



FEED THE FUTURE

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



Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity

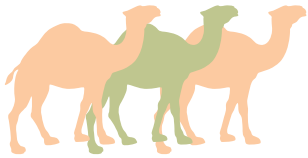
Creating Resilient, Competitive, and Inclusive Market Systems





Who We Are

The Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded program that is part of the Feed



the Future initiative for addressing global hunger, food security, and agricultural livelihoods.

It is implemented by ACDI/VOCA, in consortium with Mercy Corps, The BOMA Project, and Smart Regional Consultants.

Our work is designed to support the government of Kenya's Big4 Agenda and to align with the Common Programme Framework for Ending Drought Emergencies in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands.



Our Objective

Our objective is to create more inclusive and competitive market systems that will reduce the prevalence and depth of poverty, household hunger, and chronic undernutrition in northern Kenya.

What We Do

Running from October 2017 to September 2022, we seek to strengthen the resilience of individuals and market systems in the face of shocks and stresses, create inclusivity, and improve nutrition by:

- Maximizing collective impact through collaborative action and learning
- Expanding and diversifying viable economic opportunities
- Strengthening community capacities for resilience and growth

Our Activities

Partnership for improved market systems change

We provide support for collaborative action and learning for market systems change in northern Kenya by working with various partners. These include the state government, county governments, the private sector, non-state actors such as the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG), and formal and informal community institutions. Through this initiative, partners layer and integrate their activities, then share knowledge and collaborate with one another to improve market systems.



Promoting the stability of the pastoral system

Scarcity of natural resources caused by drought, desertification, and other climatic extremes, coupled with mismanagement of those resources, has been the main cause of conflict among pastoral communities.

By forming Ward Planning Committees, our work facilitates community planning in times of non-crises to create effective response mechanisms and build resilience. These committees are responsible for overseeing



24 The Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity is targeting 24 Ward Planning Committees

matters related to community-led development, disaster-risk reduction, and natural resource and conflict management, upon which the resilience and economic growth of northern Kenya depends.

The Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity targets the development of 24 Ward Planning Committees. One hundred medium grants will be awarded to improve or develop community assets (water and rangelands), benefiting more than 200,000 community members who will utilize these resources.

Strengthening institutions, systems, and governance

Our governance and policy work lead to positive change that creates sustainable, inclusive development in northern Kenya, as well as equitable allocation of resources that promotes peace and food security. In collaboration with other partners, we work toward creating an enabling environment for communities to access environmental, social, and economic opportunities within the market systems, with the aim of reducing poverty and increasing resilience.

Increasing households' income



By strengthening and diversifying productive livelihood opportunities that are competitive, resilient, and that lead to poverty reduction, we support poor households (defined as under \$1.90 per day), as they undertake sustainable, higher-return, lower-risk livelihood economic activities that increase their assets and income.

Expanding and diversifying livelihoods



An underdeveloped infrastructure and lack of access to financial services

inhibit entrepreneurs from investing. Our work facilitates entrepreneurs' identification and engagement in economic activities, by helping them start or grow their businesses. Through this initiative, the Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity supports entrepreneurs as they access financial services and products that enable them to engage in viable economic activities within the market systems.

We also promote business development by awarding grants to entrepreneurs with innovative and creative business ideas and solutions that will boost the growth of the livestock sector in northern Kenya.

With improved infrastructure, the businesses are able to create job opportunities for community members, and to provide livestock producers and aggregators with an avenue for selling their products, thus, growing the economy and increasing household income.

Promoting inclusivity

Improving the status of men, women, and youth to promote gender equity and empowerment is central to our work. We build their capacity to engage in higher-return, risk-diversified livelihood activities and wage employment.

Our women-focused activities empower women to engage in small businesses as a way of addressing social norms and stereotypes that prevent pastoral women from engaging in businesses. This helps women to actively utilize the resources that are available to them, and to make decisions that will enable them to have control over the allocation of household income to promote family well being. The Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity targets 5,460 women.

5,460

The number of women targeted by Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity

Empowering youth to engage in economic activities

Improving the status of youth is key to our work in northern Kenya as a way of addressing unemployment in the region. Through our work, we empower youth to engage in economic activities, by facilitating skill development, career mentorship, scholarships, apprenticeship, technology training, and job placement linkages.





We also prioritize youth by providing them with access to the project's grants facility designed for entrepreneurs who want to start or grow their businesses. Our work targets 300 youth.

300

The number of youth targeted to access the project's grants facility

Empowering girls to reduce their vulnerability

Girls living in northern Kenya between the ages of 10-19 are most vulnerable and they face several challenges. These challenges include early and forced marriage, early pregnancy, gender-based violence, school dropout, and a lack of access to economic opportunities,

assets, and financial services. Through our work, we improve their human capital to help the girls become more resilient and prepared for economic engagement in future. Doing this reduces poverty and vulnerability in households. Our work targets 16,500 girls.

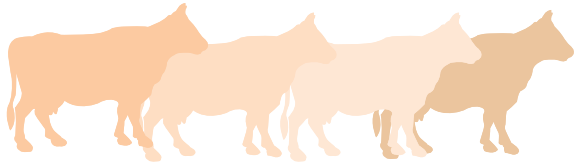
16,500

The number of girls targeted for empowering to reduce poverty and vulnerability

Improving livestock productivity

We facilitate livestock keepers' access to quality animal health inputs and services to improve the health and increase the number of their

animals. This is done through partnering with a veterinary service supplier, training producers on best practices for livestock production, and promoting fodder development.



Improving nutrition

Recurrent drought in northern Kenya increases cases of malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women as well as children. Our work supports communities as they scale up improved nutrition practices. We do this by inducing behavior change that improves nutrition uptake at the household level and by using market systems approaches that increase the demand for nutritious and diversified foods at the community level.

The project will continue to engage in strategic partnerships with key stakeholders so to collaborate and layer its activities with those of other players in the region. Doing this will maximize the utilization of partners' combined resources to increase the delivery of services to communities in northern Kenya to reduce poverty and boost resilience.



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

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