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**From top left:** Mboite Lekalahale and Lpuraya Lekalahe displaying their identity cards (IDs) after successful registration during the Huduma Mashinani Expo in Sereolipi, Samburu East. **Top right:** USAID Nawiri supported farmers happily showing their work tools after successfully establishing smiley bands at Namakat farm, Turkana South. **Bottom left:** Leakol Lorogoi, the chairlady for Nawiri supported Tisa farm holding a pumpkin harvested from her farm in Kaichameri, Turkana. **Bottom mid:** Nawiri supported pasture producers milking her cows for household use after feeding fodder harvested from her farm. **Bottom right:** Nawiri supported farmers harvesting pasture from their farms for livestock and surplus being sold at the market in Turkana.

## USAID NAWIRI QUARTERLY REPORT

FY 2024 Quarter 3: April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

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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
AYSRH	Adolescent Youth Sexual Reproductive Health
BESO	State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries
BHA	Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance
BMU	Beach Management Unit
CDR	Community Disease Reporters
CF	Community Facilitator
CFSP	County Fiscal Strategy Paper
CHAs	Community Health Assistants
CHCs	Community Health Committee
CHPs	Community Health Promoters
CHS	Community Health Services
CHSSIP	County Health Sector Strategic and Investment Plan
CHUSLA	Community Health Units Savings and Loans Association

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
C/SCNTF	County/Sub-County Nutrition Technical Forums
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CU	Community Unit
DER	Drought Emergency Response
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EA	Environmental Audit
E-CIMES	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

FOs	Field Officers
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-H	Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihood plus Health
GIS	Geospatial Information Systems
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
HCWs	Healthcare Workers
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
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
JMMI	Joint Market Monitoring Initiative
JTE	Joint Targeting and Enrollment
KALRO	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
KCWG	Kenya Cash Working Group

KEFRI	Kenya Forest Research Institute
KEVEVAPI	The Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute
KFS	Kenya Fisheries Services
KNCCI	Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry
KVDA	Kenya Voluntary Development Association
LARA	Livelihoods and Resilience Academy
LIPs	Local Implementing Partners
LSP	Local Service Providers
LTA	Long Term Average
M	Male
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MAZ	MUAC for age
MCA	Member of County Assembly
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
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
MUAC	Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
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
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Program
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
REAL	Responsible, Engaged, and Loving
REAP	Rural Entrepreneur Access Project
RMS	Recurrent Monitoring System



RTI	Research Triangle Institute
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation or Society
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SG	Savings Groups
SAPCONE	Sustainability Approaches for Community Empowerment
SCMP	Sub-Catchment Management Plans
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
SSBC	Social Structural Behavior Change
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
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
TWG	Technical Working Group
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
WHZ	Weight-for-Height Z- Score
WRUAs	Water Resource User Associations
WSTF	Water Sector Trust Fund
WUAs	Water Users' Associations

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During this quarter (April - June 2024), Nawiri achieved significant progress across Turkana and Samburu counties, reaching a cumulative total of 415,00 (F:215,726; M:199,282) with tailored interventions representing 88% of Year 5 target. Key achievements from this past quarter included:

In Purpose 1, the program scaled up agro-ecological methods and climate-smart agriculture in crop and fodder production, particularly through the rehabilitation of 11 irrigation schemes in Turkana and establishment of production farms in Samburu, covering 5,762 acres. The program also trained 100 Community Disease Reporters (CDRs) in participatory livestock disease surveillance and reported the systems to the county department of veterinary which led to vaccinations for 34,460 sheep, 75,662 goats, and 558 cattle. The purpose area has additionally seen great strides in financial inclusion this quarter; 63 Private Service Providers (PSPs) were recruited to deliver financial services to over 7,000 participants, alongside the establishment of new savings groups. A major achievement for financial inclusion was the Huduma Mashinani expo<sup>1</sup> in Samburu East, spanning four days. The expo connected 4,409 participants to access broader government and private sector led services such as health screening and treatment, national civil registration, financial services through cooperatives and banks, agricultural and livestock extension services amongst others. The event was held in Sereolipi and Lolkuniyani villages in Samburu East sub-county. Additionally, the successful launch of Ujuzi Mashinani<sup>2</sup> at Kataboi Vocational Training Centre in Turkana underscored the program's commitment to vocational skills development and decentralizing employable skills at the village level.

In Purpose 2, on infrastructure development, Nawiri improved water access through upgrading of three multi-use water systems (MUS), benefiting 9,056 participants and 5,600 livestock. In Turkana South, five shallow wells and the Lodoot irrigation system were rehabilitated, enhancing water access for nutritious vegetable production. The program will further improve water access to target communities through the ongoing upgrading and expansion of 17 MUS in Turkana, with 13 systems in Samburu, designed and awaiting approval. Deeper into Purpose 2, Nawiri's Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) services reached 80 outreach sites across both counties, screening 5,729 children under five years for malnutrition. Furthermore, the program trained 455 mentors on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) modules, and 176 Community Health Promoters (CHPs) on Family Planning/Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (FP/RMNCAH).

In Purpose 3, Nawiri, through Social Structural Behavior Change (SSBC), addressed unskilled birth delivery, dietary diversity, and hygiene, engaging 2,015 participants (F: 1,364; M: 651) through community dialogues. Additionally, the program refined the SSBC strategy and Responsible, Engaged, and Loving

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<sup>1</sup> Huduma Mashinani expo is a collaborative platform that bridges the gap between financial institutions, government agencies, private sector partners, development partners, and local communities to address challenges of limited essential financial services and social services that are often faced by underserved communities in last mile villages.

<sup>2</sup> Ujuzi Mashinani is a village-based vocational training initiative with the primary objective of decentralizing skills from urban to rural areas within Turkana and Samburu Counties focusing on out of school GIRL-H and Boy anchor groups.

(REAL) Fathers/Men toolkit which will be used to promote positive behaviors, and community visioning at the village level.

In Purpose 4, a notable accomplishment during the quarter was the convening of the Women in Leadership for sustained peace and development workshop where participants included elected Member of National Assembly (women Representatives), elected and special elect Members of the County Assembly and other women leaders from the Turkana, Samburu, West Pokot and Baringo counties to discuss ways that they could foster promotion of peace and resolution of conflicts which is one of the key drivers of malnutrition. Additionally, the program facilitated Samburu County Assembly Women's Caucus, where the program trained women leaders from Samburu on key advocacy priorities to focus on across the various sectors such as, committee roles, gender mainstreaming, and budgeting to enhance decision-making processes among others. Nawiri also supported the review and validation of both Samburu and Turkana's County Governments Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) policies and bills, which will facilitate evidence-based decision-making within the counties.

These achievements highlight Nawiri's commitment to sustainable development, fostering community resilience, and improving livelihoods in arid and semi-arid lands. Detailed activity outputs and further insights are provided in this report.

## ACTIVITY SUMMARY

### TURKANA

According to the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) bulletin, the NDMA classified Turkana under the 'normal' phase classification during the quarter, with projections of continued improvement. Rainfall positively affected vegetation across the county, significantly improving milk availability and consumption.<sup>3</sup> According to the Pictorial Evaluation Tool, which monitors livestock body condition, the current livestock body condition is categorized as fair due to sustained availability and access to forage and pasture across the livelihood zones. The ongoing rains have improved forage and livestock body conditions resulting in an increase of milk production to 1.7 liters in April and May, which is 35% above the long-term average for these months. Most of the milk was consumed within households (HH), and milk consumption is expected to increase in the coming months due to improved forage conditions.

The rainfall also influenced water sources preference, particularly for the pastoralists, who shifted reliance from boreholes to rivers due to the long distances to boreholes and availability of water in the rivers. Preferred water sources included rivers (23%), boreholes (21%), and pan dams (18%). In May, however, the reliance on rivers and boreholes as water sources decreased by 14% and 8%, respectively, compared to April. Despite this decline, they remained among the primary sources of water<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> NDMA Monthly Bulletin April- May 2024

<sup>4</sup> NDMA Monthly Bulletin April- May 2024

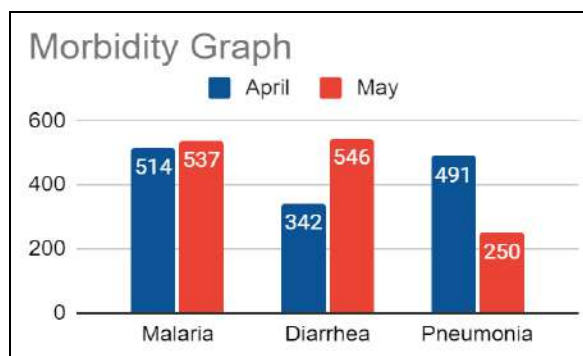
The proportion of HH classified as food insecure reduced by 4.9%, as evidenced by the reduction in HHs



classified as having poor consumption scores from 38.8% in April to 33.9% in May. Trekking distance to water sources decreased throughout the quarter, allowing caregivers more time for proper caregiving practices. Additionally, the nutrition status of children under five improved, with the proportion of those at risk of malnutrition dropping from 49.4% in April to 44% in May. This improvement has been mirrored in the recently concluded SMART survey 2024 results which showed Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates reduced by 4.6%

from 26.4 (SMART 2023) % to 21.8%. Despite this improvement, the county saw an increase in new admissions for malnourished children under IMAM in May compared to April, even with the anticipated continuation of improved biophysical indicators. Overall, the quarter had fewer severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) caseloads compared to the previous quarter. However, the high incidences observed were as a result of increasing disease burden from malaria and diarrhea episodes, as shown in the morbidity graph.

Additionally, the NDMA uses only the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for detecting malnutrition which may result in many false negatives compared to using the Weight-for-Height Z-score (WHZ) and MUAC as done in health facilities. Nawiri continues to monitor the situation and use available triangulated data from early warning systems to inform timely action.

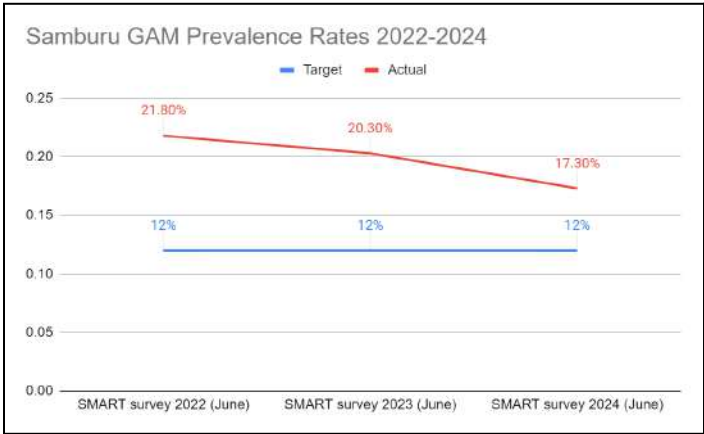


## SAMBURU

According to the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for Acute Food Insecurity from February to June 2024, Samburu County improved from IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) to IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). The main drivers of food insecurity were high food prices, flooding, conflict, high disease burden, and poor Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices (*Integrated Phase Classification, Acute Food Insecurity and acute malnutrition analysis, February-June 2024*). While most arid and semi-arid areas remained in IPC Phase 3, above-average rainfall from March to May improved vegetation and recharged water sources, enhancing water availability and reducing trekking distances to 4.2 km, which is 9% lower than the 2021-2023 average. However, insecurity in the Amaiya-Morijo belt caused HH displacement and minimal milk production in Samburu Central, averaging 0.7 liters per HH per day, which is below average and

expected to remain low through September 2024. Samburu Central was particularly affected by insecurity incidents, leading to livestock migration and low milk production.

The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition decreased from 21.3% in April 2024 to 19.5%, attributed to government and partner interventions improving access to integrated health services in hard-to-reach



areas (NDMA, Drought Early Warning Bulletin, May 2024). This aligns with the 2024 SMART survey, which reported a decline in malnutrition prevalence from 20.3% in June 2023 to 17.3% in June 2024. In the quarter, Nawiri supported Samburu County in conducting a SMART survey, advocating for sub-county level sampling to analyze indicators like GAM rates. Samburu Central reported the highest GAM

prevalence at 19.6%, compared to 14.5% in Samburu East, 17.9% in Samburu North, and a county-wide average of 17.3%. This difference could be attributed to varying project interventions across the sub-counties. Additionally, conflict shocks, internal displacements, and their spillover effects likely contributed to higher malnutrition rates in Samburu Central. The program is expanding its interventions in Samburu Central to address these challenges.

## ACTIVITY OUTPUTS

By FY24, Q3, USAID Nawiri had reached a cumulative total of 415,008 (F: 215,726; M:199,282) participants out of a Y5 target of 471,360 representing 88% reach. During the reporting quarter, from April to June 2024, the program had added 28,954 (F:15,570; M:13,384) unique participants to the cohort of 386,055 participants continuously receiving multi-sectoral interventions. The table below reflects the progress made across different months for FY24:

FY24	Participants Actual / Planned										No. of actual Unique Participants reached	Total no of Actual Participants reached
Participants		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June		
Male	Actual	159,903	168,415	173,948	174,825	178,720	185,898	185,898	192,590	199,282	199,282	415,008
	Planned	158,736	167,154	175,572	183,990	192,408	200,826	209,244	217,662	226,080		
Female	Actual	172,333	181,104	186,883	187,855	191,987	200,156	200,156	207,941	215,726	215,726	

	Planned	172,216	181,349	190,482	199,615	208,748	217,881	227,014	236,147	245,280		
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## **PURPOSE I: VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS MAINTAIN FOOD SECURITY DESPITE EXPOSURE TO SHOCKS AND STRESSES**

**SUB PURPOSE I.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 Livestock Production**



Nawiri producer groups displaying vegetables they grow and sell in Keree, Samburu North

community-level Training of Trainers (ToTs) (Agro-ecological / lead farmers) and integrated these methods across an additional 762 acres in Samburu County. In Turkana County, the program, in partnership with the county government, rehabilitated 11 irrigation schemes, benefiting 8,055 (F: 5,188; M:2,867) participants, and opening 5,000 acres for crop production, and facilitated environmentally sensitive land reclamation efforts. Additionally, the program trained 272 (F:241; M:31) producer group members on vegetable production with selected local service providers facilitating access to seeds for 1,444 (F:933; M:411) participants through a voucher system. To boost milk availability at the HH level, the program trained 727 (F:323; M:404) participants in fodder production, establishing 686 additional acres of fodder and harvesting over Kes. 1 million (USD 7,678.91) worth of bales, and an additional 320 kgs of *Cenchrus Ciliaris* seeds valued at Kes 320,000 (USD 2,457.25).

To ensure continuous availability of nutritious foods throughout the year, the program strengthened crop and livestock production systems in Samburu and Turkana counties. In collaboration with the County Agriculture and Livestock departments and private sector input suppliers, USAID Nawiri supported 10,988 (F:7,047; M:3,841) participants in crop and fodder production interventions. The favorable rains from March to May improved pasture availability, prompting Nawiri to scale up climate-smart agriculture and agro-ecological techniques. The program trained an additional 1,669 (F:926; M:743) participants through



Nookuria Lekonte milking goats, for milk used for household consumption in Namunyak, Samburu East



The program also focused on livestock management, training 687 (F:348; M:339) participants and launching a weekly radio program targeting livestock producers with livestock health & husbandry management messaging. CDRs were instrumental in livestock disease surveillance, targeting hotspot areas for improved livestock health. In Turkana, the program trained 100 (F:17; M:83) new CDRs, and participatory livestock disease surveillance leading to vaccination of 34,460 sheep, 75,662 goats, and 558 cattle against common diseases. The vaccination was sponsored by the county veterinary department, ACTED and The Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI.)

### Fish production

To standardize and ensure consistent sustainable fishing management practices and education in line with the Fisheries Management and Development Act 2022, the program, in Turkana County, collaborated with national and county agencies- State Department of Blue Economy and Fisheries, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, and Kenya Forest Service (KFS), to develop a unified sustainable fisheries management training curriculum through the engagement of 15 (F:2;M:13) technical staff. This eight-day training manual development workshop covered various topics such as sustainable fish production, handling, hygiene, value addition, marketing, Beach Management Unit (BMU) leadership, safety, and financial management. The program tailored the training manual to fish traders, processors, transporters, and producers involved in small-scale fish capture and handling.

To ensure compliance with legal standards and enhance fish quality, the program, with the County Department of Fisheries, State Department of Blue Economy, and KFS, additionally trained 335(F:213; M:122) participants on legal standards and fish quality, along with 44(F:12;M:32) BMU executive committee members, six (F:3;M:3) fishing input suppliers, and four (F:2;M:2) Ward Development Planning Committees (WDPC) members. Training included fish nutrition, hygiene, and value addition. The program highlighted key challenges such as inadequate sanitation and the effect of climate change variability, with BMU executive committees pledging improvements like their collaboration with WDPCs and fisherfolk communities to conduct dialogues on hygiene practices, develop sanitation infrastructure including pit latrines and fish banders at the landing site, manage waste disposal, promote health campaigns and to mobilize participation to maintain a clean and healthy environment in adherence to BMU regulations. The program, in collaboration with the national and county agencies, also reviewed eight BMU site management plans, informing 486 (F:259; M:127) participants from Girls Improving Resilience through Livelihood and Health (GIRL-H), Boy groups, Adapted Mother-to-Mother Support Groups (AM2MSGs), Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) for Nutrition (R4N), and BMU executive committees from Lomekwi, Kangatukusio, and Lobolo in Turkana's lake zone about capacity-building and sustainability.

### Apiculture Production

Nawiri, in collaboration with the County Department of Livestock Production, trained 574 (F:501; M:73) participants from GIRL-H, Boy, R4N, and AM2MSGs anchor groups in sustainable honey production, focusing on apiary protection, bee forage, and agro-ecological design. The training involved community participation in protecting and fencing 12 apiaries with live fences, ensuring the safety of hives, and



establishing bee forage for shade and nectar. Participants learned to integrate indigenous knowledge and available resources in agroecological resilient design, constructing A-frames, understanding contours, controlling erosion, managing water, and designing resilient water systems. This promotes a biodiverse habitat for pollinators and supports water retention. The program plans to conduct quarterly forums and routine follow-ups to ensure sustainability and productivity.

Nawiri, in collaboration with the Turkana and Samburu County directorates of livestock, as well as state agencies such as Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Kenya Voluntary Development Association (KVDA), Baraka Agricultural College, and Egerton University, developed a comprehensive Apiculture curriculum over a five-day session. The curriculum, developed by technical team of 9 (F:1; M:8) members covers essential topics including beekeeping fundamentals, equipment, apiary site selection and management, pest and disease management, bee breeding and queen rearing, colony migration, and the harvesting, processing, marketing of beehive products, and entrepreneurship skills. The curriculum development process also involved collaboration with experienced beekeepers, agricultural extension officers, and training institutions, as well as secondary desk reviews. Through these efforts, Nawiri has created the curriculum to address the practical challenges of the beekeeping sector, incorporate best practices, and integrate feedback. The resulting trainer's manual will serve as a detailed guide for trainers, livestock extension officers, and beekeepers in Samburu and Turkana counties.

Additionally, Nawiri facilitated representatives of eight anchor group-based honey producers (F:4; M:4) and three (F:1; M:2) department of livestock production technical staff to attend the World Bee Day Trade Fair held on May 20th, 2024. The trade fair which was organized by the State Department for Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries was held in Kajiado County. The theme was "Bee Engaged with Youth," exposing farmers to new technologies, innovations, and management practices in apiary and hive management, pest control, honey processing, and apiculture services. Nawiri will share the knowledge gained with beekeeping interest groups to boost good practices, improve productivity, and enhance HH income and nutrition.

To increase sustainable access to affordable beekeeping equipment and supplies, the program conducted a national-level technical assessment of three firms to supply and deliver high-quality climate-adaptive beekeeping start-up kits including locally made hives, hive tools, protective clothing, honey harvesting equipment, an assessment of market-based business model that achieve sustainability of the project, and an analysis of partnerships and linkages with rural communities. Through the milestone-based contract model, the competitive procurement process will contract a vendor who will supply and deliver beekeeping production inputs including locally made hives by GIRL-H and Boy Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) participants in woodwork course, facilitate training of honey and hive producers on sustainable production technologies and practices, provide training on value addition and offer buy-back opportunities for hive products. This contributes to increased HH incomes from the honey value chain.

**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

USAID Nawiri, through 63 (F:20; M:43) PSPs, improved financial services and entrepreneurship for 7,245 (F:5,724; M:1,521) participants in 315 anchor groups and CHPs, using the Village Savings and Loaning Association (VSLA) approach. The PSPs established 72 new savings groups in Samburu and Turkana counties, aiding 250 smallholder farmers and microenterprise owners to register with the State Department of Social Services to increase access to flexible national and county government small enterprise funds and micro-credit loan facilities from local institutions such as banks and Savings and Credit Cooperative Organisation or Society (SACCOs). Additionally, five small-business groups in Baragoi received Kes. 100,000 (USD 750) each in government affirmative action funds to invest in grocery business, retail shops and fresh food outlets



A GIRL-H participant showcases their group savings at Ndonyo Nasipa, Samburu East

Nawiri also engaged 1,655 (F:1,258; M:397) participants representing 599 (F:470; M:129) GIRL-H and Boy participants, 826 (F:769; M:57) AM2MSGs, 30 (F:19; M:11) Community Health Unit Savings and Loaning Associations (CHUSLA) savings group (SGs), facilitating linkages to funding access, savings, borrowing facilities, and training in various financial and entrepreneurial skills. In R4N, 3,300 participants (F) were organized into 200 savings groups (140 in Turkana and 60 in Samburu) for financial literacy, savings and loaning activities and other Sequencing, Layering, and Integration interventions.

By the end of Q3, USAID Nawiri through its Village Savings and Loaning Association (VSLA) approach had achieved a total savings of KES 17,834,981 (USD 135,152) and total loans of KES 6,197,065 (USD 47,248) in Turkana and Samburu. The VSLA is layered in anchor groups strategy to maximize financial inclusion of targeted participants. In Samburu, 44 GIRL-H and Boy groups saved Kes. 929,150 (USD 7,092.75), with a total of 833 members (F:714; M:119). These groups also disbursed loans totaling Kes. 201,950 (USD 1,541.60) to 98 members (11.8%), and the social fund totaled Kes. 120,285 (USD 918.21). Additionally, 944 AM2MSGs (F:853; M:91) reported savings of Kes. 4,395,050 (USD 33,550) and a social fund of Kes 416,380 (USD 3,178.47). These AMTMSGs also disbursed loans totaling Kes 2,311,600 (USD 17,645.80) to 355 members (F:329; M:26), with 41.3% of members having outstanding loans. In the same period, 113 CHUSLA participants reported savings of Kes 677,000 (USD 5,167.94), with loans totaling Kes 317,900 (USD 2,426.72) to 45 members.

In Turkana County, 33 AM2MSGs reported savings of Kes. 4,413,810 (USD 33,693.21), with outstanding loans totaling Kes 2,938,965 (USD 22,434.85), and a social fund of Kes 307,145 (USD 2,344.61). Cohort

2, with 3,300 R4N participants, saved a cumulative total of Kes. 7,419,971 (\$55,648) during the quarter, and the program disbursed total loans of Kes. 426,650 (\$ 3,199). The average loans per R4N participant stood at Kes. 10,396 with the majority of loans used for business expansion (HH or personal business) at 51.7%, R4N business expansion at 11.1%, education at 13.9%, and buying nutritious food at 6.6%. The inter-loan group activities enabled SG members to engage in livestock trading, purchase certified seed inputs, and invest in profitable ventures. Nawiri is currently linking Cohort I R4N savings groups that graduated with PSPs for monitoring and reporting to ensure sustainability of financial inclusion activities after graduation. PSPs supported by Nawiri team will facilitate registration and linkages with government and private sector financial actors.



Community members line up for services the Huduma Mashinani Expo at Sereolipi, Samburu East

Additionally, the program held a four-day Huduma Mashinani Expo in Sereolipi and Lolkuniyani in Samburu East. The event aimed to enhance access to essential social and financial services for last-mile communities. During the event, the program linked 4,409 participants, including 110 R4N participants, 201 GIRL-H and 29 Boy participants, 20(F:15; M:5) AM2MSG SGs, and 15(F:8; M:7) producer groups to broader market systems and private and public sector stakeholders.

Below is the distribution and reach of services offered during the four-day Huduma Mashinani and Financial Expo event held in

the Samburu East sub-county.

S/No	Actor	Services Provided	Sereolipi		Lolkuniyani		Total Reach
			Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	County Ministry of Health (MOH)	Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP), curative and Preventive services	134	187	337	214	872
2	Kenya Commercial Bank, Rereti SACCO	Opening of group and individual bank accounts	92	32	302	140	566

S/No	Actor	Services Provided	Sereolipi		Lolkuniyani		Total Reach
3	Department of Social Development	SGs Registration/Certification	47	160	58	304	569
4	Registration of Persons	ID registration	321	445	299	412	1,477
5	Registration of Births	Issuance of Birth Certificates	40	27	57	90	214
6	KRA	Business Tax Compliance	17	38	43	65	163
7	County department of agriculture	Access to climate-adaptive seeds	23	47	67	41	178
8	Affirmative action funds (WEF)	Issuance of business loans to savings groups (20)	0	0	159	211	370
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>674</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>4,409</b>

Additionally, during the Huduma Mashinani event, the Women Enterprise Development Fund provided affordable credit to 46 rural community groups, including women (40), youths (four), and People living With Disabilities (two) groups, with each group receiving Kes 50,000 (USD 381.68), totaling Kes. 2.3 million (USD 17,557.25).

To improve financial access in last-mile communities, the program will partner with DreamStart Labs and local Financial Service Providers to digitize financial services through the DreamSave App—a platform for digitizing savings groups. The program will pilot the app with 50 SGs (25 in Samburu and 25 in Turkana counties) to streamline their operations and business transactions. This initiative includes managing financial records and building credit histories via a mobile application, enhancing access to formal credit through connections with local financial institutions.

To enhance access opportunities for underserved communities in nutrition and business expansion through R4N, Nawiri evaluated 1,100 business groups on their progress towards meeting grant criteria. A remarkable 97% (1067 business groups) successfully met the criteria and received progress grants

amounting to Kes. 20,000 (\$150) each for a total of Kes 21,340,000 (\$160,055). The progress grants provide opportunities for business groups to diversify their businesses through expansion or the start of secondary or tertiary businesses. The remaining 33 groups will receive their grants in July following enhanced mentorship and coaching sessions. Additionally, Nawiri concluded the distribution of consumption stipends to Cohort 2 participants during the quarter, with the final payment of Kes. 6,015,882.14 (\$47,319) disbursed in May for Samburu. In the upcoming fourth quarter, Nawiri will analyze performance data from Cohort 2 businesses and those that exited during and after the consumption stipend phase, informing ongoing discussions on optimizing consumption smoothing strategies.

## Youth access to vocational skills

On May 16th, 2024, USAID Nawiri, in partnership with the Turkana County government, launched the Ujuzi Mashinani model at the Kataboi Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Turkana County. This initiative aims to decentralize self-wage and employable skills at the village level. The event presided over by Dr. John Erus, the Deputy Governor of Turkana County, aimed to raise awareness about the skills and opportunities available at VTCs. It also provided a platform for collaboration among various stakeholders, including the government, private sector, and community members. Participants demonstrated practical skills in welding, dressmaking, and crafting products such as baskets. They were also encouraged to explore financial support opportunities from the county to support their future business ventures upon course completion. Strategically, the launch aligned with Turkana County Government's development agenda, particularly in revitalizing education and enhancing accessibility. The program emphasized the importance of sustainable investment in youth vocational training, urging local leadership to prioritize passing and enacting supportive bills and policies for youths in technical and vocational training institutions. Nawiri has held two meetings with the directorate of vocational education and training where TVET policies from best performing counties were studied and an agreement reached to develop a Turkana County TVET policy.



Naroo Nachwae, a Nawiri Ujuzi Mashinani participant from Kaikor village showcasing her electrical wiring skills during the Ujuzi Mashinani launch in Kataboi, Turkana North

In the quarter, 748 youths participated in the Ujuzi Mashinani program, with 475(F:308; M:167) participants completing a three-month training at Kataboi in courses such as tailoring, motorbike repair, hairdressing, electrical installation, catering, plumbing, and masonry. Additionally, the program trained 15 (M) in boat making in Todanyang town on the Turkana Lake zone. They have produced three wooden



boats and are awaiting certification from the Kenya Maritime Agency to lease these boats to fishermen on Lake Turkana. The program also facilitated the enrollment of 1,210(F:780; M:430) students in three new TVETs in Turkana South (Lokichar), Samburu East, and Samburu North, with training scheduled to commence in August 2024.

The enrollment is as follows:

County	TVET institution	No. of village-based satellite training centers	No. of students enrolled
Turkana	1.Lokichar VTC	6	651 (F:403; M: 248)
Samburu	2.Samburu North VTC	4	241 (F:179; M:62M)
	3.Samburu East VTC	8	318 (F:198; M:120)
Total		18	1,210 (F:780; M:430)

Regarding beadwork and basketry, Nawiri and the Samburu County government have signed a tripartite agreement with the Micro and Small Enterprise Authority (MSEA). This agreement formalizes the previously informal relationship between MSEA and USAID Nawiri. One of the key objectives of this partnership is to offer youth groups aspiring to engage in production activities with access to working spaces.

**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.**

In this quarter, Nawiri, in collaboration with the counties' public health department, intensified efforts to promote safe sanitation and hygiene practices through community-led total sanitation (CLTS) in Turkana and Samburu. The program conducted CLTS activities in 14 community units (CUs) (11 in Turkana and 3 in Samburu), reaching a total of 3,218 HHs (1,782 in Turkana and 1,436 in Samburu). The program also trained these HHs in setting up simple handwashing stations and on safe water and food handling practices to prevent contamination and reduce disease burden. In Turkana, the program verified three CUs as open defecation free (ODF). In Samburu, the CLTS triggering process resulted in construction of 542 latrines in the targeted CUs, increasing latrine coverage from 3.4% to 37.7%. Nawiri, along with the county public health teams and CHPs, will continue HH follow-ups in the targeted units to sustain ODF status achieved and maintain safe sanitation and hygiene practices.

Nawiri also partnered with Turkana and Samburu County Departments of Water to enhance access to safe drinking water and water for productive uses in target communities. During the quarter, Nawiri completed the upgrading, expansion and solarization of three MUS in Kang'akipur and Kagitankor in Turkana and Muran in Samburu). These systems are now benefiting 9,056 participants (F:4,618; M:4,438) and 5,600 livestock. In Turkana South, Nawiri completed five shallow wells at Lokapel and upgraded the Lodoot irrigation water system by installing 50-cubic-meter elevated steel tanks and pipeline reticulation systems for producers' groups' agri-nutrition farms. This improved water access aims to support producer groups in growing nutritious vegetables for HH consumption and local market sales. Additionally, 22 MUS projects (17 in Turkana and 5 in Samburu) are ongoing and are expected to be included by the end of Year 5, to further enhance community access to safe drinking water and water for productive uses. In Samburu County, the program completed the survey and design of 13 MUS for PREP



**Nawiri supported 30,000 liters raised steel tank in Longolemwar, Turkana North**

6 and submitted it to USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) for approval. The program-initiated rehabilitation works for three springs (Naurur, Kibartare, and Ntaletiani) and three boreholes (Nkorika, Muran, and Lolmolog), targeting 554 HHs, which equates to approximately 3,324 participants and 1,600 livestock units.

To ensure sustainable operation and maintenance of water systems, Nawiri continued to establish and strengthen water users' associations (WUAs), fostering strong linkages with the counties' water departments for technical support in operation and maintenance (O&M). During the quarter,

the program formed seven new WUAs (two in Turkana and five in Samburu) and enhanced the capacities of 14 existing WUAs in both counties. In Samburu, Nawiri is exploring the establishment of a professionalized O&M water management model, while in Turkana, the program connected the WUAs



with Caritas insurance models<sup>5</sup> to receive high-level technical support for water operation and maintenance when needed.

Nawiri is also providing training to WUAs through off-farm interventions, linking and facilitating them to TVET institutions and Ujuzi Mashinani for hands-on plumbing skills and access to water servicing and repair kits. This initiative aims to empower WUAs to conduct minor water system repairs, ensuring continuous water functionality.

To support integrated water resources management in Samburu, the program formed the Lebana Water Resource User Association (WRUA), covering the Lesirkan, Baragoi, and Nachola sub-catchments in collaboration with the Water Resources Authority and Samburu County government. Additionally, support for the Arsim WRUA Sub-Catchment Management Plan included capacity building, review, and adoption. The program also carried out the formation and strategic plan development of the Samburu Melghis WRUA Cluster, an amalgamation of the Samburu WRUAs, to manage the main rivers draining into the Melghis River. To improve water resource management, WRUAs are supported to develop Sub-catchment Management Plans (SCMP) which prioritize key watershed conservation activities. These SCMPs are critical for implementing priority activities as well for resource mobilization by the WRUAs. Nawiri has linked these WRUAs with counties and other partners for financing prioritized activities.

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

**Coordination and Partnerships - Community Health Services (CHS)**

Nawiri values the importance of coordination forums and has actively supported County Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings in Turkana and Samburu Counties, alongside data review sessions and planning forums. Throughout the reporting period, the program facilitated these platforms for government stakeholders, implementing partners, and other relevant parties to collaborate, synchronize, analyze, and utilize data effectively. This collaborative effort aimed to assess performance of CHS, identify gaps and challenges, and collectively devise solutions for necessary adjustments. The platforms included County/Sub-County Nutrition Technical Forums (C/SCNTF) with 61 participants (F:32; M:29), commodity technical forums involving 36 participants (F:25; M:11), as well as CHS TWG and CHPs data review meetings with 1,210 participants (F:625; M:585).

The discussions led to the program identifying solutions for challenges in IMAM surge implementation, facility-level documentation, stagnant Vitamin A supplementation targets, and routinization, as well as commodity accountability. Proposed solutions aimed to align Nawiri's efforts with those of the health department towards enhancing quality care. For instance, the C/SCNTF utilized the program's anchor groups to promote Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, and maternal and child nutrition practices.

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<sup>5</sup> Private sector-driven insurance model, implemented by the Turkana Water Project (TWP) that provides professional repair and maintenance services for rural water points, ensuring the continuous functionality of water systems and year-round access to safe water for the community. Under this insurance model, WUAs contribute annually, based on the type of water system infrastructure.

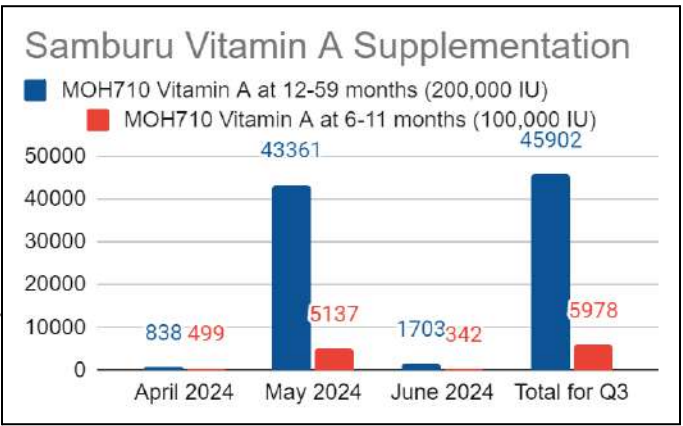
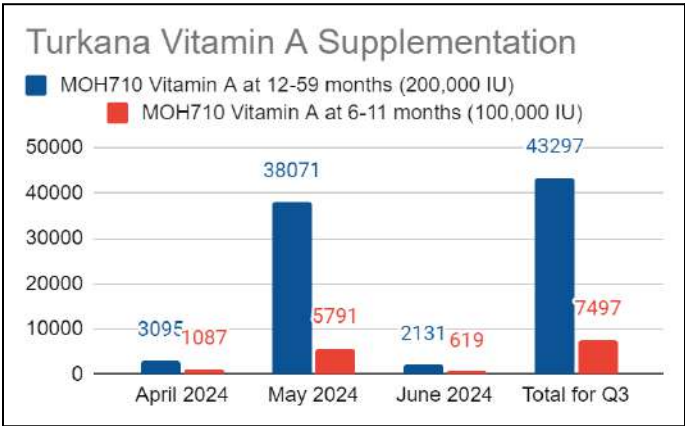
Efforts also focused on addressing technical gaps in the updated IMAM surge module, particularly for newly deployed staff, through comprehensive classroom and on-the-job training with dedicated time and resources. In Samburu, the program achieved the completion of CHS TWG Terms of Reference and the establishment of a regular meeting schedule with collaborative support from like-minded partners.

Nutrition Surveillance - SMART Surveys

USAID Nawiri, in collaboration with other partners and the County Government, supported the annual SMART Surveys in both counties. A notable shift occurred in Samburu County, where the program conducted the first Sub-County level SMART Survey, facilitated by advocacy efforts led by USAID Nawiri. This adaptation addressed the need to sustain availability of crucial data for assessing malnutrition prevalence across livelihoods and sub-counties level in Samburu County. Through advocacy, Nawiri influences stakeholders like MoH, UNICEF, Feed the Children, and others through the County and National Nutrition Information working groups, to adapt sub-county-level surveys. This approach allows for more nuanced data analysis, identifying differences and hot spots at ward levels previously obscured by county-level findings. Overall, Samburu County posted a GAM prevalence of 17.3% which is lower than the 20.3% GAM rate reported in 2023. In 2024 sub- counties reported as follows: Samburu Central showed the highest GAM prevalence at 19.6%, contrasting with 14.5% in Samburu East and 17.9% in Samburu North. Factors contributing to higher malnutrition rates in Samburu Central may include project interventions focused more heavily in other areas and the impact of conflict shock and internal displacements. USAID Nawiri plans to expand and intensify interventions in Samburu Central, while awaiting data from Turkana.

Improving Access to Health Nutrition Services

During the quarter, Turkana County provided Vitamin A supplements to 7,497 children aged 6-11 months and 43,297 children aged 12-59 months. The strategies developed during various coordination meetings enabled this reach. The use of anchor groups, healthcare facilities, churches, outreach programs, and community gatherings significantly contributed to reaching the Vitamin A targets across the County. These figures (below) illustrate the extensive reach of the initiative across all 11 sub-counties in Turkana County, ensuring significant coverage of Vitamin A supplementation among children, thereby enhancing their nutritional status and overall health. In Samburu, the program reached 45,902 children aged 12 to 59 months and 5,978 children aged 6 to 11 months with Vitamin A supplementation. This initiative is part of a broader effort to improve child health and nutrition through utilizing various outreach methods, including community health events, clinics, and home visits to ensure wide coverage and effective distribution of the supplements as shown in the figure below.



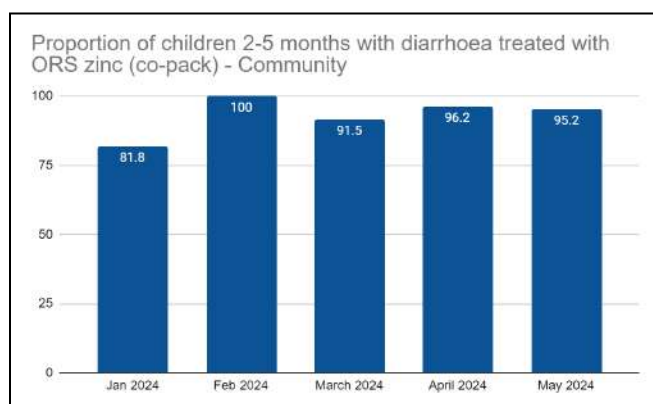
During the quarter, Nawiri concentrated on providing IMAM services in remote areas of Turkana and Samburu Counties. This effort was particularly significant given the reduced support from other partners, such as the International Rescue Committee, whose nutrition program in Turkana had recently concluded. The program continued to support 80 sites: 39 outreach sites in Turkana and 41 in Samburu. The sites will be reviewed based on the results of the July SMART survey for both counties. In both Counties, a total of 5,729 children (F:3,422; M:2,307) were screened. The prevalence of malnutrition was identified as 28.7% (1,647) across the 80 sites. Additionally, the program screened 1,780 pregnant and lactating women



Joseph Emo Ebei, a Community Health Worker taking height measurements during a Nawiri supported outreach in Lokapel, Turkana South

(PLW) in Turkana, with 30.2% (F:538) identified as malnourished. These outreach efforts also facilitated the development of case lists for follow-up and monitoring at anchor group and HH levels by CHPs and mentors. Services provided included immunization, family planning (FP), discussions on exclusive breastfeeding, hygiene promotion, complementary feeding, and antenatal/postnatal care. The program carried out technical monitoring to enhance acute malnutrition management and documentation across 53 health facilities in Turkana, with 131 healthcare workers receiving mentorship on various aspects of IMAM implementation. Challenges included insufficient MOH reporting tools, which Nawiri addressed by printing additional forms to facilitate easier reporting. Support migration from paper reporting to Electronic Community Health Information System reporting will contribute to a sustainable alternative to the costly paper-based reporting system.

### Improving treatment of Childhood illnesses



Samburu and Turkana Counties have made notable progress in implementing integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) for common childhood illnesses. USAID Nawiri has facilitated the rollout of iCCM among 1,159 (93%) of the targeted 1,248 CHPs across 98 out of 134 Community Health Units. From January to May 2024, the program treated over 90% of children aged 2-59 months with diarrhea with Zinc-ORS, as shown in the graph. The remaining children found with diarrhea were referred due

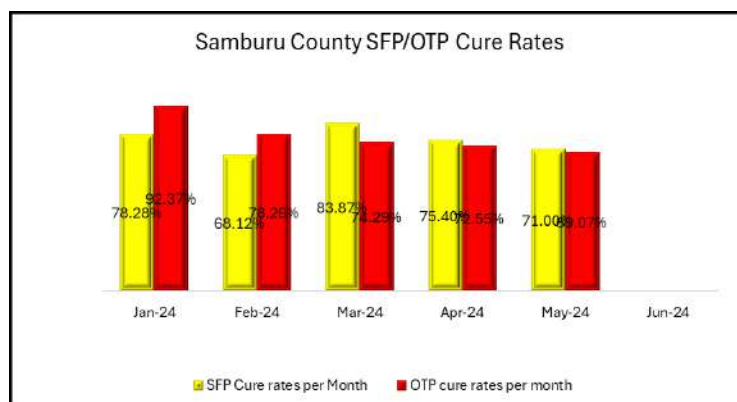
to limitations of ORS-Zinc commodity by CHPs during the quarter. The Government supports this intervention by providing essential commodities, tools, and equipment, as well as offering mentorship and supervision to CHPs.

## IMAM PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

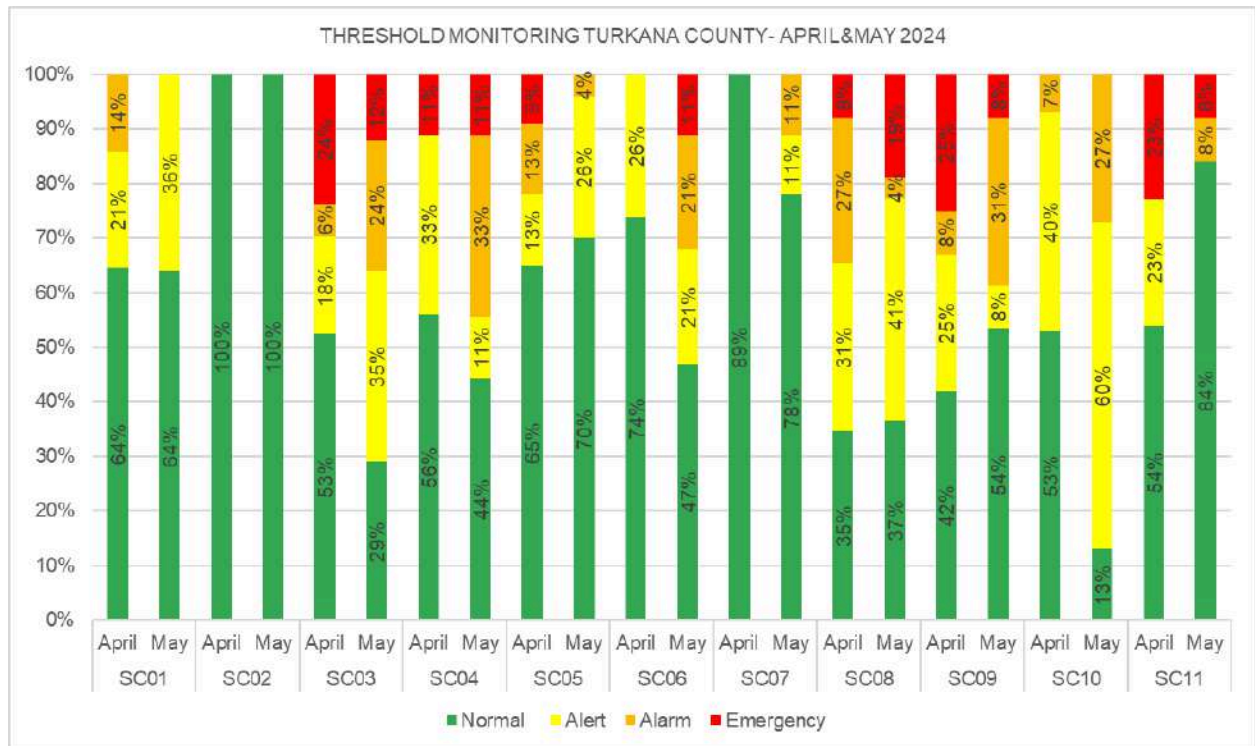
IMAM performance indicators met the recommended SPHERE standards for both the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) and the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) across all sub-counties in both Samburu and Turkana, except in Loima sub-county, Turkana. The positive outcomes are due to various IMAM interventions across the sub-counties. However, Loima sub-county reported a high defaulter rate for OTP (22.5%) and SFP (16.2%) due to the reduction of outreach sites from 110 to 40. Nawiri is collaborating with the MOH to analyze malnutrition hotspots to determine new outreach sites for support.

SPHERE Standard	Target	Turkana County	
		OTP	SFP
Cure Rate	>75%	90.7	89.5
Defaulter rate	<15%	5.1	5.3
Death rate	<10%	0.07	0.05
Non-Recovery	<15%	4.1	5.2

According to the IMAM threshold monitoring chart for May 2024, 51% of health facilities were within the normal range, while 49% exceeded their threshold. In comparison, April had 57% of facilities within the normal range and 43% surpassing their threshold. In Samburu County, over 80% of the facilities were

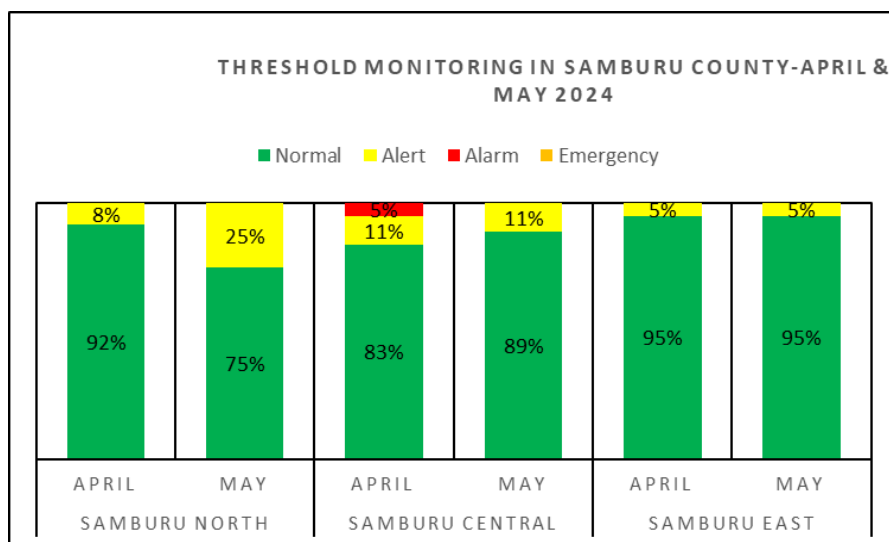


phased as normal except for the month of May in Samburu North. The improvement observed in both counties is attributed to collaborative efforts by various actors in enhancing food security within the communities. As part of the emergency response, the project and other implementing partners continued supporting bi-weekly integrated outreach across the county.



**Key:**

Sub County	Turkana East	Suguta	Turkana West	Lokichogio	Turkana Central	Loima	Lokirama	Turkana North	Turkana South	Aroo	Kibish
Code	SC01	SC02	SC03	SC04	SC05	SC06	SC07	SC08	SC09	SC10	SC11

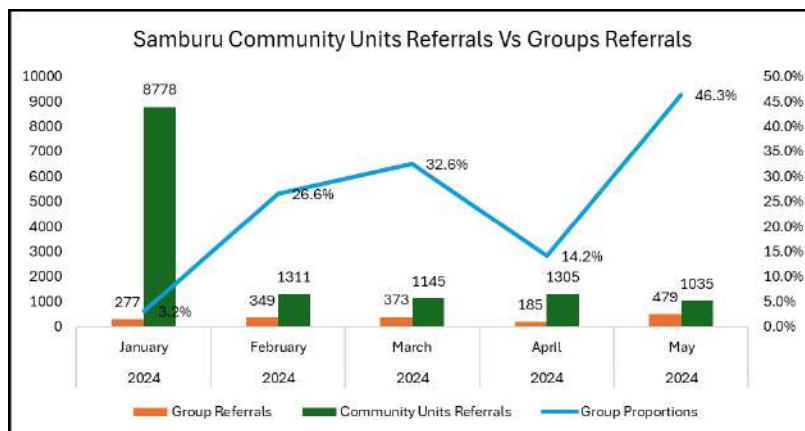




## Improving Referrals from CUs in Samburu and Turkana

The contribution of referrals from USAID Nawiri supported facilities to the overall referred cases in Samburu County significantly increased from 3.2% in January to 46.3% in May 2024. This improvement is attributed to better documentation of referrals, heightened awareness, and increased demand for health and nutrition services owing to strengthened case management for nutrition resilience (CMNR) in the community units/villages.

Nawiri facilitated monthly data review meetings for CHPs in Turkana and Samburu to enhance the quality of reports and data submitted by CHPs. These meetings included key stakeholders such as CHPs, healthcare workers (HCWs), lead mothers, and anchor group mentors. A total of 1,210 participants (F:625; M:585) took part in these sessions. According to Nawiri's CHS study, regular engagement between CHPs and their supervisors motivates CHPs to perform better. These review meetings focused on improving referrals, monitoring, and follow-up within the community. As a result, CHPs have been actively involved in case finding and referrals, with 56% of April's referrals in Turkana being malnutrition cases. Additionally, these meetings provided a platform for supervisors to address reporting issues, ultimately improving reporting rates in community health services.



## Maternal Infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN)

To accelerate the adoption of optimal Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) behaviors and practices, during this past quarter, the program reached 15,970 (F:14,265; M: 1705) through peer-to-peer dialogues, which included the anchor groups - AM2MSGs, GIRL-H & Boy Groups, and R4N Groups in Samburu County and Turkana County. Working closely with the social and behavior change aspect, MIYCN child interventions are aimed at accelerating the adoption of the recommended maternal, infant, and young child nutrition behaviors and continue to address the behavioral determinants and barriers to change via mechanisms such as AM2MSGs, GIRL-H, and Boy Groups, R4N groups, and community groups outside the anchor groups among others. CHPs, HCWs, and mentors supported this initiative through mentoring and training on the Breastfeeding Community Initiative, nutrition assessments, education, and counseling. The major activities implemented through practiced-based learning interventions included participatory group activities such as nutrition education and MIYCN messaging at the group level, need-informed food preparation and demonstrations, and group dialogues focusing on various sessions. The sessions covered maternal nutrition, including antenatal and postnatal care and FP, as well as infant and young child nutrition, uptake of infant and young child health services such as GMP, and immunization, among others. Adolescent nutrition and ASRH were key sessions with GIRL-H and

Boy groups. Referrals for all cases requiring further support at health facilities alongside hygiene and sanitation information and education were cross-cutting sessions targeting all participants along with the larger community during the quarter.

#### Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH)



**Terry Awoi, a CHP showing one of the facility registers in Aposta, Turkana West**

Nawiri continued to strengthen the County Department of Health's capacity to deliver adolescent responsive health services at the facility level and anchor groups through a decentralized pool of mentors, 59 (F:25; M:34), and an additional 32 (F:13; M:19) HCWs that the program trained on the ASRH technical module. To empower mentors to disseminate accurate information on ASRH and nutrition and create demand for uptake of ASRH services, the program trained a total of 410 mentors (F:256; M:154) and 45 mentors (F:27; M:18) in Turkana and Samburu respectively on the ASRH mentor module. Part of next steps

include adoption and printing of context specific Information Education and Communications material to facilitate dissemination of age-appropriate messaging and cascading of the knowledge gained at the anchor group to influence social and behavior change. Additionally, the HCWs, anchor group mentors, and periodically the ToTs will monitor GIRL-H and Boy safe spaces sessions to help support and mentor the GIRL-H and boy mentors for successful implementation and delivery of quality discussion and reflection sessions in the anchor groups.

To strengthen linkages and stimulate demand for uptake of FP/RMNCAH services, the program trained a total of 98 CHPs (F:40; M:58) and 79 CHPS (F:42; M:37) in Turkana and Samburu respectively on the community FP/RMNCAH module. This was integrated with practical sessions on HH visits that will be key in strengthening HH visioning exercises. Through linkages and continued mentorship at the anchor group level, a total of 4,630 (F:3,046; M:1,584) members in all the anchor groups (AM2MSG, R4N, GIRL-H and Boy groups) accessed information on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) through weekly sessions. At the GIRL-H and Boy groups, the program referred 39 adolescent girls for antenatal care (ANC), 284 for FP, 38 for PNC and 428 (F:223; M:205) for HIV counseling and testing. At the health facility, the percentage of adolescents accessing FP services during this reporting period was 434, which is an improvement of 24% from Q2. In the subsequent quarter, efforts will be geared towards strengthening an enabling environment for the adolescents to thrive and support uptake of ASRH services through the positive parenting strategy where the program will engage parents and caregivers to support adolescents and provide for their needs as required.



Integrating with the leadership and governance team on community mobilization, advocacy, and involving adolescents in health-related decision-making processes, the program continued to engage adolescent and young persons through the WDPCs and additionally, through the Member of County Assembly (MCA) and women caucus platform to advocate and champion for ASRH needs and rights.

### **PURPOSE 3: STABLE AND RESILIENT NUTRITION ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

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

During this past quarter, Nawiri completed the R4N endline evaluation for Cohort 1, which exited in January. Preliminary findings from the draft report indicate that 87% and 82% of HHs in Samburu and Turkana, respectively, met the graduation criteria. A sense-making workshop scheduled in July 2024 (Quarter 4) and qualitative inquiries will further elucidate these findings and propose adaptations in relation to Cohort 2 and future cohorts. In the next quarter, Nawiri will facilitate financial literacy and linkages sessions with PSPs, Department of social service and government affirmative action funds. This is in line with the financial services interventions that Nawiri is implementing across all anchor groups.

Additionally, the program conducted an assessment for all Cohort 2 HHs to assess progress towards graduation among the 3,300 participants in Turkana and Samburu. This HH assessment aimed to track and measure the percentage of participants on track for graduation in both counties for all graduation metrics. Preliminary data analysis, shared within Quarter 4, shows that 44% and 34% of participants in Turkana and Samburu, respectively, have met basic criteria for graduation. Overall, 24% of business groups have met business growth criteria, 59% of HHs have two or more sources of income, 13% of children 6-23 months have met Minimum Dietary Diversity criteria, and 93% of children 6-59 months free from acute malnutrition. Average savings per participant for the last 3 months is Kes. 2,092. Nawiri will use the findings to review quarter 4 mentorship, coaching and training schedules.



Loitanit Lomuto, Nawiri R4N participant under Naitakais business group displaying her group's savings record book in Natoo, Turkana North

Throughout the quarter, mentorship and monitoring for Cohort 2 of R4N continued with a heightened focus on improving data quality and its utility for decision-making. In Samburu, a monthly mentors' data review meeting held in Barsaloi in June was attended by 13 mentors (F:2; M:11). The meeting involved reviewing Quarter 3 data, identifying gaps and challenges, and integrating these into mentors' and field officers' (FOs) July work plans. Health and nutrition officers from Nawiri provided further guidance on

nutritional assessments through demonstrations and reviewed child and group registers, emphasizing referral and treatment protocols. Mentors also shared insights on market facilitation by mentors through livestock aggregation and umbrella business groups. In Turkana, four FOs (F:1; M:3) and program coordinators conducted two days of data quality monthly review meetings, focusing on procedures for reviewing child and group registers before data abstraction.

Furthermore, mentors and FOs initiated micro-training sessions on agri-nutrition and savings groups for 3,300 participants across both counties. Training topics included goal setting, group dynamics, record keeping, social fund management, borrowing and lending, credit assessment, and managing business and savings group funds. The program educated participants on agri-nutrition, nutrition fundamentals, locally available nutrient sources, nutrition for pregnant women, and HH food production strategies, encouraging the establishment of home gardens for green leafy vegetable production and other crops. To reinforce training, Nawiri piloted interactive voice response (IVR) for participants within network coverage. During the pilot, the program successfully completed 80% of calls (participants who received calls on time and listened to completion), with initial feedback indicating participant appreciation for the IVR content delivered via phones. IVR content, aligned with agri-nutrition and MIYCN training, will be extended to Cohort I participants and tailored to align with ongoing post-graduation interventions.

On GIRL-H and Boy groups, the program further trained 45 mentors (F:27; M: 18) from Samburu, and 408 mentors (F:254; M: 154) from Turkana. The program utilized the National Curriculum on Adolescent Youth Sexual Reproductive Health (AYSRH) Engagement and the 2022 National Guide on Understanding Adolescence to deliver the AYSRH training. The training sessions, conducted by Ministry of Health ToTs, covered various topics including Adolescent and Youth Health, pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), condom use, drugs and substance abuse, life skills, behavior change, and social media



**Nkiretu Nkai GIRL-H group mentor and a participant peruse through their savings records, in Ndonyo Nasipa, Samburu East**

safety. The objective was to increase demand for and access to adolescent-responsive health services, and to mitigate vulnerabilities such as STIs and early pregnancies through informed sexual choices. As a result of the training, mentors gained knowledge and skills to facilitate age-appropriate discussions on SRH with adolescents. Additionally, healthcare providers and ToTs provided information on available SRH services at health facilities, aiming to remove barriers hindering adolescents' access to and utilization of SRH information and services. After the training, mentors have been having discussions with their group members during safe space sessions for GIRL-H and boy groups.

Moreover, 394 (F:203; M:191) mentors in Samburu underwent training focusing on SGBV prevention and response, gender mainstreaming, natural resource management (NRM), and peacebuilding. Conducted by trainers from the Gender and Social Services Department of the County Government, State Department of Gender and Affirmative Actions, International Rescue Committee, and County Peace Directorate, this training underscored the importance of prioritizing gender equality in education and combating gender-based violence to address malnutrition and enhance community well-being.

Additionally, 30 mentors (F:20; M:10) received training to facilitate safe space sessions for newly formed GIRL-H and Boy anchor groups. This training covered essential aspects of mentorship, including an overview of USAID Nawiri, ASRH, life skills, basic literacy, numeracy, and effective session management. It also incorporated technical components from other program areas such as WASH, health and nutrition, and livelihood options, equipping mentors to provide comprehensive support and guidance aligned with Nawiri's goals. During the period, the program reached 17,480 GIRL-H and 8,977 Boy anchor group members with the various sessions.

To promote gender mainstreaming across all program sectors, the program integrated sessions on mainstreaming gender into WUAs, financial inclusion training, and hybrid committees, engaging 49 participants (F:20; M:29) in the discussions. Specific gender messages reached 18 participants (F:8; M:10) in the WUA and 56 participants (F:32; M:24) in financial inclusion training. The program also emphasized gender integration in hybrid committees in Samburu East and North, highlighting gender-specific needs, addressing structural inequalities, and emphasizing the importance of both genders' contributions to sustainable change. These efforts facilitated discussions on decision-making and cultural practices, contributing to reducing acute malnutrition through inclusive WASH, financial inclusion, and health and nutrition initiatives.

Monthly review meetings convened at ward level in each county, involving 677 mentors (F:438; M: 239) in Turkana and 804 mentors (F:570; M: 234) in Samburu. These meetings provided a platform to review anchor group data, discuss progress and challenges, and offer feedback for program improvement. They also included sessions on formal registration of VSLA groups and documentation of success stories by the Communication and Learning team, enhancing collaboration and learning among frontline teams and key stakeholders.

Throughout the quarter, anchor group sessions continued weekly, focusing on various topics tailored to each group's needs. Cohort 1 sessions addressed SGBV prevention, NRM, and peacebuilding, while Cohort 2 sessions focused on setting up safe spaces, ASRH education, and basic literacy and numeracy. These sessions contribute to the holistic development and well-being of adolescents.

Integrated with health and nutrition interventions, the program conducted practical learning through cooking demonstrations in Samburu East sub-county, targeting GIRL-H groups, Boy groups, and AM2MSGs, reaching 674 participants (F:508; M:166). These demonstrations educated the community on local food groups, preparation methods, and nutritional values, promoting better health practices and improving diet quality within HHs. By aligning with recommendations from the Health and Nutrition

team on teaching the 10 food groups for women and children under five, the demonstrations aimed to harmonize program recommendations and foster healthy eating habits and address diet-related illnesses.

Efforts to bridge gaps in anchor groups and prepare for future activities included joint participant targeting and enrollment in Samburu and Turkana, forming 74 groups (36 GIRL-H, 38 Boy groups) in Samburu and 886 groups (590 GIRL-H, 296 Boy groups) in Turkana. The program will guide these groups to identify mentors and undergo training in setting up safe spaces and other technical modules.

The USAID Nawiri SSBC team implemented targeted interventions across both counties, addressing issues like unskilled birth delivery, dietary diversity, hygiene and sanitation, and community engagement to combat high malnutrition rates. Community and HH dialogues engaged over 2,015 participants (F:1,364; M:651) across Samburu and Turkana, promoting positive behaviors related to nutrition, hygiene, healthcare, and non-traditional diets. These dialogues facilitated community engagement and gathered diverse perspectives on behaviors, including FP and child spacing.

Capacity-building activities enhanced participatory approaches and interpersonal communication skills among frontline workers, including 60 CHPs (F:34; M:26) in Turkana and 27 mentors (F:19; M:8) in Samburu. These activities aimed to strengthen facilitation, communication, and social mobilization skills, empowering them to effectively mobilize communities.

Supported by Save the Children US, the program refined its SSBC strategy and prepared materials for the REAL Fathers/Men toolkit to engage men in key behaviors. Community visioning training further refined community engagement processes and facilitated the development of village-level community plans.

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



**Namakot pasture producers carrying their harvested cinchrus celliaris grass for drying and baling for market, in Namakot, Turkana South**

During the quarter, USAID Nawiri carried out initiatives to enhance sustainable rangeland management, community resilience, and nutrition. In Turkwel Ward, the program trained 25 participants (F: 8; M: 17) on Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM), providing them with essential skills for effective rangeland management and introducing the "Four Legs" concept, which includes establishing and governing rangeland units, promoting participatory management practices, enhancing neighborhood relations, and engaging



with institutions. Key components of the training included transparent and inclusive community governance, development of grazing plans and monitoring systems, and strategies for community engagement. A significant outcome was the establishment of the Turkwel Rangeland Management Institution to oversee community rangeland management, promoting accountability and inclusivity.

Simultaneously, in Samburu, Nawiri collaborated with the County Government of Samburu and Community Conservancies to enhance rangeland management and nutrition knowledge in Samburu East sub-county, focusing on Mabati, Barsaloi, and Louwa villages. Training sessions engaged 69 participants (F: 21; M: 48) on PRM and NRM, and conflict resolution skills. Timed during heavy rainfall, the initiative aimed to regenerate natural ecosystems and promote sustainable grazing plans. Practical demonstrations illustrated how effective management can mitigate asset losses and enhance community resilience, with feedback highlighting increased milk production and improved access to pasture and water. The program also emphasized peace-building dialogues to mitigate road banditry and ensure market safety, supporting nutrition resilience. These initiatives reflect Nawiri's commitment to sustainable development and community well-being in arid lands through integrated environmental and governance approaches.

In addition, the program collaborated with local partners to rehabilitate 100 acres of degraded land in Barsaloi and Louwa pasture sites in Samburu. This initiative aimed to enhance pasture production, combat climate change effects, and improve nutrition resilience. Training 121 anchor group participants (F: 64; M: 57) from various community groups, the program focused on agro-ecological practices like bioswales and tree planting pits to improve rangelands regeneration and water conservation and ultimately increase milk availability and reduce malnutrition. This rehabilitation effort not only restored land but also strengthened community resilience, aligning with Nawiri's goals of sustainable resource management and nutrition security in arid lands. Ongoing monitoring and infrastructure support will continue to assess impacts and expand partnerships for integrated environmental and nutrition strategies.

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

During this quarter, USAID Nawiri, in collaboration with various partners, implemented several impactful initiatives to promote peace, sustainable rangeland management, and community resilience in Samburu and Turkana Counties. A significant event was the peace and grazing plans inter-cross learning event held on April 23rd in Ndoto Ward, Samburu North. This gathering brought together elders, morans, and women from various villages, facilitating peer-to-peer learning and strengthening the management of grazing plans. Discussions highlighted the critical role of peace in reducing malnutrition and promoting development through organized grazing and dialogue on grazing plans. Ongoing peace dialogues, supported by Nawiri and partners, yielded positive outcomes, including plans to construct early childhood development centers.

Additionally, Nawiri facilitated an inter-ethnic visit between members of the Samburu community from Lorian, Lower, and Upper Suiyan and the Turkana community of Marti. The cross visit which took place in Marti, Samburu North was aimed to enhance grazing strategies for the rainy season and promote

social cohesion, addressing longstanding tensions from past conflicts. Women played active leadership roles in these peacebuilding efforts, emphasizing the significance of psychosocial support in fostering reconciliation and improving intergroup relations. Moving forward, Nawiri is dedicated to continuing these community partnerships and dialogues to sustain peace and enhance livelihoods in Samburu North. Additionally in Samburu North sub-county, the program collaborated with the Samburu County Government's Directorate for Peace and Cohesion Building, the Ministry for Interior and Coordination of National Government, and the Office of the Deputy County Commissioner to engage morans from conflict-prone areas in Elbart Ward on conflict transformation, early warning management, and peace dividends. Key outcomes of this discussion included sharing best practices in conflict resolution, prioritizing effective grazing plans to ensure food security, and fostering sustainable community resilience. Agreed actions from the engagement included ongoing peace dialogues, training on alternative livelihoods, and forming moran peace champions.

USAID Nawiri also hosted the Samburu North sub-county Peace Actors Forum with the Office of the area MP and 17 development partners. Led by Honorable Eli Letipila, the Member of National Assembly for Samburu North, the forum focused on strengthening partnerships and aligning efforts in peacebuilding and development to avoid duplication. Discussions emphasized evidence-based strategies and leveraging the hybrid committee structure for effective rangeland management amid resource-based conflicts. Key outcomes included commitments to enhance local actors' capacity through community strengthening systems and ensuring sustainable peace solutions. Challenges included organizational discrepancies, with recommendations for greater involvement of the Ministry of Interior and the establishment of Amani clubs in schools.

In Turkana County, Nawiri focused on fostering peace and stability through community engagement targeting hybrid committee members, Kraal leaders, and other community stakeholders including youth, women, persons with disabilities, and religious leaders. The program provided training in conflict management, mediation, and negotiation skills. This training is essential as the region has experienced escalating conflicts, disrupting normal operations and livelihoods. Collaborating closely with local leaders, rangeland management committees, youth councils, and government officials at county and national levels, our program aims to strengthen community structures and advocate for sustainable natural resource management practices.

#### **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 WARD LEVEL AND BELOW.**

During the reporting period, USAID Nawiri continued to strengthen the capacities of WDPCs in Turkana and Samburu. The program successfully facilitated the engagement between WDPCs and the civil society organizations (CSOs) network to build alliances and develop shared objectives and strategies, ensuring their advocacy efforts reached decision-makers. In Samburu, in partnership with the Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance and USAID-funded Uongozi Afya Thabiti,

the program collaborated with the Samburu Development Trust to enable representatives from 30 CSO representatives that included 93 (F:32; M: 61) and other governance structures such as WDPCs, WRUAs, and hybrid committees to participate in public forums. These forums, focusing on the County Fiscal Strategy Paper 2024-2025 and the County budget estimates 2024-2025, aimed to influence county government departments to design nutrition projects responsive to community needs. Through these engagements, CSOs successfully influenced government decisions by submitting three consolidated memos to county authorities, addressing issues such as project specifications, expected outcomes, indicators, locations, timelines, and balanced resource distribution across sub-counties, wards, and sectors.

The program notably enhanced community participation in government planning and budgeting processes, leading to more detailed project proposals from various departments, including basic education, vocational training, and the Department of Water, Environment, Climate Change, and Energy, as observed in the final budget estimates for 2024-2025. This improvement resulted from CSOs' and communities' demands for clearer budget lines. Additionally, thanks to initial capacity-building support, 24 CSOs leveraged their skills from resource mobilization and proposal writing training, with five CSOs securing external funding to scale up nutrition-sensitive community projects and conduct effective advocacy.

Through capacity-building initiatives focused on social accountability, public participation, and the government budgeting cycle, WDPC members from Poro, Waso and Wamba West organized interface meetings with their respective MCAs to discuss key ward priorities for FY 2024-2025. The total number of participants was 89 (F:25; M: 64). The program planned quarterly interface meetings as action points to track the implementation of agreed activities. Similarly, the Chairpersons of Poro and Baawa wards engaged a local radio station and the County Assembly Budget Committee Chairperson to discuss the lack of prioritization of equalization funds for Poro Ward due to insufficient public participation.

During this period, 181 (F:53; M:158) WDPCs members in Poro, Baawa, Waso, Wamba West, Wamba North, Nachola, Nyiro, and Ndoto reviewed and validated ward development plans with local leadership, pending final community approvals. In Turkana, the program collaborated with the NDMA to develop a contingency plan for Lokirima/Lorengippi and Kaeris wards. The participants were 38 (F:12; M: 26) in Lokirima/Lorengipi whereas in Kaeris the total number of participants was 28 (F: 6; M: 22). This collaboration allowed communities to identify vulnerabilities and available capacities to address shocks and stresses. As a result, the community and government developed a multisectoral response plan to better prepare for and address these challenges.

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

USAID Nawiri supported the enhancement of the enabling environment in key thematic areas to facilitate policy and legislative development in both counties. Key stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for service provision and investments include members of the County Assembly, given their



roles in legislation, oversight, and budget creation. Thus, engaging and advocating with them on key program areas is paramount, as highlighted in the following activities.

Samburu County reviewed and drafted several new bills to ensure smooth implementation of government interventions. Notable examples include the Health Facility Improvement Fund Bill, Animal Health Bill, and Gender Policy & Bill in Samburu, as well as the M&E Policy and Bill in both counties.

Nawiri's support for the governance process was evident in the elevation of the County Assembly Women's Caucus in Samburu and the development of a roadmap for inclusion in the standing orders, providing a platform to address community concerns. The Samburu County Assembly Women Caucus & Liaison Committee received training on committee roles, gender mainstreaming, and budgeting to make informed decisions were 45 (F:19; M:26). The program also facilitated the county assembly in reviewing the 2023/2024 budget and analyzing and reporting on the 2024/2025 budget estimate, which was then tabled for approval.

In Turkana, Nawiri facilitated a workshop that brought together the County Assembly Budget and Appropriation Committee, departmental heads, civil society, and community representatives, totaling 53 participants (F:15; M: 38). The congregation of this workshop helped to align the budgets with community priorities, ensuring these priorities were incorporated into proposals.

To bolster the coordination of partner and government programs, USAID Nawiri supported high-level meetings involving 48 national government administrators and county government administrators (F: 8; M: 40). These meetings aimed to identify areas of joint coordination and address challenges. The forum provided an opportunity to gain buy-in from leaders and support for USAID Nawiri structures at the ward level, influence the adoption of citizens' priorities, and track the implementation of set priorities. The program also briefed leaders on USAID Nawiri's key investments within the county, current partnerships, and opportunities for strengthening the USAID Nawiri-Turkana County and National Government partnership. The program discussed the issue of insecurity, and it was agreed to initiate cross-border meetings to address inter-community conflict in the corridor of Turkana South and East. Additionally, elders would be involved in addressing intra-community conflict affecting the communities of Turkana South and Loima.

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

During this past reporting period, Nawiri, in collaboration with the county governments' Directorates of Monitoring and Evaluation and the County Assemblies in both Turkana and Samburu, successfully facilitated the approval of M&E policies and bills. These policies aim to entrench evidence-based decision-making by strengthening M&E practices, promoting an M&E culture, enhancing technical and managerial competencies, addressing reporting delays, and ensuring adequate financial resources for M&E activities. By fostering effective M&E practices, the policies support timely and informed decision-making within the County Executive, County Assembly, and other entities in response to perennial shocks and

stresses. This ultimately boosts citizens' confidence in the county governments' ability to hold ministries, departments, and agencies accountable for achieving results based on reliable information.

Additionally, the program with the Samburu and Turkana County governments agreed to co-fund a unified Geographical Information System (GIS). USAID Nawiri agreed to support the initial three modules on health, agriculture and water modules—the software that will facilitate sectoral data aggregation and analysis to facilitate real time decision making. The county governments committed to purchasing the system and the hardware that will host the GIS platform. Turkana and Samburu counties have allocated Kes. two million and Kes. eight million respectively through their M&E departments for the platform's acquisition, with the remaining balance awaiting cabinet approval. The program developed a detailed implementation plan to establish a comprehensive GIS portal that integrates information from all departments, facilitating informed decision-making and enhanced resource mobilization based on well-analyzed geospatial data.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the Samburu Department of Economic Planning and the National Treasury's M&E facilitators, the program conducted sessions on the E-County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System (E-CIMES) for 32 directors and 12 Governors' Service Delivery Unit County staff (F:7; M:5) to address information management constraints. E-CIMES will centralize data, streamline analysis, and enhance decision-making, aligning with Nawiri's aim to provide timely risk information to mitigate acute malnutrition. Actions included identifying E-CIMES focal persons, creating system accounts, and validating data. During the quarter, the program worked with 36 participants (F:11; M:25) from the NDMA, county government, local leaders, and various stakeholders to map out risk information sources. This effort will result in the development of user-friendly risk information advisories for last-mile communities, enhancing resilience through climate information.

During this reporting period, USAID Nawiri facilitated the sharing of Longitudinal Studies (LS) findings in both Turkana and Samburu Counties at the county and sub-county levels. The sharing workshops involved multi-sectoral teams comprising of county government representative from the various sectors such as health, water, education, gender, agriculture 7 livestock, environment among others spread as follows; Turkana county multi-sectoral team with 76 participants (F:15; M:61), Turkana North and Kibish multi-sectoral team with 42 participants (F:7; M:35), Turkana West multi-sectoral team with 56 participants (F:8; M: 48), Samburu county multi-sectoral team with 45 participants (F:11; M:34), Samburu Central multi-sectoral team with 39 participants (F:14; M: 25), and Samburu East multi-sectoral team with 48 participants (F:12; M:36).

The objectives of the sharing workshops were to share findings on trends in GAM and discuss programs as well as policy implications. The dissemination of the LS research findings garnered positive responses across the board, signaling a shift towards a multisectoral approach to combating malnutrition. The teams reviewed GAM trends and discussed the GAM rates disaggregated by different immediate, underlying and basic factors. Findings of critical importance included MUAC detecting fewer malnutrition cases than WHZ, suggesting that relying solely on MUAC could miss many malnourished children. There were high GAM cases among fisherfolks and an increasing trend for the urban/peri-urban zones. Boys were more affected by GAM than girls, and female-headed HHs showed higher GAM rates compared to

male-headed HHs. HHs with caregivers over 25 years and those where caregivers consumed alcohol exhibited higher GAM prevalence. The findings also revealed that nearly half of the children remained GAM-free across all waves. The findings underscored the need for targeted interventions in high-risk areas and continuous monitoring to adapt strategies effectively.

Recommendations for the county government and all the others stakeholder working in the context moving forward included addressing social and economic issues, particularly among fisherfolk and urban populations, diversifying food options in school feeding programs, and advocating for the inclusion of animal proteins to ensure children receive essential nutrients, a call for advocacy to ensure relief food interventions offer diversified options to meet HH nutrition needs and address malnutrition challenges effectively, addressing water access challenge, and enhancing access to viable borehole water for multiple uses. The findings are therefore serving as an advocacy tool within the County multisectoral platforms for nutrition, influencing interventions aimed at tackling malnutrition.

## MARKET ANALYSIS

During the quarter, the Kenya Cash Working Group released the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) report for January to March 2024. The report highlighted a 2% decrease in the cost of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB) in Turkana County, and a 7% increase in MFB in Samburu County, as detailed in the table below:

Comparison of the Cost of Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) (KES) in 2023

County	Q1 KES Jan-Mar 2023	Q2 KES Apr-June 2023	Q3 KES July-Sept 2023	Q4 KES Oct-Dec 2023	Q1-Jan- Mar 2024	% Change in MEB cost of Q1 2024 compared to Q4 2023 (3-month change)
Samburu	20,425	18,711	18,109	18,076	19,251	▲ 7%
Turkana	19,741	20,251	22,482	20,908	20432	▼ 2%

The JMMI data market collection for the second quarter of the fiscal year 2024 was completed by the end of June 2024, and the official report is expected to be released by the JMMI Secretariat by July 2024.

The reduction in MEB costs in Turkana is mainly due to the lower prices of cereals following a bumper harvest in the North Rift region and in irrigation schemes in Turkana. Conversely, the increase in MEB in Samburu is linked to insecurity along the main trade route to Samburu North, forcing traders to use the

longer route through Samburu East. This data helps guide market strengthening and crop and livestock production activities.

This quarter, traders who were depending on the Maralal - Baragoi route were encouraged to connect with wholesalers via the Wamba - South Horr route that wasn't affected by insecurity. The program focused crop production efforts on increasing the production of green leafy vegetables in Samburu and grains in Turkana. The program linked producers with traders in local markets to supply vegetables, hence reducing reliance on external markets.

## IMPLEMENTATION QUALITY

### Joint Monitoring Visits:

A multi-sectoral technical team, including senior leadership and technical leads, conducted a joint monitoring visit in Turkana North, focusing on the Lake Zone and last mile production sites. The team tested and refined program minimum standard checklists for health facilities, production sites, anchor groups, and BMUs/fisheries as part of the Nawiri program minimum standards toolkit.

### Key findings included:

- Inconsistent functionality of health facilities in the Lake Zone, leading to an agreement to undertake mass screening to validate SAM/MAM cases and meet with the MOH to review facility weaknesses and constraints. Despite reductions in SAM, high levels of MAM persisted due to poor handling and hygiene related to increased milk availability following the rains, hence increased incidences of diarrhea. The team agreed to support health facilities in rapidly treating diarrhea cases and to accelerate WASH information in food and water handling and storage.
- A technical analysis of water distribution and production sites comparing drip irrigation and standpipes resulted in an agreement to advance site management plans and joint design between water and production teams.
- The team noted limited availability of nutritious foods in some local vendor businesses. The county team will undertake a revised market systems analysis and involve the R4N team to improve market access and linkages.
- In the fisheries sector, BMUs and communities are mobilized and ready to receive fishing boats. Boat management plans will be reviewed with the Boat Management Committee and Nawiri to facilitate anchor group membership and payment of registration fees to BMUs. The program team will implement plans to aggregate catch for market transportation, and Nawiri will ensure all permits and licensing rules are understood.

Following the joint monitoring visit, the Turkana team has reformed a Lake Zone focal team and advanced a Lake Zone strategy and work plan to address the drivers of high GAM rates in the area.

Additionally, Nawiri and its partners hosted a joint monitoring visit with BHA in Naoros, Turkana Central sub-county, to evaluate the progress of resilience and food systems initiatives. This visit provided

valuable insights into the impact of these programs on local communities and highlighted several key learnings for Nawiri as a nutrition program.

At the Naoros dispensary, attendees were briefed on malnutrition among children under five, revealing 147 cases, with 17 severely and 130 moderately malnourished. The visit also provided an opportunity for the program to showcase the GIRL-H groups, where Nawiri has been offering training on social behavioral change, water and hygiene practices, health and nutrition education, and growth monitoring. Participants from the GIRL-H groups also got the opportunity to showcase their handcrafted products, demonstrating the potential for economic empowerment through skill development. The visit to a farm supported by Concern Worldwide highlighted the farm's role in providing vegetables to the community and participants in the supplementary feeding program. Discussions revealed challenges such as water accessibility and vegetable packaging, pointing to the need for ongoing training and support. This learning emphasizes the significance of supporting agricultural initiatives that complement nutrition programs by improving food security and diversity. Key suggested pathways included expanding the farm to involve more girls and mothers, increasing production for both consumption and commerce, and organizing benchmarking exercises to inspire local groups, engaging boy groups was also advocated to ensure that the benefits gained by the GIRL-H program are not undermined by resistance from their fathers and partners.

Nawiri also recently conducted a joint visit to several program implementation sites in Turkana East. The visit included inspections of water systems in Lopeduru, Nakorinya, and Elelea, as well as food production efforts in Lokwii, Morulem, and Elelea. The delegation was led by Turkana East Member of Parliament, Honorable Nicholas Ngikor, and included Hon. James Napuyo, the Member of County Assembly for Lokori-Kochodin Ward, along with other local leaders. The primary aim of the visit was to inform the Turkana East Constituency leadership about the ongoing program interventions, identify areas for collaboration, and secure the political support of leaders from both the county and national governments. The leaders conveyed a key message to the community: the importance of fully embracing and owning USAID Nawiri-supported interventions to ensure their sustainability and achieve the desired outcomes. This visit aligns with Nawiri's goal of reducing malnutrition by influencing local leaders to prioritize community needs that address key challenges such as food security, water access, and health services. Additionally, the forum aimed to enhance coordination among various development partners. By keeping local leaders informed about Nawiri interventions, the program ensures that these leaders can guide other potential development partners on existing gaps and community needs.

### Samburu Resilient design/NRM TraQ team monitoring visit

In Samburu, the Mercy Corps Global Food Security team collaborated with Nawiri on a monitoring visit to evaluate the Resilient Design (RD) approach at production sites. The goal was to ensure the RD minimum standards at these sites were adaptive, resilient, and capable of providing the desired agro-ecological services to project participants. The assessment focused on design soundness, soil health, water management, biodiversity, protection, and diversity. The visit also provided an opportunity to offer field-level technical support to the implementation team and participants through the “home in

hand” monitoring approach. The program noted significant progress, and recommendations to enhance consistency and replication of the RD approach at new sites.

### Program Technical Quality minimum standards and monitoring

Nawiri has been testing and refining its program technical quality minimum standards checklists and monitoring protocols through joint monitoring visits. In the next quarter, these systems will be digitized and entered into CommCare. Findings and recommendations will be shared with relevant participants and stakeholders to help them make rapid adaptations.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEL)

During the quarter, Nawiri continued to implement its approved M&E strategy to ensure effective data quality, robust data management, and data use for decision-making. The strategy included capacity building for frontline workers and strengthening the county government's data management system, as well as using feedback mechanisms to improve program adaptive management. In Samburu County, the M&E team conducted an orientation on M&E processes for project staff, including local implementing partner's staff. The program oriented a total of 71 staff members (F:39; M:32), comprising 20 community facilitators and 51 other staff, on data collection using Commcare, reporting, analysis, visualization, and understanding reporting requirements, timelines, responsibilities, and the role of the program in supporting the implementation of the CMNR approach at the sub-county level.

Given the nomadic context in which Nawiri operates, there is a continuous need to update participant registers to ensure inclusivity. This is part of strengthening the case management system to enable efficient data collection for case management. During this period, the program registered 1,634 HHs across all anchor groups in Samburu County.

Nawiri further conducted a Joint Targeting Activity during the quarter to enroll participants into various anchor groups, including GIRL-H, Boy, AM2MSG, and Men to Men groups. The M&E team supported this process to ensure participant lists and demographic data were available. The program team conducted the activity in 20 out of the 22 targeted wards in Turkana County, enrolling a total of 792 AM2MSGs, 570 GIRL-H, 288 Boy, and 214 Men to Men groups. In Samburu County, the team formed 130 new groups: 20 Boy, 23 GIRL-H, and 87 AM2MSGs.

During the quarter, USAID Nawiri continued with the design of the Recurrent Monitoring System (RMS), this included review and finalization of the survey tool, establishment of the sampling frame from the two counties which included determining low versus high intensity villages, and kick starting of the procurement for the contractor to support with the survey. The first RMS data collection is planned for mid - August 2024.

Additionally, USAID's BHA team conducted an annual data quality assessment (DQA) for Nawiri during the quarter. The team aimed to assess the M&E system and improve data collection processes, data flow, and data use for decision-making. The program conducted the DQA in Aposta and Letea villages in



Turkana, focusing on two indicators: PM02 (Number of Children Under 5 years old receiving nutrition-specific interventions) and PM03 (Number of PLW receiving nutrition-specific interventions). The assessment included a review of M&E guidelines, MEL plan, standard operating procedures, data collection tools and processes, and data quality systems. The results showed significant improvement in data quality and the efficiency of MIS systems for data use in decision-making. The team will implement the recommendations from the USAID/BHA team in the next quarter to enhance continuous improvement.

## CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Challenges:

**Conflict and insecurity:** The USAID Nawiri program in Turkana and Samburu counties faces several significant challenges that impact its implementation and effectiveness in addressing persistent and acute malnutrition. In the quarter, heightened conflict and insecurity in areas like Turkana East, selected parts of Turkana South, along the riverline, and in Samburu Central and North presented substantial obstacles. These security concerns directly influenced program activities leading to delays in planned activities in the conflicting areas, necessitating close collaboration with national and county governments to scale up peace dialogues and promote community stability amidst ongoing tensions.

**Water scarcity and inadequate hygiene practices:** Water scarcity and inadequate hygiene practices during harvest time posed another significant challenge. In Samburu, expansion of farmlands beyond available water capacity strained resources. Meanwhile, in Turkana, poor hygiene practices due to a lack of sanitation facilities exacerbated health risks during critical periods. Nawiri is addressing these issues by promoting efficient water management and conservation in Samburu, educating communities, and enhancing sanitation infrastructure in Turkana.

**Storage for hay bales:** Storage challenges for hay bales in both counties was a challenge particularly during rainy seasons when makeshift structures compromised hay quality in both counties. Nawiri is actively collaborating with WDPCs to improve harvest storage at strategic locations using county resources.

**Market saturation:** Livelihoods trained anchor groups also faced the challenge of market saturation for agricultural products such as vegetables and fish, leading to significant price drops and decreased incomes due to simultaneous production by other farming communities. To address this issue, Nawiri supported the implementation of diversified economic strategies, including exploring value-addition opportunities to enhance the marketability and pricing of agricultural products. Furthermore, Nawiri facilitated market linkages beyond local markets to reach broader customer bases, thereby alleviating the effects of local market saturation. These efforts aimed to stabilize incomes and ensure sustainable economic resilience for the producers.

**Management of Prosopis:** The management of the invasive species *Prosopis Juliflora* through selective clearance as an environmental best practice created adequate farmland for crop production. However,

due to inadequate farm tools, this management proved to be a challenging task for the farming community. Nawiri will support the farmers by providing tools and capacity building to enhance their ability to manage invasive species effectively.

#### Lessons Learned:

**Collaboration and Coordination:** Close collaboration with national and county governments is crucial for promoting community stability and scaling up peace dialogues, especially in conflict-prone areas.

**Community Engagement:** Active community participation and leveraging local leadership can significantly enhance program impact. This approach was particularly evident during the Huduma Mashinani Expo and other community-driven initiatives, where engaging community members led to better acceptance and success of the programs.

**Integrated Approaches:** Integrating various interventions such as WASH, nutrition, and economic activities led to holistic improvements in community well-being. For instance, upgrading water systems not only improved water access but also supported agriculture and livestock production. This comprehensive approach ensures that multiple aspects of community life are improved simultaneously, leading to more substantial and long-lasting benefits.

**Adapting to Local Contexts:** Tailoring interventions to the specific needs and contexts of different communities ensures relevance and effectiveness. For example, the development of sustainable fisheries management training in Turkana was specifically designed to address local challenges and opportunities. Such context-specific interventions are more likely to be embraced by the community and yield positive outcomes, as they resonate with the unique circumstances and priorities of the area.

**Sustainable Practices:** Promoting sustainable agricultural practices, like agro-ecological techniques and climate-smart agriculture, helps in building resilience against climate variability and ensuring food security. These practices enhance soil health, conserve water, and reduce dependency on chemical inputs, leading to more sustainable and productive agricultural systems. By adopting these methods, communities can better withstand climatic shocks and maintain consistent food production. Additionally, for example, the management of invasive species like *Prosopis Juliflora* through selective clearance was implemented as an environmental best practice, creating adequate space for crop production. Additionally, fruit and fodder trees were introduced on farms to further protect the environment. This dual approach not only mitigated the negative impact of invasive species but also contributed to the environmental sustainability of agricultural practices.

**Leveraging Community Strengths:** Nawiri, recognizing the community's strengths in pastoralism and livestock production, prioritized enhancing skills in animal health by building the capacities of Community Disease Reporters (CDRs) in livestock disease identification and reporting. This included increasing fodder production and strengthening market linkages through improved market research, business skills training, quality standards, value addition, branding, digital market access, collaborative

networks, and policy advocacy. This approach aimed to leverage existing expertise and resources within the community, fostering sustainable agricultural practices and economic resilience.

## **PLANNED INTERVENTIONS**

### Site rationalization review:

After a substantial period of implementation in most Nawiri communities, we will review our site rationalization and impact categorization of villages in the upcoming quarter. Some protected villages are expected to advance to the Go Deep phase as key constraints limiting access and implementation of the full Nawiri interventions are removed. Additionally, it is anticipated that some Go Deep villages may transition to Catalyze or Enable status due to substantial investments and progress.

### Lake zone strategy acceleration:

As outlined in the program quality section, Nawiri plans to enhance our lake zone strategy by implementing a sequenced, layered, and integrated approach. This will effectively address and reduce the high rates of GAM prevalent in the Lake Zone. Through strategic planning and coordination, we aim to ensure that interventions are systematically applied, building on each other to create a comprehensive and sustainable impact on malnutrition in the region.

### Sustainability strategy county contextualization and participant engagement strategy roll out:

Before the start of Year 6 and following the approval of the PREP 6 package, Nawiri will begin the process of refining and contextualizing our sustainability strategy. This involves re-evaluating key system actors and sustainability criteria—such as motivations, linkages, resources, and capacities—within each county to address local specificities. Additionally, we will incorporate our participant engagement strategies into our work plans to ensure they are effectively integrated.

### Market system stimulation acceleration (building on Joint monitoring findings):

In the next quarter, the resilient livelihoods team will launch an enhanced market system acceleration strategy aimed at increasing the incomes of participants involved in gums and resins in Samburu and Turkana. This strategy includes facilitating agreements with shoat (goat and sheep) exporters. We have already signed a memorandum of understanding with Acacia EPZ Company and are in the process of finalizing another with Genco Livestock & Fresh Meat Export LTD. These partnerships will provide training, value addition, and off-take opportunities for gums, resins, and shoats from our last-mile target communities. Simultaneously, we will focus on strengthening market connections for both input and output markets to improve resilient access to products and services. As production sites yield higher volumes of food, these will be integrated into local markets in areas with lower production systems.

### Monitoring and Evaluation:

In the coming quarter, the USAID Nawiri M&E team will continue to provide technical support to program teams by building staff capacity and conducting quality monitoring across all interventions through field visits and spot checks, including Post Distribution Monitoring for all commodity distributions. The project will also perform a quarterly routine DQA for indicators not covered in the previous DQA. The M&E team will plan and participate in the Participant-Based Annual Survey, system actors' assessment, and RMS data collection and analysis. Additionally, they will conduct refresher training for staff at the county, sub-county, and ward levels on data collection tools.

## Environmental safeguards and climate risk management

As USAID Nawiri continues to work towards sustainable development and resilience in Turkana and Samburu counties to reduce persistent malnutrition, the following activities have been planned to ensure environmental safeguarding and effective climate risk management:

- Environmental Safeguarding and Compliance

Regular Environmental Audits (EAs) and Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans (EMMPs) will ensure adherence to regulations while safeguarding the community against environmental impacts. Collaborating with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) will help identify and mitigate potential impacts from proposed WASH and crop production activities. Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Reports (EMMRs) will document mitigation efforts. Water Quality Assurance Plans (WQAPs) and water testing and analysis reports will be developed for water-related infrastructure to ensure safe and sustainable water access for the communities in both counties.

- Climate Risk Management

Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices will be integrated to enhance resilience, including the development of resilience designs (RDs) structures where applicable, promoting drought-resistant crops and efficient water management. Community-based climate risk management plans will be developed, with training in early warning systems and adaptation strategies. Natural resource management will focus on rehabilitating degraded lands and promoting sustainable grazing. Climate risk management plans and reports will address and document climate-related risks, innovations, and strategies.

## LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex I: USAID Nawiri FY24 Q3 Humanitarian Stories

Annex II: USAID Nawiri Performance Monitoring Fact Sheet

Annex III: USAID Nawiri Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) Overview (January- March 2024)