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From top left: Ekai Lokoumanik, a farmer at Namuner vegetable farm tends to his vegetables in Lokori/Kachodin Ward, Turkana East, Transforming Masculinity group participants from Ndonyo Nasipa, Samburu East, showcase their VSLA savings box (top right), A mother uses the Family-led MUAC to screen her child in Nachola, Samburu North (bottom left), and, Lotome Awat, a Nawiri participant practices hand washing after latrine use in Konyipad village, Turkwel Ward, Loima (bottom right). All photos ©USAID Nawiri, Mercy corps, 2024.

USAID NAWIRI FY24 Q2 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
BESO	State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
BMU	Beach Management Unit
CF	Community Facilitator
CFSP	County Fiscal Strategy Paper
CHCs	Community Health Committee
CHAs	Community Health Assistants
CHUSLA	Community Health Units Savings and Loans Association
CHSSIP	County Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan
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
COPAD	Community Participatory Action for Development
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CU	Community Unit

DER	Drought Emergency Response
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EA	Environmental Audit
E-CHIS	Electronic Community Health Information System
E-CHIMES	Electronic County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan
EW	Early Warning
F	Female
FANTA	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
FCDO	Frontiers Children Development Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FP	Family Planning
FP/RMNCAH	Family Planning/Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIRL	Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihood plus Health
GIS	Geospatial Information Systems
HINI	High Impact Nutrition Interventions
HH	Household
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICCM	Integrated Community Case Management
ICSLG	Integrated Curriculum Savings and Loaning Groups
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
JMMI	Joint Market Monitoring Initiative
JTE	Joint Targeting and Enrollment
KCWG	Kenya Cash Working Group

KEFRI	Kenya Forest Research Institute
KFS	Kenya Fisheries Services
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
LARA	Livelihoods and Resilience Academy
LIPs	Local Implementing Partners
LSP	Local Service Providers
LTA	Long Term Average
M	Male
MAM	March- April- May
MAZ	MUAC for age
MCA	Member of County Assembly
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MFB	Minimum Food 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
MSEA	Micro and Small Enterprise Authority
MSD	Market System Development
MTE	Midterm Evaluation
MUS	Multiple-Use Water Systems
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NEMA-EIA	National Environment Management Authority-Environment Impact Assessment
NG-CDF	National Government-Constituencies Development Fund
NRM	Natural Resources Management
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PACIDA	Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance

PAM	Persistent Acute Malnutrition
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PREG	Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth
PREP	Projected Resource Expectation Proposal
PRM	Participatory Rangeland Management
PSP	Private Service Providers
R4N	REAP for Nutrition
RD	Resilience Design
REAP	Rural Entrepreneur Access Project
RMS	Recurrent MonitoSystemring
RTI	Research Triangle Institute
SG	Savings Groups
SAPCONE	Sustainability Approaches for Community Empowerment
SCMP	Sub-Catchment Management Plans
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSBC	Social Structural Behavior Change
SWG	Sector Working Group
SRA	Short Rains Assessment
TB	Tuberculosis
TM	Transforming Masculinity
TOT	Training of Trainers
TUPADO	Turkana Pastoralists Development Organization
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training
VSLA	Village and Savings Loans Association
VTC	Vocational Training College
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDPCs	Ward Development Planning Committees
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

WRUAs	Water Resource User Associations
WSTF	Water Sector Trust Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

USAID Nawiri intensified its efforts to foster holistic community development in Samburu and Turkana Counties, addressing multifaceted challenges across various sectors. Through strategic partnerships, innovative approaches, and targeted interventions, Nawiri improved livelihoods, enhanced access to essential services, and promoted sustainable development. By the end of this quarter, the program reached 386,054 (F:200,156; M:185,898) unique participants. Within this demographic, the Nawiri team provided vital interventions in crop and fodder production to a total of 1,055 (F:455; M:600) individuals benefiting from these initiatives. The program additionally pioneered the adoption of the local service providers (LSP) model, facilitating the recruitment of 33 (19 Turkana, 14 Samburu) last mile agents by three selected agro-dealers. Notably, over 300 kilograms of assorted crop seed varieties were distributed to 615 (F:426; M:189) participants in Samburu County through the voucher system established in the preceding quarter.

In line with its commitment to financial inclusion, Nawiri employed a market systems approach by training 63 (F:20; M:43) Private Sector Providers (PSPs) to deliver essential financial services to 315 groups. This initiative reached 7,245 (F:5,724; M:1,521) individuals benefiting from improved access to financial resources. Simultaneously, the program expanded opportunities for youth by partnering with five new Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. These collaborations under the Ujuzi Mashinani model aimed to equip young people with vocational skills, thereby enhancing their employability and socioeconomic prospects.

This past quarter also witnessed significant strides in addressing healthcare challenges, particularly in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services. We facilitated the training, mentorship, and supervision of 444 healthcare workers (HCWs) and 1,698 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) across Samburu and Turkana Counties. Noteworthy efforts were made to enhance the capacity of HCWs, with 129 receiving mentorship on high-impact nutrition interventions and electronic Community Health Information Systems (eCHIS) in Samburu. Additionally, we supported the implementation of bi-weekly integrated health and nutrition outreaches, reaching 12,709 participants in Samburu and 10,100 in Turkana with health services and tailored Social and Behavior Change (SBC) messaging for anchor groups.

Our community engagement strategies focused on promoting dialogue, peacebuilding, and advocacy for community needs. Through participatory dialogues and practical demonstrations, communication gaps and skill deficiencies were addressed, with 12,709 participants in Samburu and 2,188 in Turkana actively engaged. Moreover, the program empowered Ward Development Planning Committees (WDPCs) through training in social accountability and public expenditure management, facilitating effective advocacy for community priorities and encouraging the prioritization of nutrition-sensitive activities.

In collaboration with local governments, Nawiri advocated for improved health resource allocation and spearheaded the development of critical policies and infrastructure. Notably, we successfully advocated for approving the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy in Turkana County and led the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) strategy. The Nawiri team plans to launch the GIS system in the upcoming quarter, which aims to enhance evidence-based decision-making in health resource allocation, particularly to combat acute malnutrition. Furthermore, the program was pivotal in fostering

collaboration between the executive and county assembly to implement the Turkana County Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan (CHSSIP 2022-2032), laying a foundation for sustained healthcare improvements in the region.

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

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

TURKANA

In this reporting period, the February assessment of short rains placed Turkana County at Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) 3-crisis. However, there has been a slight improvement in the drought situation as reported by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) February 2024 drought Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification bulletin, which highlights Turkana to be at normal phase- worsening. The short rains assessment (SRA) report projected a further improvement in food security during April –June 2024 due to anticipated significant above-average short rains in various areas.

According to the NDMA Bulletin 2024, in February, Turkana received below-normal rainfall with poor spatial and temporal distribution, resulting in inadequate recharge of open-water sources with hand-dug traditional river wells, reaching depths of more than 1-2 meters. Turkana also experienced a decline in the quality of livestock compared to January, reflecting deteriorating vegetation conditions. While a few farmers engaged in irrigation farming were preparing seed beds in readiness for the sorghum planting, rainfed farms had minimal planting activities in February. Despite milk production being stable (remaining within the long-term average of 1.4) compared to January, livestock forage conditions continued to slightly deteriorate by 2% from the long-term average (LTA) of 35%. However, milk consumption at the household level remained stable, especially in Turkana South, Loima, and Turkana West. The terms of trade slightly improved due to the decreasing maize prices and stable goat prices, attributed to the fair body condition of goats in February. The food consumption score remained stable compared to January, indicating that households consumed modest food diversities. However, there was a slight increase in the proportion of children categorized as ‘moderately malnourished,’ which increased slightly as they relied more on minimal milk produced at the household level.

SAMBURU

In the SRA 2024 report, Samburu was classified as experiencing a serious state of acute malnutrition situation (IPC-3) demonstrated by GAM prevalence between 10-14.9%. This marks an improvement from its previous critical phase classification (IPC Phase- 4, GAM between 15-29.9%) in July 2023. The county reported 4,911 severely malnourished children under five years old, and 20,325 moderately malnourished children (SRA, 2024 Report). The prevalence of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained high standing at 22.4 percent which is above the recommended World Health Organization (WHO) threshold (March, 2024, NDMA Early Warning Bulletin). The causal factors linked to the high malnutrition rates include a decline in household milk production and consumption. As at the end of March 2024, current average milk production was 0.5 per household per day, compared to the long term

average of 0.6 for the period 2021–2023 at the same time of the year. Milk production slightly improved from 0.3 litres per household per day in February to 0.5 litres per day per household but remained below the LTA. This was attributed to reduced herd sizes, low calving, and-insecurity driven migration of milking herds in the part of Samburu Central hit by insecurity. Additionally, 11.6% of households in pastoral livelihood zones had poor food consumption scores, primarily consuming staples and vegetables with limited access to proteins and dairy. Despite these challenges, the current proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition was 22.4%, which is relatively comparable to 21.4% (February) and 21.2% (January) 2024 (NDMA, February - March 2024 Early Warning Bulletins).

ACTIVITY OUTPUTS

By the close of Year 4, Quarter 2, Nawiri had successfully engaged 386,054 participants (F:200,156; M:185,898). During this quarter, spanning January through March, the program added 25,223 new participants, comprising (F:13,273; M:11,950). The actual and planned numbers for participants reached were closely aligned, illustrating the program's consistent efforts to expand its reach and impact through various interventions. The table below reflects the progress made across different months:

FY24	Participants Actual / Planned							No. Unique Participants
Participants		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan	Feb	March	
Male	Actual	159,903	168,415	173,948	174,825	178,720	185,898	185,898
	Planned	158,736	167,154	175,572	183,990	192,408	200,826	
Female	Actual	172,333	181,104	186,883	187,855	191,987	200,156	200,156
	Planned	172,216	181,349	190,482	199,615	208,748	217,881	

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

The program continued to strengthen crop and livestock production systems to enhance year-round availability of nutritious foods. In preparation for the March, April and May (MAM) long rains, we supported a total of 1,055 (F:455; M:600) participants with interventions in crop and fodder production. Emphasis was placed on promoting climate-smart agricultural (CSA) techniques training sessions that enhance scaling up of resilience design / agro-ecological approaches to improve productivity of already degraded lands in the target communities. In collaboration with the County Departments of

Agriculture, Livestock, and Environment, we facilitated training on resilience design Training of Trainers (ToTs) to scale-up approaches, reaching an additional 949 participants (342 (F:230; M:112) in Samburu, 607 (F:410; M:197) in Turkana). This resulted in the integration of resilience design approaches on 353 acres of land under crop and fodder production during the quarter.



Nawiri supported producer group members harvesting maize from their farms at Elelea irrigation farm, Turkana East

To enhance access to farm inputs including seeds, the program rolled out the local service providers (LSP) model by facilitating three selected agro-dealers to identify and recruit 33 (19 (F:8; M:11) in Turkana and 14 (F:4; M:10) in Samburu) last mile agents. Over 300 kgs of assorted crop seed varieties were delivered to 615 (F:426; M:189) participants in last mile villages, in Samburu County through the voucher system designed in quarter one.

To boost milk availability during the lean season, we collaborated with the County Department of Livestock to promote fodder conservation and preservation by training 172 (F:91; M: 81) participants on fodder harvesting, conservation, preservation, storage, and marketing. So far, over 2,000 bales (40, 000 kgs) of fodder (Ciliaris Cenchrus) have been harvested and preserved in the two Counties.

FISH PRODUCTION

To ensure effective and efficient management of fisheries resources, including providing oversight of the eight motorized fiberglass boats, sustainable fish harvesting practices, conservation of fish stocks, and equitable distribution of resources leading to increased availability of a diverse range of nutritious fish species and enhanced livelihoods for fisherfolk communities, Nawiri collaborated with the State Department of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI), Kenya Fisheries Services (KFS), and Turkana County Directorates of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Trade and Cooperatives and County Department of Public Health and supported the BMUs to develop eight site management plans (SMPs) for improved nutrition outcomes. The three-day engagement session for 24 (F:3, M:21) government technical staff focused on the development of 8 SMPs, including boat management and operation, fiberglass post distribution, fiberglass boat monitoring, conflict and dispute resolution, post-harvest losses reduction management, market linkages, and fish hygiene and sanitation management in readiness delivery and distribution of eight motor-propelled fiberglass boats.

Nawiri is facilitating the County Department of Fisheries to conduct validation sessions for BMU SMPs. These sessions aim to ensure the SMPs are relevant, feasible, and acceptable to stakeholders. Feedback gathered during the sessions will be incorporated into revisions, and the plans will undergo final approvals once adjustments are made. Nawiri will utilize the BMU SMPs as a foundation to develop a capacity-strengthening framework aimed at the 72 BMU executive committee and anchor group participants, outlining clear roles and responsibilities, timelines, and a sustainability plan.

To understand market dynamics and demand for high-quality eco-friendly fishing gear in last-mile fishing communities, Nawiri, in collaboration with Turkana County Directorate of Fisheries and the State Department of Blue Economy, conducted a five-day assessment to identify last-mile fishing input supply and distribution agents. The assessment also aimed to establish an efficient and reliable fish input distribution system, including ordering, storage, transportation, and delivery mechanisms, as well as increase accessibility of fishing inputs and their proximity to fisherfolks for affordable quality and reliable inputs. A total of 27 local fish input suppliers were identified, drawn from Lakezone, Kalokol, Kerio, and Lodwar, mainly stocking items including gill nets, hooks, twines, manilla ropes, and boat repair materials, with stock values ranging from KES. 200,000 (US \$1,538.46) to KES.4,000,000 (US \$30,769.23). Analysis is underway to assess buyers' willingness to pay for these inputs and services. To enhance business connections between fish traders/vendors and the Rural Entrepreneur Access Program (REAP) for Nutrition (R4N) business groups in remote pastoral communities, the program collaborated with the County Departments of Fisheries, Trade, Health and Nutrition, and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) to connect fish traders from Lomekwi with R4N business groups from Longolemwar through business to business (B2B) forums resulting in an exchange of a variety of green vegetables including spinach (20Kgs), green grams (18 Kgs), coriander (15 Kgs), amaranth (10 Kgs), and solanum (13 Kgs) for dried Nile perch. During the trade exchange activities, representatives from both forums discussed the importance of establishing an intra-trade committee to oversee trading between the last-mile R4N groups from Longolemwar and the Lomekwi fish traders. The committee's membership includes two representatives from R4N (Kibish and Turkana North reps), one participant each from Adapted Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (AM2MSGs), Boy groups, GIRL-H, Trade Department, and the Fisheries' department.

Moreover, Nawiri conducted capacity-building sessions for 89 (F:31; M: 58) BMUs executive committee members and 8 (F:1; M:7) Ward Development Planning Committees (WDPCs) members in resource mobilization, governance and leadership, record keeping, fish business management skills, and sustainability in fisheries operations aimed to empower members to enhance their livelihoods. Collaboration of WDPCS and BMUs is important to ensure coordinated and inclusive planning and decision-making processes that address the holistic development needs of fisherfolk communities while promoting sustainable management of lake (fish and water) resources.

APICULTURE PROMOTION

USAID Nawiri continued to promote sustainable production of high-quality honey production for increased household income generation through a partnership with the County Department of Livestock Production by training 473 (F:396, M:77) GIRL-H and Boy R4N, and AMTMSGs anchor group participants drawn from 28 protected apiaries covering 5.5 acres on integrating agroecological resilience

designs including the A-frame technique to design contours, bioswales, water ponds, smile bums, and half-moons within the beekeeping environment. These designs helped to conserve water, prevent soil erosion, and promote biodiversity by creating habitats for pollinators and other beneficial insects, improving the sustainability of beekeeping operations and enhancing the nutritional quality of honey produced. The integration of water ponds and bioswales will ensure adequate water supply for both bees and surrounding vegetation, contributing to increased forage availability and improved honey production. Moreover, the smile burns and half-moons will facilitate soil moisture retention and nutrient cycling, leading to healthier plant growth and higher yields of nectar-rich flowers. Through this partnership, the county department of livestock production contributed 10kg of certified Cenchrus Ciliaris- a grass seed variety, which was sown on the contours and half moon. Participants were also connected with the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) to access various fruit and fodder trees for establishment within the protected apiaries.

During this past quarter, the program prioritized improving the overall management of beekeeping practices with a specific focus on environmental conservation and the development of bee-foraging resources. 93 (F: 88, M: 5) participants were trained on how to start a beekeeping enterprise, as well as apiary siting and management. GIS coordinates for 20 of the apiaries have been collected as a reference to enhance monitoring and tracking. Additionally, in collaboration with the Turkana County Directorate of Livestock and the apiculture platform of Kenya, the program is in the process of procuring beekeeping start-up kits for commercial honey production to support 566 (F: 489; M: 77) participants in Turkana and 296 (F: 192; M: 104) in Samburu.

Furthermore, Nawiri, in collaboration with Turkana County Directorate of Livestock, has mapped Kakoka and Amonok Aoo cooperatives and the Hive Ltd Kenya as major aggregators, processors, and marketers of honey and hive products. Linkages with the anchor groups are currently being made to connect them with the off-takers for the sale of honey products.

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

FINANCIAL INCLUSION

To enable small business development and strengthen food and income security for last-mile communities, Nawiri continued to improve access to affordable, tailored, inclusive financial services to 605 (F:495; M:110) participants from 15 GIRL-H groups, three Boy groups, five AM2MSGs, and 30 Community Health Units Savings and Loans Association (CHUSLA) participants. In collaboration with the County Department of Trade and Social Services, the program used the Integrated Curriculum Savings and Loaning Groups (ICSLG) curriculum to deliver financial knowledge and skills on modules including leadership and governance, constitution-making, basic entrepreneurship skills, financial literacy and numeracy, resource mobilization, record keeping, and loan risk management. In addition, the program provided the groups with 48 Village and Savings Loans Association (VSLA) start-up kits consisting of a lockable metallic savings box, individual passbooks, and group recordkeeping books.

In the second quarter, the Management Information Systems Savings Group Information Exchange (MIS SAVIX) reported that 1,129 (F:814; M:315) GIRL-H and Boy savings groups generated cumulative savings of KES.1,573,995 (US \$52,466.50) and the social welfare fund of KES.197,120 (US \$1,516.31). Additionally, loans of KES. 289,530 (US \$2,227.15) were disbursed to 59 (F:42; M:17) members to facilitate investment into livelihood activities. Based on the business enterprise and follow-up sessions conducted in March 2024, 69 AM2MSGs (F:1,056) and 81 CHUSLA participants (F:71; M:10) in Turkana had cumulative savings of KES 4,252,634 (US 32,712.57), and total social welfare funds amounting to KES 238,925 (US \$1,837.88), while loans disbursed to 373 (F:373; M:0) participants amounted to KES 2,457,695 (US \$18,905.35). In Samburu County, 1,906 (F:1,906; M:0) participants from 136 AM2MSG savings groups had cumulative savings of KES. 7,850,165 (US \$60,385.89), and total social funds of KES 695,700 (US \$5,351.54), while loans disbursed to 714 members totaled KES 3,836,800 (US \$29,513.85). The micro-loans totaling KES 5,099,895 (US \$39,229.96) disbursed to 1,146 group members were utilized to purchase nutritious foods for household consumption, increase



Sunday Lendorope, an R4N participant buys green leafy vegetables for her household from a local vendor in Lolgereded, Samburu East

business stocks (small businesses), pay medical bills and school fees, and invest in more productive ventures including livestock trading and butcheries. With the growth in savings and incomes among the participants, the program will empower participants with knowledge on budgeting, investment, and financial decision-making so that they can better utilize their income to improve sustainable nutrition outcomes. The business mentorship and coaching sessions covered modules on business record keeping, basic numeracy, household financial planning and budgeting, market and profitability analysis, and group registration processes.

To ensure benefits accrued from savings groups (SGs) are more sustainable and available to significantly larger coverage beyond the life of the program, the program is currently utilizing a market systems approach and trained 63 (F:20; M:43) Private Sector Providers (PSPs) (Samburu 24 and Turkana 39) to deliver critical inclusive financial services to 315 groups and reaching 7,245 (F:5,724, M:1,521) participants. The PSPs are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively implement the approach and deliver the financial education sessions using the approved training curriculum.

Due to limited awareness of available, flexible, and affordable financial services among the last-mile communities, the program will increase awareness through roadshows and financial outreach activities to educate and empower communities on financial services and products, as well as foster financial inclusion and resilience. The financial outreach campaign will be centered on the theme, “Save

Today/Better Tomorrow, Wise Saving/Better Living”. The campaign will emphasize the benefits of saving money, the advantages of saving it in recognized financial institutions, and the process of identifying a secure institution for account opening and accessing large credits.

BASKETRY AND WEAVING

During the quarter, Nawiri, in partnership with the Turkana and Samburu County Governments' Directorate of Trade, Tourism, Culture, the Diocese of Turkana, the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA), and the Ushanga Initiative, conducted basketry and weaving training sessions. These trainings targeted AM2MSGs, GIRL-H, and Boy groups in Turkana with basketry and Samburu with beadwork training. The training focused on new designs and techniques, as well as introducing time-saving tools for bead product development. A total of 389 (F:317; M:72) participants were trained and connected with bead suppliers to facilitate the production of products using beads and duo-palm leaves.

Basketry and beadwork training carried out in the quarter:

County	Facilitators	Training	Female	Male	Total
Samburu	MSEA and Ministry of Trade	Beadwork, sandals and belt making	34	55	89
Samburu	Ushanga Initiative and Ministry of Trade	Beadwork	172	0	172
Turkana	Ministry of trade and Catholic Diocese of Lodwar	Basketry	111	17	128
Total			317	72	389

BUSINESS SKILLS CURRICULUM

Nawiri supported a one-week business curriculum development workshop in Nakuru. The curriculum was developed in conjunction with 24 (F:8; M:16) business skills trainers, including officials from the Turkana and Samburu County governments, as well as private sector trainers. The curriculum was tailored for utilization within the program by trainers in both counties and with the public and private sectors. By the fourth week of March, the manual and a facilitator's guide were consolidated into a single volume and handed over to a graphic designer for finalization before circulation to business skills experts for final review. Validation workshops are scheduled to take place in both counties in May 2024. Subsequently, a training workshop for trainers will be conducted to familiarize business skills trainers with the newly developed manual.

YOUTH ACCESS TO TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING (TVET) SKILLS

The program has partnered with five new TVETs: Kataboi, Kaaleng Kaikor, and Lokichar in Turkana County, as well as Samburu North and Samburu East TVETs, making it to 6 TVETS, including Maralal Vocational Training Centre (VTC), to enhance access to vocational skills through the Ujuzi Mashinani model. The model advocates for urban-based TVETs to establish satellite training centers in last-mile communities, thereby increasing student enrollment, generating revenue, and improving access to TVET skills for youth seeking self or wage employment opportunities. A total of 763 (F:568; M:195) youths have enrolled and started classes this quarter and are expected to transition to self or wage employment in June 2024. Additionally, 1,210 (F:780; M:430) more youths have been mobilized and are currently receiving support in career guidance and mentorship to assist them in selecting suitable career paths and commencing training in May 2024, as shown in the table below;

TVET Mobilization and Enrollment:

County	TVET	No of Satellite Training centers established	No of youth enrolled and attending classes	No of youth enrolled and attending classes
Turkana	Kaaleng Kaikor VTC	4	273 (F:260; M:13)	Classes ongoing from March 2024
	Kataboi VTC	10	475 (F:308;M:167)	Classes ongoing from March 2024
	Master trainer (Boat making)	1	15 (M)	Classes ongoing from March 2024
			# of youth enrolled but not started classes	
Turkana	Lokichar VTC	6	651 (F:403; M: 248)	To start in June 2024
Samburu	Samburu North VTC	4	241 (F:179; M:62M)	To begin in June 2024
	Samburu East VTC	8	318 (F:198 ; M:120)	To begin in June 2024

TOTAL	33	1973 (F:1348 ; M:625)	
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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT COMPACT

The Nawiri program supported the formation of the Turkana Youth Workforce Development Compact, which aimed to address challenges related to youth access to skills and employment in Turkana County. This forum included representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, key employers across various economic sectors, the County Department of Human Resources, Training and Vocational Education and Trade along with the Kataboi and Kaaaleng Kaikor TVETs who have enrolled Nawiri's youth for training. The forum will reconvene in the upcoming quarter to develop an action plan for addressing challenges and identifying opportunities in the youth workforce development space within Turkana.

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.



Akunoit Lorot, a mother washes her child's hand in the Nawiri rehabilitated water system at Kaaleng, Turkana North

During this past quarter, the program commissioned and handed over two completed multi-user water systems (MUS) in Kaaleng and Long'olemwar to the Turkana County Water Department. Kaaleng benefits a total of 600 households, three learning institutions, and one health facility, while Long'olemwar serves 1,596 people, one Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE), and 25-acre farmland for crop and fodder production. In addition, the program supported the sinking of 5 shallow wells in community farms in Lokapel to support production activities and awarded tenders for the rehabilitation and construction of 17 MUS in the next

quarter. In Samburu during the quarter, Nawiri completed Ateker water systems to provide water for domestic and irrigation purposes, benefiting 420 households, while the Loruko rehabilitation and expansion of the water system is near completion.

Nawiri is in the process of contracting eight water systems in the same county for construction in the next quarter.

To improve water service payments, Nawiri conducted social behavior change sensitization training on willingness to pay for water and water management services in Kang'atotha and Kagitankori village for 45 (F:19; M:26) Water Users Association (WUA) committee members. In the two water systems, community members demonstrated willingness to pay and agreed on a monthly fee of KES 100 per household per month. The revenue generated for water sales will assist the WUA in repairs and services of the water systems, ensuring communities access to uninterrupted safe water supply.

To advance community-led total sanitation (CLTS) initiatives, the program enacted and carried out follow-ups for a total of 32 villages (15 Turkana South; 17 Turkana North) to promote the adoption and construction of latrines at the household level. These were integrated with hygiene promotion on hand washing at critical times and the creation of awareness on the correlation between the increase in diarrhea and poor WASH practices. Through collaboration with the County Department of Health, 512 dozens of PUR (water treatment) were distributed in five villages to support household water treatment.

In Samburu, the program conducted follow-ups in various community units (CUs), including Ndonyo Wasin in Waso Ward, Samburu East, Lchakwai in Baawa Ward- Samburu North, and Tuum, and Waso Rongai in Nyiro Ward, Samburu North. Notably, progress was observed in latrine construction and usage, with improvements noted in behavior and attitudes toward sanitation facilities. For instance, in Lchakwai, seven villages totaling 505 households have dug 137 pits. Once the villages attain open defecation-free (ODF) status, 1,023 participants will gain access to basic sanitation. In Ndonyo Wasin CU, follow-ups in 12 villages observed that 48 latrines were constructed, up from the initial 20, benefiting 2,318 (1,182F; 1,136M) people. To note, initially, during the CLTS status assessment, there were 32 latrines in use across Tuum and Waso Rongai CUs. However, positive developments have been observed in the two CUs, with the number of latrines increasing to 55, including 23 new ones, which is attributed to triggering and follow-ups by the program. This improvement has benefited 40 households in the villages, totaling a population of 200 people (F:79; M: 65 and 56 children).

Additionally, Nawiri, in collaboration with local communities and other stakeholders in Samburu County, facilitated water resource management, social accountability, and environmental resilience. This included the development and review of the Arsim Water Resource User Association (WRUA) Sub Catchment Management Plan (SCMP) and training of 33 (F:9; M: 24) committee members in Arsim and 33 (F:11; M:22) members in Lasitu WRUA. The SCMP is a key WRUA requirement for funding by other national-level water apex institutions such as the Water Sector Trust Fund (WSTF) and other relevant stakeholders. The SCMP documents prioritize all the WRUA activities within their sub-catchment for a period of 10 years. A notable success resulting from Nawiri's support is the securing of funding by the Waso Rongai WRUA in Samburu, amounting to KES 26 million from the USAID STAWI Project. This funding became possible through the development of a comprehensive SCMP, which was supported by the program in the previous quarter. Additionally, through collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), Nawiri facilitated WRUAs and community members in Samburu to participate in restoring degraded landscapes in Jerusalem village, Samburu East sub-county. This involvement included the construction of stone contour terraces and compost pits through the Livelihoods and Resilience Academy (LARA) initiative, sponsored by WFP.

In this past quarter, the program conducted two County WASH forums. The first forum, organized by the County government and its partners, provided updates on completed activities and outlined future plans. The second forum was a session organized for Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA), a local implementing partner for Nawiri, to introduce a new WASH project under USAID STAWI Mashinani, which will be implemented across Samburu County. This project aims to facilitate sequencing, layering, and integration with PACIDA, as many proposed activities align, thereby maximizing impact in the remaining two quarters.

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

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES (CHS)

Nawiri continues to collaborate with Samburu and Turkana County governments to strengthen and sustain access, delivery, and utilization of quality essential maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services. To strengthen the capacity of HCWs and CHPs to provide these services, Nawiri facilitated the training, mentorship, and supportive supervision of 444 (F: 197; M: 247) HCWs and 1,698 (F: 797; M: 901) CHPs in Samburu and Turkana Counties.

In Samburu, 129 (F:56; M:73), HCWs were mentored on the delivery of high-impact nutrition interventions (HINI), electronic Community Health Information Systems (e-CHIS), commodity management, accurate data capture on integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) registers, and IMAM Surge charts. Additionally, 634 CHPs (F:287; M:347) were trained and mentored on integrated



Nkitemwan Lemagas, one of our CHPs at Arsim Health Centre in Arsim, Samburu North

community case management (ICCM), WASH, and household dialogue. In Turkana, 315 HCWs (F:141; M:174) were mentored on the delivery of quality health services, including nutrition, non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis (TB), anchor groups, pharmacy, community health services, WASH, Family Planning/Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (FP/RMNCAH), governance and surveillance. 1,064 CHPs (F:502; M:562) were trained and mentored on the provision of quality ICCM/CMAM - looking out for danger signs and treatment dosages for minor illnesses, including diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, and malnutrition. Training also included stock management of essential medicines, data flow, filling of reporting tools, and digital literacy.

The technical competencies transferred to these resource persons are aimed at ensuring households access and use context-specific, simplified, and appropriately packaged information to improve their health-seeking behaviors. Moreover, the competencies would enable household members' access and use of appropriate and quality essential health services such as immunization, growth monitoring, treatment of illnesses and malnutrition, micro-nutrient supplementation, antenatal care and postnatal care, skilled birth attendance, deworming, Family Planning (FP) specifically long-acting methods, and other reproductive health services.

Additionally, the program extended training beyond health actors to include market and production players like traders, farmers, wholesalers, retailers, hybrid committees, WDPC members, lead mothers, and mentors. The expanded nutrition education among non-health and nutrition actors is aimed at increasing information contact points and influencing decision-making on food stocking and consumption among vendors and their clients. Nawiri will continue to expand information, education, and communication (IEC) materials required to facilitate health and nutrition education and maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) SBC messaging sessions.

Across both sub-counties, IMAM performance indicators were within the recommended sphere standards for both the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) and Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP). This positive outcome was attributed to various interventions across the counties inclusive of Nawiri-supported interventions.

IMAM Surge Dashboard :

County	IMAM surge facilities	Normal		Alert		Alarm		Emergency	
		Jan	Feb	Jan	Feb	Jan	Feb	Jan	Feb
Turkana	138	26%	42%	23%	30%	15%	9%	36%	19%
Samburu	46	84%	92%	13%	8%	3%	0	0	0%

In Turkana County, the IMAM surge dashboard results from February 2024 showed that 58% of health facilities had surpassed their threshold, with 30% at alert, 9% at alarm, and 19% at emergency phase. This development is an improvement from the previous month, which had 36% of health facilities in the emergency phase. The improvements from the IMAM sure dashboard were mainly attributed to sequencing, layering, and integration of livelihood, markets, WASH, health, and nutrition interventions currently being implemented by the program, the government, and other partners. In Samburu, 92% of the facilities were at normal, an improvement from 84% the previous month. Those at alert dropped from 13% to 8%. In both January and February 2024, no facility was at an emergency level in Samburu, signifying that the nutrition situation in the facility was controlled at levels adequate for the health facilities to handle..

In both Samburu and Turkana, the defaulter rates among malnourished children were below 15% which is the World Health Organization (WHO) threshold (acceptable levels) as shown in the table below according (KHIS April 2024 data).

IMAM Performance Outcomes Among Malnourished Children in Samburu and Turkana :

	Target	Turkana county		Samburu County	
		OTP	SFP	OTP	SFP
Cure Rate	>75%	86.9	87.6	75.8	77.6
Defaulter rate	<15%	6.7	5.4	3.9	5.1
Death rate	<10%	0.11	0.03	0.01	0.04
Non-Recovery	<15%	6.3	7	5.8	4.9

To expand access to health and nutrition services to the last-mile communities, Nawiri, in partnership with the Samburu and Turkana County governments, supported the implementation of bi-weekly integrated health and nutrition clinics in 71 sites outreaches (32 and 39 outreach sites in Samburu and Turkana, respectively). In Samburu County, 1,621 (F:800; M:821) children under five years were screened for malnutrition, where 52 (M:30; F:22), representing 3.2%, and 379 (M:223; F:156), representing 23.4%,

were severely and moderately malnourished respectively. Among the 490 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) screened, 185 were malnourished with Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of below 21 centimeters. The PLWs who were identified as malnourished were referred for SFP/OTP at the health facilities. Furthermore, 254 (F:125; M:129) children and 261 (F:206; M:55) adults were treated for minor illnesses. To expand opportunities for social behavior change and education, 1,191 (F:1075; M:116) caregivers were reached with health and nutrition education focusing on sexual reproductive health, health-seeking behaviors, maternal, infant, young child, and adolescent



A community member receiving health services at the Kimormor One-Health outreach in Turkana North

nutrition during normal circumstances such as illnesses. In Turkana County, 3,690 (F: 2,337; M: 1,353) children under five years were screened for malnutrition, where 238 (F:115; M:123), representing 6.4%

and 916 (F:475; M:441) representing 24.8%, were severely and moderately malnourished. Out of the 1,022 PLWs screened, 165, representing 16.1%, were malnourished with MUAC below 21 centimeters.

The Nawiri team additionally supported the County government Department of Health in conducting the planned quarterly Kimormor One-Health outreach in three wards in Turkana West, Turkana North, and Lokichogio sub-counties. Various integrated services were offered during the outreaches, ranging from animal health, nutrition services, immunization, treatment, environment and water, National Registration Bureau, National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), Civil Registration, and Maternal and Child Health (MCH). 1,820 individuals were treated for minor ailments during the outreaches, with 510 being under five years and the remaining 1,310 over five years old; the most common cases treated were acute respiratory infection and diarrhea in adults and children. 15 cases of measles were reported and managed at the Loreng site. 3,649 children and PLW were reached with nutrition services and screened for malnutrition. 108 of the total under-fives screened, representing 5.9%, were found to be malnourished, while 90 mothers representing 4.9 %, were referred to the SFP program in the different link facilities for follow-up visits. At the activity's end, 1,195 individuals were reached with national identification (ID) card registration services and are currently waiting for their national ID cards. 138 newborn children were registered and received their birth notification forms awaiting birth certificates, and 433 members were registered for NHIF services.

MATERNAL INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION (MIYCN)

Maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) knowledge plays a significant role in the reduction of persistent acute malnutrition (PAM). Yet, significant gaps exist, including inadequate diet diversity and frequency, reluctance to prioritize nutritious foods, cultural misconceptions, poor intra-household decision-making, and limited resources. To tackle these challenges, Nawiri implemented social behavior change (SBC) and nutrition resilience interventions.

During the reporting period, we reached 20,169 participants in Samburu and 39,417 in Turkana with tailored SBC messaging to improve MIYCN practices. To address communication gaps and skill deficiencies, the program engaged 59,586 (F:50,809; M:8,777) participants in both Samburu and Turkana through participatory dialogues and practical demonstrations. To ensure the transition from knowledge to practice, participants were connected to resilience interventions like VSLA and home gardening. The program also focused on inclusive SBC messaging and dialogue to enhance household decision-making, equitable role-sharing, and resource allocation, reaching 2,609 (F:1,838 ;M:771) participants.

ADOLESCENT SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (ASRH)

Strengthening the health system for the continued delivery of quality adolescent sexual reproductive health (ASRH) services relies on building the competency of front-line workers. Nawiri addressed mentorship gaps from the previous cohort by decentralizing mentorship and increasing mentor-mentee dyads from 16 to 59 at the facility level, resulting in an increase in ASRH champions, peer-to-peer mentorship at the health facilities, and subsequent delivery and uptake of quality services. Mentorship was also intensified at anchor groups through utilizing frontline HCWs to support adolescent mentors (GIRL-H and Boy groups). Through the weekly sessions, the mentors were able to facilitate sessions on

ASRH, refer adolescents for uptake of ASRH services and conduct accurate routine nutrition screening. The benefits of these sessions included the extension of nutrition knowledge to households by adolescent participants from the anchor groups, dissemination of key messaging on ASRH, and nutrition screening at the household through Family-Led MUAC.

At health facilities, an additional 32 (F:13; M:19) HCWs were trained on the ASRH technical module, adding to the pool of 59 (F:25; M:34) ASRH healthcare provider mentors and champions within the counties. This will strengthen the capacity of the health system to deliver quality adolescent-responsive health services by ensuring enhanced healthcare providers' attitudes and skills in handling adolescents while providing health and nutrition services that include FP information and services, Antenatal Care (ANC), Postnatal Care (PNC), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) counseling and testing, nutrition assessments and management of malnutrition in adolescents among others.

Through continued mentorship, 527(F:355; M:172) adolescent mentors worked with the CHPs in supporting referrals and delivering essential ASRH messaging at the anchor group and household level. At the anchor group level, a total of 59,586 (F:50,809; M:8,777) members in all the anchor groups (AM2MSG, R4N, GIRL-H, and Boy groups) accessed information on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) through weekly sessions. At the GIRL-H and Boy groups, 29,774 (F:20,997; M:87,77) adolescents received information and counseling on SRH, 163 (F:163) were referred for ANC, 348 (F:237; M:111) for FP, 97 (F:97) for PNC and 345 (F:159; M:186) for HIV counseling and testing. To track the completeness of patient referrals and confirm they had received these services, the program has reviewed the anchor group register and included a column that captures the MOH 100 code (referral slip).

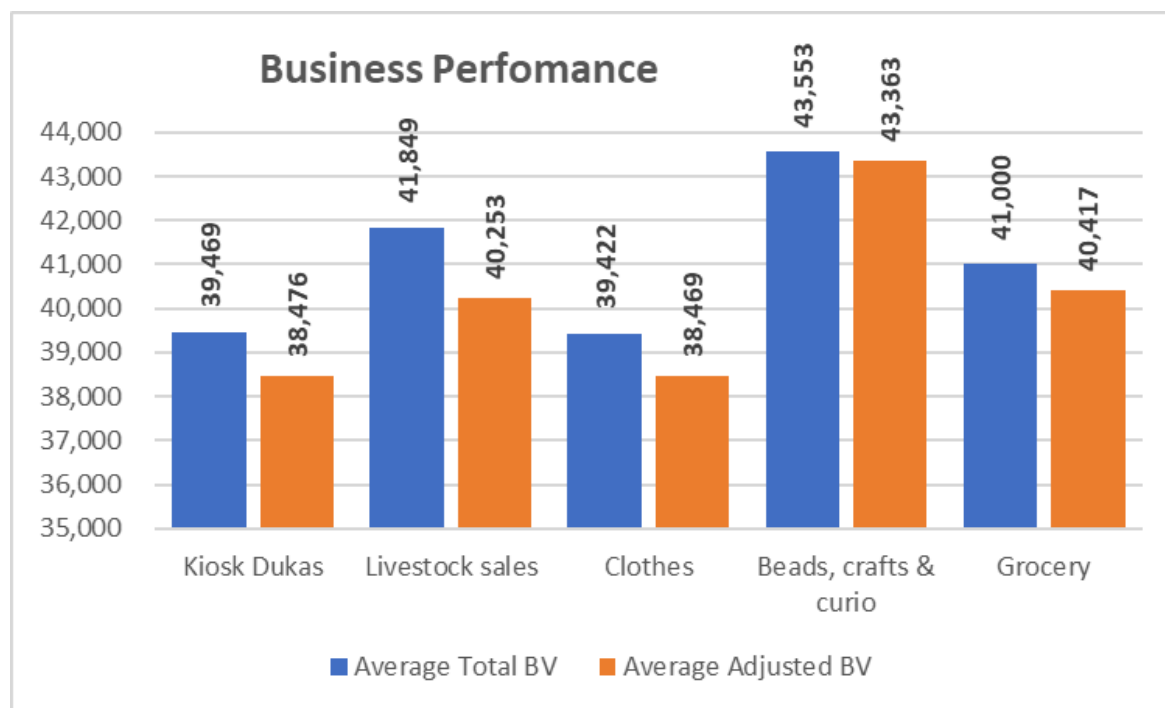
Furthermore, Nawiri supported the County Department of Health in Samburu and Turkana in continuing to strengthen system responsiveness in the delivery of quality adolescent health and nutrition services. This included the review and adoption of a simplified curriculum for adolescent mentors to facilitate the anchor group session in reaching and empowering adolescents and the development of a positive parenting manual to engage adolescents and their parents. We also advocated through the County Department of Health to provide enough commodities and anthropometric equipment to support nutrition screening and management of identified cases and support the county adolescent and youth Technical Working Groups (TWGs) for coordination in the implementation of adolescent health and nutrition activities. Through engagement to strengthen leadership and governance at the community level, youth representatives have been included in the WDPCs and Sub County Children Advisory Committees.

PURPOSE 3: STABLE AND RESILIENT NUTRITION ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

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

REAP FOR NUTRITION (R4N)

Nawiri continued mentorship and coaching for the 2nd cohort, comprising 3,300 households (2250 in Turkana and 1050 in Samburu). Most business groups showed growth, with 99% exceeding the threshold for business start-up grants of Kes. 30,000 (US \$225 per business group). Total average business values were high for the beads and crafts business compared to other businesses, as shown in the Business Performance table below:



Through monthly nutritional skills training offered by mentors, participants are able to utilize part of business profits to access nutritious food for their families.

Additionally, 200 savings groups were formed in January, focusing on promoting a culture of saving and loaning. Within this quarter, the program disbursed three cycles of consumption stipends totaling KES.60,029,373 (US \$445,487) to enable households to access nutritious food and secure their business grants. Furthermore, the mentor-to-business group ratio was adjusted from 1:50 to 1:25 to accommodate case management for nutrition resilience components that were not rolled out in cohort I, increase exposure time between mentors and participants in facilitating change across all levels of household (HH), business groups (BG) and savings groups (SG) and its sequencing, layering, and integration (SLI) interventions. The change in mentor to BG ratio was also based on learnings from cohort I on program quality and internal operational challenges relating to mentors' concerns and experience from R4N in relation to other REAP classic mentors.

In Samburu, seven R4N mentors and three field officers attended training to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for forming and mentoring adapted savings groups. In Turkana, 15 R4N

mentors and four field officers received training on agri-nutrition and MIYCN to support saving groups. Both training enhanced their understanding of nutrition and livelihoods, enabling them to deliver monthly mentorship sessions effectively. Additionally, the design of interactive voice response was completed to reinforce nutrition and entrepreneurship messages via phone-based communication.

January 2024 marked the conclusion of mentorship for cohort 1, comprising 8,700 participants, 2,900 businesses, and 516 savings groups. Savings and business groups provided participants with financial access and business expansion opportunities. In Turkana, 36 groups (108 HHs) whose businesses were affected by conflict will continue to receive mentorship beyond the 18th month. Furthermore, 58 mentors from Cohort 1 exited the program, and some will be reabsorbed to support Cohort 2. As per other VSLAs Nawiri is supporting, SGs conducted a partial share of the groups. As part of the motivation for



A share out session in a routine savings group meeting in Kobiin, Turkana North

participation in saving and loaning activities, mentors facilitated groups to undertake partial share out while rationing registration fees. The groups have since re-grouped together for the 2nd cycle of savings and loaning that will run independently while getting support through the PSPs and quarterly visits by R4N field officers. Nawiri is also following up with the Department of Social Services to complete registration, which started in the first quarter. A post-graduation strategy is currently being rolled out through the PSP and CMNR to ensure outcomes achieved are sustained beyond the 18th month. In the quarter, an end-line evaluation was conducted to determine program success, HH graduation rates, and insights in refining post-graduation strategy and implementation of cohort 2 and future cohorts. The analysis of primary and secondary data is currently underway. For cohort 2, Nawiri is undertaking a household-based graduation assessment as per the revised R4N technical strategy.

AM2MSGs

As part of participant targeting, USAID Nawiri, in collaboration with WFP and the Department of Social Services, Trade, and MOH in Samburu, conducted an assessment of the WFP-initiated women groups in Suguta ward, Samburu. The aim of the assessment was to avoid duplication of efforts and to layer nutrition and other livelihood activities into the existing groups. The assessment identified 52 AM2MSGs comprising 1,182 participants (F:1,120; M:62), including 206 PLWs and 676 children under five years old. Some of the gaps and challenges identified during the assessment included insufficient capacity building on VSLA and group management, limited knowledge and practices around MIYCN, issues around

hygiene and sanitation practices, limited nutrition resilience interventions, insecurity displacing households from established farms, and cases of malnutrition among children and PLW. To address the gaps, recommendations include training participants in VSLA and financial management, initiating crop and poultry production, and sensitizing the groups on MIYCN, WASH, and health education.

GIRL-H AND BOY GROUPS

For Girl-H and Boy anchor groups, Nawiri conducted various training sessions for mentors to strengthen their capacity and support their activities. In Samburu, training included a six-day Baby Friendly Community Initiative (BFCl) for 50 (F:25; M:25) mentors from Samburu Central and Loosuk Ward, aiming to promote positive health and nutrition practices. Additionally, 27 (F:19; M:8) mentors from Nyiro, Ndoto, Elbarta, and Ngilai wards in Samburu North underwent training on Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) to enhance their skills in community-driven sessions.

In Samburu, the program conducted a data review meeting for 19 health facilities in Samburu North and provided coaching and mentoring sessions for 84 (F:59; M:25) mentors on accurate record-keeping and



Ndonyo Nasipa TM group hold their VSLA box in Ndonyo Nasipa, Samburu East

delivering health and nutrition messaging to GIRL-H and Boy anchor groups. We noted improvements in anchor group register documentation attributed to the ongoing On-the-Job Training (OJT), coaching, and mentorship initiatives. However, some challenges were identified, such as reluctance among GIRL-H group participants who gave birth and remained within the GIRL-H groups. A discussion is underway with the different anchor group members and the teams supporting them to see how best we can transition them to AMTMSGs for their comfort and to ensure that our programming remains culturally appropriate.

In Turkana, training sessions involved a five-day mentor training for 492 (F: 280; M:212) mentors for GIRL-H and Boy groups, covering group management and program monitoring. Mentors were also trained in good governance, advocacy, and county budgeting processes. Additionally, 239 (F:146; M:93) mentors underwent BFCl training to enhance their skills in maternal and child nutrition. Collaboration with the County Government facilitated the successful execution of these training sessions.

Additionally, the program supported 110 AM2MSGs, 21 R4N, 221 GIRL-H, and 117 Boy groups with growth monitoring and other packages. Furthermore, collaboration with the Department of Social Services and County Department of Trade facilitated share-outs for 168 GIRL-H and VSLA groups, promoting financial linkages between government entities and private providers. Challenges such as

limited access to higher credit limits were addressed through collaboration with financial service providers.

In Turkana, the Nawiri team collaborated with the Department of Social Services and the County Department of Trade to facilitate share-outs for 168 GIRL-H and VSLA groups across various wards. This collaboration recognized the crucial role of these groups in fostering financial linkages between government entities and private financial service providers. In Turkana South, the groups accumulated savings totaling KES. 2,262,120 (US \$17,405.73), with loans at KES. 836,530 (US \$6,436.62), and a social fund value of KES. 163,630 (US \$1,259.04). Similarly, groups in Turkana North accumulated savings amounting to KES. 6,188,140 (US \$47,614.22), with members having taken loans totaling KES. 2,425,230 (US \$18,660.77) and a social fund contribution of KES. 612,200 (US \$4,710.53).

In both counties, community facilitators (CFs) monitored mentors' safe space sessions, addressing challenges faced and ensuring effective knowledge cascade to mentees. Additionally, monthly meetings provided mentors with opportunities to review activities, share feedback, and receive reminders on program goals and ethical standards, fostering community buy-in and positive impact.

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

During the quarter, Nawiri, in collaboration with the County government of Samburu Department of Environment and Natural Resources Management (NRM) and Gravies Zebra Trust, supported the training and rehabilitation of 14 ha of degraded land at Ndonyo Wasin in Samburu East. The training covered the importance of rehabilitating degraded land for pasture production to mitigate climate change impacts during dry seasons and aimed to build participants' skills and knowledge in rangeland management at the landscape level, emphasizing agroecological approaches. Demonstrations were conducted to set up these designs to promote pasture production, with the goal of increasing milk availability and reducing PAM. After the training, 77(F:37; M:40) participants from Nawiri's anchor groups initiated the process of rehabilitating the land and actioned it by fencing after clearing the invasive species, *Acacia reficiens*.



Nawiri participants construct smiley bunds, an RD approach in Namakat, Turkana East

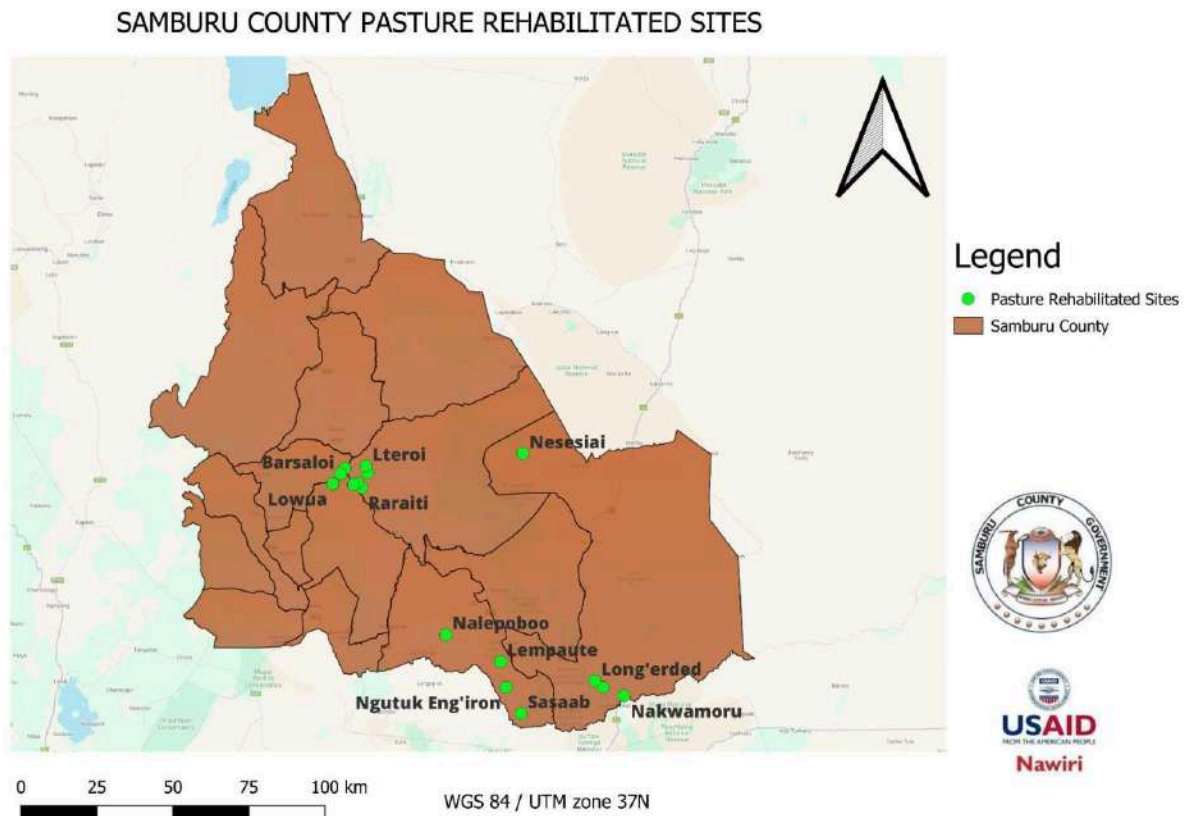
Additionally, jointly with the Samburu County government, the program organized a six-day Participatory Digital Resources Mapping exercise. The activity involving Samburu County's resource teams trained in GIS aimed to support communities and system actors in mapping resources and identifying conflicts hindering access to and use of natural resources, with a focus on water and pasture.

Key objectives of the exercise included mapping out rehabilitated pasture sites and shared resources within our program's investment zones, developing comprehensive maps to inform decision-making for nutrition resilience, and enhancing the understanding of GIS technology among organizational management and technical staff. The exercise covered several areas of interest, including the size of hectares, grassing blocks for wet and dry seasons, shared resources within rangeland units, the number of households benefiting, and the potential number of livestock benefiting from the sites for nutrition resilience. This initiative not only facilitates informed decision-making but also builds local capacity to utilize GIS tools for effective NRM and sustainable development.

During the exercise, the program identified shared resources like water and pasture as key factors driving pastoralist conflict, particularly in dry seasons, with GIS technology playing a pivotal role in improving governance through evidence-based analysis for informed decision-making in natural resource management and land administration. Integrating GIS into Nawiri's interventions, especially in NRM, aids in understanding traditional fallback areas during droughts, navigating changing land ownership and tenure systems, and addressing conflicts in new conservancies. This integration will inform the development of rangeland management plans, enhance community ownership, and facilitate increased coordination between water, grazing, and peace committees, ultimately reducing community migrations. Additionally, the exercise is crucial to ward development planning (WDP), with Nawiri embedding NRM and WDP models across the county, while collaboration with the County Government of Samburu is significant for actualizing County GIS Action Plans and strengthening County Resource Teams.

Upon successful completion of Stage I of the exercise, a comprehensive report was developed, including digital maps and relevant narratives. Expected outcomes included informing the County Government and other development partners for decision-making on resource management and rangeland rehabilitation, avoiding duplication of efforts. Additionally, GIS-generated databases, digital maps showing the geographical locations of specific sites, and attribute tables detailing various aspects of pasture sites were produced.

Nawiri rehabilitated pasture sites in Samburu:



In Samburu, the Nawiri program facilitated the training of key representatives and leaders from anchor groups in designated "Go Deep" villages on various aspects, including rangelands management, conflict management within group dynamics, and climate risk information. The training covered villages in both Samburu North and Samburu East sub-counties, involving participants from various groups such as lead mothers, Boy groups and GIRL-H group leaders, hybrid committees' representatives, producer groups' lead farmers, and CHPs. A total of 214 (F:148; M:66) participants were trained and have been cascading the knowledge in their respective anchor groups.

Nawiri supported a conflict mediation peace dialogue for the Livestock Market Association (LMA) in Illaut and Ngurnit villages, located in Ndoto ward, Samburu North. The engagement involved 32 participants, comprising LMAs from both sides, local stakeholders, and four health facility staff from Ngurnit. Recognizing that markets are crucial target areas for the program, especially for the last mile purchasing nutritious commodities, efforts were made to ensure a conducive environment for their operation. After receiving and analyzing potential conflict issues, the peace and conflict management component responded promptly to address them. For instance, the internal management conflicts within the LMA divided them into two groups—one for the Samburu and the other for Marsabit. Addressing this conflict through dialogue was deemed necessary to prevent escalation. Additionally, we linked health facility staff to anchor groups to facilitate access to anthropometric tools and ease the referral process.

In Turkana, the program spearheaded the implementation of agroecological approaches, primarily focused on pasture and nutritious food production in previously unreclaimed lands along Letea and Loreng, Turkana West. Through



Echor Ekai, one of Namakat pasture producers harvesting cinchus celliaris pasture seeds in Turkana South

trained champions, the program aimed to reclaim approximately 80 acres of land through resilience design structures to produce high-density value fodder for livestock consumption. This initiative, led by anchor groups within the villages, involved activities such as bush clearing, training of resilience design structures, and land rehabilitation.

With the support of technical staff from the county government, 150 farmers and anchor groups

successfully rehabilitated the land and developed resilience design structures. These structures not only aim to support household economies by providing diversified dietary options but also aim to supply surplus fodder to local and neighboring markets, contributing to the reduction of PAM. This activity involved various anchor groups, including 50 GIRL-H and Boy groups participants, 50 AM2MSGs participants, and 50 indirect participants from our target households. Ultimately, the pasture produced will benefit livestock during lean periods, while surplus fodder will be available for sale in livestock markets, contributing to both economic and nutritional benefits for the community.

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

During the quarter, Nawiri, in collaboration with the National Government- Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) office of the Area Member of Parliament (MP) Samburu North, supported a tournament/sport for peace activities in Elbarta Ward, Samburu North. The tournament featured football, marathon, and volleyball, drawing participants from conflict and nutritional hotspot zones identified by the program, such as Tuum, South Horr, Nachola, Bender, Ngilai, Marti, Morijo, Masikiat/Latakweny, Ngilai, Morijo, Baawa, and Barsaloi. Over 800 youths participated in the event, with direct involvement from participants



A peace and grassing plans dialogue in Loikumkum village in Ndoto Ward, Samburu North

in our anchor groups, particularly GIRL-H and Boy groups. The tournament served as a platform for youth to come together, fostering cohesion and networking opportunities.

In collaboration with other peace actors through the Peace Actors Forum, the Nawiri team supported inter-generational peace dialogues in the Samburu North sub-county, specifically in the Elbarata ward at the Sigira grazing fields adjacent to Kambi Nyoka. Participants were drawn from malnutrition and conflict hotspot zones, including Masikita, Lomirok, Nteremka, Marti, Charda, Ngilai, Bendera, and Nachola. A total of 110 elders from these communities attended the meeting. The activity was jointly funded by various organizations, including the Samburu County Peace and Cohesion Directorate, IMPACTS Trust, Marti Elit Home Grown Peace Initiatives, and Community Participatory Action for Development (COPAD), through the Samburu County Peace Actors Forum. The dialogues aimed to address early warning signs and implement conflict prevention measures, particularly focusing on partner interventions along marketplaces in Samburu County.

By bringing together elders from diverse communities and incorporating multiple peace-building organizations, we facilitated a platform for constructive engagement and conflict resolution. During this meeting, the elders were able to intervene and prevent a potential attack by morans on the Turkana community the following day, demonstrating the effectiveness of early warning response and the resilience built through unity among Peace Actors. The timeliness of the workshop was additionally underscored by recent conflict attacks in Samburu West and Samburu East despite ongoing efforts by various stakeholders, including government arms, civil society organizations, and development partners.



A village elder appreciates the role of Nawiri in fostering peace for communities in Turkana

In Turkana, in collaboration with the county government, we successfully organized an engagement with livestock keepers grazing around the Lodot irrigation scheme. Led by the sub-county administrator of Turkana South, the forum aimed to address the rampant theft of crop produce and destruction of fences by livestock herders. Participants were drawn from affected schemes and kraals, including Lodot Scheme 30 (F:9; M:21) farmers and 22 (F:3; M:19) livestock keepers from Nabeyie Kraal and Kalemngorok villages. The forum resolved to enact bylaws to govern the scheme and establish a hybrid peace committee to

monitor progress in implementation by both farmers and livestock owners. Additionally, it was agreed that Lodot scheme farmers would undertake proper fencing while the hybrid peace committee would regularly sensitize farmers on a weekly basis.

Moreover, the Turkana Peace Directorate and the national government conducted a four-day workshop bringing together hybrid committees, rangelands chiefs, women's forums, and civil society organizations.

A total of 50 (F:12; M:38) participants agreed to operationalize the Turkana Peace and Conflict Management Act 2022 to achieve full implementation status. Additionally, the forum emphasized the crucial role of women in peacebuilding and NRM.

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.

Nawiri has made significant strides in its mission to fortify the WDPCs in Turkana and Samburu counties, bolstering their capabilities and amplifying community voices. By providing training in social accountability and public expenditure management, the program empowered WDPCs to effectively advocate for community needs and priorities. This was exemplified by their participation in reviewing the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP 2024-2025) and presenting crucial amendments during public participation forums, particularly concerning vital sectors like health, education, livelihood, and agriculture. Notably, the push for the implementation of the Ward Development Fund Act garnered attention, leading to a re-evaluation of proposals to better address malnutrition and ensure equitable resource allocation at the ward level.

In Turkana, the focus for this quarter was on collaborating with the NDMA to develop a contingency plan for the Lokiroama/Lorengippi ward in Turkana Central, aimed at identifying community vulnerabilities and capacities to address shocks and stresses through a multisectoral approach. Meanwhile, in Samburu, the local implementing partner, The Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance PACIDA, spearheaded training for 18 (F:2; M:16M) local journalists, enhancing their capacity to report on development issues, foster dialogue, and advocate for policy change. Additionally, in Samburu, efforts continued to strengthen WDPC



Turkana South and East WDPC members during the budgeting and social accountability training in Lokichar, Turkana South

members across four wards, including Poro, Ndoto, Wamba West, and Wamba North, with training in public participation, social accountability, and government planning processes. Through PACIDA, the program also trained 136 (F:22; M:114) TOTs from Nachola, Nyiro, Waso, and Baawa wards in Samburu North, furthering the dissemination of social accountability practices within the community. These achievements contribute to more informed, transparent, and impactful development efforts aligned with the communities' needs and aspirations in both Turkana and Samburu counties.

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

In this reporting period, Nawiri facilitated enhanced collaboration between the executive and county assembly to implement the Turkana County Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan (CHSSIP 2022-2032). This involved the County Assembly Health Committee, County Health Management Team, and other health partners, resulting in a clear framework for achieving strategic plan objectives. Discussions addressed budgetary constraints, leading to proposals for increased health allocations to fully implement CHSSIP. Advocacy efforts also targeted expanding health facilities, improving healthcare worker capacity, and enhancing CHPs' skills to strengthen health and nutrition services.

In Turkana, the program, in conjunction with the County Department of Planning, continued to build capacity within sector working groups (SWGs) across four sectors, establishing clear terms of reference for effective functioning. Participatory approaches facilitated the identification of sector priorities for the medium term, ensuring alignment with budget constraints to avoid deficits. Meanwhile, in Samburu, the program supported the review of the Samburu Facility Improvement Bill, aimed at providing accessible financing for hospitals, reducing direct hospital expenses, and improving decentralized healthcare delivery. This legislative initiative is expected to enhance healthcare access, reduce maternal and child mortalities, and support emergency medical services, including ambulance maintenance and essential commodities procurement.

Additionally, in March, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) and African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) organized two dissemination workshops on the Longitudinal Study (LS) findings, engaging both internal Nawiri staff in Turkana and the entire Turkana County Health Management Team. The workshops aimed to share and reflect upon emerging insights from the study to influence actions, adaptations, and policies within Nawiri and the MoH in Turkana County. Several key adaptations, recommendations, and action points were identified for implementation. These included the urgent implementation of seven BMUs site plans to address the high prevalence of malnutrition among fisher-folks, targeting female-headed households for R4N interventions and other social protection programs, conducting analysis on MUAC for age (MAZ) in upcoming SMART surveys, expanding nutrition screening to all women of reproductive age in nutrition programming, reviewing the County nutrition action plan to include strategies for urban/peri-urban areas, promoting and supporting the formation and sustainability of community health committees (CHCs), and advocating for the gazettelement of CHS Board with the County Assembly.

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

The Nawiri program successfully advocated for the approval of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policy in Turkana County. Through sustained engagement with the Department of Economic Planning and comprehensive legal review, the policy gained cabinet approval and awaits passage in the county assembly. This achievement formalizes data generation and utilization platforms, strengthening governance processes and decision-making frameworks. The policy's approval signifies a significant stride

towards enhancing accountability and transparency, enabling informed decision-making based on reliable data.

In Samburu County, collaboration between Nawiri and the local government led to the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) strategy to address operational challenges stemming from limited data management systems. In the next reporting period, the Nawiri team will launch the GIS system to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, particularly in health resource allocation to combat acute malnutrition.

The county government of Samburu has allocated some money to the supplementary budget that will be part of the GIS system acquisition. The GIS task force was formed, and terms of reference have been drafted that will guide the team during the system development life cycle. This strategy sets the stage for full automation of GIS information systems, enhancing evidence-based decision-making capabilities. Furthermore, we supported the extension of the development of a draft M&E Bill, providing a framework for collecting information and monitoring government activities aligned with national and county-level performance indicators. Complemented by GIS support, which digitizes and provides accurate and timely information, these efforts will enhance decision-making processes and promote effective governance in both Turkana and Samburu counties.

MARKET ANALYSIS

In the quarter, the Kenya Cash Working Group (KCWG) released the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) report covering October to December 2023. The report indicated a 7% decrease in the cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) in Turkana County, while in Samburu County, no change was reported, as detailed in the table below. The JMMI data market collection for the second quarter of the fiscal year 2024 was completed by the end of March 2024, and the official report is expected to be released by the JMMI secretariat by May 2024.

The reduction in Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) costs in Turkana County is primarily attributed to the reduction of the prices of beans and cowpeas, which were reduced by Kes. 40 and 60, respectively, in the three-month period that ended December 31st, 2023. In the non-food expenditure category, the short rains impacted the cost of water, where the average price of 20 liters was reduced from Kes. 20 to Kes.10 in the reporting period. This 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.

Comparison of the Cost of MEB (KES) in 2023

County	Q1 KES Jan-Mar 2023	Q2 KES Apr-June 2023	Q3 KES July-Sept 2023	Q4 Oct-Dec 2023	Percentage Change in MEB cost of Q4 2023 compared to Q3 2023 (3-month change)
Samburu	20,425	18,711	18,109	18,076	-0.2% ▼
Turkana	19,741	20,251	22,482	20,908	-7% ▼

IMPLEMENTATION QUALITY

As part of our efforts to develop a sustainability strategy for the upcoming workshop, Nawiri conducted a thorough analysis of its strategies and approaches. The aim was to shift our program towards a service delivery approach led by system actors. We evaluated sustainability based on our five years of experience, learning, and focusing on our ambitious goal to reduce acute malnutrition sustainably in Turkana and Samburu to 12% by 2027. Currently, Samburu stands at 20.3% and Turkana at 26.4%, according to SMART surveys conducted in July 2023 and June 2023, respectively.

In line with this, we have heavily invested in processes to review and improve our technical strategies, focusing on strengthening the systems supporting sustainable nutrition resilience. The program adopted the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) sustainability framework and conducted a comprehensive mapping of key system functions using established Market Systems Development (MSD) and resilience tools. This involved defining the desired changes at the household level for program participants, identifying necessary resilience capacities and enabling conditions, determining critical nutrition services, and promoting key behaviors for utilizing services effectively. We also analyzed potential shocks and stresses to our systems and prioritized system actors who can facilitate consistent quality service delivery and overcome barriers.

For each actor, we identified key delivery systems and analyzed them against sustainability criteria from the FANTA framework, considering motivations, incentives, resources, and capacities. This process helped us identify which outcomes can be sustained and how they contribute to achieving nutrition resilience. The resulting sustainability strategy demonstrates how system actors, even in the face of challenges, have the resources, capacities, and motivation to provide services and support behaviors that address the underlying drivers of vulnerability and build sustainable nutrition resilience.

Additionally, the program has been testing and refining a series of program minimum standard checklists and tools this past quarter. These tools have established standards for what should be observed in each

of the key technical areas and strategies. It is applied by both implementation teams and leadership teams as part of regular joint monitoring visits. The findings are analyzed as part of joint debrief meetings and any significant issues are logged in the issue log and assigned to specific technical, M&E, implementation or operational teams for actions.

In regard to environmental compliance, the program developed a comprehensive Environmental Status Report (ESR), delineating proposed projects earmarked for implementation. This report functions as a foundational framework to ensure seamless integration of environmental and social considerations across all project activities. Key highlights in the report encompassed staffing and budgetary allocations for Year 6 implementation plans, progress towards environmental compliance, and the Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring plan delineating indicators for activities executed in Year 4. The ESR was submitted to the BHA for concurrence, clearance, and approval. Additionally, we carried out environmental compliance training for Nawiri's team members and a cohort of six Local Implementing Partners (LIPs), including Frontier Children Development Organization (FCDO), Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA), Samburu Children Program, Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment (SAPCONE) and Turkana Pastoralists Development Organization (TUPADO). The primary objective of these training was to bolster the capacity of team members and partners in addressing environmental considerations effectively throughout project execution.

Topics covered during the training included:

- ADS 201mal (Climate Risk Management) screening procedure
- General USAID environmental impact assessment process
- Relevant regulations, standards, and sector-specific environmental guidelines applicable to USAID Nawiri projects
- Government of Kenya National Environment Management Authority- Environment Impact Assessment (NEMA-EIA) and Environmental Audit (EA) processes pertinent to Nawiri interventions
- Implementation of a USAID Nawiri-specific Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan (EMMP Toolkit)

Further, we carried out implementation of environmental monitoring activities in Turkana North (Kaaleng, Long'olemmwar communities) and Turkana South (Kagitankori Community), with a specific focus on water supply system projects in these regions. These monitoring activities were pivotal in ensuring adherence to environmental regulations and standards, while also facilitating the identification and mitigation of potential environmental impacts associated with project undertakings.

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

During the quarter, Nawiri's M&E continued rolling out household and participant registration in Samburu and Turkana Counties, targeting all villages that were pending registration. As a result, a total of 7,480 (Samburu: 1,205, Turkana: 6,275) households were registered across the two counties. Additionally,

277 and 177 households were registered to facilitate the seed voucher distribution in Samburu North and Samburu East sub-counties respectively. The data from the registration has been useful in facilitating the ongoing data capture into the system by ensuring that all participants are assigned a unique identification number for mapping them into the programme participant database. All registered participants in anchor groups were mapped into the system to facilitate the case management data capture processes.

Additionally, we initiated a data verification, validation and cleaning process aimed at ensuring high quality data is maintained in the project database for purposes of analysis and use in programmatic decision making. The exercise entailed verifying and validating the anchor group names, membership for each of the groups, as well as cross checking the data in the registers against the data submitted to the database. The key lessons from the exercise have been used to improve the quality of data abstracted by the team by providing timely feedback and clear guidance. A total of 1,103 (Samburu: 905, Turkana:198) groups were validated. The exercise will continue in the following quarter to ensure that all anchor groups are verified and members from the verified anchor groups are confirmed and updated.

Furthermore, key project staff, including project officers, CFs, mentors, CHPs, and farm secretaries, were oriented on the correct use of case management registers across the four anchor groups (R4N, AM2MSGS, GIRL-H, and Boy groups) and producer groups and data abstraction approach through the CommCare platform into Nawiri database. In Samburu County, a total of 182 (F:104; M:78) program staff, 52 (F:15; M:37) CFs, 10 (F:5; M:5) mentors, and 120 (F:84; M:36) CHPs were oriented. The training resulted in improved data quality (including timeliness) in the last three months as compared to the previous quarters. In Turkana County, a total of 23 (F:10; M:13) program officers, 4 (F:2; M:2) CFs, 600 (F:370; M:230) mentors, and 147 (F:10; M:137) farm secretaries were oriented on the same.

From March 25th-29th, routine data quality assessment was conducted in select groups in Samburu County to evaluate the validity, integrity, accuracy/precision, reliability, and timeliness of Nawiri's data while assessing the data collection and aggregating processes. The exercise was conducted in Barsaloi and Opiroi clustered villages where a total of 6 anchor groups were assessed (two Boy groups, two GIRL-H groups, one AM2MSG, and one R4N group). The indicators assessed were the number of children under 2 (0-23 months old) participating in growth monitoring and promotion (PM05), the percent of referred acute malnutrition cases treated (PM27), and the number of individuals participating in United States Government (USG)-assisted group-based savings, microfinance or lending programs (PM32). Overall, the data exhibited above-average satisfactory levels of validity, reliability, timeliness, and integrity but revealed some issues with accuracy that require attention, such as the anthropometric measurements and their interpretations. Immediate action points from the exercise included planning and conducting job training to frontline workers on data management, mapping out names of anchor group members missing in the program's database, and conducting a mop-up registration and follow-up on the procurement of VSLA kits for distribution and use in documenting group activities.

To ensure quality and compliance with the commodity distribution minimum standards during seed distribution through the voucher system, the program conducted a commodity distribution monitoring exercise. A total of 124 out of 515 (24 %) and 328 out of 875 (37%) producer group members in

Samburu East and Samburu North were sampled, respectively. During the exercise, additional registration of additional producer groups was conducted to ensure all the targeted farmers were reached with the seed distribution. From the monitoring, it came out that there was a need to pair farmers in advance for seed packages that were to be shared by more than one participant to ease the distribution process.

Moreover, the program supported the County Health Department for Samburu and Turkana in rolling out the recently launched eCHIS system. In Samburu County, the support included transportation and distribution of eCHIS devices from the MOH office at the County Headquarter in Maralal to Samburu North and Samburu East, and eCHIS support supervision and OJT for the usage of the devices and monitoring to establish the progress in the implementation between the dates January 1st to February 29th 2024 in 20 select community health units.

During this past quarter, Nawiri additionally conducted a mixed method R4N Cohort I endline assessment; the main objective was to provide a performance matrix to assess the transition of cohort I of R4N participants after completing an 18-month of layered interventions. The results of the assessment will provide lessons and insights for informed adaptations and influence for graduation and financial inclusion programming, as well as evidence for key visibility and advocacy. Data collection was concluded for this result, and data cleaning and analysis are ongoing. The report will be finalized at the end of April 2024 and will be submitted in the next quarterly report.

In addition, we continued the development of the recurrent monitoring system (RMS) aimed at assessing to what extent participation in Nawiri interventions leads to changes in access to (i.e., inputs and services) and use of resilience capacities (i.e., the practice of key behaviors) and related intermediate nutrition outcomes in the face of shocks and stresses. The assessment will be answering the following questions: 1) Do we observe expected changes in access and use of resilience capacities and corresponding nutrition outcomes among high-and low-intensity intervention villages over time? 2) Are we observing spillover/multiplier effects between direct and indirect participants? If so, what are they? The concept for RMS will be shared with BHA together with Y6 PREP, and roll-out is expected in August 2024.

Lastly, in this quarter, TANGO International, the firm that is contracted to carry out the joint Mid-term evaluation (MTE) for the MC and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Nawiri consortium, conducted focus group discussions (FGD), key informant interviews (KII), literature review and field visit in Samburu, Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo. The MTE team talked with Senior Management Teams, the Program Technical Lead, and field-level staff at the program level and at the county level. The team talked with county government staff, community leaders, and program participants. Preliminary results for MTE were shared with CRS and the Mercy Corps consortium for sense-making and triangulation of the findings. The MTE preliminary results were also shared during a sustainability workshop to ensure the utility of the evidence in sustainability strategy and Year 6 PREP. TANGO is expected to submit the final report by May 15, 2024.

In the upcoming quarter, our planned M&E activities include quarterly review meetings to assess progress and identify areas for improvement, as well as providing support for the planned Joint Targeting and Enrollment exercise. Additionally, we will conduct routine program quality monitoring and spot checks to ensure adherence to standards and identify any deviations that require attention. Furthermore, routine Data Quality Audits will be conducted to verify the accuracy and reliability of our data collection processes.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Throughout the quarter, we encountered challenges and gained valuable lessons in our implementation efforts in Turkana and Samburu. In Turkana where, obstacles emerged during the execution phase of integrated planning priorities aimed at reducing acute malnutrition at the ward level and below, with delays in the development of crucial regulations under the Village Delineation Act impeding the utilization of Village Councils as outlined in the seven-step Community Integrated Assessment and Action planning assessment process. Additionally, there were noted delays in the implementation of joint activities requiring the support of Government Officials due to competing priorities, while errors in Joint Targeting Activities were attributed to program staff supporting anchor group formation for different components, prompting an adaptation to involve concerned component officers in individual anchor group formations. The quarter has additionally seen considerable mobilization of county implementation teams and LIPs in rolling out community engagement and implementation processes. There have been some challenges in accessing some wards due to insecurity, which has resulted in the temporary transition of LIP targets for GIRL-H and Boy groups, including with FCDO in Lobokot ward. A decision was made to temporarily suspend the formation of anchor groups whilst the situation is monitored.

Increased insecurity in Samburu North and parts of Central has disrupted interventions in these areas and neighboring regions, leading to the postponement of activities and a decrease in group membership as individuals migrate to safer areas, particularly impacting Boy groups whose members, including the Morans, have relocated in search of pasture for their livestock. Furthermore, Samburu County has experienced incidents of insecurity, notably in Samburu Central, particularly in Poro Ward, Suguta Marmar, and Angata Nanyukie, where bandits attacked road users resulting in fatalities including a Member of County Assembly (MCA) for Angata Nanyukie and other road users and construction workers along the Maralal-Baragoi road, leading to delays in group formations and activity postponements in Upper Angata Nanyukie ward.

Nawiri supported the Kraal Leaders meeting in collaboration with the County Peace Directorate in both counties to discuss the root cause of the current increased conflict incidence and the mechanisms that have been taken to reduce it.

In both counties, heavy rains have led to flooding in several areas, affecting production sites by sweeping away crops in raised beds and flooding sunken beds, prompting the adoption of resilient design strategies to address these challenges, with implementation ongoing in some farms while plans for scaling up to others are in progress to prevent further damage.

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

ACCELERATION OF SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND TRANSITION TO LOCAL ACTORS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

In the third quarter, the program will commence the implementation of its sustainability strategy, focusing on transitioning leadership in implementation to local implementing partners (LIPs). Currently, grants have been issued to six LIPs, empowering them to spearhead the implementation of key Nawiri interventions across the two counties, including the GIRL-H model, Ward Development Planning, and initiatives on natural resource management and peace. Additionally, organizational capacity assessments will be conducted for all LIPs, providing a roadmap for enhancing their internal capacity and systems during the extension period. This process aims to equip them with the tools and resources necessary to program and implement activities effectively, particularly in the realm of nutrition resilience.

MALE ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Nawiri will continue to roll out the male engagement strategy, focusing on training selected male champions in positive parenting. This approach aims to alleviate time poverty among women and promote joint decision-making within households. By addressing gender and social norms that perpetuate PAM, this initiative will contribute to household visioning and action planning.

ENHANCING PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND REDUCING CONFLICT

Nawiri will conduct a conflict analysis to pinpoint the root causes of recent insecurity incidents. Building on this understanding, we will facilitate intergenerational dialogue sessions within affected communities and organize cross-border peace meetings. Ensuring the participation of women, including local female leaders from both affected and neighboring communities, will be a priority. Throughout the peace forums, teams equipped to offer psychosocial first aid will be present, and individuals requiring specialized support will be referred accordingly.

VOUCHER SYSTEM FOR CROPS AND FODDER

The program established a voucher scheme to facilitate access to agro-inputs to farmers in target locations of Samburu and Turkana counties; two agro-dealers were contracted and have established a last mile agent network of 33 agents. We intend to expand on this model to include fishing inputs and poultry through the existing last-mile agents to enhance last-mile communities to continuously access, purchase, and utilize production inputs and improve consumption of nutritious foods.

WATER SYSTEMS AND WASH SCALE-UP

Nawiri will continue with the rehabilitation of additional Multiple-Use Water systems in both counties (20 Turkana and eight in Samburu) in targeted villages to improve access to safe drinking water and for productive uses. This will include training of the Water Users Association 28 (WUAs) providing

community-level water service management and providing WUAs with linkages to the county department of water for technical support. Scale-up of sanitation and hygiene promotion will also be carried out in targeted community units and villages (10 Turkana and 12 Samburu) through CLTs to improve villages' attainment of open defecation-free status and access to basic sanitation.

RESILIENCE DESIGN (RD) SCALE-UP

Based on the current weather forecast for March-April-May (MAM), our strategic focus is on scaling up fodder and pasture production using RD approaches. We have already identified and mapped out RD and activities for specific areas. In Turkana, we have identified seven RD sites across seven wards, including Kaeris, Kaaleng/Kaikor, Letea, Songot, and Turkwel. Similarly, in Samburu, we have identified 11 RD sites across five wards, including Nyiro, El Barta, Angata Nanyokie, Wamba North, and Waso. Planned activities involve training agro-ecological champions and hybrid committees on RD, increasing RD and water harvesting structures such as bioswales, soil contours, smiley bunds, and timely planting of fodder seeds. Additionally, we have acquired the necessary farm tools to support these activities.