACIDA LMS AA2	18560

Achievements

and support the formation of ward planning committees in the wards as well as allocate funds for ward-based development in line with the ward development plans coordinated by the WPCs.

- Across the five counties, community priorities worth a total of \$5,585,100 have been implemented by county governments due to constant advocacy by the WPCs.
- Currently, community projects worth \$627,786 have been approved by USAID, projects worth \$244,782 have been submitted to USAID for approval, and \$120,566 are under negotiation with USAID. These community projects will have an additional community contribution of \$239,111, which is mainly from the county governments. Most of these projects address water shortages for human, livestock, and productive uses (irrigation).
- The activity supported the Wajir county government to develop a GIS strategy based

on an already existing GIS laboratory in Wajir. The GIS strategy was aimed at enabling the county government of Wajir to make investments to establish a County Development Management System with technology assisted levels of access including hardware-based and web-based platforms for data interaction between the executive and the public. The Wajir County Governor is fast tracking the implementation of the GIS action plan and has committed at least KES 10 million (\$100,000) for implementation of the GIS action plan in the government financial year 2021/2022. To expand the vision to other counties, the activity supported a GIS learning visit for the counties of Turkana, Isiolo, Marsabit, Garissa and Samburu in Wajir. The learning visit gave insight to the visiting counties which enabled them to develop their own GIS action plan for rolling out a similar countywide data management system for decision making in their own counties.



Figure 1: The Chief Officer Lands (Wajir), Ahmed Hassan showcasing a sub-county resource map generated through GIS technology. Photo Credit: Josephine Kiruku (Mercy Corps)

Strengthened and Sustained Rangeland and Water Management

The activity continued with efforts to support communities through the Ward Planning Committees (WPCs) to ensure strengthened rangeland and water management. The support to ward planning committees involved close collaboration with the County Resource Teams, relevant county government departments, NDMA, PREG and non-PREG partners, and local community leadership.

Achievements

1. Provided guidance to 15 WPCs in following up on collaboration with County Governments to finalize several fundraising proposals and to fast track their advocacy for implementation of their WDPs. All 15 wards have now submitted community grants and innovation funding concepts available within the LMS leader grant portfolio. Each of the 15 wards have specific concepts which are aimed at improving water infrastructure and management aligned to their discussions on grazing management across the wards and counties. **Approximately \$891,679 in community and innovation grants from USAID support have been finalized. An additional \$185,000 has been leveraged from the county government and other development partners.** In addition to the leveraged cost share, the WPCs advocated and influenced inclusion of their priorities (which will promote water and pasture management) into the 2020/2021 Annual Development Plan. Approximately \$1,710,100 has been invested by the counties to promote water and pasture management because of WPC advocacy.
2. Supported WPCs and CRTs in charge of rangeland management to continue rolling out Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) with communities. **This year, all five counties used the PRM tool kit. The CRT in each of the counties had a one-week workshop with both the WPCs and the rangeland management sub-committees in each of the 15 wards or rangeland management units to develop the implementation plan for participatory rangeland management.** The CRTs were integral not only in leading the community representatives during the process but also in ensuring the agreements made are integrated with county governments efforts to strengthen and streamline holistic rangeland management.
3. LMS SCCRG also worked closely with the forestry department for **gazettement of rangelands as protected areas as well as discouraging the ongoing deforestation in the rangelands by promoting afforestation and protection of indigenous trees.** This initiative ensured Gazettement of Bute Malaba hills in Wajir covering an area of 19,171 square kilometers as a protected and a dry season grazing area. The County Resource Team in charge of Rangeland Management in Wajir has now been charged with developing a grazing plan for the protected area to ensure conservation and reseedling as well as limiting settlements. In Turkana, the county assembly house committee has approved the gazettement of Songot Hills to give way for the forestry department to carry out the aerial surveys before gazettement and implementation of management plan.

\$891,679

Approximate amount in community and innovation grants from USAID support finalized

\$185,000

Additional amount leveraged from the county government and other development partners

17,910

square kilometers to be set aside as a protected area and dry season grazing rangeland.

\$11,267.25

proposed grant submitted to USAID for approval.

Specific Key Achievements by County

Wajir County

The program worked closely with the Ward Planning Committees (WPCs) in Bute, Hadado, Habaswein, Eldas and Tarbaj and the county resource team in charge of rangeland management and provided the necessary linkages with the county government, local and development partners.

Key activities and outcomes included:

Streamlining coordination of rangeland management activities in Wajir North.

In collaboration with the CRT on rangeland management, Bute WPC met with the ward rangeland committee to support streamlining rangeland management coordination in the north. The existing rangeland committees in the ward include location grazing committees and ward and sub-county rangeland committees. The three committees agreed on the composition and hierarchy for managing water and pasture availability at the location, ward, and sub county levels. These committees engaged the county government which led to the gazettement of Bute Malaba hills, approximately 17,910 square kilometers to be set aside as a protected area and dry season grazing rangeland.

LMS SCCRG in collaboration with County Resource Team in charge of rangeland management, WFP, AVCD/ILRI, the Department of Social Service, and the Department of Land, conducted a Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) training for Bute Ward Rangeland Management Committee (BWRMC).

The County Physical Planner supported the committee to come up with sketches of the grazing zones which he will further work on to produce a grazing reserve map and incorporate it into the County Physical plans.

Supporting Bute WPC to finalize submission of innovation grant for automation of water kiosks to improve water management.

The program linked Bute WPC with the county governments' department of water which carried out feasibility and technical assessments, including for the water quality, architectural designs, quantity surveying and environmental assessments and approvals. The WPC worked with their county government to source these needed experts locally within the county in line with the sustainability plan of LMS SCCRG interventions as well as USAID's Journey to Self-reliance. The support to WPC ensured submission of the proposed grant of \$11,267.25 to USAID for approval. The innovation grants were approved to support the automation of water meters in six water kiosks in Bute ward, thus ensuring better management, efficiency, and accountability.

Turkana County

Supported training of rangeland management committees.

LMS SCCRG supported PRM training for rangeland management sub-committees in Songot, Lake Zone and Kaaleng/Kaikor wards, Katilu and Lopur. The training was rolled out by the CRT in charge of rangeland management in Turkana composed of teams from the departments of livestock production, natural resources, water, and forestry. The three-and-a-half day training also enabled the development of an action plan for the implementation of PRM in the three wards.

SCCRG is advocating for the use of the WDP process as the implementation process of the Climate Change Fund in Turkana County, as is already done in Isiolo, Garissa and Wajir counties.

Supported celebration of international forest day in Songot ward.

The celebration took place in Songot ward as part of the advocacy and influence activities for the gazettelement of Songot hill ranges as a protected and dry season grazing area. The program worked closely with the Songot ward planning committee, Departments of Natural Resources, Tourism, Kenya Wildlife Services, and Rangelands, local administrators and Songot members of the county assembly to mobilize communities to advocate for the achievement of 10% green cover of vegetation and secure the dry season grazing area. The celebration renewed commitments of stakeholders in liaising with the national government to affect the aerial mapping of Songot hills as a step to the gazettelement process.

Marsabit County

Supported PRM training.

Supported PRM training. The program, in collaboration with the USAID-funded Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) program and the county governments, continued rolling out PRM approaches to the grassroots level. This started with the training of county technical staff in 2019 to form the CRT on rangeland management. The CRT rolled out the training in Maikona ward with a 30-member team composed of committees from Hurri hills, Kalacha and Maikona locations. The training also provided skills to enable the committee to begin active planning for grazing, linking with neighboring communities and ensuring a supportive framework with government authorities. In the next quarter, the CRT in charge of rangeland management will be supporting the committee to plan their grazing.

Supported the County Government in Climate Change proposal development.

LMS AA2 provided technical support to the county government and WPCs in the development of proposals that will address water and rangeland management to reduce the impacts of climate change, especially drought and floods. The support enabled the drafting of five proposals which touched on adaptive livestock systems, climate resilient water and agricultural development, sustainable utilization of natural resources, sustainable fisheries development, and environmental restoration initiatives. The three WPCs of Golbo, Kargi, and Maikona will be part of the funding from the climate change stream.

The program worked closely with key local stakeholders to mobilize communities to advocate for the achievement of 10% green cover of vegetation and secure the dry season grazing area.

Implemented Kargi Innovation grant project to improve management of water infrastructure.

LMS SCCRG completed water piping systems and full installation of prepaid water meters. The Kargi Water Users Association received training on the use of the prepaid meter system, which was facilitated by Maji milele, the private sector partners who installed the system. The water metering initiative was received well by the members of the community who are very optimistic about the improvement in water management and revenue collection.



Figure 2: A community member using an automated prepaid payment system at Kargi water Kiosk in Marsabit County

Isiolo County

The program, through the CRT on rangelands, led the review of the Draft Isiolo County Rangeland Management Policy and the Rangelands Management Bill's drafting guidelines as part of Rangelands Technical Working Group. The Draft Policy and Bill are meant to guide the rangeland management in the county and to establish how the cross-border pastoralists can be handled by the local community and government. The County Department of Livestock Production with support of the program will further develop and finalize the Rangeland Management Policy and Bill with support of Kenya Law Reforms Commission (KLRC).

Supported participatory rangeland management (PRM) training for Ngare Mara, Kinna and Garbatulla wards.

The program collaborated with the CRT on rangeland management and AVCD to train ward planning committees and rangeland sub committees on how to roll out participatory rangeland management. The training was aimed at enabling the committees to develop consensus on the status of water and pasture within the ward, train the committees on the participatory rangeland management toolkit, promote contextualized grazing and rangeland management plans, and improve coordination and collaboration between ward planning committees and rangeland subcommittees within the ward and with neighboring wards and counties.

Six proposals worth KES 9 million from Ngare Mara, Kinna and Garbatulla wards were approved to facilitate rehabilitation of water facilities in Rapsu location in Kinna, Nasuroi borehole in Ngare mara and Belgesh water pan in Garbatulla.

Supporting implementation of community priorities on rangeland management through the climate change fund from the government.

The program supported ward-planning committees to develop funding proposals and access the climate change funding from the county government. The program also supported the Department of Environment in the review and approval of proposals from ward planning committees. Six proposals worth KES 9 million from Ngare Mara, Kinna and Garbatulla wards were approved to facilitate rehabilitation of water facilities in Rapsu location in Kinna, Nasuroi borehole in Ngare mara and Belgesh water pan in Garbatula. It is important to note that this is a significant milestone achieved because of concerted advocacy and influence efforts on climate change financing in Isiolo by the program. In 2018, the program influenced the adoption of ward development planning processes as the implementation framework for the climate change fund. In the same year, the program supported the enactment of the County Climate Change Fund Policy, which is providing a legal framework for the Climate Change Fund in addition to the Climate Change Fund Act.

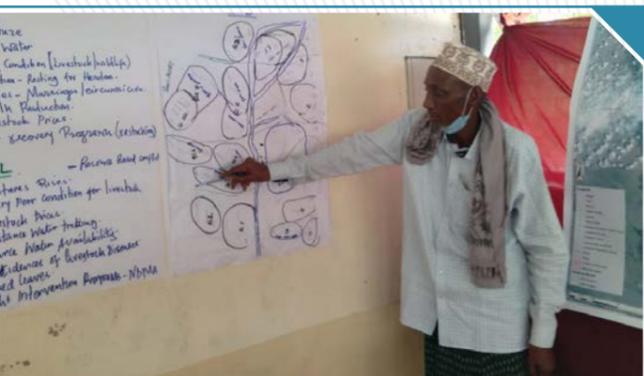


Figure 3: Participatory rangeland training in Masalani where a WPC member is pointing out the wet and dry season grazing areas. Photo credit: Yassin Muhumed (Mercy Corps)

Garissa County

Facilitated a participatory rangelands Management workshop.

LMS SCCRG in partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and the County Government Department of Livestock and Rangelands management, jointly conducted a four-day stakeholder consultative workshop in Masalani ward which was aimed at building the knowledge, skills, and capacities of ward-based rangelands resource management committees to improve their ability to manage their rangeland resources and develop a holistic ward-based rangelands management plan. Following lengthy deliberations, community members present were satisfied with grazing by-laws and endorsed them usage.

Strengthening rangeland rehabilitation during the short rains:

The program, through the WPCs, advocated for the government to support communities in reseeded the rangelands. In November, the County Government of Garissa and World Food Program (WFP) responded to the communities' request and initiated a six-month pasture-reseeding program in the county. The county government, through the WPC, broadcasted 120kg of fodder grass (Eragrostis superba and Cenchrus ciliaris) seeds in Bura, Masalani, Benane wards in Garissa County, covering about 200 acres of degraded land. The program leveraged the commitment of WPCs to build capacity of communities through county resource teams to take leadership in managing rangelands.



Figure 4: LMS SCCRG Program team receiving grass seeds from Garissa County Government and World Food program. The seeds were used in a reseeding exercise (Photo: County Government Press)

Supported Ward Planning Committees to take part in the World Bank program which focuses on financing locally led Climate action.

LMS SCCRG in partnership with the County government of Garissa, the Department of Environment, Natural Resources, Energy and Climate change supported and linked WPCs in Benane, Masalani, Balambala, Fafi and township wards with a World Bank-funded project on locally led climate action. Through these WPCs, the program will strengthen local resilience to the impact of climate change, natural hazards, and other shocks/stressors by building local capacity to plan, budget, implement, and monitor resilience investments in a way that promotes collaborative partnerships between communities, and county and national governments.



Figure5: WPCs and county government in consultative meeting during concept development for the proposed World Bank funded locally climate action in Garissa

Protecting indigenous trees and vegetation.

The program, together with the County Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), led a community awareness campaign on the conservation of endangered indigenous trees in Garissa County. Speaking at the public community meeting in Modogashe livestock market, Mr. Koima, Lagdera Deputy County Commissioner (DCC), urged community members to protect indigenous and other forest trees in the area. Mr. Ali Nassib of KFS in his appeal reminded the community members that conservation of the trees would help in addressing desertification, which is a major problem in the drylands. This activity happened after a series of ward planning committee advocacy efforts for support from the county government to curb deforestation. The funds for the exercise came from the county government of Garissa (\$2,500), Kenya Forest Service (\$2,000) and LMS \$990.



Figure6: Community Sensitization on Conservation of Indigenous trees in Mogodashe town, Garissa County. Photo: Yassin Muhumed (Mercy Corps)

Mr. Ali Nassib of KFS reminded the community members that conservation of the trees would help in addressing desertification, which is a major problem in the drylands.

Strengthened Drought Cycle Management

The program supported NDMA and the CRT in charge of disaster risk management to strengthen communities' inclusion in the planning and response to disasters in Northern Kenya.

The main activities focused on:

1. Supporting disaster scenario planning and simulation in each of the five counties as well as beginning to promote intercountry planning sessions.
2. Supporting the short and long rains assessments in the counties including using the assessments to develop county-specific food security updates for planning and response.
3. Promoting dissemination of climate related information through WPCs in local languages so that communities can use the information to prepare and respond to various disasters including drought, flood, desert locust invasion, COVID-19 infections, and conflicts.
4. Working closely with FCDC secretariat to influence FCDC governors to declare ongoing a drought a disaster in the FCDC counties, a move which influenced national decisions which saw the president declare the ongoing drought a national disaster within 2 days after the FCDC press conference.

Specific Key Achievements by County

Wajir County

Facilitated a contingency planning workshop.

LMS SCCRG in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) and NDMA facilitated a five-day multi-hazard contingency planning workshop. The workshop aimed to review the Wajir County contingency plan which covers the necessary interventions at each phase of drought (alert, alarm, emergency, and recovery) together with detailed budgets for each activity. The workshop was attended by County and National technical teams from different sectors and other partners. The periodic review of the contingency plan is necessitated by the changing dynamics of phases of disasters (drought) because of climate change. As a result of the workshop, a revised contingency plan document was developed and will be utilized for quick response and layering during any multi-hazard occurrence.



Figure 7 : Group photo after the closure of the contingency plan workshop in Bute town, Wajir-Kenya. Photo credit: Adan Ahmed (Mercy Corps)

Supported NDMA to carry out coordination meetings and short and long rain assessment.

The program worked with NDMA to coordinate county steering meetings for drought cycle planning. Aligned to the resolutions of the county steering committee meetings, the program supported NDMA to carry out a short rains assessment (SRA). The findings were used for scenario planning and simulation that is being implemented through county departments and development partners.

Linked WPCs with NDMA Early Warning Early Response Network (EWER).

The program team, in partnership with NDMA, conducted an early warning early response training on conflict and drought for Bute, Hadado and Habaswein Ward Planning Committees. The training ensured linkage between NDMA, drought monitors, veterinary officers, and WPCs. The linkage has promoted translation of the NDMA EWER bulletins into the local language, sharing the bulletins with WPCs, and the use of WhatsApp, local radio stations and public community meetings to disseminate disaster-linked information.

Turkana County

LMS SCCRG supported NDMA to hold county steering group (CSG) meetings to coordinate on the drought situation. To determine the full scope of the drought situation, LMS SCCRG supported NDMA to carry out and disseminate the short rains assessment information to the Government and Non-Governmental Organizations working in the county. The ward planning committees were the first to swing into action in response to the drought. For example:

1. The Songot Ward Planning Committee approached the Welt Hunger Organization for support with livestock feed. Welt Hunger organization distributed 80 50kg bags of animal feed to 80 vulnerable households in Songot ward.
2. All three ward-planning committees in Songot, Lake Zone and Kaaleng Kaikor began to actively use social media platforms to petition the county governments to respond to the water scarcity in their wards. Due to the social media outcry, the county governor travelled to Lake Zone and Songot to monitor the situation. During the visit, the ward planning committees used the climate advisories and the local experience to advocate for an immediate intervention. The next day, the governor directed two water boozers to Songot and the Lake Zone to help ease the acute water shortage. The governor also summoned all stakeholders working in the water sector in the county for immediate consultation and planning on the response.

Supported contingency planning workshop for Lopur and Katilu wards:

SCCRG through the local partner SAPCONE and NDMA supported development of the contingency plan for the two newly formed wards in Turkana. The contingency plans enabled the WPCs to learn how to carry out participatory disaster risk analysis and develop action plans for addressing the shocks identified including drought, flood, conflict, COVID-19, livestock diseases and desert locust invasion. NDMA has planned another training next year to link the WPCs and NDMA drought monitors so that the new WPCs are integrated in the county's early warning and early response communication channels.

Marsabit County

Facilitated inter-county Participatory Scenario Planning with NDMA.

The program, in partnership with NDMA's Marsabit Branch, conducted a two-day Participatory Scenario Planning workshop which was also attended by NDMA representatives from the neighboring counties of Mandera, Wajir, Samburu and Isiolo for benchmarking and to observe the process. The workshop was also attended by the Marsabit County Meteorological department, the Ward Planning Committee from Golbo, and key County Government representatives from the departments of Health, Livestock, Agriculture, Education, Nutrition and Water. The workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the technical officers to facilitate participatory scenario planning leading to the development of county livelihood advisories for the short and long rain food security assessments.

Facilitated integration of climate risk advisory services done by NDMA and Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Program (KCSAP).

The program noted that two different advisory services are released every month each by NDMA and KCSAP. To streamline dissemination of one document, SCCRG facilitated a meeting with NDMA and KCSAP that enabled an agreement for the two partners to coordinate advisories and provide a single summary for the county. After the initial meeting, the two partners have continued to collaborate and share one advisory through NDMA.

Supported short rains, food, and nutrition security assessment in Marsabit County.

The program supported a Short Rains Assessment exercise, which informed planning within food security sectors such as Agriculture, Livestock, Health & Nutrition, Water, and Education. Additionally, this exercise, which was led by NDMA, analyzed other reinforcing hazards such as the desert locust invasion and the COVID-19 pandemic. Later, the program supported a CSG meeting to discuss the findings of the assessment.

Isiolo County

Supported development of an online communication platform for drought cycle assessment and dissemination.

The program, in partnership with the NDMA set up an online information collection and dissemination platform on WhatsApp named "Drought Early Warning Group." The group membership comprises Ward Planning Committees and Drought Monitors from Kinna Ward, Isiolo County. This WhatsApp group served as a platform for the dissemination of the Monthly Drought Bulletin.

Advocating for implementation of the county climate change fund.

The program, together with the Director for Environment and MID-P, held meetings with the County Secretary to ensure that KES 30 million that was allocated to county climate change interventions was transferred to a special purpose account to implement ward-based priorities that aim to address impacts of climate change. The funds were transferred to the special account fund and the program has supported in the development and review of ward proposals to access the fund.



Garissa County

Facilitated a contingency planning workshop to integrate ward level contingency plans into the county based contingency plan.

The program, in partnership with the NDMA set up an online information collection and dissemination platform on WhatsApp named "Drought Early Warning Group." The group membership comprises Ward Planning Committees and Drought Monitors from Kinna Ward, Isiolo County. This WhatsApp group served as a platform for the dissemination of the Monthly Drought Bulletin.

Advocating for implementation of the county climate change fund.

The ever-increasing disasters in Garissa County indicate the need to strengthen disaster preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Therefore, LMS SCCRG, in partnership with NDMA and WFP, convened a five-day workshop to consolidate a multi-hazard contingency plan for Garissa County. This was done by consolidating the floods and drought contingency plans into one single document and incorporating scenarios with preparedness and response strategies/measures for other hazards such as resource-based conflicts, Cholera outbreaks, and desert locust invasion. A joint plan will enhance common programming on issues related to the contingency planning process and therefore promote common implementation of response activities by the national government, county government, and development partners during pre-disaster, disaster, and post disaster periods, leading to more effective mitigation efforts. The workshop brought together stakeholders involved in disaster risk management in the county.

Supported NDMA to facilitate inter-county Participatory Scenario Planning.

The program, in partnership with NDMA's Garissa Branch, conducted a two-day Participatory Scenario Planning workshop which was also attended by NDMA representatives from the neighboring counties of Kitui, Tana River, and Lamu for benchmarking and to observe the process. The workshop was also attended by Garissa County Meteorological department, WPCs (from Bura, Benane and Masalani), and key County Government representatives from departments of Health, Livestock, Agriculture, Education, Nutrition and Water. The workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the technical officers to facilitate participatory scenario planning leading to the development of county livelihood advisories for the upcoming short rains assessment.

Supported Ward Planning Committees in dissemination of early warning alerts for flash floods.

SCCRG through Bura and Masalani Ward Planning Committees disseminated the early warning alert received from Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) regarding the possible flash floods that were expected to occur in the lower stream of River Tana from the heavy rains in the highlands and eastern region. The timely dissemination of information enabled preparedness to migrate to higher grounds in a timely manner. This is the fourth season WPCs have consistently disseminated climate information leading to early response and avoiding loss of lives.

Supported climate change policy development.

SCCRG supported a validation workshop for Garissa Climate Change Fund policy to operationalize the already approved Garissa County Climate Change Fund (GCCCCF) act. The GCCCCF act allocates 2% of all county development funds to the ward level for climate change proof investments. The policy also provides a legal framework for WPCs to manage the climate change funds at the ward level.

Supported NDMA to coordinate disaster risk reduction activities.

The program facilitated county meetings to plan, carry out and disseminate findings from a short rains assessment. The assessment results were used by NDMA, WFP and this program to support multi-sector scenario building and simulation exercises, and to develop a response plan for the county and development partners.

Strengthened Conflict Management

SCCRG focused on using the PRM model to:

1. Promote peace by facilitating resource sharing agreements under the leadership of WPCs, the CRT in charge of rangeland management, existing peace building structures, county government leaders, and local community traditional leaders.
2. Work with regional, county, and national government peace structures to contribute to strategies for promoting peaceful existence and sharing resources across the borders.
3. Support WPCs in peace negotiations between conflicting communities, with the support of FCDC. The program noted that drought and the COVID-19 pandemic catalyzed tension due to limited rangelands for livestock and closure of livestock markets.

Specific Key Achievements by County

Wajir County

The program supported peace dialogues between Wajir and Marsabit and Isiolo to resolve conflicts over water and pasture arose as tensions between communities in Wajir West and Isiolo.

The program mobilized WPCs to begin holistic rangeland management in the ecosystem, including initiation of the resource sharing agreement. LMS SCCRG supported Hadado WPCs to bring both Wajir and Marsabit county commissioners, members of Parliament, local chiefs, the directorate of peace, and peace elders together. The one-time peace meeting brought some relative peace between the communities, allowing Hadado WPC to roll out a holistic rangeland management framework with a resource sharing agreement.

Supported peace negotiations for Livestock Market traders.

To restore the Wajir County Dagahley Livestock Market operations, SCCRG supported the Wajir County team (led by the Department of Trade and Cooperatives, the Department of Livestock, and the peace directorate) to conduct a peace dialogue meeting between the Garissa and Wajir County LMAs and community leaders to discuss the existing challenges and operationalization of the market. As a result of this meeting, the Wajir market was reopened, and the community sensitized to adhere to COVID-19 prevention protocols

Work with regional, county, and national government peace structures to contribute to strategies for promoting peaceful existence and sharing resources across the borders.

Turkana County

Strengthened cross border (Kenya and Ethiopia) resource sharing agreement.

The program through St Peter's Community Network (SAPCONE) supported a Resource Sharing Agreement (RSA) meeting in Turkana North. Due to the insecurity along the Kenya (Turkana County)-Ethiopia border which has brought challenges in implementing rangeland management planning in Lake Zone ward, SAPCONE mobilized a peace stakeholder meeting in Turkana. The meeting prepared the groundwork for and allowed formation of a rangeland management subcommittee, which has now started rolling out Participatory Rangeland Management, incorporating a resource sharing agreement.

Supported peaceful co-existence between Turkana and Dassenach communities living along the Kenya-Ethiopia border through implementation of the Ward Development Plans' priorities.

The program, through the Lake Zone WPC in Turkana County, has been key in supporting communities living along the Kenya-Ethiopia border to negotiate for access and sharing of resources such as pasture, water, and fish. Because of their efforts to promote peace, the Lake Zone WPC received support from other development organizations, such as PACT who bought four engine boats that were divided between the two communities.

Marsabit County

Supported resource-sharing meetings organized by ward planning committees, rangeland sub-committees and local administration at the border of Marsabit, Wajir and Ethiopia.

Ward planning committee members in Golbo ward, in collaboration with the rangeland subcommittee and the local administration in Dabel area, conducted community meetings that brought together neighboring communities from within the county and from Wajir to deliberate on sharing water and pasture. It was agreed that the guidelines provided by the local rangeland committees should be respected and followed.

The program, through the Lake Zone WPC in Turkana County, has been key in supporting communities living along the Kenya-Ethiopia border to negotiate for access and sharing of resources such as pasture, water, and fish..



Figure 8: Village Level mobilization in Todonyang in Turkana in preparation for the cross border negotiation with Dessenach Community in Ethiopia Photo Credit: Achelei (SAPCONE)



Figure 9: Elders in Dabel, Marsabit during a resource sharing agreement meeting. Photo credit: Adan Adi (Mercy Corps)



Figure 10: A photo showing an elders meeting for conflict resolution in Ririma, Marsabit County. Photo credit: Adan Adi (Mercy Corps)

Supported Conflict Resolution meeting in Ririma areas.

The October-November-December short rain was below normal and was poorly distributed. Because of this, there were movements of livestock from different parts of the county to areas that received better rainfall. The Kargi ward planning committee, the grazing committees and the local elders conducted conflict resolution meetings in the area after many incidents of confrontation that were threatening to develop into a major conflict. The elders and ward planning committee came up with a team of elders to oversee peaceful coexistence in the area.

Isiolo County

Supported Ward Planning Committees in peace building activities.

The program worked with Kinna and Garbatulla WPCs to support peace efforts between the Borana and Somali communities living in the Garbatulla and Lagdera sub-counties of Isiolo and Garissa Counties respectively. The WPCs organized intra-community peace meetings to discuss the conflict and its root causes. In the year in review, the drive for peace and conflict resolution gained momentum, with the communities making necessary preparations to meet and draw up peace declarations. It was identified that pasture and water-based conflict issues can be managed by elders through the mobilization of WPCs from both sides, while boundary issues need a political solution involving Isiolo and Garissa leadership with the help of FCDC.

Garissa County

LMS SCCRG used WPCs through PRM to advocate for inclusion of livestock movement routes in the holistic rangeland management of both livestock and crop production ecosystems along River Tana. The mobilization, which was led by Womankind Kenya (WOKIKE), enabled communities to agree on the livestock movement routes in Masalani. The program also worked with the department of livestock production and agriculture and began spearheading the process for the gazettement of the livestock movement routes to River Tana to avoid conflicts with the crop-producing farmers because of fencing the livestock movement routes.



Figure 11: An ongoing community peace dialogue on pasture and water management along the Tana River basin. photo credit: Yassin Muhumed (Mercy Corps)

Supported inter-community peace building dialogue in Masalani.

The program supported Masalani WPC to facilitate inter-communal peace building and dialogue meeting between Somalis in Ijara and Wardei and Pokomos from neighboring riverside Tana delta sub-county. The meeting brought together rangelands and peace sub-committees from both sides to deliberate looming resource-based conflict driven by scarce pasture and water because of a prolonged dry spell. After lengthy deliberations, community members came-up with actionable recommendations to be delivered by the chiefs with support from both sides' committees.

Supported conflict resolution for Garissa and Isiolo border in collaboration with Frontier Counties Development Council.

LMS SCCRG facilitated peace dialogue meetings which were convened by FCDC CEO Mr. Mohamed Simba Guleid to amicably deliberate on lasting solutions to the recurring Garissa-Isiolo border communal conflicts. After lengthy deliberations, the joint leadership from Garissa and Isiolo resolved to work together in building peace and bringing the communities together to resolve the sources of conflict and develop cooperation that will lead to the cessation of hostilities along the borders. The leaders who attended the meetings included Senators Hon. Fatuma Adan Dullo (Isiolo), Hon. Abdulkadir Mohamed Haji (Garissa) and Hon. Abshiro Soka Halake (Nominated), and MPs. Hon. Mohamed Hire Garane (Lagdera), Hon. Abdi Koropu Tepo (Isiolo South) and Hon. Abdi Omar Shurie (Balambala).

LMS SCCRG, through FCDC, also facilitated the Somali Ogaden Community peace consultative meeting, which was attended by 35 local peace actors from the two neighboring sub-counties of Balambala and Lagdera in Garissa County. After the meeting, an additional cross-sub-counties/counties meeting between Balambala, Lagdera and Isiolo communities was planned. Following lengthy deliberations, the community elders present agreed to establish a joint peace committee that advocates for peace and counter looming or planned attacks or raids.



Objective 2. Improved Human Capital

66,690 individuals, composed of 17,166 adolescent girls and young women, 720 adolescent girl mentors, 375 WPC members, and a mixed group of 42,536 individuals targeted with WASH, Nutrition and COVID 19 social behavior change communication.

Adolescent girls' savings and business values totaled \$233,125.66. In addition, 550 girls transitioned to primary school, 33 girls to secondary school, 268 to adult education, and 248 to Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET).

In year 4, SCCRG recruited 4,497 adolescent girls across the five counties and exceeded contractual target numbers of 16,500 by an additional 666 adolescent girls.

LMS-SCCRG has directly worked with approximately 66,690 individuals, composed of 17,166 adolescent girls and young women, 720 adolescent girl mentors, 375 WPC members, and a mixed group of 42,536 individuals targeted with WASH, Nutrition and COVID 19 social behavior change communication. These stakeholders have been engaged as advocacy champions to protect nutrition gains in the face of drought, address drivers of chronic undernutrition, spearhead WASH, nutrition, and COVID-19 social behavior change communication, support county initiatives for improved education, and promote basic literacy and life skills. Through the Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods (GIRL) model, adolescent girls' savings and business values totaled \$233,125.66. In addition, 550 girls transitioned to primary school, 33 girls to secondary school, 268 to adult education, and 248 to Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET). The Agri-nutrition training and mentorship provided under the GIRL model also enabled 2,210 girls to transition to farming vegetables for improved nutrition and income generation, while 3,113 began group and individual businesses in their communities. Finally, the program linked girls with both government and development partners to support their transitions. So far, girls have received approximately \$31,480 from external sources to expand their businesses, and another \$103,233 has been leveraged from LMS small grants.

In year 4, SCCRG recruited 4,497 adolescent girls across the five counties and exceeded contractual target numbers of 16,500 by an additional 666 adolescent girls.

\$31,480

Amount girls have received from external sources so far to expand their businesses

\$103,233

Additional amount leveraged from from LMS small grants

Improved and Sustained Health, Nutrition, and Hygiene Practices

1. LMS SCCRG used community grants, the climate change fund, annual county development planning and adhoc opportunities to ensure prioritization of investments for improving and sustaining health, nutrition, and hygiene practices across the five counties.
2. At the county level, advocacy efforts focused on supporting the county's annual development and supplementary budgeting to ensure better planning and execution of WASH and nutrition social behavior change communication, supporting organized groups exploring vegetable kitchen gardening to improve nutrition and income, and supporting the COVID-19 response by linking with interventions by the Ministry of Health at the county level.
3. At the community level, LMS SCCRG worked with WPCs to develop concepts to seek funding for WASH and nutrition investments, for working with community health volunteers and public health officers to carry out community and household agri-nutrition dialogues with the aim of fostering best practices for better WASH and nutrition outcomes, and for livelihood diversification for improved nutrition and income. The activity also adopted the use of radio to disseminate WASH, nutrition and COVID-19 social behavior change communication. The program also received additional funding which enabled it to onboard four additional local partners to support community level activities in promoting social behavior change communication.

Specific Key Achievements by County

Wajir County

Supported Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTs) campaigns.

LMS SCCRG supported WASDA and the department of public health to carry out CLTs sensitizations in Bute and Eldas ward including triggering for ODF. The team carried out the pre-triggering and triggering process of CLTs at six locations in Bute ward, namely Ogorji, Adadijole, Jarte, Bute Otha, Waleystutu, Gumar and Central/Uraan. A total of 3,786 households in the six locations were triggered on the importance of CLTs so that community members carry out their own positive behavior change on hygiene and sanitation to ensure they are safe from human excreta by building their own toilets. The public health officers and CHVs in collaboration with town administration, ward administration, area chiefs, WPC chairperson and GIRL mentors carried out weekly supervision on all the locations with the aim of making Bute ward an ODF area.

Advocated for adolescent girls' land for farming.

The program, through the WPC, advocated for arable land in Hadado in Wajir county for 30 adolescent girls who wanted to do kitchen gardening to improve their nutrition as well as sell produce for income generation. The Hadado ward planning committee led negotiations with local communities leading to identification of land close to Hadado dam where the girls established irrigation. The WPC followed up with the county government Department of Agriculture to ensure the girls were supported in farming.

Supported commemoration of World Menstrual Hygiene Day

LMS SCCRG and local partner WASDA, in partnership with the Wajir County Department of Public Health and Sanitation, commemorated the World Menstrual Hygiene Day, the theme of which was “Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health.” The event was held in Leheley primary school, which is the in-school site for the GIRL activity implemented by WASDA. Prior to the day’s celebration, SCCRG, the Wajir County Assembly (MCAs), Wajir Afya House and other partners led conversations on the menstrual bracelet challenge which involved taking a photo while wearing a bracelet with 5 red beads to mark the time the menstrual flow takes place each month.

Turkana County

Supported county government to roll out Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and nutrition social behavior change through the community health service system.

LMS SCCRG supported the county government of Turkana’s Ministry of Health (MoH) in rolling out agri-nutrition community dialogue training. After supporting the MoH to hold a refresher training for at least 29 CHVs in Turkana, LMS AA2 also supported a linkage meeting workshop with 29 CHVs with 30 adolescent girls’ mentors who are leading 750 adolescent girls (representing 750 households with approximate population of 4,500 people). After the workshop, the CHVs are monitored by the MoH as they carry out WASH and nutrition dialogues on better food handling and hygiene, good sanitation practices, good feeding practices for different gender groups using the MoH approved community dialogue cards over 6-9 months. The training was aimed at addressing the negative social behavior practices which are postulated to play a big role in the high malnutrition rates. This activity involves a close partnership with the USAID-funded NAWIRI program and UNICEF.

Supported kitchen gardening among adolescent girls to improve nutrition.

The program continued to monitor progress of the kitchen gardens, which had been started by approximately 350 adolescent girls (representing 350 households with a potential of providing vegetables to at least 2,100 family members) and other community members across two wards and 11 locations. In the gardens, girls grew kale, spinach, cow peas, watermelon, paw paw, and peppers.

Supported ward-planning committees to advocate for water accessibility.

The program supported ward-planning committees to use social media and encouraged their local leaders to call for attention from the county government to address the acute water shortage in Turkana North and West sub counties. The advocacies caught the attention of Turkana County’s Governor, H.E Hon Josephat Nanok, who called for an immediate WASH stakeholder meeting which he chaired. The aim of the meeting was to appeal to partners to collaborate with the County Government to better respond to and cushion residents from effects of impending drought, which the National Drought Management Authority stated is at an alarm stage. Later, the Governor approved a supplementary budget with KES 385 million (\$3,850,000) to be directed to WASH infrastructure and responding to the drought situation in the county to sustain the gains made in WASH and nutrition sector.

Marsabit County

The program supported 10 GIRL groups in Golbo and Maikona wards in kitchen gardening.

All 10 girl groups have started kitchen gardens and planted vegetables and fruits. The most common vegetables and fruits include kale, cow peas, onions, amaranths, and pawpaw. The girls have been linked with the government’s Department of Agriculture, which has been providing training and mentorship to the girls on how to successfully carry out kitchen gardening. The program also used lifeline radio players to disseminate agri-nutrition messaging to 13 groups with 325 adolescent girls.

Supported the distribution of dignity kits to adolescent girls.

LMS SCCRG, in partnership with the County government and UNICEF, celebrated this year’s Day for the African Child at Kargi primary school. The program facilitated mentorship sessions and conducted sensitization talks about WASH, nutrition and COVID-19 social behavior change with an emphasis on proper hygiene practices. LMS SCCRG distributed sanitary kits and refreshments to 260 girls, six soccer balls and refreshments to adolescent boys, and detergent to both boys and girls. The sanitary kits provided would be sufficient for utilization for three months per adolescent girl. Additionally, UNICEF provided dignity kits which were also distributed among the girls.

Isiolo County

LMS SCCRG conducted a refresher WASH and nutrition training for 18 GIRL mentors in three different locations in small groups to adhere to COVID-19 social distance regulations. The first training was conducted at the LMS Isiolo office, the second training in Oldonyiro Center, and the third training in Kipsing Center. The training was facilitated by a nutritionist and aimed to build the capacity of GIRL mentors to be able to facilitate similar training together with community health volunteers for the adolescent GIRL groups.

Additionally, LMS SCCRG through local partner MID-P facilitated a WASH campaign in Cherab Ward, bringing together the Cherab WPC, Chiefs, religious leaders, and community elders. The participants were trained on the importance of WASH in the context of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Supported technical design of community grants aimed at improving WASH and nutrition.

LMS SCCRG supported the design of two community projects aimed at improving water access and a third community grant aimed at assessing sanitation facilities in the public schools and congregation points. The documents have been submitted to USAID for approval. Dignity kits which were also distributed among the girls.

Garissa County

SCCRG conducted WASH and nutrition training for 31 GIRL mentors in 5 different locations, in small groups to adhere to COVID-19 social distance regulations.

The training was facilitated by a nutritionist and aimed to build the capacity of GIRL mentors to be able to facilitate similar training together with community health volunteers for the adolescent GIRL groups. The training focused on understanding what nutrition is, nutrients and common food sources, nutrition



Figure 12: Sensitization of Cherab ward Planning Committee on WASH and COVID-19 in Isiolo, Kenya

for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, feeding infants 0 - 6 months, food preparation, food handling and storage, and nutrition for adolescents. The GIRL mentors have since begun rolling out a similar training to the adolescent girls.

Continued with dissemination of agri-nutrition messages for WASH and nutrition social behavior changes in local Somali dialect through the lifeline player's listener groups.

13 GIRL groups with approximately 325 adolescent girls continued to hear good WASH and nutrition practices through the lifeline players. The messages from the MoH approved agri-nutrition manual had been translated into the local Somali dialect which allowed illiterate girls to follow through the lifeline radio players.

Linked adolescent girls with opportunities to improve menstrual hygiene.

The program received 600 dignity kits through the Pastoralist Girls Initiative (PGI), which has been a strong partner in Garissa County. The dignity kits that were donated by the Safaricom Foundation were distributed to 550 girls living in remote villages within the county. The other 50 kits were distributed to two primary schools in the subsequent weeks. The dignity kits allow girls to manage menstrual hygiene, which is one of the main causes of school dropouts.

A graph showing business and individual saving values for GIRL participants

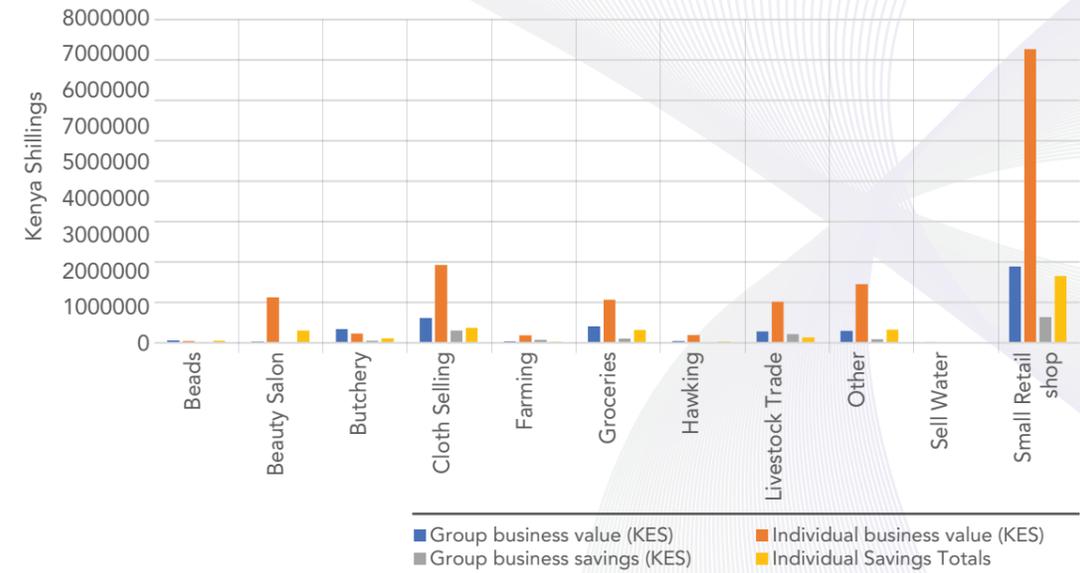


Figure 16: Business and saving values in Kenya shillings of adolescent girls' income generation to improve livelihoods

Specific Key Achievements by County

Wajir County

Linked 23 adolescent girls to begin coaching and mentorship with Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP).

The 23 girls are undergoing their training implemented by the Ministry of Public Service, Youth, and Gender (MPYG) and the Industrial Training Authority (NITA) at Griftu Pastoral Training Center (GPTC) in Wajir west sub-county. The 23 girls each drafted a business plan which KYEOP will use to disburse the startup capital for each individual business.

Linked adolescent girls to their transition pathways in weaving and basketry.

The program facilitated a five-day training for 25 adolescent girls to equip them with skills in mat making and basket weaving with the aim of ensuring that they can sustain themselves economically. To align with COVID-19 safe distance protocol, the girls were trained in different venues, ensuring not more than 15 girls were in one venue at a time. The adolescent girls were also linked to a private sector partner who helps them in product innovation and marketing. This approach of engaging a master trainer on handicrafts is an innovative way to provide life skills among illiterate populations in ASAL counties in the north. Garissa County has already contacted the trainers and begun expanding the training to girl and women groups in Garissa.

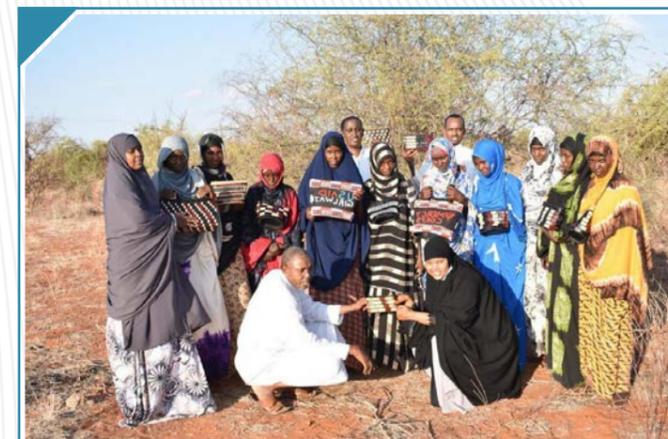


Figure 13: Members of Towfiq GIRL group displaying products after completing a weaving and basketry training in Wajir. Photo credit: Mohamed Yussuf (Mercy Corps)

17,166

Number of girls reached, surpassing the targeted 16,500 by an additional 666.



A policy development plan by FCDC shall move the advocacy to the next level of executives and legislatures

Improved Literacy, Numeracy, and Life Skills

1. LMS SCCRG aimed to target 16,500 adolescent girls in Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir and Garissa counties in Kenya. So far, SCCRG has recruited 17,166 adolescents and 720 mentors as of the end of September 2021, including 4,497 girls and boys who were recruited by local partners and Mercy Corps in this year. SCCRG has therefore surpassed the target of 16,500 girls envisaged in this program by an additional 666 adolescent girls.
2. LMS SCCRG through FCDC, also started engagements with the FCDC county women caucus who have started spearheading the drafting of a Gender Socio-Economic Empowerment bill. The aim of this effort is to advocate for funding for opportunities such as the GIRL model to improve women and youth's economic status in the 11 FCDC counties. Several meetings of the FCDC county women caucus have been held in Isiolo and Garissa counties to learn from the GIRL groups. In the next year, a more organized policy development plan is being developed by FCDC to move the advocacy to the next level of executives and legislatures.
3. As shown in figure 16 below, the program's work on building the capacity of girls to improve their livelihoods is demonstrated by the girls' businesses in making beads, beauty salon shops, butchery shops, selling of cloths, groceries, farming, hawking and retail shops, among others. The girls have an accumulated business value and savings of \$233,125 across the five counties broken down as Total group business value of \$40,121, Total individual business value of \$144,854, Total group saving of \$14,981, and Total individual savings of approximately \$33,167.

\$233,125

Total business value and savings accumulated by the girls across five counties

Supporting girls' transition pathways with skills in bakery.

The program facilitated a three-day cake baking training for 25 adolescent girls. The trainings were limited to a maximum of 15 girls in a venue at any given time to adhere to COVID-19 safety protocols. The girls were able to acquire knowledge and equipment to set up a bakery shop in Wajir to improve their livelihoods. This training and life skill building is being proposed for scaling by the county governments of Wajir, Garissa and Turkana counties.



Figure 14: One of the girls showcases queen cakes made by GIRL groups who were trained on commercial bakery. These girls were also equipped with 2 electric ovens, 2 cake mixers, cake cups, and biscuit cups (right). The girls contributed ingredients worth KES 3,000. Photo credit: Josephine Kiruku (Mercy Corps)

Supported county government to carry out a back-to-school campaign and mentorship for school retention.

The program supported the Department of Education to carry out back-to-school campaigns through radio talks in which the program paid for the airtime space at the radio station. The WPCs also followed up with girls in the villages. The program supported those who determined to go back to school with school uniforms, masks, and hand sanitizers as some of the basic requirements to be admitted to school.

Turkana County

Linked 23 adolescent girls to begin coaching and mentorship with Kenya Youth Employment Opportunities Project (KYEOP).

LMS SCCRG supported mentorship of a total of 2,973 adolescent girls and boys who saved approximately \$24,412 which they lent to one another with interest to satisfy their personal needs. Ten of the groups have also used part of their savings to begin 10 kitchen gardens in six different locations covering approximately 5.7 hectares of farmland. In the farms, girls grow vegetables including kale, spinach, tomatoes, cowpeas, paw paw, and peppers for home consumption and for sale to improve their income. The program plans to recruit an additional 1,500 adolescent girls and boys in the next one and half years.



Figure 15: One of the members of Ewala GIRL group at her shop in Turkana County. Photo credit: Josephine Kiruku (Mercy Corps)

The program in partnership with the County Government's Ministry of Trade conducted a three-day training on business management for one group of 26 girls and later supported them with a grant of \$5,000 from the Kenya Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (KDRDIP). The aim of the training was to equip girls with knowledge on business skills, how to start a business, networking, how to identify business opportunities, and market linkages. The training was facilitated by a Turkana West Trade Officer who is based in Kakuma. Members of the Kasegan girl group have begun their individual businesses using the grant that they received from KDRIP, and most girls are now engaged in selling beads, food items such as sugar, rice, wheat flour, maize, beans, pasta, cooking oil, and Royce, and other non-food items such as clothes, beads, Omo, shoes and children's clothes. The girls stated that the business management training gave them the entrepreneurial skills they needed to start their businesses.

Linking adolescent girls to support to pursue their aspirations.

The program linked 47 adolescent girls in Turkana with the CSO 'I Choose Life Africa' to undertake life skills and professional training in plumbing, catering, salon, and tailoring. The 47 adolescent girls are among those who are being mentored by LMS including guiding them to develop their journey to a self-reliance pathway.

Supported advocacy and influence to promote girls' education in Turkana County attracted the county government's funding commitment and leadership.

Due to concerted advocacy on education, the Office of the Women Representative offered a bursary worth \$2,000 (KES 200,000) to support 18 adolescent girls to return to school. The program team, together with the community leadership, handed over the bursaries to the girls' parents and head teachers at the proposed schools. In the same spirit of supporting back-to-school campaigns, the Ministry of Education in Turkana committed resources and staff worth \$6,250 (KES 625,000) for mobilization of communities including adolescent girls and boys, parents, local traditional leaders, and development partners to support girls to go back to school. SCCRG also committed \$5,360 (KES 536,000) to support mobilization of girls to go back to school. During the year in review the eight TVETs in Turkana reported that they attracted students beyond their capacity. This is a great achievement as the TVETs are always underutilized. The activity reached approximately 29,050 households.

Marsabit County

Linking adolescent girls with existing financial opportunities.

Six groups which had undergone financial literacy training and formed village savings and loans associations were visited by North Horr Sub-County Women Enterprise Funds (WEF) officers. The six groups which are actively running group businesses in the villages of Kalacha, Toricha, Mangudo, and Shankera of Hurri Hills were trained on WEF opportunities and application procedures for women enterprise loans. The groups, which are also registered with the Ministry of Social Services, were also taken through the concepts of group dynamics, formation of strong by laws, roles of officials, and financial planning and management. Four of the groups which have opened bank accounts were provided with application forms, and the remaining groups were requested to renew their registration certificates and follow-up on their account applications. Two GIRL groups received a loan of \$1,000 per group to expand their businesses.



Women Representative offered a bursary worth \$2,000 to support 18 adolescent girls



Six groups were trained on WEF opportunities and application for women enterprise loans



Figure 16: A Women Enterprise Fund officer having a discussion with adolescent girls on financial opportunities in the county. Photo credit: Sabdio Darso (Mercy Corps)

Supported adolescent girl advocacy with the County Government.

The program was invited by Marsabit County's Department of Gender and Social Services to guide the county-led adolescent girl advocacy in Illeret, Marsabit county. This early stage of adoption of the GIRL model principles is aligned to LMS scale and sustainability in ensuring county governments, civil society actors, and private partners take active roles in supporting adolescent girls' transitions, hence improving human capital in the arid and semi-arid areas of Kenya.

Linked girls with the private sector for mentorship.

The program facilitated a meeting of girls with a private company called Chalbi safaris who supported 320 adolescent girls with hygiene kits and mentorship. The program is identifying more private partners for linkages to support girls' aspirations.

Supported mentorship and learning activities for GIRL groups.

LMS SCCRG in collaboration with Concern Worldwide facilitated a mentorship session for 48 Cohort two girls in Secondary School from Hurri Hills Maikona and Kalacha. Topics covered included reproductive health, careers and career choice, leadership skills, life skills, and safe space for girls. The girls have annual mentorship sessions, and each mentor was assigned three to five girls in standard six, seven and eight. Additionally, in collaboration with the Chalbi Mentorship Programme team, Concern Worldwide and Radio Jangwani, LMS SCCRG conducted a mentorship session for Maikona Girls and Chalbi Boys' High school. The program also supported six girls from two groups in Cohort two who attended a seminar on Financial Linkage that was conducted by Eco Network in Partnership with Equity Bank and Transnation Sacco.

Supported GIRL groups in bead making training for economic development.

LMS SCCRG, in collaboration with the National and County government, conducted a five-day bead making training for GIRL and women groups at Palm Shade Resort in Loiyangalani. The training was attended by 100 female participants from five groups (Elmosaretu, Mt. Kulal, South Horr, Illeret and GIRL group) within Loiyangalani and Illeret Ward. Twenty-five GIRL members from El Molo and Loiyangalani areas were trained on bead making. The objective of the training was to enhance economic empowerment of the beading communities and create social cohesion. The participants were trained by designers from the State Department of Tourism and Culture.

The program also supported six girls from two groups in Cohort two who attended a seminar on Financial Linkage that was conducted by Eco Network in Partnership with Equity Bank and Transnation Sacco.

Isiolo County

Ngare Mara Ward planning committees took the lead in fundraising for GIRL groups to pursue their aspirations.

Ngare Mara WPC received \$91,240 from the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project. The funding was to be used to support youth employment opportunities. Ngare Mara WPC has committed to begin with supporting four GIRL groups with a \$2,000 donation per GIRL group, within the county. The program will support and mentor the girls in their businesses once the funds have been fully awarded to them.

Prepared eleven GIRL groups for financial access.

The program helped 11 GIRL groups from Oldonyiro ward to open bank accounts with Equity Banks. The program also used this opportunity when the leaders of 11 groups were in Isiolo to link them with the government Youth Fund Officer. The Youth Fund Officer trained the leaders on business opportunities, financial management and the systematic process of repaying youth funds through mobile money.

Supported basic literacy and numeracy, and savings and loans skill development.

The program continued to mentor GIRL groups who have completed the nine-month safe space cycle but are still interested in meeting for learning purposes. Eleven groups in Oldonyiro are such groups. One of the boys' only groups used their savings to buy a hair shaving machine. Six other GIRL groups have mastered the VSLA concept, which have become their main activity during the safe space meeting. Three GIRL groups with girls aged 10-14 years have consistently met during their safe spaces to practice basic literacy and numeracy.



Figure 17: An Equity Bank Officer taking a photo of one of the GIRL group members. Photo credit: Fatuma Ismail (Mercy Corps)



Figure 18: Josephine Nakero, a member of Kinyamarai GIRL group in Isiolo writing her name following the numeracy and literacy skills. Photo credit: Josephine Kiruku (Mercy Corps)

Ngare Mara WPC received USD \$91,240 from the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project. The funding was to be used to support youth employment opportunities.

Garissa County

Supported 'back-to-school' campaign.

The program, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, led a Back-to-School campaign, which focused on the importance of enrolling children back in school following the school closures that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Figure 19: Girls in Garissa taking a stand against female Genital Mutilation during the International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Photo credit: County Government press

Supported International Day of Zero Tolerance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) to advocate for county support for girls Journey to Self-Reliance.

The program, in collaboration with the Garissa County government and other development partners, supported the commemoration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance on FGM on 6 February 2021. During the event, the LMS GIRL group recited a poem that focused on the negative effects of FGM on girls and advocacy for girls to be allowed to go back to school. The Garissa County CEC member in charge of Gender, Women and Sports also attended this event.

Linking adolescent GIRL groups to business funding opportunities.

The program facilitated the linkage of GIRL groups to financial institutions to expand their opportunities for financial access. A Women Enterprise Fund Officer trained three GIRL groups registered under the Ministry of Social Service. The training enabled the girls to understand the women enterprise business funding application process and qualification credentials. The groups were further supported to open bank accounts. More groups have been scheduled for a similar training and linkage next year so they can access government funding for business opportunities.

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Objective 3. Collaborative Action and Learning for Community Empowerment

Strengthened USAID and Implementing Partners' Systems for Sequencing, Layering, and Integration

LMS SCCRG continued with the commitment to be part of both the national and county-level PREG activities, events, and coordination. The following are the key activities undertaken during this quarter:

- LMS SCCRG worked closely with the USAID-funded I-CREATE program being implemented by Concern Worldwide to scale the ward planning process in four additional wards in Turkana. LMS SCCRG has also linked WPCs in Kaaleng/Kaikor and Lake Zone wards with Concern Worldwide.
- In Marsabit, LMS SCCRG linked with the Nawiri program and began discussions on the potential expansion of the ward planning process in four additional wards. It's important to note that the discussions with Nawiri occurred in a meeting which was convened by the Turkana county Department of Economic Planning through the support of the USAID-funded Resilience Learning Activity (RLA).
- In Marsabit, LMS SCCRG participated in a PREG partners and sector leads joint meeting where the program made a presentation on the WDP component. The partners provided their feedback and highlighted the need to have such structures across the county.
- In Isiolo County, with the support of RLA, the Department of Economic Planning and Budgeting invited all the county PREG partners (LMS AA2 inclusive) to coordinate the plans and budget of the partners.
- In Isiolo County, six members of Ngaremara Ward Planning Committees and four members of Attir/Chumvi Yare GIRL groups attended a forum organized by the County Government of Isiolo and supported by Resilience Learning and Action. The forum was expected to capture local community voices to strengthen the development outcomes at the county level. The underlying mandate for this forum was for the county and the development partners to effectively engage local communities. LMS SCCRG, a key partner in community engagements in the county, was identified along with the World Food Program and Northern Rangeland Trust to make a brief presentation on the level of the community involvement in their WDP programming.
- LMS SCCRG attended a forum for the Members of the County Assembly (MCA) organized by Catholic Relief Service (CRS) for a joint presentation of the County Nutrition Action Plan through the County Multi-sectoral Platform on Nutrition. LMS SCCRG influenced the lawmakers who retained 2% allocation of the county development budget under the Climate Change Fund Act to support climate-proof related community projects.

Lessons Learnt

LMS-SCCRG conducted an annual reflection and learning events in Isiolo, which brought together representatives from the five LMS county governments, WPCs, implementing local partners and program staff. The five-day learning event which also included field visits to GIRL groups and WPCs highlighted best practices adopted by the different stakeholders in the counties, lessons learned in implementation including what worked and what did not work, and what can be done differently to improve program performance and impact.

Key documented lessons from the learning event include:

1. Ward Based Development Planning and County Engagement



- The registration of WPCs as Community Based Organization (CBOs) has led to other partners identifying their capacity and role in service delivery leading to WPCs receiving direct funding from partners to implement activities. The registration as CBOs also provides a foundation for institutionalizing WPCs.
- Other development partners are increasingly adopting and scaling the ward-based approach ensuring more wards are reached through the approach.



- When county governments are engaged in planning through co-creation process, it creates ownership and their participation in program implementation and monitoring.
- Involving County Governments in lessons learning events ensures best practices are shared with different departments and leads to adoption of the practices.
- Use of area MCAs is critical to the success of WPCs and to the implementation of WDP priorities included in the Annual Development Plans.
- Engaging both executive and legislative arms (MCAs) of government during the planning process facilitated decision making and resource allocation during the ADP process.
- Use of CG communication teams to highlight program activities acted as an influence at the executive level and led to greater collaboration between the counties and WPCs.



- Inclusive and broader participation of communities during WPC selection has led to recognition of WPCs as legitimate representatives of communities in engaging government and development partners on behalf of their respective wards and communities.
- Use of WPCs in other key sectors such as WASH and nutrition, disaster risk reduction, peace building and rangelands management provides a foundation for holistic service delivery and provides greater reach to beneficiaries.
- WPCs are becoming the “go to” community institutions and are increasingly used by other partners for implementation or for community mobilization.
- A broader mandate of WPCs allows them to tackle different sectors.



- WPCs are taking the lead in coordinating activities in their respective wards and asking partners to align interventions with WDP.
- Inclusion of WDP priorities into county ADPs as a result of strong advocacy and influence by WPCs and program is building confidence amongst communities on the role of WPCs.

2. GIRL Model



- When targeting process is clearly defined as is the case in GIRL, it leads to identification of girls who are vulnerable and are determined to change their lives leading to greater impact.
- Improving basic literacy and numeracy has been cited as one of the biggest successes and have helped girls in business planning and development.
- Life skills training is helping girls make appropriate life changing decisions such as on marriage (family) and education.
- GIRL groups are providing peer education to vulnerable girls in their villages and therefore becoming champions of change.
- Inclusion of adolescent boys in the models allow boys to champion the rights of girls and women.
- Community led events such as the champion days, back to school campaigns and nutrition and WASH campaigns led to mass sensitization and awareness creation for girl rights.
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- Diverse transition pathways allow girls to pursue their dreams away from traditional livestock-based livelihoods, which are often impacted by shocks such as drought and conflicts.
- Girls determining their own pathways motivates them to succeed, leading to high success rates.
- Contextualizing the transition pathways based on viable and feasible opportunities available in specific areas led to diversity in opportunities and did not prescribe pathways to girls.
- Deliberate investment by the program in transition pathways through small grants and scholarships have built a foundation for success.



- Community owned the process as a result of their engagement in the entire process from selection and monitoring of groups through Girl Advisory Committees (GAC)
- Use of local community and administrative structures such as elders, chiefs and ward administrators have led to a collective undertaking to empower girls and sensitize the general community.



- Back to school campaigns have been successful in highlighting the socio-cultural barriers faced by girls and led to increased enrolment.
- Involvement of governments in back-to-school campaigns, capacity building of GIRL groups through targeted training, and provision of extension services have created trust between the government and communities and has also led to ownership by the government.



- Savings groups have acted as social capital for vulnerable girls as well as other members of the community.
- The model has empowered girls economically and provides some incentives for them to succeeded in their personal and social lives.
- Linking of GIRL groups to external financial service providers has helped them access funds to expand businesses or cushion against the impact of COVID-19.

3. Areas identified for improvement



- Cross county learning events involving both county governments and WPCs should be done more often to share best practices and share experiences.
- Need for timely documentation of best practices and experiences from WPCs and GIRL model and sharing with key stakeholders.



- Establish greater linkages between WPCs and GIRL for effective delivery.
- Strengthen linkages of WPCs to other committees in the same ward to enhance efficiency on service delivery.
- Strengthen linkages of WPCs to other committees in the same ward to enhance efficiency on service delivery.
- Enhance greater coordination between WPCs in the same counties for greater efficiency in engaging CGs and for sharing best practices.
- Strengthen coordination between WPCs and County Governments through regular meetings and updates on progress of WPCs.
- WPCs should be linked to the Local Development Organizations established through USAID.



- Develop better tools to monitor performance and progress of WPCs beyond just engaging counties on ADP.
- Build capacity of WPCs to conduct appropriate monitoring of projects by CGs and development partners.



- Lack of appropriate legal frameworks for the long-term sustainability of the program models.
- Lack of dedicated resources have limited the work of WPCs to effectively carry out their mandate.



- Need to develop more robust targeted capacity building for WPCs (should be inclusive and demand driven).
- Program should consider using WPCs as core unit for implementation and have clear vision for long-term engagement as a local partner.



- Advocacy for the allocation of funds to WPCs from the County Climate Change Fund Act and need for aggressive engagement with County Assembly to ensure timely allocation and disbursement.
- Need to present program work plan to County Assemblies to identify areas of potential resource sharing (cost sharing).
- The program should consider use of PREG mechanism for joint advocacy and influence for resource allocations.

Progress on Links to Other USAID Programs

The program worked closely with key USAID-funded programs in the implementation of activities to ensure the layering and leveraging of resources for greater impact. In particular, the program has worked closely with the following

NAWIRI:



The program is working closely with Nawiri in WASH, nutrition, and COVID-19 social behavior communication in the counties of Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo. There is collaboration in the social behavior change communication through the CHVs. We also collaborated with Nawiri in Turkana and Samburu to support the intercountry GIS learning event in Wajir.



SERVIR:

The program is working with SERVIR to provide technical support in the implementation of Wajir GIS laboratory to provide a central data point that may be used in planning and accountability of both partners' investments in the county. SERVIR is also supporting GIS action planning for Isiolo, Garissa, Marsabit and Turkana.



I-CREATE:

The program is partnering with I-CREATE to scale ward planning in four additional wards in Turkana county.



WFP:

In Wajir, the program collaborated with the WFP and County Government to implement both innovation and community grants in Wajir. WFP is also a partner in rolling out participatory rangeland management.



SIDAI:

The program has linked WPCs to SIDAI for use in the community mobilization and targeting of pastoralists for livestock vaccination exercises to be conducted by the organization. The linkage will also build the capacity of the WPCs.

Progress on Links with GOK Agencies

SCCRG continued to work closely with both national and county-level governments in the implementation of the activities.

National Government:



NDMA:

Across the five counties, the program has worked with and supported NDMA to conduct hazards assessments, simulation exercises, and capacity building activities for WPCs. The WPCs have been linked to NDMA's early warning system.



County Administration:

The county administration continues to support the program through community mobilization and participating in WPC activities such as peace building and the participatory planning process. In addition, Chiefs and Ward Administrators have worked closely with the team during GIRL and WPC recruitments, WASH, nutrition, and COVID-19.

County Government Departments:



County Economic Planning:

The program worked closely with the economic planning department in finalizing the ward plans, integrating community priorities into the fiscal paper for developing County Annual Development Plans, and allocating resources for the implementation of already identified community projects.

Livestock and Agriculture:

The program continued to benefit from the technical support from this department in all counties. The department is part of CRT in charge of rangeland management who have supported rolling out of PRM in the wards.

Water, Environment and Natural Resources:

The program continues to work with this department in all five counties. They have supported WPCs in developing concepts related to water and sanitation and have committed resources to cost share. The department is also a strong member of CRT for rangeland management and disaster risk reduction.

Health:

In all five counties, SCCRG continued to work with the health department. In particular, the department continued to support training around WASH, nutrition and COVID 19 and supported the monitoring of program training for GIRL groups by mentors and facilitators. In addition, the department has supported WPCs in the development of WASH and nutrition related concepts and committed to source funds to support the implementation of the identified projects.

Social Service under the Ministry of Trade:

This department continued to support the registration of GIRL and WPCs groups across all the five counties. The department also hosts women enterprise funds and Youth funds and supports training of GIRL groups on how to access the funds.

Sustainability Strategy

The program has begun rolling out its approved scale and sustainability strategy. The program has mapped and incorporated eight local partners with a well-defined scope of work. The partners include SAPCONE in Turkana, WASDA and RACIDA in Wajir, ROAD and WOKIKE in Garissa, MID P in Isiolo and FCDC. The local partners are leading implementation of activities on the ground while FCDC is leading high-level discussion with the FCDC governors, executives and legislatures on scale and sustainability of GIRL and WDP. The program has incorporated a private local partner called SIDAI Africa to lead the implementation and scale up of institutionalization of routine livestock vaccination to prevent most common vaccinable livestock diseases.

To achieve the desired results of strengthening local capacities for sustained community and locally driven results, the program is working closely with local partners and county governments in the implementation of this strategy. The program is building the capacity of local partners to understand, adopt and implement the ward-based development approaches and GIRL model with the aim of scaling and ensuring the ownership of county government. In addition to building their institutional capacity, Mercy Corps is supporting the local partners and county governments to implement the ward-based development approach and support in the technical process using the Ward Development Planning tool kit developed by the program. This joint implementation will also influence the county governments' understanding of the importance of ward-based development planning processes and integrate the model into the county development process. Mercy Corps is also working closely with local implementation partners, County Governments and PREG partners in the implementation of the capacity building and advocacy and influence action plans.

Annex 1: Success Stories

Improving Livelihoods for Adolescent Girls through Innovative Businesses

Halima Burale, 20, lives in Bogyar Village, Dadaab County and is the youngest of eight children. She, like many other girls from her village, was forced into marriage by her father at the age of 14. However, shortly after, her husband died and so did her father. Now a widow with 2 children, Halima knew that her children's care lay solely on her. Life however became one arduous journey for Halima since she didn't have a sustainable source of income.

In 2018, Halima's life changed when she joined Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihoods (GIRL), a model being implemented by the USAID-funded Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity. Through the GIRL model, Halima and other adolescent girls were taken through different training modules over a period of nine months. Halima particularly enjoyed the training in making sanitary towels, livestock disease management, nutritional value of food, financial management, basic literacy, and numeracy skills.

Following the training, Halima, chose business as her transition pathway. She approached her brothers who are livestock herders to support her financially at the onset of setting up a shop in her village. Halima's shop began with just a table outside her home where she sold items such as tea leaves, sugar, and food spices. She used the profit earned to support her children's needs as well as set aside savings since she had a vision of constructing a shop made of iron sheet. As customers streamed into her shop, Halima realized that there was no charging station in her village and this gap immediately turned into an opportunity. She set aside some money to purchase solar panels and an extension cable at the nearby Hagardera Refugee Camp which she used to set up the village's first ever charging station where it costs each person \$0.2 (Ksh 20) to charge one phone.

Today, Halima's profits have increased since she ran the shop and charging station co-currently. Additionally, Halima constructed the iron sheet structure she had earlier envisioned.

In future, Halima hopes to expand her business and purchase a fridge for cold drinks since she noticed that many travelers constantly inquire about cold drinks such as soda and water. As a beneficiary of the LMS business grant worth \$200 (Ksh 20,000), Halima can now expand her business and serve more customers.



"I am very grateful to the LMS program because I couldn't have opened a business hadn't it been for the business skills I learnt through GIRL", Halima said.



COVID-19 Awareness Campaign in Turkana North led by Lake Zone Ward Planning Committee



Turkana North Sub County is one among the seven sub counties in Turkana County. It borders Kibish, Turkana West, Turkana Central and Ethiopia. The sub county is characterized by warm and hot climate with erratic rainfall pattern. It has a total population of over 108,033 people with 21,607 households. The majority of the population are nomadic pastoralists, while a small portion practice fishing and run small-scale businesses. Water supply, hygiene and sanitation remains a huge challenge within the sub county with over 75% of the sub county still practicing open defecation. This has in turn led to many cases of oral fecal diseases like cholera, dysentery, diarrhea, and trachoma being recorded in the health facilities. Despite efforts by the Ministry of Health and supporting partners to curb the situation, there is still

a growing need to improve hygiene and sanitation to promote human health. This situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has discouraged community members from practicing the safety measures due to the inadequate water supply in this region. Most villages value water as vital for key functions such as drinking and cooking food since communities collect salty and dirty water from the lake Turkana or travel long distances in search of clean water. Additionally, Turkana North is a vast and remote sub county and despite efforts to reach out to the entire population with COVID-19 sensitization messages, some hard-to-reach areas are yet to be accessed.

The situation in Turkana therefore necessitated COVID-19 community sensitization in select targeted areas with the support of USAID-funded Livestock Market Systems (LMS) and the National Government. LMS uses its Ward Development Planning (WDP) model through which Ward Planning Committees (WPCs) are formed to ensure that community capacities are strengthened for development, governance, advocacy, service delivery and livelihoods sustainability. In Lake Zone Ward, the WPC was selected via a democratic process and has been active in lobbying for County Government resource allocation in Katiko Village under the leadership of the committee's Vice Chair, Alex Ebenyo Napurpura. When the County Government of Turkana advertised for county public participation, Lake Zone WPC saw this as an opportunity to lobby for the repair of the borehole in Katiko Village. With a well-functioning borehole, the villagers can now comfortably wash their hands as a measure to safeguard themselves against COVID-19.

In June 2021, Alex escorted the Sub County Water Officer in Turkana County government, Save the Children and WASH engineers to the Katiko borehole site to assess the situation. Two weeks later, the team came back and repaired the borehole as promised. The community was elated at the sight of clean water and were grateful to the Lake Zine WPC for pushing this forward. Today, residents of Katiko can access clean water, which improves overall hygiene.



FEED THE FUTURE KENYA LIVESTOCK MARKET SYSTEMS ACTIVITY: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CAPACITIES FOR RESILIENCE AND GROWTH

PERIOD OF ACTIVITY: OCTOBER 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

AGREEMENT NUMBER: AID-615-LA-17-00002

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