



USAID Nawiri in the Counties

January 2023 Newsletter

Telling Nawiri Stories

USAID Nawiri Increases access to affordable, diverse, and nutritious foods



Riokomor, a remote village in Turkana North, 196km from Lodwar, is abuzz with human and livestock activity. Gentle cool wind is blowing, reducing the harsh impact of the midday sun. The seasonal river, or "lagger", is barren with sand. Goats shift from one acacia to another, enjoying acacia pods and tiny leaves that fall in the wind. We walk along a rugged path to a food stall four stone throws away from the lagger. Three USAID Nawiri R4N participants, Echami Business Group members, run the stall, which sells cooked food plus maize, wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar, salt, fruits, and vegetables.

We meet a cheerful Diana Lokoyan Topos, who is running the business that day. "We do weekly shifts here, each member has her week, and it is working well for us," she says as she serves a customer with a plate of ugali (cornmeal mush) and boiled matumbo (tripe). "Our business is currently doing better than when we started, we are able to make profit," Diana says. "My child was very malnourished when USAID Nawiri identified me... for me, it was a normal thing until when CHVs talked to me about it. They told me my child was not developing well and could die. I used to feed my children with whatever I could afford, there was no option for them whether it was tea or crushed maize". The only option I had was to fetch firewood for sale because there was no money to start a business. We used to have one meal in the evening when we were lucky.



Diana Topos, Echami business group, taking inventory for her business

When we lacked maize to crush, I would boil the fruits from the edapal tree [an indigenous tree whose fruits are edible after intensive boiling for more than 8 hours] for them to eat... The business grant was a blessing to us, getting KES 30,000 was a dream for us. We put all the money in the business and when you see in our records, our business is now at KES 50,000. The money I receive on our phones [consumption stipend] is helping me buy good food for my children. I buy them oranges and cook matooke [cooked bananas], beef from sheep and vegetables," she adds. The group meets weekly to check on business progress and receive mentor guidance; "The mentor comes and records our progress every week and helps us to get linked to suppliers. We are saving some money and we hope we will soon access loans from elsewhere to enable us to expand this business," Diana concludes.

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Telling Nawiri Stories

Mama MUAC



Since April 2022, USAID Nawiri supported Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) have been training parents on Family MUAC (F-MUAC), or "Mama MUAC", in their respective Community Units. USAID Nawiri is supporting the roll out of F-MUAC as a community screening approach which empowers mothers, caregivers and other family members with the skills and knowledge needed to screen their own children for acute malnutrition, using a simple color-coded measuring tape. The globally promoted approach does not require literacy or numeracy skills. It promotes the early detection and referral of acute malnutrition cases among children in communities. USAID Nawiri supported CHVs are currently rolling out household Mama MUAC use in Marsabit County.

Gabriel, a CHA at Nairibi health facility, explains "this is Monica Lekoro, a CHV in Loripa village in Nairibi Community Unit. With my support and supervision, Lekoro is now training mothers and caregivers on how to use the F-MUAC tape in her village. Referrals have increased, as revealed by many trained mothers who eventually brought their children to the health facility. During mass screening activities, after establishing F-MUAC, the measurement of their children falls into the green color on the MUAC tape". Monica had come to the facility seeking support to conduct her work activities effectively, in her own Community Unit.

Similarly, 31-year-old Nkidison Lentilai, a mother of 6 children, is very grateful for the roll out of F-MUAC in their community.



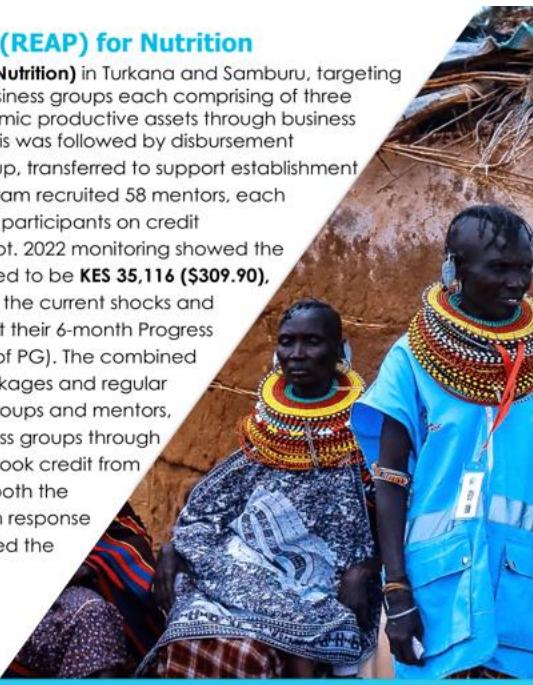
Nkidison Lentilai, a mother trained on mama MUAC, measuring her son Petoo

Since participating in the training with other village mothers, she has applied the skills to monitor Petoo Lentilai, her last-born 27-month-old son: "I joined a group of mothers attending the Mama MUAC training being done by Lekoro. I came back home and took the MUAC measurement of my child and on noticing that it was on the yellow part, I went to Lekoro who confirmed the same. She gave me a referral form to seek nutrition treatment from Nairibi dispensary. The doctor at the health facility further assessed my child and introduced him to food supplements which he takes routinely", she shared. Two months later, after enrolling in an SFP program, she achieved a breakthrough: "After the first visit to the facility, I took MUAC measurements every 14 days to monitor his progress, besides attending monthly follow-ups at the hospital for further nutrition counseling."

USAID Nawiri anticipates that late detections and referrals of children with acute malnutrition will lessen and significantly reduce local mortality rates. As more mothers and care givers are trained to use Mama MUAC, community screening will strengthen as caregivers are empowered to monitor and identify malnutrition cases and refer children in need to the nearest health facility for their timely treatment and recovery.

Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) for Nutrition

USAID Nawiri rolled out adapted **R4N (REAP for Nutrition)** in Turkana and Samburu, targeting **8,700** ultra poor women, grouped into **2,900** business groups each comprising of three women. R4N supports women to access economic productive assets through business creation that contributes to nutrition security. This was followed by disbursement of a jump grant of **KES 30,000 (\$264.80)** per group, transferred to support establishment of businesses in last mile communities. The program recruited 58 mentors, each mentor supporting 50 businesses and coaching participants on credit management, to enhance business growth. Sept. 2022 monitoring showed the total business value for business groups monitored to be **KES 35,116 (\$309.90)**, a 3% increase on August 2022. Notably, despite the current shocks and stresses, 24% of the businesses have already met their 6-month Progress Grant (PG) target of **KES 37,500** (\$331 and 25% of PG). The combined R4N adaptations of establishing early market linkages and regular dialogue sessions between umbrella business groups and mentors, has increased stock purchases made by business groups through bulk ordering. In Sept. 2022, more participants took credit from their businesses, likely indicating the impact of both the drought and rising food prices on households. In response to the worsening drought, the program increased the monthly consumption stipend from KES 2,500 to **KES 6,067** to each R4N participant, enabling participants to smooth their consumption while growing their businesses.



Strengthening GIS Spatial Data and Information Use Capacity (M&E)

USAID Nawiri is working with the county and Caritas Isiolo Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team to strengthen the capacity to collect, analyze, and utilize accurate monitoring data regularly to be responsive to community needs both at the county and sub county levels. USAID Nawiri is providing support to the rollout and implementation of the CIMES at all levels in both Isiolo and Marsabit to improve data demand and use. USAID Nawiri carried out a capacity assessment (MECAT) with the findings informing analysis of the existing gaps across the national and county government sectors.

USAID Nawiri M&E team prioritized to capacity build the county government staff and Local Implementing Partners-Caritas on GIS utilization. [Read more...](#)

Strengthening Last Mile Vendors (Food & Market Systems)

In a bid to reach consumers at the household level and improve exposure to marketing information that could encourage better food choices, USAID Nawiri mapped 159 Last Mile Vendors (LMVs) in Marsabit and 101 in Isiolo Counties within the community and trained them on supply of safe and nutritious foods to the malnutrition hotspots. In addition, an LMV assessment to identify business gaps within these enterprises that hinder distribution or stocking of nutritious foods was conducted. Informed by the assessment findings, an in-house capacity building for 42 LMVs in Isiolo was conducted covering topics such as credit sales and default management, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HAACP), environmental sustainability in business and linkages to financial institutions that led to improved record keeping and general business management, evidenced by the steady sales and profits achieved by the SMEs. [Read more...](#)

Strengthening Mother to Mother Support Groups (MTMSGs)

Mother to Mother Support Groups (MTMSG) are groups of women who come together regularly to learn and discuss maternal and young child feeding. They also support each other on maternal nutrition (pre-pregnancy, during pregnancy and lactation) and all aspects of complementary feeding. Participant mothers are recruited by the CHVs and lead mothers during home visits, antenatal care (ANC), MCH, and other related community gatherings.

USAID Nawiri have supported the formation and strengthening of 72 groups across Marsabit and Isiolo counties and have adapted M2MSGs to include mothers of children under 59 months, as opposed to national requirements to admit only mothers of children under 2-years.

These groups will be trained on SILC, to save and borrow among themselves. M2MSGs are a platform for SBC messaging, with sessions focused on identified Nawiri priority behaviors, to help reduce acute malnutrition. CHV trainings on c-BCFI and c-MIYCN are enhancing CHV knowledge and capacity to support M2MSG formation and facilitate community level learning sessions.



User-Friendly Accountability System Roll Out

USAID Nawiri's accountability system roll out in FY22 includes accessible, user-friendly feedback, complaint, and response mechanisms (FCRMs). Related sensitization is ongoing, integrated into field activities underway, as the associated Commcare and YouTrack platforms are refined, and frontline staff training continues.

This is complementing ward and sub-county accountability committee capacity strengthening initiatives, to better prepare WPC members and others to professionally handle feedback and complaints. Simultaneously MSP-N accountability is being strengthened, through USAID Nawiri-supported Common Results and Accountability Framework (CRAF) development processes. Quarterly USAID Nawiri/ CG reflection and planning workshops continue to facilitate and strengthen learning and the use of learning to adapt and improve programming and accountability.

Implementation Progress

USAID Nawiri's Adapted Nutrition Graduation Model (AN-GM)

The AN-GM pilot activities provided **690 Business Groups** to **1,436 HHs** in Marsabit and **600 HHs** in Isiolo with Small Business Grants worth KES 20,360,000 (\$165,528) to start up different types of businesses in Isiolo and Marsabit. The grants are given as a seed capital after the groups were trained on key skills specially **Business and Business Saving Group formation, financial literacy, and microenterprise development**. Additional **1,008 Business Groups (3,024 HHs)** are expected to receive the business grants in Feb 2023. USAID Nawiri is also in the process of disbursing the 1st monthly consumption smoothing cash transfer of **KES 5,000 to 5,062 Households** in both Isiolo (2,229) and Marsabit (2,833) Counties to ensure households purchase and consume nutritious food. A total of **KES 25,310,000** (\$205,772) will be disbursed to the groups each month for the next six months.

[Read more: LEARNING BRIEF](#)

Improving access and utilization of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)

USAID Nawiri incorporated integrated health outreaches into the DER strategy to increase access to health and nutrition services in far-to-reach and vulnerable populations (those living over 10km from health facilities). The intervention was rolled out in February 2022 targeting 8 sites in Samburu North and 7 sites in Samburu East. Based on gaps identified and impact reported in the pilot sites, USAID Nawiri now targets 11 sites in Samburu North, 13 sites in Samburu East and 8 sites in Samburu Central. Services offered at the outreach sites include:

- Nutrition screening and treatment of malnourished children 6-59 months
- Growth monitoring and promotion.
- Micro-nutrient supplementation, including Vitamin A, for children for 6-59 months, Zinc and ORS for management of diarrhea
- Deworming for children 12 – 59 months.
- Antenatal Care (ANC) and Postnatal Care (PNC) services including iron and folic acid supplementation for pregnant women.
- Treatment of minor ailments including respiratory infections, malaria and wound dressing.
- Health and Nutrition education, dietary diversity and exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) during illness periods.
- Immunizations.

County Engagements

Samburu and Turkana Counties



USAID Nawiri Support for CIDP Development

Following successful sensitization processes and initial discussions on the Samburu County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027 development, USAID Nawiri held discussions with Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) and County Executive Committee Members on the importance of public participation in the process. Public meetings for CIDP preparation in 15 wards of Samburu North, East and Central sub-counties, provided a consultative forum and received feedback from the public on priority projects and programs across sectors. Members of the public can also forward written proposals to a designated email address or send a hardcopy to the County Secretary.

USAID Nawiri supported a three-day Turkana CIDP Plan III (2023-2027) meeting, involving USAID Nawiri, senior county health officials and other directors. This provided partners the opportunity to review the CIDP and ensure that outcome indicators developed focus on improving overall nutrition outcomes, that USAID Nawiri is promoting. Outcomes include increasing access to safe water in households, support for production and other livelihood activities, increased access to quality health services and increased investment in health and nutrition. The next step will be for the Department of Planning to compile the Zero Draft CIDP III for stakeholder review and validation, before submission to the county executive and assembly for approval.

Supporting the Development of Turkana's CSO Training on governance and accountability in Turkana and Samburu

USAID Nawiri trained 72 representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Turkana and Samburu on governance, in Lodwar and Maralal, to familiarize participants on program areas of focus, explore their involvement during implementation and build their social accountability capacities.

The training took place against the backdrop of county government leadership change in both counties. Skills learned will help the CSOs strategize on how to engage the newly appointed County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) and County Chief Officers (CCOs). During the training, critical findings from USAID Nawiri Political and Economic Analysis (PEA) Study and related learning provided the information needed, together with other data on CSO operations in both counties. The CSOs are ready to participate in implementing agreed advocacy plans, to help sustainably reduce persistent acute malnutrition (PAM) through government, partner and CSO funding and lobbying to tackle the root causes.

USAID Nawiri peace meetings with Samburu County stakeholders

After the swearing-in of Samburu's new governor. The objective of the meeting was to strengthen collaboration between the Government, peace actors and all communities in Samburu North, to utilize common resources peacefully without conflict.

Those present, including the Baragoi community, emphasized the need for all peace actors to work together to address insecurity in Samburu North, which has long experienced insecurity, despite robust efforts to bring the culprits to account. In his address, the County Governor, Jonathan Lati Leleliit, assured residents that peace is key and a coefficient to other developments. Despite limited resources, the governor committed to supporting USAID Nawiri's work on livelihoods, peace, and Natural Resource Management (NRM), to realize its main objective of reducing PAM in Samburu County. The governor also committed to strengthening rangeland management and peace committees. Key action points included conducting intra- and inter-community peace dialogues, bringing morans from warring communities together and ending conflict.

County Engagements

Isiolo and Marsabit Counties



CIDP 3 Development Fostering Cross-Sectoral Planning and Coordination for Sustainable Development

The Counties of Isiolo and Marsabit have multiple development challenges including food insecurity, frequent and prolonged drought, limited access to health care, poor health seeking behaviors, and inadequate water and sanitation practices. Both Counties recognize that efficient and effective health services play a critical role in economic development. Section 104 (1) of the County Government ACT 2012 states that, "a County Government shall plan for the County and no public funds shall be appropriated without a planning framework developed by the County Executive Committee and approved by the County Assembly". The CIDP contains information on development priorities and strategies that provides priorities within all sectors and how they will interact to attain the desired development changes in the Counties. In line with the USAID/Kenya and East Africa Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) that envisions Kenya-owned, Kenya-led, and Kenya-managed development, USAID Nawiri actively supported and participated in the ongoing CIDP 3 development processes in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. Nawiri also actively facilitated various Sector Working Groups sessions and engaged a wide array of stakeholders to capitalize on partnerships and cross-sectoral synergies for the forthcoming CIDP3 (2023 – 2027). Over the next five years, both Counties have decided to focus on multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral strategies that aim at ending hunger and malnutrition. County residents have proposed that the Counties focus on ensuring access to safe nutritious and sufficient food, ensuring access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene for all, and ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages for sustainable development.

Capacity Strengthening Ward Climate Change and Planning Committees on Dissemination of Early Warning and Early Response Systems.

Early warning information enables communities and organizations to plan and actualize appropriate actions towards communities' preparedness and mitigation. In an effort to strengthen counties and communities' capacity to mitigate risks and adapt to frequent shocks and stressors, USAID Nawiri in collaboration with other development partners ([World Vision](#), [Kenya Red Cross Society](#), [Kenya RAPID+](#)) co-facilitated County Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Disaster Risks Management, and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) in training Ward Climate Change and Planning Committees (WCCPCs) across 12 priority wards in Marsabit County. The committees were further guided on how to interpret and create scenarios and customized advisories based on early warning information provided by NDMA and identifying proper communication channels for effective information flow to and from the committees/communities. The feedback information will help the government agencies to assess the effectiveness of the dissemination process. Linkage of the ward committees with the NDMA field monitors was established where the committees will now work together with the field monitors to strengthen process of hazard monitoring and reporting and dissemination of information to communities.

USAID Nawiri Collaborations

Isiolo County



For high impact programming, USAID Nawiri has been pursuing both **internal** and **external** collaborations.

Internally the teams identified opportunities for sequencing, layering and integration of activities. Through these collaborative efforts, streamlined and coordinated activities were implemented in the year resulting into an enhanced logistical planning and timely implementation of program activities. Ongoing collaborations are being pursued across the different sectors (WASH, Livelihoods, Health & Nutrition and System Strengthening) while deliberately integrating the activities with Social Behaviour Change aspects and gender.

USAID Nawiri further explored external collaborations with the county government, **PREG** partners and other non-PREG partners within the county. Through a collaboration with the county government and PREG partners, USAID Nawiri managed to implement two key water infrastructures; Daaba Centre and Aroo community water projects within Ngaremara -one of the malnutrition hotspot wards in Isiolo. County government managed to drill the boreholes in both sites while USAID Nawiri and other PREG partners (**NRT** and **WFP**) supported with the equipping of the boreholes and distribution of the water to the target communities.



A joint assessment of the progress in construction of the Aroo community water project by BHA team, County, Community and USAID Nawiri teams.

| USAID Nawiri | County Government | WFP | NRT | Others | Project Participants |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Equipping Solar Pumping System■ Water distribution lines to community water points; school and health centres.■ Elevated steel tanks (12m High)■ Cattle/Shoats watering troughs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Borehole Drilling■ Capacity Strengthening of Water User Committees (WUCs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Capacity Strengthening of WUC and Water Resource User Association (WRUA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Water Resources Management within Nakuprat Conservancy- Development of water strategy■ Capacity Strengthening of Nakuprat Conservancy | <p>WellCare: - Construction of a masonry wall to protect the borehole sites.</p> <p>CRS Rapid+: Capacity strengthening of WUC</p> <p>Planned Installation of pre-paid meters- Tokens and borehole sensor</p> | <p>Direct: Target population of about 1,750 people. (910 Male, 840 Female)</p> <p>Indirect: Livestock - 1000 cattle, 5,000 shoats, 200 camels and 100 donkeys.</p> |

Emergency Responses



Drought Emergency Response (DER) via Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs) Isiolo and Marsabit Counties

In 2022, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) estimated that 147,401 people in Isiolo (appx.

55% of the county's population) and 252,882 in Marsabit (appx. 55% of the county's population) require food assistance, given the worsening drought impact. USAID Nawiri is distributing DER Cash Transfers (CTs) to **1500** vulnerable families in Isiolo and **3,300** families in Marsabit from 1 Nov. 2022 – 31 March 2023, for a total amount of **KES 150,024,000 (\$1,272,000)**.

USAID Nawiri is strengthening County Government emergency response capacity through sustained support to county coordination mechanisms, to reduce double targeting, and help local systems adapt to shocks in resilient and responsive ways.

Drought Emergency Response (DER) via Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs) in Samburu and Turkana Counties

USAID Nawiri implemented the initial DER in Samburu and Turkana Counties from January to July 2022.

We identified communities most affected by the drought and have been distributing UCTs in areas where the greatest response impact can be achieved. The initial DER phase supported **3,551** households (HHs) with a total of **KES 71,971,668 (USD 604,803)**, over four distributions.

From August to September 2022, the program initiated the second phase of the DER to provide continued assistance to the original participants, with two additional monthly transfers of **KES 6,067**, which translated into **KES 43,087,834 (USD 362,082.60)** in total disbursed. We also scaled-up to continue providing UCTs to an additional **750 HHs, KES 7,085/ month**. A total of **KES 169,408,538** had been disbursed as UCTs by end December 2022.



Top 2022 Highlights!



01

USAID Nawiri forum with Isiolo and Marsabit Governors and County Executive Members, CRS, and BHA, to establish rapport with and orient the new county leadership on the strategic CRS/ BHA partnership, providing an overview of USAID Nawiri programs in both counties including the CIDP-aligned Y4 priorities (2 Nov. 2022).



02

Joint USAID BHA/ Nawiri monitoring visits in the four counties



03

USAID Nawiri Adapted
Nutrition Graduation Model
(AN-GM) Learning Event,
Sept 2022



04

USAID Nawiri Community
Visual Engagements

USAID Nawiri in the Counties Joint Newsletter

Welcome to the **Catholic Relief Services** and **Mercy Corp-led USAID Nawiri consortia** newsletter, produced with **Marsabit, Isiolo, Turkana** and **Samburu** Counties. Kenya's ASAL communities are currently facing hunger on an unprecedented scale, at a time of extremely high and rising food prices, with millions of lives and livelihoods at stake. According to predictions, the drought's negative impact will worsen resulting in a long emergency and drought-recovery period of worsening malnutrition status/rates and extreme support needs for many ASAL communities. **USAID Nawiri programs** and county governments have stepped up collaborative, life-saving emergency responses, while also actively pursuing long-term drought recovery efforts among vulnerable ASAL communities.



"Now into the implementation phase, USAID Nawiri continues to collaborate closely with communities, all-level county officials and other key actors, through integrated, multi-sectoral approaches. Given the severe and worsening drought impact and to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable households, in the last financial year, USAID Nawiri disbursed a total of 1.7 million USD (Kes 196 million) in emergency cash transfers and is continuing with the support to 4,800 households up to March 2023. USAID Nawiri continues to work in partnership with and strengthen County Government (CG) capacity to respond to the emergency through sustained support to county coordination mechanisms. Critically, USAID Nawiri

is ensuring that programs met high quality standards and that we continue adapting to emerging challenges as we address acute malnutrition and serve priority communities. Year four (Implementation year 2) will be marked by further upscaling integrated interventions, strengthening collaborative multi-sectoral approaches, quality service delivery and vulnerable community access to essential services and household needs.

Dr. Mourad AIDI, Chief of Party, USAID Nawiri, (CRS)

"Looking back at what USAID Nawiri has accomplished in year 3 implementation programming, we are proud of what we have achieved towards our goal of sustainably reducing persistent global acute malnutrition (P-GAM) in Turkana and Samburu counties where we have reached 126,130 (F:65,919 - M:60,211) participants through both humanitarian and development interventions across 13 wards, supporting communities to meet their immediate needs considering the worsening humanitarian crisis, while ensuring that those communities are also building their capacity to be resilient to future shocks. We did this through thoughtfully sequencing, layering and integrating activities across individual, household, community, and systems levels. For example, by ensuring that emergency cash transfers, while increasing the ability of individuals and households to purchase a more diverse range of nutritious foods, are also layered with market strengthening activities at the community and systems levels, to ensure that a more diverse range of nutritious foods are available to those households at prices they can manage. I would like to take this opportunity to thank USAID, in particular BHA, for their continued support.

Hussein Noor Abdille, Chief of Party, USAID Nawiri, (MC)

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