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From top left: Akalale Eyomo, Nawiri's R4N participant purchasing her bulk stock for her business from the mobile wholesale at Natoo village, A mother utilizes a Family-Led MUAC tape to screen her child for nutrition at the household level in Lokapel village, Turkana South (top right), Lmamusi Lempunya, a program participant practices handwashing after latrine use at Namnyak village, Wamba West Ward in Samburu East (bottom left), and, Goats watering at the Nawiri rehabilitated water troughs at Longolemwar village, Turkana North(bottom right). All photos ©USAID Nawiri, Mercy corps, 2024.

USAID NAWIRI FY24 Q1 REPORT

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Acronym List

AMTMSG	Adapted Mother-to-Mother Support Group
ANC	Antenatal Care
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Center
ASALs	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
CHAs	Community Health Assistants
CHPs	Community Health Promoters
CHVs	Community Health Volunteers
CIAAP	Community Integrated Assessment and Action Planning
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CMAM	Community Management of Acute Malnutrition
CMNR	Case Management for Nutrition Resilience
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CU	Community Unit
DER	Drought Emergency Response
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
E-CHIS	Electronic Community Health Information System
E-CHIMES	Electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
FCDO	Frontiers Children Development Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FP	Family Planning
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender Based Violence

GIRL	Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihood plus Health
GIS	Geospatial Information Systems
ICCM	Integrated Community Case Management
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
JMMI	Joint Market Monitoring Initiative
JTE	Joint Targeting and Enrollment
LIPs	Local Implementing Partners
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFB	Minimum Food Basket
MIS SAVIX	Management Information Systems Savings Group Information Exchange
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MoH	Ministry of Health
MTE	Midterm Evaluation
MUS	Multiple-Use Water Systems
NDA	National Drought Management Authority
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PACIDA	Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance
PAM	Positive Adolescent Masculinity
PLV	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PREG	Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth
PREP	Program Resource Estimated Proposal
PRM	Participatory Rangeland Management
R4N	REAP for Nutrition
REAP	Rural Entrepreneur Access Project
RTI	Research Triangle Institute
SCMP	Sub-Catchment Management Plans
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSBC	Social Structural Behavior Change

SWG	Sector Working Group
VTC	Vocational Training College
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDPCs	Ward Development Planning Committees
WRUAs	Water Resource User Associations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nawiri, an eight-year development and food security initiative implemented by Mercy Corps in collaboration with Save the Children, Research Triangle Institute (RTI), The BOMA Project, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Caritas Lodwar, Frontier Children Development Organization (FCDO), Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA), and the Samburu Children Program. Nawiri is dedicated to sustainably reducing persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya's Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs). In the 1st quarter of FY24, Nawiri expanded its reach to an additional 47,430 (F: 23,800; M:23,630) participants reaching a total of 360,831 individuals (F: 186,883; M: 173,948). The achievements listed below from the first quarter of FY24, though not exhaustive, indicate the sustained positive momentum across all areas of the program.

The program continues to strengthen crop and livestock production systems, providing a consistent supply of nutritious food for 4,461 (F: 2,961; M:1,500) participants. The program additionally aims to empower local anchor groups to improve availability of animal-source proteins such as fish and poultry, optimizing honey production to generate income, and increasing micro-credit and savings. This inclusive strategy paved the way for a collaborative initiative on a savings group digitization platform, set to facilitate virtual group meetings and transactions thereby increasing formal financial inclusion. In water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), Nawiri achieved open defecation-free (ODF) status in two villages in Turkana, Nakorinyang, and Nabwelinyang, benefiting 688 individuals (F:434; M:254) and 457 children. Rehabilitation of MUS in Turkana improved water access for 3,692 (F:1,882; M:1,809) community members, and water systems commissioned in Samburu positively impacted 3,518 community members. The program also focused on health service delivery, strengthening services in nutrition interventions, childhood illness management, and capacity building for healthcare workers. The Ward Planning Committees (WDP) model additionally showcased adaptability and received widespread approval, addressing instances of project duplication and expanding into disaster contingency plans. Capacity-building initiatives, including the establishment of a Sector Working Group (SWG) in Samburu, significantly contributed to sector policies and budget proposals. Local administrators underwent comprehensive training, reinforcing governance and community involvement, and laying a solid foundation for sustainable development. Moving forward, Nawiri plans to extend the planning process to the village level through the Community Integrated Action Planning Process (CIAPP), ensuring long-term impacts on nutrition and community well-being.

Additional detailed figures can be found in the Activity Output section of this report.

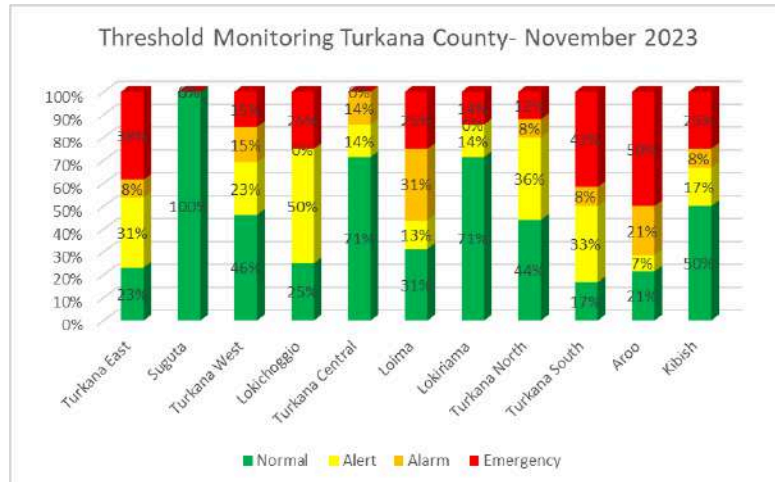
ACTIVITY SUMMARY

TURKANA

The November 2023 Early Warning Phase classification bulletin from the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) reported a slight improvement regarding the ongoing drought, with Turkana now in the "Alert" phase. Turkana County experienced above-normal rainfall, particularly in Turkana West, Turkana South, and Loima Sub counties. Most open water sources saw significant recharge, with

hand-dug traditional river wells reaching depths of less than 0.5 meters. Vegetation rejuvenation and improved livestock body condition were observed compared to October. Limited rain-fed farming activities were reported, with some farmers preparing for the second phase of sorghum planting under

irrigation. Milk production increased, leading to stable consumption in households as livestock forage conditions continued to recover.



The terms of trade rose due to increased goat/sheep prices, linked to the improved livestock body condition. Food consumption scores improved, indicating better food variety consumption in households. The proportion of 'moderately malnourished' children decreased, attributed to dependence on

supplements from foods other than milk.

According to the Turkana County Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) surge dashboard, 59% of health facilities surpassed their threshold, with 23% at alert, 13% at alarm, and 23% in the emergency phase. This marked improvement from the previous month, where 27% of health facilities were in the emergency phase, and was primarily attributed to increased milk production due to the rains. Nawiri-supported intervention for nutrition resilience, particularly case management, contributed to the timely identification and management of malnutrition cases in anchor groups and the community at large. Continuous mentorship of healthcare workers on IMAM is also done to ensure the delivery of quality services.

SAMBURU

According to the NDMA Monthly bulletin for December 2023, Samburu County experienced enhanced El Niño rainfall, although the amount received in December 2023 was below the long-term average. Despite the improved rain, which resulted in enhanced quality and quantity of forage and pasture, there was no corresponding increase in milk production across all livelihoods. This is primarily attributed to the lingering effects of the drought. Alongside reported food gaps, the main source of milk for households, the cattle, is not expected to calve until approximately February 2024.

In specific areas of the Samburu Central agro-pastoral zone, typically the county's food basket, a combination of reduced rainfall and high daytime temperatures led to a gradual decline in the quality and quantity of browse. Consequently, malnutrition rates for children under five years old, at risk of malnutrition, remained critical and exceeded threshold emergency classification levels. Additionally, the proportion of sampled children at risk of malnutrition increased to 20% from the 19.7% reported in

November 2023. The elevated malnutrition rate is likely linked to existing food shortages, low milk availability, and disease.

During December 2023, 10% of the sampled children suffered illnesses, likely associated with waterborne diseases exacerbated by the El Niño rainfall. Presently, the county is classified under the normal drought phase with a stable trend.

ACTIVITY OUTPUTS

Nawiri continued to reach a total of 360,831 individuals (F:186,883; M:173,948) with integrated services designed to enhance individual, household, and community resilience. The provided services encompass various aspects, including food security and resilient livelihoods, the graduation model, food systems and markets, natural resource management, health and nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), social behavior change, and systems and institutional strengthening. Notably, the program expanded its reach by incorporating 47,430 participants (F: 23,800; M:23,630) new participants into the program during the reviewed quarter. These new participants join the existing cohort of USAID Nawiri, which continues to receive integrated support over the years.

		Participants Actual / Planned			No. Unique Participants
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Participants (Male)	Actual	159,903	168,415	173,948	173,948
	Planned	158,737	167,154	175,572	
Participants (Female)	Actual	172,333	181,104	186,883	186,883
	Planned	172,216	181,349	190,482	

PURPOSE 1: VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS MAINTAIN FOOD SECURITY DESPITE EXPOSURE TO SHOCKS AND STRESSES

SUB PURPOSE 1.1: AFFORDABLE, DIVERSE, SAFE, AND NUTRITIOUS FOODS ARE CONSISTENTLY AVAILABLE (INCLUDING IN REMOTE, "LAST MILE" COMMUNITIES) TO SUPPORT OPTIMAL NUTRITION OUTCOMES BOTH YEAR-ROUND AND OVER TIME.

CROP AND FODDER PRODUCTION FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION AND INCOME

Nawiri continues to strengthen crop and livestock production systems to enhance the year-round availability of nutritious foods. In anticipation of improved short rains from October to December 2023, the program provided support to a total of 4,461 participants (F:2,961; M:1,500) with various interventions in crop and fodder production. The program intensified its commitment to promoting climate-smart agricultural (CSA) techniques by adopting agroecological approaches, aiming for ecosystem rehabilitation, regeneration, and biodiversity protection to sustain production systems. In collaboration with the county departments of agriculture, livestock, and environment, the program organized a Trainer of Trainers (ToT) training targeting 90 community-level champions (F:26; M:64). ToTs were trained on Resilience design/agro-ecological approaches in Turkana & Samburu counties. These trained ToTs, also known as Agroecological champions, subsequently imparted their knowledge to 1,306 (F:934; M:372)



Figure 1: A Nawiri producer group participant tending to his vegetable farm in Morulem village, Turkana East

community participants with over 470 acres, integrating resilience design techniques for enhanced production.

With increased rainfall in the quarter, vegetable production saw a significant improvement. To minimize post-harvest losses, we facilitated the training of 228 (F:168; M:60) participants on vegetable preparation and preservation, incorporating Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) and nutrition messaging.

Furthermore, the program advanced the rollout of the local service providers (LSP) model to ensure sustained access to seeds and farm

inputs. Three county-based agro-dealers were selected and connected with seed producers like Amiran and Kenya Seeds. Additionally, 28 LSPs were recruited across the two counties. A private sector-led input voucher system was designed to enhance the farm input function for smallholder farmers. Nawiri identified the Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) for Nutrition (R4N) traders and existing input dealers through a competitive process at each production site, linking them with county-based agro dealers. These last-mile input dealers, having signed contracts with county-based agro-dealers, will supply certified seeds for onward sale to farmers. The input voucher system, utilizing paper vouchers for specific vegetables, pulses, and fruit seeds from approved distributors like Kenya Seed and Amiran Seed, is in place. Farmer registration in production sites is complete, and the procurement of last-mile agents

and county-based agro dealers has been finalized. Contracts have been signed with county-based agro dealers in Samburu County, who are prepared to distribute seeds from Kenya Seed to farmers in Q2.

FISH PRODUCTION

To enhance availability of animal source proteins, Nawiri, in collaboration with the County Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, conducted a comprehensive training program along the Lake Turkana fisher folk region aimed at empowering 125 (F:114; M:11) anchor groups participants from five Adapted Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (AM2MSGs), two Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihood plus Health (GIRL-H) groups and one BOY group. The training focused on several key aspects including the nutritional benefits of fish consumption, proper techniques for fish handling, and hygiene practices to prevent contamination and spoilage. Emphasis was placed on fish value addition methods such as smoking, drying, and packaging aiming to enhance the quality and shelf-life of fish products and, consequently, increase the market value. Additionally, anchor group participants received training on marketing strategies, branding, and customer relations to help them promote and sell their fish products effectively, while also instilling a sense of responsibility and sustainability within the community.

To facilitate connections between fish traders/vendors and the REAP for Nutrition, R4N anchor groups in remote communities, Nawiri, collaborated with technical officers from the fisheries and trade departments, the health facility in charge of nutrition, and the Kenya National Chambers of Commerce (KNCCI). This collaboration resulted in a business-to-business (B2B) meeting between the Lomekwi fish mongers and small-scale business groups from Napak, Lobulono, and Loitanit. The delivery of social structural and behavior change (SSBC) messages was evident through the rapid acceptance of fish and fish products for consumption. Fish traders also established a fairer pricing model with the R4N anchor groups, who purchased 15 Kilograms (kgs) of dried Nile perch at a negotiated price of KES.750 per kg for consumption and resale.



Figure 2: Nawiri with BHA pose for a photo after delivering fishing gear to support participants along Lake Turkana

In a dedicated effort to combat malnutrition in Turkana, Nawiri in partnership with the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) celebrated a significant milestone on December 6, 2023. This involved the delivery of the initial batch of fishing gear to support 709 program participants in Lomekwi, Lobolo, and Napeget, out of the targeted 1,200 anchor model participants residing in malnutrition hotspot areas along Lake Turkana for Year 4.

APICULTURE

Nawiri in collaboration with the Directorate of Livestock, conducted a sustainable apiculture practices training for three R4N saving groups with 45 female participants in Lokangae, Turkana West sub-county. The training aimed to provide fundamental knowledge and skills to beekeepers, enhancing their ability to optimize honey production. The program prioritized improving the overall management of beekeeping practices with a specific focus on environmental conservation and the development of bee foraging resources. Additionally, 598 (F:478; M:120) anchor group participants from 19 AM2MGs, 3 BOY groups, 1 GIRL-H, and 11 R4N groups from Turkana South (28 anchor groups) and Turkana West (6 anchor groups) sub-counties were sensitized and actively engaged in fencing and protecting 34 apiaries using natural vegetation, showcasing a commitment to fostering productive honey production. In Samburu County, during the quarter, 301 (F:288; M:13) participants from 19 AM2MSGs, 223 (M) participants from 8 BOY Groups, and 318 (F) participants from 12 GIRL-H groups were trained on Apiculture across the three sub-counties.

POULTRY

Nawiri worked collaboratively with the Turkana County Department of Livestock Production and Veterinary Services to strengthen the promotion of training programs focused on indigenous poultry production, production of high-quality low-cost indigenous chicken feeds, climate-smart housing, and health management for enhanced productivity. The initiative targeted 9 GIRL-H groups (F:257) and 3 BOY groups, (M:77). In addition to providing training, the project supported messaging campaigns at the household level, emphasizing the importance of nutrition and income diversification.

SUB PURPOSE 1.2: VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS CAN BALANCE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE TO BOTH ACCESS AND UTILIZE NUTRITIOUS, AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS REQUIRED BY THEIR DIVERSE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Nawiri continued to increase access to micro-credit and savings by engaging 14,189 (F: 10,446, M: 3,743) new adolescent girls, young women, and boys within the GIRL-H and BOY groups in Samburu and Turkana Counties through mentorship sessions focused on promotion of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA). In addition, the program trained 525 (F: 522, M:3) Adapted Mother-to-Mother Support Group (AMTMSG) participants, and 285 (F:220, M:65) Community Health Units Savings and Loans Association (CHUSLA) participants (163 Samburu and 122 for Turkana) in leadership, basic entrepreneurship skills, financial literacy and numeracy, simple book-keeping, resource mobilization, networking, and loan-risk management. The groups received VSLA kits containing a lockable metallic savings box, individual passbooks, and group record books.

As of December 2023, the Management Information Systems Savings Group Information Exchange (MIS SAVIX) performance data reported that 11,711 (F: 8,585; M:3,126) GIRL-H and BOY group participants in Turkana had accumulated a total savings of KES 11,386,000 (US \$71,925) with 1,022 (F: 871, M: 151) members accessing loans amounting to KES 4,080,350 (US \$25,775). The social fund kit totaled KES 1,066,780 (US \$6,667). Notably, there was an increase in the proportion of SG members accessing loans attributed to streamlined standard operating procedures by the county government Department of Social Services.

Additional details from the MIS SAVIX data revealed that in Turkana, 181 (F: 177; M: 4) AMTMSG participants had cumulative savings including repaid loans of KES 500,150 (US \$3,126), and dividends paid out at KES 148,225 (US \$926). In the same period, 111 (F: 54, M: 57) CHUSLA participants reported cumulative savings of KES 1,566,295 (US \$9,789). Loans disbursed to 83 (F:43 M:40) members amounted to KES 1,215,825 (US \$7,599) indicating a 21% increase in loan uptake compared to Q4 FY23. In Samburu County, 627 (F: 623; M: 4) AMTMSGs reported cumulative savings of KES 547,445 (US \$3,422) and total social funds of KES 128,097 (US \$801). Loans disbursed to 98 (F: 96, M: 2) members totaled KES 463,780 (US \$2,899), translating to 15.6% of members with outstanding loans. Additionally, 163 (F: 136, M: 27) CHUSLA members reported cumulative savings of KES 503,550 (US \$3,148) and total social fund of KES 46,650 (US \$292) with 154 (F: 134, M: 20) participants accessing loans totaling KES 348,150 (US \$2,176).

Regarding loan utilization, MIS SAVIX monitoring data indicated that out of 231 loan participants, 57% of participants used their funds for working capital and increasing revenues, which included purchasing new business stock and starting new income-generating activities (IGAs), 31% allocated funds for personal needs such as payment of school fees, day-to-day operating expenses and access to basic needs such as health care and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and family emergencies while 12% utilized the funds to boost livestock and crop-based systems and productive assets including the purchase of farm inputs such as certified seeds/fishing inputs. County-level focus group discussions (FGD) with small business owners revealed that participants also utilized their loans to access clean energy products through the purchase of prepaid token solar lamps from Safaricom. In addition, participants also used part of their loans to purchase WASH products including household water tanks for crop and livestock use.



Figure 3: Nkiretu Nkai GIRL-H group showcase their group savings in Ndongyo Nasipa village, Samburu East

To increase access to flexible national and county government small-enterprise funds and micro-credit loans from FIs, the county department of social services has certified 128 GIRL-H groups, (53 in Samburu County and 75 in Turkana County and 5 GIRL-H groups with MSEA. Moreover, 104 GIRL-H and 14 (F:158, M:7) AMTMSGs are eligible for external funding from the NG affirmative action funds and County Biashara funds.

To enhance access to digital financial services in last-mile communities, Nawiri plans to collaborate with local-county-based Financial Service Providers (FSP) to co-design a savings groups digitization platform. The goal is to enable 25,000 (50%) VSLA participants in Samburu and Turkana counties to conduct their savings and loan activities through a mobile money application linked to a selected bank. This initiative

aims to facilitate virtual group meetings and transactions on a digital platform, thereby, increasing formal financial inclusion. To ensure the sustainability of SGs beyond the project period, Nawiri will refer to Private Service Providers' (PSPs) rapid market assessment findings to implement a market systems-based approach. This will involve identifying, recruiting, and training 60 PSPs (24 from Samburu and 36 from Turkana) to support the formation of new savings groups, provide business and entrepreneurial training, facilitate market linkages, and offer ongoing coaching and mentorship support at a fee-for-service basis.

Referencing youth development, the first cohort of 171 youths (F:110; M:61) from the Ujuzi Mashinani Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) GIRL-H and Boy groups, completed their 3-month vocational training in three village-based training sites conducted by Maralal Vocational Training College (VTC) in Samburu North. The youths received training on business ideas generation and writing business plans with support from the Ministry of Trade and youth officers from the Samburu County government. The trained youth are now transitioning into wage and self-employment, with plans to start businesses supported by government affirmative action funds.

Furthermore, preparations for the formation of the Samburu County Youth Employment Compact Trade Working Group were finalized during the quarter. This initiative aims to bring together private and public sector actors in youth workforce development, with the first meeting scheduled for January 2024, led by Maralal TVET.

PURPOSE 2: VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS HAVE LOW DISEASE BURDEN

SUB PURPOSE 2.1: HOUSEHOLDS ADOPT AND MAINTAIN OPTIMAL WASH PRACTICES IN THE FACE OF SHOCKS AND STRESSES.

WASH SERVICES DELIVERY AND DEMAND CREATION

Nawiri continued its efforts to expedite access to WASH services and promote the adoption of safe sanitation and hygiene practices. In Turkana, certification of ODF status was achieved in two villages, Nakorinyang and Nabwelinyang, located in the Morelem Community Unit (CU). This resulted in 688 individuals (F:434;M:254) and 457 children gaining access to safe sanitation. Additionally, Nawiri, in collaboration with the Turkana County Department of Public Health, conducted Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) certification exercise in eight villages across two community units, Loperot and Morelem, in Turkana South. Among these villages, six had made progress towards achieving open defecation-free status, with 314 functional latrines (257 in Morelem and 57 in Loperot), 72 latrines under construction, and households visited equipped with handwashing facilities containing water and soap or ash.

Through Community Health Promoters (CHPs), we also intensified SSBC messaging to address cultural and social norms related to latrine sharing with in-laws, aiming to ensure the optimal utilization of latrines. This initiative received support from Turkana County certifiers, with assistance from the Sub-County Public Health Officer (PHO), Sub-County WASH Officer, Community Health Assistants (CHAs), CHPs, sanitation committees, area chiefs, and village administrators in the specified villages.

In collaboration with Turkana County and various partners (Feed the Future, Red Cross Kenya, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Practical Action), Nawiri facilitated the observance of World Toilet Day in

Kibish, Turkana Central, and Elelea, Turkana East. Themed "Accelerating Change," the event attracted approximately 250 attendees in Kibish, 325 in Turkana Central, and 293 in Turkana East, representing a diverse mix of the community, including teachers, learners, religious leaders, and local administrative figures. This initiative underscored the urgency of accelerating change in community sanitation and hygiene practices through the CLTS approach. During the event, participants were educated on the importance of constructing toilets, safe water storage and treatment (utilizing purifiers, aqua tabs, and boiling), proper hand washing at critical times, and the connection to reducing fecal-oral pathways, a significant source of infection and disease burden at the household level.

IMPROVED ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND PRODUCTIVE USES

During the quarter, we continued our efforts to improve access to safe water for domestic and food production purposes through the rehabilitation of six multiple-use water systems (MUS) in both counties. In Turkana, 3,692 community members (F:1,882; M:1,809) obtained access to safe drinking water following the completion of the rehabilitation, solarization, and augmentation of the Kang'itankori water systems. Strategically equipped with six water standpoints in different villages, the system aimed to reduce the distance traveled by women to fetch water, alleviating the burden of women's time poverty. This, in turn, allows them more time for other activities and childcare responsibilities. The Kang'itankori water system also benefits the Kang'itankori Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), the Kang'itankori primary school, and the Kang'itankori dispensary, providing safe WASH spaces for learning children and community healthcare services. The ongoing rehabilitation of Kang'akipur, Lodoot, and Lokapel MUS will be reported in the next quarter.

In Samburu, Nawiri successfully commissioned and handed over the Lolkuniyani and Lkwasi water systems to the Samburu County Water Department and the community on October 16th and 17th, respectively. This high-profile event witnessed the presence of Samburu County political leadership, including the Deputy Governor, Senator, local administration, and key department representatives who pledged to co-create WASH investments with Nawiri. Currently benefiting 3,518 community members, these projects serve both domestic water access and production uses. In line with USAID water quality standards, in-line



Figure 4: The Nawiri supported 50,000litres tank of water at the rehabilitated Kang'itankori water system

Klormans chlorine doses were installed to enhance water quality in domestic pipelines. Additionally, automatic prepaid water meters were installed in all water kiosks to ensure accountability and efficient revenue collection.

Furthermore, in the quarter, the construction of Nachola (Ateker) shallow wells and the Loruko water project in Samburu began and is currently in progress. Upon completion, 521 households will gain access to safe water for both domestic and productive purposes.

WATER RESOURCES GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT TRAININGS

Nawiri continued to incorporate water service delivery by building the capacity of communities to manage water resources, conducting catchment assessments, and planning to enhance the resilience of water systems in the face of shocks and stresses. In the quarter, we played a facilitating role in the

development and finalization of three sub-catchment management plans (SCMPs) for Ngeny, Opiroi, and Waso-Rongai Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs). These SCMP documents outline key priority activities for WRUAs to undertake to improve water conservation and protection of water catchments.



Figure 5: Unveiling the commemorative plaque marking the commission of the Lolkuniyani Community Water Project, presented during the official handover to the Samburu Water Department

In collaboration with the Water Resources Authority (WRA) and Samburu County, we also facilitated the training of 71 (F:19; M:52) WRUA members from Lasitu and Arsim WRUAs. The

training covered various aspects, including institutional governance and leadership, financial management, networking and collaboration, communication, water sector reforms, WRUA dynamics, environmental management and planning, water, and sustainable development, water environments/ecosystem restoration, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, water resources mapping, alternative livelihoods enhancement, income-generating activities, particularly nature-based enterprises, and emerging issues such as the El Niño. The WRUAs were also guided on how to mobilize resources from the county and key apex institutions, such as the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF).

SUB PURPOSE 2.2: TARGET GROUPS UTILIZE RELIABLE AND QUALITY HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES, INCLUDING DURING SHOCKS.

DELIVERY AND COORDINATION OF HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES.

Nawiri continued in its commitment to bolster health service delivery in the counties of Samburu and Turkana. This involved creating demand and enhancing access to impactful nutrition interventions, as well as improving timely and effective management of childhood illnesses. The strategy included

capacity-building initiatives for healthcare workers (HCWs) and community health promoters (CHPs), monitoring commodities management, and engaging communities through various anchor groups such as



Figure 6: Eunice Arogo, a CHV prepares for household visits in Nachola Ward, Samburu East

AMTMSGs, Girl-H, Boy, and R4N groups. Through these anchor groups, Nawiri facilitated community and household-level access to quality health and nutrition services such as growth monitoring and promotion, nutrition information and counseling, screening services for timely detection and management of acute malnutrition cases, family planning (FP) services, and strengthened referrals. Last-mile communities and households were linked to outreach services organized from link level 2 or 3 health facilities. Nawiri supported County and sub-county health and nutrition coordination forums to realize seamless coordination and delivery of health services. In collaboration with both Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) and

non-PREG partners, the program provided technical and logistical support for various forums in the county and sub-counties including County/Sub County Nutrition technical forums (CNTF), the Community Health Strategy Technical Working Group (CHS TWG), and Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent and Young Persons Technical Working Groups (RMNCAYP TWG). These platforms served as valuable opportunities to analyze and address gaps and challenges faced within the health system.

ACCESS AND UTILIZATION OF QUALITY ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGES AND GENDERS.

To improve access and utilization of essential health and nutrition services, it is key to ensure a significant population of the community is covered by health and nutrition services. Community health services strategy ensures that households in last-mile communities are reached through Community Health promoters (CHPs) who provide primary health care, mobilize communities, and provide basic healthcare services at the community level. To strengthen the knowledge and technical skills of frontline workers (CHPs, Mentors, Lead Mothers, and HCWs), Nawiri supported the technical capacity and equipping of the frontline workers through training, on-site spot checks, mentorship, and supervision.

In Samburu, 86 (F:44; M:42) CHPs underwent CHP basic modules training, 114 (F:70; M:44) trained on Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM), 52 (F:32; M:20) HCWs were trained on IMAM, 213 (F:88; M:125) HCWs were mentored during health facility spot-checks, data review, and in-charges meetings and 41 (F:20; M:21) Community Health Assistants (CHAs) were sensitized on the Ministry of Health (MoH) reporting tools.

In Turkana, the program supported the mentorship of nine Community Health Units (CHUs) reaching 106 CHPs (F:41; M:65) and 20 HCWs (F:7; M:13). The visits aimed to assess the quality of diagnosis and treatment provided by the CHPs under the supervision of CHAs, gauge CHPs understanding of reporting tools to enhance reporting of indicators and strengthen their capacities on the provision of quality iCCM/Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) services in the community. The CHPs were engaged in group mentorships, simulations, and practical demonstration methodologies to better understand the diagnosis and treatment of childhood illnesses: diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, and malnutrition. A general mastery of the diagnostic processes and provision of required treatments was demonstrated by 58% of CHPs (F:42, M:20). The mentors guided CHPs, resulting in improved diagnosis and treatment administration, with fewer inconsistencies and mix-ups being registered. Additionally, 1,115 (F: 494, M:621) CHPs were mentored on accurate documentation of community-level services on MOH 514, acceleration of active case finding, and strengthening of community-to-health facility linkage in Turkana County. The regular review meetings have reinforced effective coordination and linkage between community-level services and health facilities, which contributed to improved reporting rates of MOH 515 which stands at 86% from 80% witnessed in the previous quarter.

These capacity-strengthening activities enabled the health workforce to deliver health and nutrition education, counseling, participatory cooking demonstrations, vegetable preservation, group, and community dialogues, and deliver basic health and nutrition services including early identification, diagnosis, treatment, and or referral of childhood illnesses. The onsite facility and community health services spot checks helped to identify existing gaps and provided onsite mentorships to address the gaps, reaching 43 facilities. In Turkana, supportive supervision was conducted in 58 health facilities reaching 147 (F: 90, M: 47) HCWs with mentorship and coaching services. Mentorship sessions covered nutrition technical aspects including admission and discharge criteria, correct documentation of nutrition registers, IMAM surge monitoring, accurate reporting, and supplies management. Findings point to weak reporting due to inadequate MoH reporting tools such as MOH 409 and MOH 100 following the ongoing transition from physical tools to Electronic-Community Health Information Systems (E-CHIS). The project together with the Sub-county Health Management Team (SCHMT) developed a plan to distribute the facility-based tools to the areas having shortages.

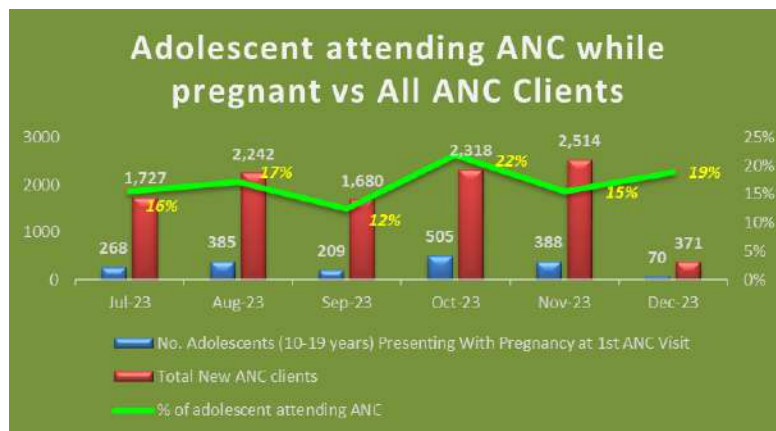
To ensure a steady digital transition, the project supported a two-day training of 600 CHPs (F: 300; M: 300) from 39 CHUs in Turkana Central on an E-CHIS facilitated by CHAs. While in Samburu, Nawiri supported the distribution of the E-CHIS tools to the three sub-counties where the county government, with support from Amref, was able to train 973 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) on E-CHIS. The next planned steps include support supervision and follow-up on utilization and reporting through E-CHIS in the coming quarters to ensure smooth implementation, troubleshooting of issues, and provision of technical support.

As a way of motivating the CHPs, the quarter saw the project support peer-to-peer exchange visits. This initiative involved 116 (F:61; M:55) CHPs from the Turkwel community unit (CU), which was the host, one of the centers of excellence on Community Health Strategy (CHS) in Loima Sub-county, and visiting CHUs; Namakat, Kalemungorok, Nakurio, Kerio, Nasiger, Kaapus and Namoruputh community units.

The activity provided a learning opportunity for experience sharing, peer-to-peer group discussion and demonstrations by CHPs, reinforcement by the TOTS, questions and answer sessions, data reference, and brainstorming. In Samburu, we supported 15 (F:7; M:8) CHPs and 5 (F:1; M:4) C/SCHMT to participate in a universal health coverage launch in Kericho county where the CHPs had an opportunity to learn and share best practices with their peers across the county. During the launch, the president assured CHPs of a monthly match stipend of KES 2500 by the National government in addition to the KES 2500 provided by the county governments.

The project also supported the launch of the One Health Strategy in Turkana County promotes ownership and seals the need to have the county commit resources to the implementation of the one health strategy that aims to promote concerted efforts to preserve human health, livestock, and the ecosystem.

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ASRH): ACCESS AND UTILIZATION OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND NUTRITION SERVICES.



Central to enhancing access to adolescent and sexual reproductive health (ASRH) and ensuring the delivery of high-quality services that are inclusive of adolescents and young people is strengthening mentorship for service providers. The mentorship efforts were concentrated at the anchor group level through weekly sessions and supportive supervision for adolescent mentors focusing on

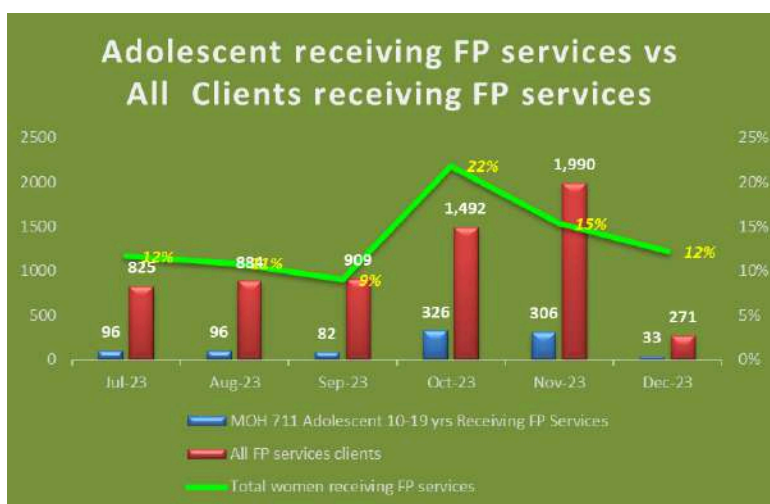
ASRH. Frontline HCWs provided hands-on mentorship to adolescent mentors, concurrently ensuring accurate routine nutrition screening for this demographic.

At health facilities, 59 (F:25; M:34) healthcare providers were targeted for mentorship on nutrition, ASRH, commodity management, and key competency gaps in Community Health Services (CHS). The mentorship aimed to enhance healthcare providers' skills, foster open communication, encourage collaboration and problem-solving, and instill a culture of continuous improvement within healthcare facilities. The goal of the program is to adopt a more comprehensive approach to patient well-being, addressing the health and nutrition needs of adolescents. Key competencies covered in the mentorship included healthcare providers' attitudes when handling adolescents, skills in providing family planning information and services to adolescents, Antenatal Care (ANC), Postnatal Care (PNC), HIV counseling and Testing, and continuous quality improvement, nutrition assessments and management of malnutrition in adolescents among others.

146 (F:81; M:65) adolescent mentors received training on ASRH to enable ongoing mentorship at the anchor groups and enhance referrals. These mentors collaborated closely with CHPs, who play a crucial

role in supporting referrals and delivering essential ASRH messaging at the household level. At the anchor group level, a total of 380 (F:246; M:134) members in all the anchor groups (AMTMSG, R4N, Girl, and Boy) accessed information on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) through weekly sessions. At the GIRL-H and Boy group 236 (F:136; M:100) adolescents received information and counseling on Sexual and reproductive health, 12 (F:9; M:3) were referred for Antenatal Care (ANC), 15 (F:12; M:3) for family planning (FP), 7 (F:6; M:1) for postnatal care (PNC) and 12 (F:8; M:4) for HIV counseling and testing.

Working with the Momentum County and Global Leadership (MCGL) program through continuous learning and adaptation, Nawiri continued to strengthen the system responsiveness of Samburu and Turkana Counties in the delivery of quality adolescent health and nutrition services. Some of the insights from phase three learning included: i) steady progress towards adolescent and gender-responsive health systems through varied within the different building blocks, ii) considering joint training for the CHVs and adolescent mentors on safe space training, iii) provision of simplified curriculum to adolescent mentors to facilitate the anchor group session- this has been dealt with in the consolidated safe space curriculum under review, iv) advocacy through the county department of health to provide enough resources (commodities and anthropometric equipment) to support nutrition screening and management of identified case, and v) consider digitizing anchor group registers and structured mentorship tools. Recommendations from the learning will be shared broadly for consideration and adaptation once it's finalized to the program, stakeholders (through TWGs), and the County Governments.



MATERNAL INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION (MIYCN): ACCESS AND UTILIZATION OF HEALTH SERVICES TO SUPPORT MIYCN PRACTICES.

To expedite the adoption and sustained practice of feasible maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) practices, encompassing infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) consuming nutritious foods, Nawiri provided continued support for integrated interventions specifically tailored to MIYCN. Nawiri implemented appreciative inquiry and participatory dialogues through households, anchor group models, and mini-community dialogues and supported the provision of tools and equipment for facilitating these dialogues, delivering messaging aligned to priority MIYCN practices and health and nutrition packages for anchor groups and practice-based learning approaches.

Through these activities, the Nawiri team reached 264 anchor groups, engaging 2,050 participants (F:1,883; M:167), 316 community resource persons; 112 Mentors, 137 CHVs, 67 Lead mothers, and 68(F:59; M:9) market actors were sensitized on MIYCN.

All groups were equipped with skills, tools, and mentorship on data quality, nutrition assessment, nutrition education, and participatory dialogues. The focus included messaging, practice-based learning activities such as co-creating local recipes, selecting and preparing diverse diets, vegetable preservation, food handling, hygiene and sanitation, disposal of human and animal waste, as well as growth monitoring and promotion in Samburu County. The objective was to enhance the capacity of anchor group focal persons in nutrition screening, growth monitoring, promotion, and MIYCN interventions.

Nutrition messaging sessions were seamlessly integrated with participatory cooking demonstrations and preservation of indigenous vegetables using solar dryers. With the increased rainfall, indigenous vegetables have proliferated, and preserving them will enable community members to utilize them during the dry season.



Figure 7: Male participants actively take part in cooking demos in Laparan village, Samburu North

PURPOSE 3: STABLE AND RESILIENT NUTRITION ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

SUB PURPOSE 3.1: SOCIO-CULTURAL SYSTEMS
FACILITATE SUSTAINED REDUCTIONS IN ACUTE MALNUTRITION.

During the quarter, Nawiri actively engaged adolescents and young people in targeted communities through various anchor groups such as GIRL - H and Transforming Masculinity (TM) for female and male participants, respectively. At the national level, the program initiated the review process for the adolescent and young people model, along with the curriculum for training GIRL-H and TM

models. The finalization of these reviews is expected in the next quarter, followed by immediate implementation.

Following the review of the male engagement strategy in the fourth year, the program revised the strategy to align with program needs. The revised strategy guides how the program will involve men as participants, partners (husbands and parents of program participants), and change agents for gender and social norms affecting Positive Adolescent Masculinity (PAM). The strategy focuses on implementing interventions to achieve objectives such as creating a gender-sensitive environment, promoting gender equity, strengthening governance and institutional capacities, and enhancing the Nawiri and County teams' capacity to use a gender lens in interventions.

Stakeholders and community sensitization sessions on GIRL - H and TM models were conducted in Turkana County, reaching 129 (F: 27; M:102) individuals. The sessions involved collaboration with the Sub-county and Ministry of Health teams, targeting local administrators, including chiefs and assistant chiefs, as well as ward and village administrators, women, youth, CHP representatives, government officials, and partner organizations.

To support anchor group activities, 74 mentors (F:22; M:32) were trained on basic modules, covering GIRL - H and TM models, setting up safe spaces and the activities within the safe spaces, mentor roles and responsibilities, safeguarding program participants, and effective facilitation skills. Monthly mentor review meetings were held to enhance coordination between mentors, community facilitators, and government representatives. Challenges, such as the taboo of having chickens in homesteads affecting chicken farming, were identified and discussed during these meetings.

In Turkana, anchor group representatives attended the Tobong'u Lore Cultural Festival, showcasing their products and establishing market connections. Cooking demonstrations were conducted to educate community members on a well-balanced diet and the preparation of nutritious foods using locally available resources.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, Nawiri conducted a community sensitization initiative in Turkana South, addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and its links to drug abuse and persistent acute malnutrition. The integrated approach received positive feedback, emphasizing community knowledge's importance in promoting responsible behavior. The initiative also highlighted economic and social empowerment's potential to reduce women's vulnerability to GBV.

Nawiri initiated mentorship and coaching for participants in cohort 2, comprising 3,300 households enrolled in the poverty graduation for R4N programs across both counties. Among the 1,100 businesses receiving mentorship in cohort 2, 58% (350) focus on livestock sales, 32% operate in kiosks/Dukas in Samburu, and 82% (750) involve Kiosks/Dukas in Turkana, with 12% concentrating on livestock sales. This business selection aligns with the findings of a food market study, indicating that 70% of Turkana communities rely on markets for their food needs. Quarter I



Figure 8: Nawiri's R4N mentor supporting a program participant in tracking and keeping business records as part of routine business monitoring and coaching in Natoo village, Turkana North

routine monitoring data reveals overall 24% of businesses are on track to meet Total Business Value¹ (TBV) for progress grants (total business value above 25% (23% in Turkana and 27% in Samburu) above the jump grants disbursed). The average total business value for quarter I is KES.36,557 in Samburu and KES. 36,409 in Turkana. To facilitate the sequencing, layering, and integration of interventions, 3,135 participants (95%) have joined the 205 savings groups formed. Nawiri is actively pursuing the remaining 5% to ensure their inclusion in savings groups by January 2024. Membership in savings groups is a crucial component of the progress grant criteria, which is due in March 2024.

To measure graduation for cohort I households, the USAID Nawiri program is currently developing endline evaluation instruments that will determine graduation rates for the first cohort. All the graduation metrics for cohort I as submitted in PREP 5 including nutrition indicators will be assessed. Mentors will be conducting their last mentorship, monitoring, and coaching visit including facilitating partial share out for participating SG members. Savings groups will regroup for 2nd cycle in February under the post-graduation monitoring plans. For cohort 2, Nawiri will be reviewing the mentor:BG ratio that will allow mentors to deliver all the adaptations as submitted in PREP 5.

SUB PURPOSE 3.2: NATURAL RESOURCES ARE REHABILITATED AND PROTECTED TO REINFORCE REDUCTIONS IN ACUTE MALNUTRITION.

During the quarter, Nawiri collaborated with the Samburu County Government, Department of Environment, Natural Resource Management, and Community Conservancies to conduct training for 360 participants (F:222; M:138) on climate-smart agro-ecological designs at Nalepoboo, Nkutuk Engiron, and Nakwamoru pasture production sites in Samburu East sub-county. The training encompassed activities such as sitting, surveying, and constructing semi-circular bunds, bioswales, hoovering gabions, checking dams, and pitting, to conserve soil and water for enhanced pasture production. The primary objective of enhancing the pasture production sites was to decrease livestock travel distances for water and pasture, ultimately addressing persistent acute malnutrition by increasing milk availability. In Nkutuk Engiron, rehabilitation efforts were initiated post-training of hybrid committees on rangeland management and rehabilitation. Community meetings resulted in an agreement to rehabilitate more land for pasture under the committee's management. Water conservation structures, including bioswales and semi-circular bunds, were strategically stationed across the sites. The Bioswales were constructed along contours using A-frames, to slow down runoff, spread, sink, and store water for grass cultivation. The community demonstrated acceptance and commitment by establishing three smile shaped bunds per day, indicating a positive turnout. Notable outcomes included expanded pasture sites, Acacia reficiens clearance, increased grass planting, and additional structure establishment, all contributing to building resilience against drought for improved livestock health and nutrition.

¹ Components of total business value: Value of current total stock; Value of cash in hand; Value of outstanding credit; Value of savings; Value of equipment/Assets

Nawiri conducted a resource mapping exercise in Turkwel Ward, Turkana, using SW Maps² for digital mapping. Key findings from the digital resource mapping from Turkwel Ward included the availability of 31 early childhood development education (ECDE) centers, 35 primary schools, 11 secondary schools, four tertiary institutions, 18 health facilities, 143 boreholes, two water pans, and eight administrative units. Infrastructure challenges included; network connectivity issues, data constraints, and poor roads. Recommendations included improving infrastructure, expanding the road network, and establishing more tertiary institutions, hence, emphasizing the need for government intervention in road expansion and educational development.

In a collaborative effort with key stakeholders, the program organized a community-level sensitization meeting on Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) and Ward Development Planning (WDP) in Lorenkippi, Lokirima Ward, Loima sub-county. The meeting aimed to sensitize stakeholders and the community on PRM, initiate the WDP model, and form democratic rangeland and development planning committees. All key stakeholders, including the community, national government, and county government, were targeted, recognizing their specific roles in implementing PRM. During the forum, discussions centered on the undermining of customary institutions and resource management systems, exacerbated by factors such as climate change, mining, and internal/external conflicts. Security concerns, particularly regarding border closures impacting livestock migration, were raised. The symbolic representation of 'four legs,' signifying coordination and interdependence, revealed a disconnect in collaborative efforts. This was especially evident in the context of the UGANDA ULTIMATUM, where the community expressed displeasure over the closure of the Uganda border, adversely affecting livestock movement. Additionally, Rangeland Management and WDP committees were formed through community barazas, ensuring representation from various gender groups, kraals, and decision-makers. A total of 15 committees for each were democratically selected.

The next quarter will involve training the committees on PRM, developing grazing plans, and initiating rangeland management plans for the Urum range unit in Turkana. This proactive approach aims to empower the committees with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective participatory rangeland management, ensuring sustainable resource use and fostering community development.

SUB PURPOSE 3.4: SUSTAINED, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, INCLUDING IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE AND NON-CLIMATE RELATED SHOCKS AND STRESSES.

Nawiri conducted training for 32(F:4; M:28) peace actors in Samburu County, focusing on the 'Do No Harm' principles and conflict resolution in Samburu North sub-county. The training aimed to equip participants with skills relevant to addressing malnutrition and conflict. The Member of Parliament for Samburu North, Mr. Eli Letipila, acknowledged Nawiri's role in fostering peace. The training emphasized the 'Do No Harm' policy and conflict sensitivity, involving boys and girls in the process. As a result, participants developed programming options to enhance project impact, with plans to include younger age groups in the next quarter. The expansion of the program's interventions to Baringo County was also discussed to address violent conflicts at Samburu Central borders.

² SW Maps is a GIS app for collecting, presenting and sharing geographic information, for phones and tablets.

In Turkana South sub-county, the program organized a positive peace leadership meeting, introducing the concept of 'positive peace' for sustainable development. The meeting involved 41 (F:13; M:28) government and hybrid committee leaders, where discussions revolved around promoting information sharing, how to create a conducive business environment, and how to ensure equitable resource distribution. In the upcoming quarter, Nawiri plans to establish market days, organize Kraal leaders' meetings, empower leaders economically, activate women's voices, and conduct security and peace meetings.

Collaborating with Samburu County Government and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination, the program organized a workshop addressing rising insecurity and early warning incidents in Archers Post, Samburu East sub-county. Community leaders discussed root causes of conflict, proposed solutions, and identified conflict hotspot zones. Key recommendations include; establishing peace leaders, exploring alternative livelihoods, and strengthening peacebuilding meetings.

Additionally, Nawiri supported an intergenerational peace meeting in Lomirok Village to address migrations, community conflicts, and road banditry. The involvement of morans in addressing road banditry was emphasized.

The program also organized a cross-learning workshop in Eldoret to assess achievements and lessons learned from peace initiatives in Samburu and Turkana Counties. Participants discussed challenges and milestones, proposing recommendations such as regular peace committee meetings, support for reformed warriors, collaboration with development planning committees, and resource sharing. Plans for expanding cross-learning peace talks to Baringo and West Pokot counties were suggested, in order to create long-lasting solutions and address conflicts between communities. Key action points include developing consolidated work plans for each county on peace-related matters, and outlining necessary support at the County and Sub-County levels.

PURPOSE 4: FORMAL INSTITUTIONS MONITOR, LEARN AND ADAPT TO MORE EFFECTIVELY MANAGE AND SCALE INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO ACUTE MALNUTRITION.

SUB PURPOSE 4.1: INTEGRATED PLANNING PRIORITIES FOCUSED ON REDUCING ACUTE MALNUTRITION IMPLEMENTED AT THE WARD LEVEL AND BELOW.

Throughout the reporting period, Nawiri made progress in fulfilling its mission to strengthen the Ward Development Planning Committees (WDPCs) in Turkana and Samburu counties and enhance their capabilities. In Samburu, the program effectively implemented the WDP model in Elbarta, Angata Nanyekie, and Lodokejek Wards within the Samburu North sub-county. This endeavor included extensive awareness campaigns targeting local leaders and community members, resulting in the active participation of 108 (F:25; M: 83) individuals. Various stakeholders, such as youth, persons with disabilities (PWD), civil society organizations (CSOs), religious leaders, and government officials from both the National and County governments, were well-represented. The conducted meetings played a crucial role in enlightening participants about prioritizing projects and stressing the importance of ownership, particularly in the context of nutrition outcomes. Community members gained valuable

insights into the principles of social accountability, empowering them to hold both themselves and their leaders accountable for the implementation and oversight of mutually agreed-upon priorities.

An important outcome emerged as participants identified instances of project duplication, shedding light on inefficiencies and misallocation of resources at the community level. Notably, leaders formally approved the widespread implementation of the WDP in their respective wards. Surprisingly, the WDP sensitization meetings also served as platforms for peace discussions and significant community announcements, such as Lower Angata Nanyekie convening post-meeting to strategize a way forward for the peace situation in the area. The adaptability of the WDPC model demonstrated its versatility, leading to innovative integration with other Nawiri interventions. In Tukwel Ward, Turkana County, the committee collaborated with NDMA to develop disaster contingency plans. Remarkably, the community repurposed the WDPC to function as a Girl Advisory Committee for GIRL-H interventions, supporting the coordination and scaling-up of Drought Emergency Response (DER), including R4N activities.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, the focus will shift to cascading the process to the village level through the Community Integrated Action Planning Process (CIAPP). Communities will receive support in crafting their own village action plans, crucial advocacy tools for engaging with the county government during the development of County plans and budgets.

SUB PURPOSE 4.2: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT IMPROVED TO LEAD, MANAGE, AND COORDINATE INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS PERSISTENT ACUTE MALNUTRITION.

Additionally, during the reporting period, notable accomplishments were achieved through the initiation of comprehensive training and the establishment of the Sector Working Group (SWG) in Samburu County. This entailed the implementation of officially approved Terms of Reference (TOR), delineating the structure and core responsibilities of the SWG. These responsibilities included the formulation of sector budget proposals and the development of sector policies. The SWG emerged as a cornerstone for government coordination across departments, particularly in program design and budget preparation. Furthermore, it served as a vital mechanism for counties to interact with the public on technical matters. The transformative influence of the SWG became apparent as 47 participants (F: 6 ; M:41), including Cabinet Secretaries (CS), Chief Officers (Cos), and Directors, actively engaged in a comprehensive session on County budget linkages, mandates, vision, objectives, and challenges. This session was instrumental for the implementation of nutrition-sensitive priorities in the current financial year. The meeting played a pivotal role in orienting members, enhancing their understanding of mandates, and navigating the intricacies of budget development processes. Importantly, the insights gained directly informed various aspects of the Annual Development Plan document, ensuring alignment with current issues identified by different program areas within Nawiri.

Simultaneously, the program demonstrated its dedication to capacity building by enhancing the skills of local administrators in Samburu. The focus was on budget development and implementation, spanning from county administrators to the village level. The training emphasized the formulation and implementation of the county budget, along with techniques for effective public participation and monitoring of government and partner projects—a crucial aspect to ensure community inclusion in these processes. Participants were equipped with the necessary tools and expertise, strengthening

budget implementation, fostering meaningful public participation, and reinforcing project monitoring and evaluation processes. This strategic initiative not only advanced shared objectives within the Nawiri program but also enhanced governance, public participation, and project management capacities. The goal was to secure increased budget allocations for nutrition programs during the planning and budget-making processes, significantly contributing to the reduction of persistent acute malnutrition. The training concluded with local administrators expressing their commitment to applying inclusive governance principles. They pledged to effectively engage with the public and incorporate community perspectives in the decision-making process. This pivotal step seamlessly aligned with the Community Integrated Assessment and Action Planning (CIAAP) approach, empowering local leadership with skills and tools to guide their communities in implementing robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for projects. This commitment ensures evidence-based interventions and greater accountability in resource management, thereby supporting the achievement of Nawiri's long-term sustainability objectives.

SUB PURPOSE 4.3: INFORMATION SYSTEMS ARE USED FOR EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING, LEARNING, AND ADAPTATION.

Nawiri, in conjunction with NDMA and various partners in Samburu and Turkana Counties, reached notable milestones in readiness for the anticipated El-Nino rains through the facilitation of Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) meetings. These sessions played a pivotal role in equipping the county government and stakeholders with the knowledge and strategies necessary to manage and mitigate the anticipated impacts of El-Nino rains. The climate outlook for October-November-December (OND) 2023 indicated an expectation of increased rainfall in much of Samburu and Turkana Counties compared to the short-term average for OND in most areas. The employed PSP approach significantly contributed to conveying climate and weather information to vulnerable rural communities and various government sectors. By integrating scientific and indigenous seasonal weather forecasts, the workshops aimed to inform decision-making, foster resilient livelihoods, and enhance risk management, ultimately bolstering adaptive capacity. The primary objective of the workshops was to disseminate weather and climate information services, supporting weather and climate change mitigation across all sectors. Participants from diverse sectors utilized the forecast of above-normal rainfall to conduct hazard and risk analyses, develop mitigation strategies, and identify opportunities. The outcome was the generation of accurate advisories, specifically tailored for vulnerable groups, in anticipation of El Nino, showcasing a proactive and strategic approach to climate-related challenges.

Additionally, Nawiri, in partnership with Samburu County and the Agriculture Sector Development Support Program (ASDSP), effectively communicated weather forecast information to remote villages and communities. This outreach effort involved providing advisories to communities in the three sub-counties of Samburu County through local radio talk shows and spots. The involvement of local chiefs, village administrators, and government officers played a crucial role in extending advisories to anchor groups and last-mile communities, ensuring that vital information reached those most in need.

Moreover, collaborative initiatives between Nawiri and the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) departments have laid the foundation for the effective implementation of Electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (E-CIMES) in Samburu and Turkana Counties. This initiative holds the promise of improved data collection and analysis, facilitating more informed decision-making and

resource allocation, especially through the utilization of the Geospatial Information System (GIS). Already, the program and Samburu County government have taken concrete steps, reaching an agreement on the development and full operationalization of two Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) modules focusing on Health and Agriculture. In the upcoming quarter, Nawiri plans to support the county in rolling out these modules, with Samburu County demonstrating commitment through a \$53,000 co-investment. Similar discussions are ongoing with Turkana County, indicating the potential for replicating these achievements across multiple sectors.

Additionally, Nawiri, in collaboration with the county government and KNBS, supported the development of Statistical abstracts and data collection tools. The county government of Samburu is currently in the process of compiling departmental data tables for the abstract, which will provide critical information required by the government for decision-making and resource allocation.

TURKANA COUNTY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REVIEW AND COUNTY GIS/M&E TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) QUARTERLY MEETING

Throughout the quarter, Nawiri collaborated with the County government to co-finance and support the Turkana County Project Implementation Status Review and County GIS/M&E TWG Quarterly Meeting. The training brought together participants from the County Government, including County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Finance and Economic Planning, leads (Directors), County M&E Officers, and County GIS champions, with a total attendance of 42 participants (F:9; M:33). The key achievement shared during the meeting included: a significant increase in project completion rates, soaring from 22% in FY 2021-2022 to an impressive 45% in FY 22/23. This improvement spanned across various projects, encompassing health and agriculture initiatives. Throughout the workshop, the county team diligently recognized and acknowledged persistent challenges related to delayed project completion. Subsequently, they collaboratively devised strategies to enhance the execution of government projects. On co-financing of the county GIS system and strategy, the county directors recommended elevating these discussions to the Cabinet for further deliberation and decision-making in the upcoming cabinet meeting. Subsequently, each department was asked to commit resources to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system roll-out including, fostering a collaborative effort to invest in the unitary GIS system.

ELECTRONIC COUNTY INTEGRATED MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM (E-CIMES) ROLL OUT AND OPERATIONALIZATION

During the reporting period, the Monitoring and Evaluation department, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Nawiri, orchestrated a comprehensive five-day workshop in Naivasha. The workshop drew participation from 10 county staff (F:2; M:8) from Turkana County. As part of the deliverable of the workshop, the County Government of Turkana successfully initiated and executed the E-CIMES. M&E officers from county Ministries were appointed to take charge of reporting indicators for the 3rd generation County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) III into the E-CIMES system. This strategic involvement of County M&E technical officers ensures the continuous uploading and updating of information within the Turkana County E-CIMES. The roll-out of E-CIMES has resulted in easy access of sectoral information to facilitate well-informed decision-making across various sectors within the county government. Furthermore, E-CIMES will function as a central information repository for CIDP III and future CIDPs, aiding in the tracking of indicators for various projects within the county. This initiative represents a significant stride in enhancing transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness in the management and assessment of projects in Turkana County.

MARKET ANALYSIS

In the quarter, the Kenya Cash Working Group (KCWG) released the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) report covering July to September 2023. The report indicated an 11% increase in the cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) in Turkana County, while Samburu County experienced a slight reduction, as detailed in the table below. The JMMI data market collection for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2024 was completed by the end of December 2023, and the official report is expected to be released by the JMMI secretariat by mid-January 2024. The surge in Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) costs in Turkana County is primarily attributed to the escalating prices of cowpeas, milk, and sugar. For example, the price of cowpeas rose from KES 120 in June 2023 to KES 200 in September 2023. During the reporting period, sugar and milk prices increased by KES 20 and KES 40, respectively.

Conversely, the reduction in the cost of the MFB in Samburu County is mainly attributed to a decrease in the price of green leafy vegetables as a result of increased local production. The data is used to inform market strengthening and crop and livestock production activities. In the current quarter, crop production efforts were focused on increasing the production of green leafy vegetables, and the producers were linked with traders in markets so they could supply local markets with vegetables, hence reducing reliance on external markets to supply green vegetables. The project has also increased fodder production and storage with the aim of feeding livestock that remain at home so households can increase the supply of milk for household consumption, reducing household expenditure on milk and green leafy vegetables.

Comparison of the Cost of MEB (KES) in 2023

County	Q1 KES Jan-Mar 2023	Q2 KES April-June 2023	Q3 KES July-Sept 2023	Percentage Change in MEB cost of Q3 2023 compared to Q2 2023 (3-month change)
Samburu	20,425	18,711	18,109	-3% ▼
Turkana	19,741	20,251	22,482	11% ▲

IMPLEMENTATION QUALITY

SSBC INTERVENTIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS

During the quarter, the program refined the Community Integrated Assessment and Action Planning (CIAAP) process to enhance collaborative efforts at implementation sites through community engagement with diverse groups based on geographic proximity, special interests, or similar situations. This process is envisioned to serve as a potent tool for driving environmental and behavioral changes that will positively impact the health of the community and its members. The establishment of partnerships and coalitions is aimed at fostering shared visions, mobilizing resources, influencing systems, reshaping relationships among partners, and catalyzing changes in policies, programs, and practices. In the upcoming stages of the program, various activities will be undertaken, including sensitization and mobilization at the Ward and community unit levels, continuous engagement on CIAAP governance structures, village entry and context analysis, village visioning to envision a healthy community, and the development of action plans towards nutrition resilience. Additionally, there will be facilitation of community-based action plans, ward development planning meetings, and the validation and implementation of these plans.

The Nawiri team carried out social, structural, and behavior change (SSBC) interventions during this quarter by employing participatory tactics such as demonstrations, household and community dialogues, community capacity strengthening, and the use of context-specific informational materials. Cooking demonstrations were conducted in last mile villages targeting nine AMTMSG and 3 GIRL-H groups, reaching a total of 225 (F:225) participants in Turkana county and 312 Participants (F:262; M:50) in Samburu county. Participants expressed increased understanding and practice of diversified meal preparation, leading to positive outcomes in child health.

The project also conducted capacity strengthening sessions for various community members, including 89 (F:45; M:44) CHVs, 36 (F:19; M:17) mentors, 25 (F:8; M:17) livelihood champions, and 125 (F:13;

M:112) community leaders. The training focused on SSBC approaches, equipping participants with skills in communication, social mobilization, facilitation, group dynamics, and effective meeting and dialogue approach. These trained frontline workers played a crucial role as change agents.

In the realm of WASH, we strengthened the capacity of 40 (F:17; M:23) Water User Associations (WUAs) in Samburu County, focusing on water demand generation and promoting the willingness to pay for water services. Community and household dialogues were leveraged to foster healthy behaviors, challenge harmful norms, and develop action plans, reaching a total of 601 (F:333; M: 268) caregivers. Monitoring progress involved supportive coaching and review sessions for frontline workers, aiming to enhance their capacity in reporting, disseminating key nutrition messages, addressing challenges during household engagement, and documenting lessons learned. Lessons highlighted the importance of continuous capacity building and collaboration with community leaders. Recommendations include integrating social, structural, and behavior change into existing community structures, promoting collaboration, and using diverse communication channels. The next steps involve mentorship, refresher training, continuous engagement, and sustainability planning, with outcomes indicating the evolution of community leaders into effective knowledge brokers, fostering positive social norms and advocating for supportive policies. The success of the training was attributed to interactive methods and relevant content.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)

During the reporting period, Nawiri's M&E Team continued with the project quality and performance monitoring activities as per the approved MEL Plan, the key achievement include

PARTICIPANT/HOUSEHOLD JOINT TARGETING AND ENROLLMENT ASSESSMENT IN TURKANA

In the quarter, Nawiri conducted a quality assurance assessment for the joint targeting and enrollment (JTE) processes, spanning from November 23rd to November 27th, 2023. The primary objectives of this assessment were to evaluate the adherence of the JTE processes to established guidelines, assess the suitability of the approach in targeting Nawiri's participants for collective impact, and verify service delivery through anchor groups to anchor group participants.

The assessment methodology involved Key Informant Interviews and FGDs with project staff and participants from various anchor groups and mentors. Noteworthy findings from the evaluation highlighted the need for a shared understanding across the organization regarding the joint participant targeting standard operating procedure (SOP) and its practical application at the field level. The analysis further identified evidence of sequencing, layering, and integration across anchor groups, particularly in the Go Deep Villages. However, in Catalyse and Enable villages, a misconception regarding the implementation of intervention packages was observed. A comprehensive analysis is still underway, and the results from the JTE assessment will be utilized to refine the approach and modify the collective impact strategy.

Simultaneously, household and participant registration efforts continued in both Samburu and Turkana Counties. The aim was to compile a list of eligible participants in all targeted villages for enrollment into various anchor groups, either directly or through local implementing partners (LIPs). By the end of the quarter, Turkana County had completed registration in 249 out of 265 targeted villages (94%), with the remaining anticipated to conclude in the second quarter. In Samburu County, registration was accomplished in 86 out of 88 targeted villages (98%). However, registration in the two villages, Amaiya and Nasur, in Suguta ward, remained incomplete due to security concerns.

During the quarter, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team organized a three-day orientation for program staff to enhance their understanding of documenting anchor group activities. This included instructions on the proper use of registers and the abstraction of data into Commcare. In Turkana County, a total of 101 program staff participated in this training. The training covered a refresher on indicators collected through anchor group registers, emphasizing the crucial role of program staff in ensuring the high quality of collected data. To facilitate effective data abstraction and submission, Commcare accounts were set up for all program officers. Subsequently, this training was disseminated to frontline workers, encompassing 6 community facilitators, 189 mentors and CHPs, along with 132 Ministry of Health (MOH) frontline workers responsible for handling firsthand data at the community level. In Samburu, a parallel training session was conducted, attended by 44 mentors and 16 program staff, reinforcing the importance of proper documentation and data abstraction practices for anchor group activities.

To ensure the comprehensive inclusion of all anchor group members in the Commcare participant list, a validation exercise was carried out in both Samburu and Turkana. The process entailed cross-referencing all entries in the anchor group registers with those in the Commcare system. Where discrepancies were identified, necessary updates were made to align the records. For participants not found in the system, a household and participant registration process was initiated. This validation effort covered all anchor groups in villages where participant registration had been completed. A total of 11,453 members from GIRL & BOY groups (Turkana 4,174, Samburu 7,279), 13,252 from AM2MSG groups (Turkana 10,334, Samburu 2,918), 5,102 from R4N groups in Turkana, and 2,442 from producer groups in Turkana were validated during this exercise. The outcomes of this exercise will be resolved in the subsequent quarter.

MID-TERM EVALUATION ROLL-OUT.

In this reporting quarter, Nawiri successfully finalized the contracting process for the joint mid-term evaluation (MTE) involving Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and Mercy Corps consortium with TANGO International. An inception meeting was conducted to establish consensus with the consultant on the assessment scope, encompassing research objectives, questions, and timelines. Subsequently, the consultant, in accordance with the MTE Scope of Work, submitted the inception report, which underwent review by the program team. In the next quarter, the consultant is scheduled to carry out FDGs and KIs with the program team, key stakeholders, and observe selected project sites as part of the data collection process. The preliminary report is expected to be available in March 2024, providing the project with evidence for sustainability planning and the preparation of the Year 6 Projected Resource Expectation Proposal (PREP). The final MTE report is anticipated to be ready in April 2024.

In a separate initiative, BHA conducted a data quality assessment (DQA) in Turkana County from November 12th to November 14th, 2023. The assessed sites included Nakurio in Kerio ward and Lomekwi in Lake Zone ward. The evaluation covered data from selected anchor groups and their corresponding link facilities, examining the flow of data from frontline workers to the point of use. The process involved cross-checking reported data with registers and ensuring the completeness of referrals to treatment. Following the exercise, a feedback session was held, during which the BHA team shared insights from the assessment. This feedback encompassed commendable practices to be continued, identified gaps, and proposed corrective measures. Action points arising from the exercise included a review of data management SOPs to specify responsibilities for each M&E task in the data flowchart including sensitizing frontline workers on the data flow chain. Other actions involve enhancing Case Management for Nutrition Resilience (CMNR) documentation to account for participants receiving services, revisiting the R4N participant targeting processes to ensure accurate participant selection, refining the system and advancing towards data use, ensuring consistency and reliability of collected data, and strengthening performance management through goal tracking using service data, contextual data, and extrapolating Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates from Smart surveys, among other measures.

In the upcoming quarter, the Nawiri County M&E team aims to continue to roll-out planned M&E activities per the M&E plan. Key activities planned include household participant registration in the identified villages for targeted purposes, of anchor group participants, specifically focusing on groups where validation was not previously completed, will engage in support supervision and spot-checks across various program interventions to ensure effectiveness and adherence to set standards, conduct JTE in Samburu and M&E quarterly review. Furthermore, a significant undertaking for the quarter involves the initiation of the Endline Evaluation for R4N Cohort one. This comprehensive evaluation will play a crucial role in assessing the overall impact and effectiveness of the program, providing valuable insights for future planning and improvements.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

As the Nawiri program implementation has reached full scale a number of operational challenges have emerged relating to oversight, supervision and support to frontline workers across all communities and anchor groups. With 350 (Samburu 88, Turkana 262) villages covering 35 wards, 2,502 anchor groups (GIRL - H, TM and AM2MSG) and the roll out of our CMNR system, the Nawiri team is reviewing our frontline worker strategy to ensure that ToTs and follow up support is providing sufficient skills and incentives for all frontline workers to effectively deliver services to anchor groups, communities and households. This included thorough mapping of service delivery actors appropriate to reach different communities and households. This will be advanced in Q2.

Further with the scale of intervention across 362 communities and the current scale up of anchor groups, Nawiri is reviewing data quality and abstraction of anchor group registers. Effective data management requires extensive training and support supervision of anchor group mentors and facilitators to maintain the registers and enter reliable data. We are then working on a comprehensive abstraction plan that leverages program teams and layers on existing activities to abstract data, reducing

the need for M&E teams to make separate trips to abstract anchor group register data, also increasing efficiencies in vehicle use and costs.

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

The upcoming quarter, FY24 Q2, marks the progression into the next phase of CIAAP planning. While the initial CIAAP endeavors have notably contributed to community mobilization, engagement, and Nawiri intervention planning, ongoing review processes have highlighted opportunities for enhancing community ownership through improvised governance structures. There is also a concerted effort to reinforce connections with WDPs and CIDP plans. A comprehensive review of all community action plans is scheduled, encompassing updates on contextual information, including the revision of shocks and stress risks, and an assessment of progress in CIAAP implementation and resource utilization.

Initiated in Q1, the Agriculture Input Seed Voucher Scheme is a program that aims to boost the demand for crop inputs in Turkana and Samburu Counties. This initiative, which is facilitated through a private sector-led input voucher system, is set to persist in its execution. The voucher program was designed by the livelihoods team, which employed a competitive process to select county-based agro-dealers and last-mile village retailers for seed distribution. In the first quarter (Q1), activities included creating awareness about the voucher program, signing supply contracts, and printing paper vouchers. The actual distribution of seeds to farmers, using the paper vouchers, is scheduled to occur in Q2.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Nawiri FY24 Q1 Humanitarian Stories

Annex 2: USAID Nawiri Performance Monitoring Fact Sheet

Annex 3: Kenya Cash Working Group Joint Market Monitoring Initiative Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Refugee Minimum Expenditure Basket Q3 Findings