

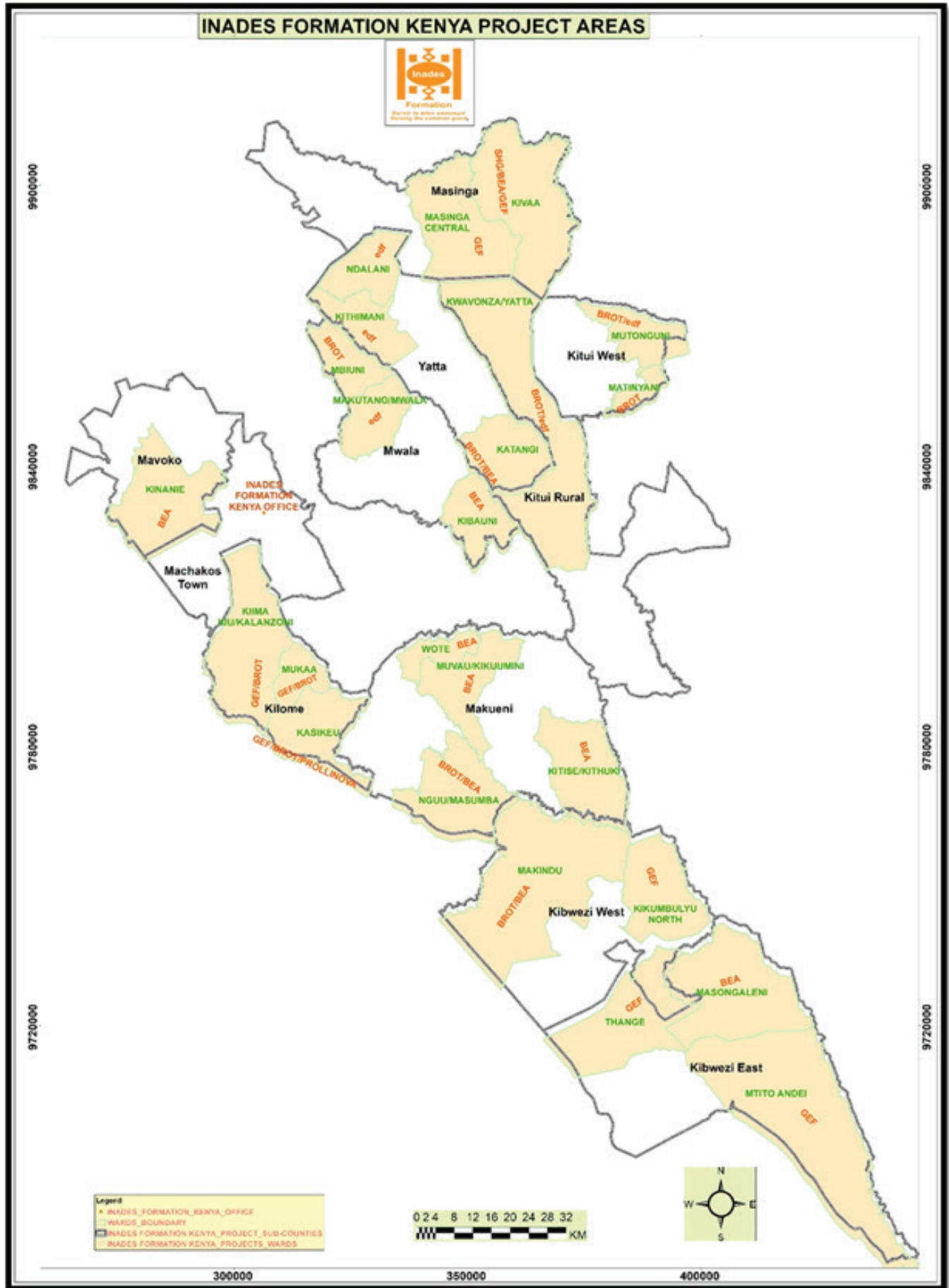
INADES FORMATION KENYA



ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

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ABCD	Agency Basque for Cooperation Development
AHPs	Animal Health Practioners
ASAL	Arid and semi-Arid lands
CLA	Cluster level Association
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CVC	Crops Value Chain
DHT	Donkey Hides Trade
DTCs	Drought Tolerant Crops
ECOBACC	Enhancing Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change
HH	Household
KEU	Kenya Economic Updates
LVC	Livestock Value Chain
NDD	National Donkey Day
SHGA	Self-Help Group Approach
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SOFDEV	Solidarity Fund for Development
UNFAO	United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WRUAs	Water Resources Users Association

Foreword

INADES Formation Kenya works and supports the improvement of resilience and livelihoods for the rural communities especially Family Farmers (small-scale farmers). Agriculture sector in 2023 which had faced a persistent and severe drought posted improvement toward the last half of the year. This was occasioned by more than average rainfall of March -May and October -December season. The rains though in some counties were El-Nino phenomenon, overall impact was that there was improved pasture regeneration and increased access to water for livestock and improved crop yields. The recovery of agriculture has led to improvements in food supply among many of the households that work with IFK.

Kenya Economic Updates (KEU) report indicates that the economic activities strengthened in 2023 despite facing several challenges. Kenya's real GDP is estimated to have increased by 5.0 percent in 2023, an acceleration from 4.8% of 2022 (KEU). This is linked to the improvement in Agriculture sector. The macro-level economic scales in 2023 improved with inflation trending downwards in 2023, dropping from 9.1 percent in December 2022 to 6.8 percent in November 2023, this was driven by easing of food prices (KEU-Issue no.28). It is worth noting that the economic improvement was at macro- levels and the economic realities for the communities that IFK works with still remains a challenge. Some drivers have been, for example, high fuel cost which translated to overall increments in cost across broad sectors.

The contextual challenges faced did not hinder us from delivery of our plans, Inades Formation Kenya (IFK) Board of Directors and staff confidently celebrates the great achievements for the year 2023. The contribution towards our goal of influential and prosperous rural world was hugely attained as you will find in the report.

Our work could not have been achieved without the support of our financial partners. These include; Bread for the World (BftW) who supported our main programme on Enhancing Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change (ECOBACC) that ended in December 2023, The Brooke East Africa supported our Donkey welfare project, Kindernohtilfe through RUMA supported the Self-Help Group Approach (SHGA), The Inades Formation General Secretariat gave support to a new project through the support of Agency Basque for Cooperation Development (ABCD), PELUM Kenya that supported agro ecological interventions and United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) on Family Farming.

As we end the year 2023, we would like to echo our commitment to continued partnership with our financial partners. This will be of great aid to the communities we serve and furtherance of the service to the common good. As we look forward to 2024, IFK aims to anchor our actions on collaboration with likeminded organizations and support by county governments where we have operations, fostering our complementary services to rural communities.

We invite you to interact with the 2023 activity report and provide feedback. Your feedback informs our subsequent Programmes and interventions. Feedback can be sent to inadesformation.kenya@inadesfo.net

Joseph Mwongela Munywoki
Managing Director- Inades Formation Kenya

1.0

Executive summary

The year 2023 marked the final year of ECOBACC III continuation programme after successful implementation and evaluation. A total of eleven (11) project components were implemented.

IFK continued to serve the common good focusing on rural farmers in the Lower Eastern region of Kenya notably; Makueni, Machakos, Kitui Counties and Rift valley region specifically Kajiado county.

During the year, IFK reached to 7,901 beneficiaries and build capacities toward increasing community resilience for improved livelihoods through trainings, exchange visits and follow-ups. A total of 395,532 indirect beneficiaries were reached through advocacy/media campaigns, farmer to farmer learning and exposure visits in 4 counties.

A total of four (4) schools with a total of 779 pupils were engaged in tree planting for land scape restoration mainly fruit trees that provide multiple benefits. The trees were planted both within the school and households where the pupils are drawn from. Through this greening initiative 7,437 tree seedlings are being nurtured using the adoption approach by the pupils.

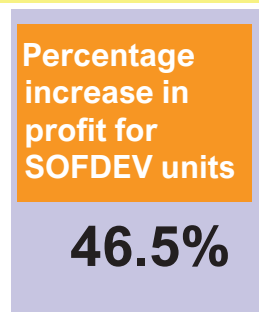
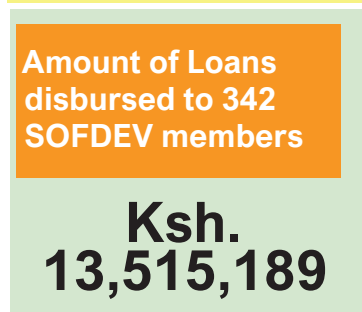
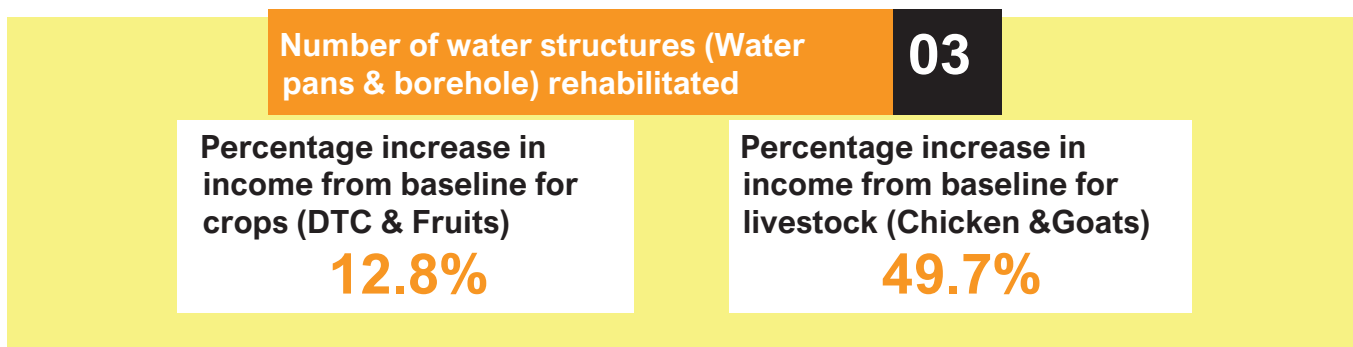
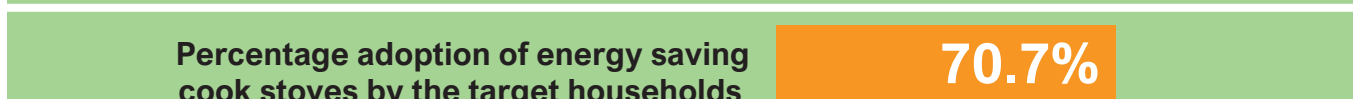
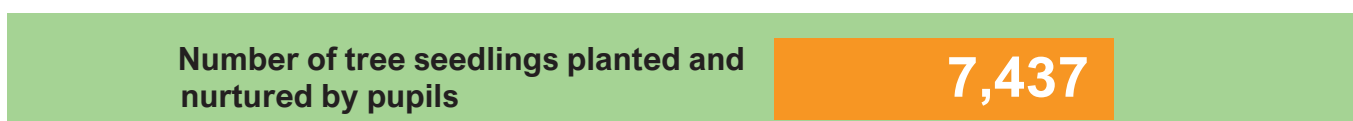
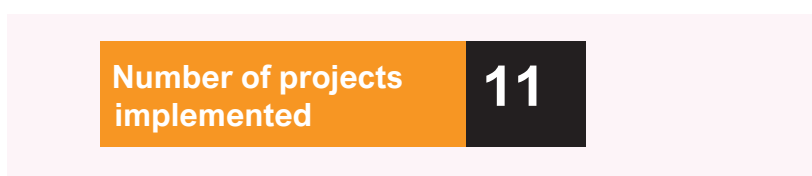
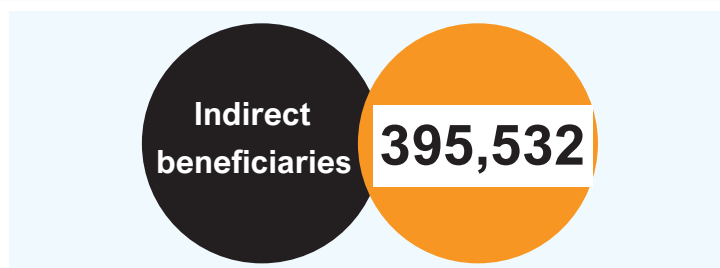
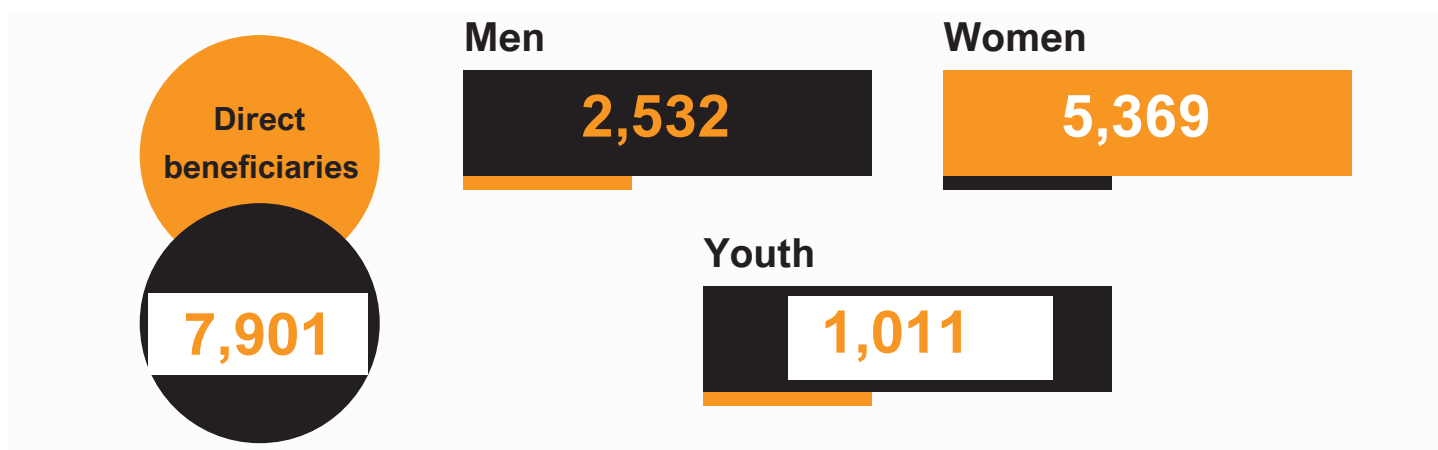
Desilting of Kaluluini waterpan will benefit four villages and an approximated 2000 households by ensuring a reliable water supply. Rehabilitation of Imaroro community water borehole and Orpolosie Erankau water pan in Kajiado County will serve over 2,000 HHs and over 3,000 donkeys. A total of 1,872 households adopted at least one climate resilient agricultural practice which enabled them to cope with climate variability. Adoption of clean energy for cooking (Energy Saving cook stoves) by the target households was at 70.7%. This has impacted on the environment in terms of mitigating pollution and reducing firewood demand hence less pressure on tree cover.

Target farmers reported a 50-60% increase in drought tolerant crops yields with an average of 450kg of green grams per acre (5 bags of 90kg per acre) compared to the meagre harvest realized in 2022. This compares favorably with the reported 1 bag or less in 2022 during which most farmers recorded less than average harvest. According to the project's final evaluation report, 1,202 households benefited from community-led market enterprises against the target of 1,100 households. The average income from crops marketing was reported to be Ksh. 6,883 which was 12.8 % increase from the baseline of Ksh. 6,100 in 2021. The average income from goats and chicken sales, averaging Ksh. 8,105, reflects a substantial 49.7% rise in household income from the baseline that stood at Ksh. 5,411. This has led to target beneficiaries being able to afford three meals in a day and pay school fees for their children.

Six (6) SOFDEV units in the reporting period were able to serve their members with various products with a total of Ksh.13,515,189.00 disbursed as loans to 342 members and Ksh. 11,231,159.00 saved by 305 members. The SOFDEV units recorded cumulative profits of Ksh. 504,019.00 as compared to previous year, which was Ksh. 343,842.50. This was 46.5% increment. A total of 74 SHGs and 4 CLAs provided savings and credit services to 1,220 women that impacted to 3,157 children in Kithyoko Location. A total of Ksh. 7,391,820 was disbursed to 945 women as loans.

Campaign against donkey hides trades (DHT) and sand conservation and utilization ensured Kithyoko Slaughter house was not reopened and sustainable utilization of sand in Makueni County respectively. Kitui County through consultative multi-stakeholder meetings developed a draft policy on Kitui River Basin Sand Utilization and Conservation Policy 2023.

1.1.0 The Key figures



2.0

Interventions and outcomes

2.1.0 Climate resilience and sustainable management of natural resources

Climate resilience and sustainable natural resource management are critical components in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. As the planet faces increasingly severe and frequent climate-related events, for instance the drought that was experienced at the start of the year and the El- Nino phenomenon experienced towards the end of the same year, the need to protect and sustainably manage our natural resources has never been more urgent.

Inades Formation Kenya through a watershed approach implemented two components aiming at promoting climate resilience and natural resource management;

- Watershed management
- Climate resilient agricultural practices

2.1.1

Watershed management project

The component is dedicated to developing capacities of local institutions to engage in initiatives aimed at landscape restoration and championing for the implementation of relevant policies. Throughout the year, the component engaged with three (3) Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) and four (4) schools located in Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, and Kajiado.

Summary of beneficiaries and the geographical scope

Institution	Geographical coverage (Km ²)	Beneficiaries	Kiima kiu/ kalanzoni ward	Imaroro ward	Katangi	Yatta/ Kwavonza	lkombe
Ikolya	204.6	18,940	9006	9934			
Middle Mwitasyano	237.71	24,339			10,175	3179	10,985
Lower Mwitasyano	209.447	19853			9136	10,717	
Total	651.76	63,132	9006	9934	19311	13896	10,985



Community awareness and engagement in Environmental conservation

Through WRUAs communities were sensitized on the importance of watershed management and the multiple benefits that come with watershed conservation. There was a good participation of communities in tree planting and construction of conservation structures at individual level. A good practical example is at Mulima Mbuzi area which falls within Ikolya Watershed where an individual constructed a sand dam along a seasonal stream that flows through their land.



An individual community member within Ikolya watershed undertake construction of a sand dam across a stream for land scape restoration in Kilome Sub County-Makueni County



Regreening activities in schools

The component engaged four (4) schools with a total of 779 pupils in tree planting for land scape restoration mainly fruit trees that provide multiple benefits. The trees were planted both within the school and households where the pupils are drawn from. Through this regreening initiative 7,437 tree seedlings are being nurtured using the adoption approach by the pupils.



IFK officers sensitize pupils on the significance of taking care of the Environment at Itumbule Primary school- Kilome Sub County, Makueni County and Nthilani primary school- Kitui Rural Sub county, Kitui County



Pupils in Itumbule Primary school, Kilome subcounty – Makueni county during a practical learning on tree planting

The initiative has involved students in hands-on learning about environmental issues, leading to a strong interest in caring for their tree seedlings. Students are dedicated to watering their trees, even during holidays where they make trips to school for the purposes of watering the seedlings. They have also implemented innovative watering and shading techniques.



Left; pupils from Itumbule primary school participate in learning of efficient watering; Right: stratified and succession planting of a pawpaw and mango trees; the pawpaw has got emergent need for sunlight provides shade and protection against intense heat and sunlight after a few years the mango tree will be strong enough to succeed the pawpaw tree which relatively has a short life span.



Water harvesting / extension of water supply

During the year, rehabilitation of Kaluluini water pan which lies within the middle Mwitasyano Watershed was done through the support of IFK and in collaboration with PELUM Kenya. This water pan is important for recharging the watershed and providing water for domestic and livestock use during the dry season for the community. Due to sedimentation, the capacity was observed to be decreasing. The water pan will benefit four villages and an approximated 2000 households by ensuring a reliable water supply.

The intervention is anticipated to improve food security in the targeted households by creating kitchen gardens and using water for irrigation. Furthermore, community members will use the water to water tree seedlings, particularly fruit trees, with a goal of 10 fruit trees per household.

Additionally, three schools (Nthilani in Kitui, Itumbule in Makeni, and Muusini in Machakos) received support to extend their water supply from nearby sources while two schools (Ndalani & Emmanuel Muusini) received support on roof catchment water harvesting

using tanks. This initiative aimed at enhancing the survival rate of tree seedlings planted by the pupils by providing water for their management and ensuring the sustainability of the greening project. This initiative not only contributed to greening activities but also led to improved WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) conditions in the target schools. Furthermore, the initiative successfully eliminated the need for school pupils to fetch water, which had been a cumbersome task under the previous arrangement.



Community leaders, county government officials and an IFK officer at Kaluluini waterpan in Yatta Sub County – Machakos county

2.1.2

Climate resilient agricultural practices

This component entails promoting improved livelihoods through adoption of climate resilient agricultural practices. Through participatory approaches (PACDR), climate related challenges were identified, quantified in terms of frequency and severity including quantifiable losses to assets, agricultural produce. These challenges, often manifesting as either hazards or disasters were identified as drought causing food shortages and water scarcity, occasional floods causing soil erosion along riverbanks and siltation of community water pans, ponds, and dams, human and livestock diseases which results in loss of household assets as well life. The identified adaptation strategies through PACDR were implemented through onsite training, exchange visits and follow ups.



Adoption of Climate Resilient Practices

Follow up visits were carried out in Yatta, Kitui West and Masinga Sub counties where a total of 263 households were visited. 87% of the trained beneficiaries visited had adopted Zai pits, sunken beds, terraces and cut off drains and while 65.8 % had dug farm ponds for water harvesting. This significantly improved the community resilience and adaptation, boosting food security, income generation, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Also, follow up visits were conducted in Kitui Rural, Kitui West, and Kilome sub counties where 335 households trained on conservation agriculture

were visited. The levels of adoption for conservation agriculture and soil moisture retention among the households visited were found to be 70.3 % and 76.5% respectively. This enhanced soil moisture and supplemented irrigation water, leading to increase in crop yield and improving household food security. Two (2) groups in Kilome Sub County with 50 members were trained organic manure preparation particularly on liquid manure and composting. Cumulatively, the project impacted 1872 households (776 men, 1096 females and 250 youth) who adopted at least one climate resilient agricultural practice.



Farmer with kales planted between furrows and small ridges, Kilome Sub County-Makueni County



Adoption of Clean Cooking Stoves

Adoption of clean energy for cooking (Energy Saving cook stoves) in 3 target counties was found to be at 70.7%. This has impacted on the environment in terms of mitigating pollution and reducing firewood demand hence less pressure on tree cover. In addition, the cooking stoves have contributed to decrease in respiratory diseases associated with air pollution.

2.2.0 Food systems based on family Agriculture

Food systems based on family farming focuses on improving family farmers livelihoods through production and marketing of their crops, livestock and value-added products. This thematic area is addressed by 4 key project areas;

- a) Food security and agribusiness project - Crops value chain (Fruits, DTC and Vegetables)
- b) Food security and agribusiness project - Livestock value chain (Indigenous Chicken and meat goats-Galla goat)
- c) Donkey welfare project.

2.2.1

Crops Value Chain (CVC)

The crop value chain (CVC) component focuses on improving farm level crop diversification and productivity. This is aimed at increasing household income and improving food and nutrition security for the target communities. To this end, CVC has impacted 941 farmers in the three counties of Machakos, Kitui and Machakos since the project's inception. Of the target farmers, 67.6% are women while men comprise 32% and the rest (9.8%) are youth. The low participation by youth has been attributed to their unattractive perspective towards agriculture. In the last two rainy seasons, IFK project areas generally received adequate to above average rainfall (including El Nino in 2023). This has significantly enhanced crop yields in most parts of the target counties. There were reported cases of flooding of farmland in Makueni which negatively affected farmers. However, most farmers have reported a 50-60% increase in drought tolerant crops yield with an average of 450kg of green grams per acre (5 bags of 90kg per acre) compared to the meagre harvest realized in 2022. This compares favorably with the reported 1 bag or less in 2022 during which most farmers recorded less than average harvest. This has contributed significantly to improved household incomes. Farm level value addition activities have also increased crop diversification and agroforestry activities among the target community. Use of Moringa leaves to make moringa powder and orange fleshed sweet potatoes is on the increase. Value addition groups have participated in various farmer field days and other exhibitions to show case their innovations.

Project Outcome



1. Increased productivity and crop diversification

The last 2 rain seasons have stabilized crop production in all the IFK target areas save for a few pockets in Kitui Rural and Yatta Sub-counties that reported below average rainfall. In the last of implementation Kenya experienced El Nino rains that were above the average expected rainfall. This brought varied social-economic effects including flooding in some parts of Makueni county, some of community members were displaced in areas that IFK operates, most notable being Kilome Sub-County. However, in general, these enhanced rains were a blessing with farmers reporting increased yield by 50-60% per cent compared to 2022. Follow up visits for sampled 314 farmers in all the areas showed significant crop vigour that translated into higher yields. IFK target crops including green grams (58% yield increase especially in Makueni compared to 2022), sorghum (26%), millet (15%), cassava (44%), sweet potatoes (53% increase due to increased demand for orange fleshed sweet potatoes in Masinga and Yatta sub-counties) and pigeon peas (60% increase, especially due to increased proliferation of ratoon crop) as compared to 2022. Fruits, especially mangoes, paw paws and citrus, also showed a fair increase of between 20 and

30% compared to the previous year. Farmers have embraced crop diversification driven by the demand for value added products. The most notable being the demand for orange fleshed sweet potatoes, moringa and vegetables.



Kyeni kya Kalimali display a sample of their harvested beans during a field follow-up meeting in Yatta Sub County-Machakos County



2. Increased household income

The adequate rains received in most parts of the country significantly contributed to increased crop yields across the target counties apart from a few pocket areas in Kitui Rural (Kitui County) and Yatta (Machakos County) sub-counties. However, even with the increased yields, commodity prices remained relatively the same, largely unaffected by the market glut. The 6 marketing committees that were established at the beginning of the project have been proactive in strengthening collective marketing, albeit at the local level.

According to the project's final evaluation report, 584 households benefited from community-led market enterprises with a current average income of Ksh. 6,883 which is a 12.8 % increase from the baseline of Ksh. 6,100 in 2021. Processing of value-added products by 2 groups in Yatta and Masinga sub-counties present a clear impact pathway for women groups. Among the most notable products are moringa powder used to treat and manage several ailments, orange fleshed sweet potato flour for under five years old and dried vegetables.



Muuwo wa Kanaani and SOKOMA Self-Help Groups getting together in a cross-learning exchange visit for orange fleshed sweet potato flour preparation in Yatta Sub County-Machakos County

2.2.2

Livestock Value Chain (LVC)

In a transformative three-year journey, the Livestock Value Chain Project, spanning the ASAL counties of Machakos, Makueni, and Kitui, was in its final year. With resounding impact, the initiative reached 921 rural households, empowering over 600 farmers through direct market linkages established by sub-county marketing committees. The main strategies employed included and not limited to farmer trainings, exchange visits, field days, reflective and brainstorming forums. The farmers supported with a Galla goat buck were reporting positive results too. The project exemplifies sustainable agricultural development and community enrichment in the target region focusing on indigenous chicken and meat goats, including dual-purpose chicken and the Galla goat breed.



IFK Livestock officer training Kamusyji Women Group on the basics of chicken production in Kiima Kiu Kalanzoni Ward, Kilome Sub County-Makueni County

Project Outcomes



Increased Livestock numbers and breed diversity

Over the past three years, household (HH) chicken productivity soared from 30 at the baseline stage to an impressive 54, marking a remarkable 80% increase. This was backed by the end of project evaluation report. Simultaneously, meat goat numbers rose from 12 to 14, reflecting a commendable 16.7% growth. This success was attributed to the adoption of dual-purpose breeds, (Hybrid chicken and Galla goat breed) celebrated for their enhanced egg and meat yields, robust health, and adaptability to diverse environments, transforming livelihoods and bolstering food security. The interventions on production reached 921 HHs.



Mr. Benson's Galla buck that he received through IFK support is fully mature and mating. Alongside him from the left are the IFK Livestock Officer and the Katangi Ward Livestock production officer Mr. Mutiso-Yatta Sub County, Machakos County



Increased Household Income

Enhancements in marketing networks empowered livestock farmers to engage directly with connected processors and buyers. They secured an average price of Ksh. 930 per live bird for their chickens. Meat goat sales have seen a notable increase, with the average price rising from Ksh. 5,500 at the baseline to Ksh. 8,400, resulting in a 52.7% increase. The combined income from goat and chicken sales, averaging Ksh. 8,105, reflects a substantial 49.7% rise in household income from the baseline that stood at Ksh. 5,411. This has led to 76.8% of the target beneficiaries being able to afford three meals in a day compared to 58.7 % at the baseline and pay school fees for their children. Overall, 618 livestock rearing households reaped the benefits of community-led market initiatives. Some farmer groups also initiated other livestock related enterprises like feed formulation after the trainings. These enterprises also contributed to enhanced livelihoods.



Kukilanya SHG in Kakeani location in Kitui west Sub County, Kitui County Pose beside their feed mixer after an onsite training. They make poultry feeds for their group members and sell the surplus

2.2.3

Donkey welfare project

Donkeys are used by the most vulnerable communities (mostly women) in ploughing, transportation of water to homesteads, ferry farm produce and wood fuel to markets and homesteads. Donkeys have also been known to uplift livelihoods in urban set ups through pulling of cargo carts and a tourism asset in areas like Lamu County. These benefits have contributed to improvement of the economy as well as the living standards of the donkey owners. The users who are predominantly women and youth have attested to the fact that proper usage and care of donkeys are sources of income in all seasons.

Machakos, Makueni and Kajiado counties form part of the 23 ASAL counties in Kenya averaging 11,782km² with Kajiado County taking the larger land mass of 21,292.7 km² as per KNBS report of 2019. As of most of the ASAL regions of Kenya, communities in these three counties are faced with variability of climate changes more than other communities in Kenya. The unpredicted weather patterns make lives of the communities and livestock miserable and at risk. The 2021-2022 & partly 2023 prolonged droughts rendered most homesteads food insecure and livestock in poor body state. Most of the communities therefore preferred their welfare to that of livestock leaving most donkeys at the tail end of the food chain. During dry seasons, pasture lands are always turned to dusty fields making livestock and mostly donkeys to trek longer distances in search of water and pasture. However, the year 2023 saw a slight improvement of the state of pasture and water (NDMA bulletin October 2023) following the slight rainfall experienced.

Project Outcomes

Increased water access and livestock feed production among donkey owners in Mashuru, Kajiado County

To ensure donkey owners remain resilient and donkeys have a life worth living, livelihood projects were introduced into the program to ensure donkeys access quality feed and water all year round in spite of variability of climate changes. In 2023 for instance, two (2) water structures were rehabilitated and two (2) donkey owners/users groups supported to diversify pasture production.

Imaroro community water borehole and Orpolosie Erankau water pan in Kajiado County serving over 2,000 HHs and over 3,000 donkeys were rehabilitated. On the other hand, Intomonok Erankau women group and Muamba wa Miangeni SHG consisting of 9 men and 105 women were supported to diversify pasture production in their farms. Muamba wa Miangeni SHG (9 men 15 women) were supported with pasture seeds (Maasai love grass) to plant in their 2.2 acre farm. Intomonok Erankau women group (90 women) in Kajiado were also supported with pasture seeds (a blend of Maasai love grass and African fox tail) to reseed their 8.1-acre farm. Furthermore, the groups were trained on resilient pasture varieties, pasture management, conservation and post-harvest management for sustainability.



Intomonok Erankau women group being trained on resilient pasture varieties by Kitise Rural development office-Mashuru Sub County-Kajiado County



Orpolosie Erankau water pan after rehabilitation in Mashuru Sub County- Kajiado County



Muamba wa Miangeni SHG pasture farm at Kitise/ Kithuki Ward, Makueni Sub County-Makueni County

Heightened campaign against DHT and illegal donkey bush slaughter

Community outreach programs were carried out targeting awareness creation on the public health impacts attributed to illegal donkey bush slaughter. In the year 2023, National Donkey Day was celebrated in Kithyoko, Masinga sub-county and was attended by over 600 donkey owners who were sensitized on the need to protect their donkeys at all cost under the theme, “Donkeys Now and in the Future.” Furthermore, 423 donkeys were attended to clinically.



Kanini Kaseo women group participating in a dance during NDD celebrations at Kithyoko Location, Masinga Sub County-Machakos County on 17th May 2023

Equally in the year, community sensitization campaign was conducted in collaboration with Kajiado County (department of veterinary services) across major livestock markets and along metropolis. The campaign was conducted to create awareness on the rampant illegal donkey bush slaughter as well as risen cases of donkey theft attributed to abnormal surge in donkey trade.

To ensure sustained community awareness, local and national media channels (both print and electronic) were used to amplify community voices on the contribution of donkeys to their livelihoods. The use of media during campaigns reached approximated 5,000 donkey owners in Machakos, Makueni and Kajiado counties. Security agencies were also engaged to ensure active surveillance along livestock trade routes and major highways. Through close collaborations with National and County government security teams, suspected culprits in the illegal donkey bush slaughter syndicate were arraigned in various courts and charged through fines. Some cases however are still active in courts.



IFK officer addressing Mashuru security team during sensitization workshop on Animal welfare Acts at DCC's social hall in Mashuru Sub County-Kajiado County

Increased access to effective, affordable, timely and quality veterinary services in Machakos & Makueni counties by donkey owners

Through mentorship program both to Animal Healthcare Practitioners (AHPs) and Agrovets attendants, donkey owners were linked to mentored AHPs and agrovets in Machakos and Makueni counties. 20 AHPs and 15 agrovets attendants were mentored in collaboration with sub-county veterinary officers. Donkey owners have attested to receiving timely and quality veterinary services from the AHPs linked with them.



Donkey owners from Kithyoko location, Masinga Sub County-Machakos County present their donkeys to be attended to by AHPs during NDD on 17th May 2023

They have moreover reported getting quality services from the nearby agrovets which were under the mentorship program. From the reports at the sub-county veterinary offices, a total of 57 donkeys were treated from different clinical cases (both emergency as well as general clinical cases), 33 from Yatta & Masinga and 24 from Makueni.



Stakeholders pose for a photo with a donkey during NDD celebrations at Kithyoko location, Masinga Sub County-Machakos County on 17th May 2023

To strengthen One Health Approach among donkey owners, community one health sensitization programs were carried out during the Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) week in which one health issues such as zoonoses, emerging pandemics, Food security, AMR and climate change impacts were discussed.

2.3.0 Community microfinance

Microfinance allows poor households to move from everyday survival to planning, investing in better nutrition, improved living conditions, and children’s health and education. Two components are implemented through this that is Solidarity Fund for development and Self Help Approaches.

2.3.1

Solidarity fund for development

Solidarity Funds for Development (SOFDEV) is a unique Micro-finance approach designed to mobilize and recycle domestic savings, extend credit, and provide a range of services. IFK supports capacity building to 6 of these units in three counties Machakos (Kathama 2008), Kitui (Kauma 2010, Musengo 2012 and Yatta kwa Vonza 2019) and Makueni (Ngaamba 2017 and Yikivomwe 2022). Yikivomwe SOFDEV unit 2022 is the latest and currently has operating office bearers and location.

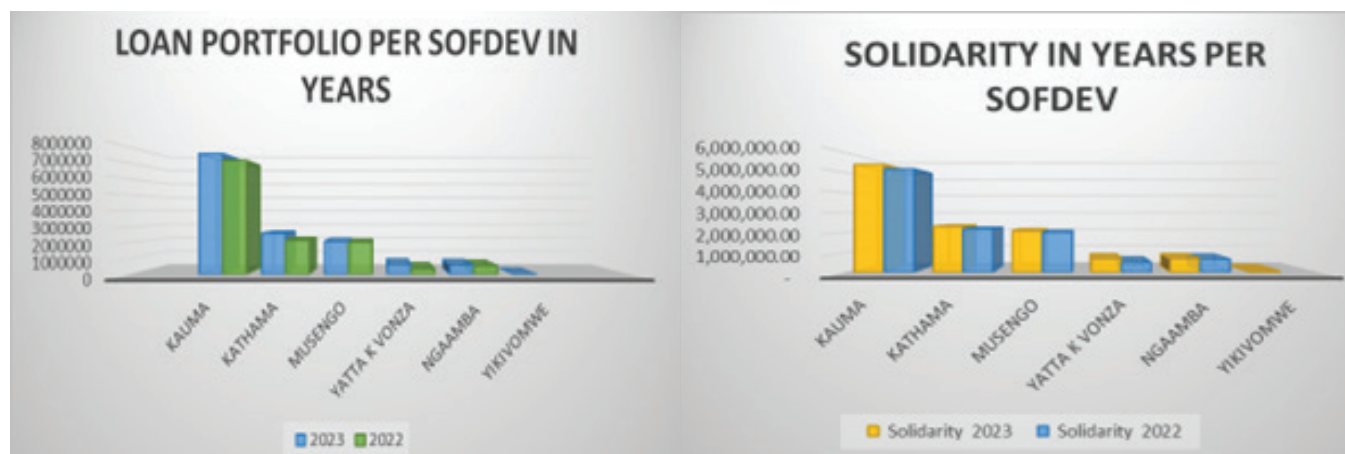
Project Outcomes

The table below shows their performance in comparison to the previous financial year matters; Profit, Savings mobilization and Loan growth.

Financial Year	Profit/Surplus		Balance Sheet /Net Worth	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
SOFDEV				
KAUMA	155,120.00	230,890.00	8,552,620.10	8,078,135.10
KATHAMA	142,124.00	43,759.00	3,624,129.61	3,371,698.61
MUSENGO	108,398.00	29,214.00	3,584,357.50	3,395,135.50
YATTA K VONZA	97,280.00	51,325.50	1,238,956.00	821,281.00
NGAAMBA	(8,675.00)	(11,346.00)	838,292.00	797,537.00
YIKIVOMWE	9,772.00		221,892.46	
TOTAL	504,019.00	343,842.50		



Financial Year	Solidarity		Loan portfolio	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
SOFDEV				
KAUMA	5,397,745.00	5,186,245.00	7,588,807.00	7,160,697.00
KATHAMA	2,308,800.00	2,188,800.00	2,596,463.00	2,153,233.00
MUSENGO	2,088,344.00	2,007,970.00	2,077,352.00	2,027,014.00
YATTA K VONZA	679,300.00	514,900.00	644,455.00	378,560.00
NGAAMBA	686,170.00	666,770.00	608,112.00	551,142.00
YIKIVOMWE	70,800.00		-	
TOTAL	11,066,759.00	10,322,735.00	13,515,189.00	12,270,646.00



Project Outcomes

Practical knowledge on the operations of the model, dynamics on leadership and governance by all units was undertaken during the workshop that was done in the month of March. From the workshop, there have been better and improved operations of the units with 5 of the six recording profits that cumulated to 504,019.00 as compared to previous year 343,842.50. This is a 46.5% increment.



SOFDEV Project Officer addressing Yikivomwe Annual General Meeting in Kibwezi West Sub County-Makueni County in June 2023

There is notable improvement in loan portfolio management (loan appraisal and default management) by SOFDEV units. All the units have recorded an increased surplus with penalties from collection efforts being 30%. Six (6) SOFDEV units in the reporting period were able to serve their members with various products with a total of Ksh.13,515,189.00 disbursed as loans to 342 members and



Mr. Joseph Mwangela MD IFK, officially opening the Kauma Sofdev unit operational office. The event was also attended by IFK partners (PELUM Kenya and Brooke East Africa) as well as Kitui county government representatives

Ksh. 11,231,159.00 saved by 305 members.

Yatta/Kwa Vonza Unit has been able to register zero default for the third year consecutively. This has encouraged the other Units to copy of their strategies.

Year 2023, saw Kauma SOFDEV open its new operating premises on a plot purchased from the surplus over the years.



Rev. Timothy Masai, the Chief Supervisory Officer Musengo Sofdev shares his success story to other SOFDEV officials during the SOFDEV Workshop that was held in Masii Town, Machakos County

2.3.2

Self Help Group approach

Self-help Group Approach has been an instrumental methodology to support women and their families achieve sustainable development and empowerment in the Kithyoko location. With the support of community facilitators selected by the communities, capacity building of the self-help groups was realized to support the women in identifying and addressing some of the underlying challenges in their households and communities. Tremendous growth was also witnessed as 3 additional Cluster-level Associations were formed that have enhanced the ability of the women to lobby and advocate for their community needs in public forums and to government officials.

The Self-Help Group Approach continues to be a tool aimed at changing the attitude among

women in poor households towards believing in their potential. Throughout the year, great testimonials were recorded on how attitude change has shifted the economic trajectory of some SHG members with the establishment of businesses using capital from their SHGs. This has thus improved the quality of education, access to health care services, and meals for the children in the respective households as well as the entire family. At the end of 2023, SHGA had reached a total of 1,220 women and 3,157 children from the SHG member households. To date, the approach continues to be implemented across 4 sub-locations; Kithyoko, Miangeni, Thatha, and Endei all in the Kithyoko location, Kivaa ward in the Masinga sub-county.

Project Outcomes

Continuous growth of the people's institutions through an increased number of SHGs and CLAs. There are 3 levels in the people's institution; Self-Help Groups, Cluster level Associations, and finally, Federation. Each level has its role to play in determining the success of the approach. It is also important for the levels to progress to the next level with the goal of forming a strong federation by 2026. In 2023, the formation of 3 additional CLAs was realized with a composition of 27 SHGs across the Kithyoko and Thatha sub-locations. 1 of the CLAs has been able to take up the roles of SHG strengthening with capacity building of the other CLAs still ongoing. In the same reporting year, expansion into 2 more new sub-locations was realized, Miangeni and Endei resulting in the formation of additional 25 SHGs, 19 in Miangeni and 6 in the Endei sub-location. With a total of 74 SHGs across 4 sub-locations and 4 CLAs, growth of the PIs has been evident in 2023 with capacity building still ongoing to improve the quality of the existing 2 levels.

During the reporting period, a total of Ksh. 7,391,820 was disbursed to 945 women as loans.

Increased household income

Over the reporting period, a total of 416 SHG members have established businesses to increase their household income using capital from their SHG. It was notable that more members started income-generating activities with some running their businesses from their households.



Susan Munyao, an SHG member, cleaning some of her new stock for display during Kithyoko Market Day-Masinga Sub County-Machakos County



Agnes posing for a picture next to her business stand- Masinga Sub County-Machakos County



Rose Mbithe's startup after joining Aka twone mbee SHG in Kwamaluki village- Masinga Sub County-Machakos County

Increased advocacy for community needs

With the formation of Cluster level Associations in 4 sub-sites, 2 of the CLA have been proactive in advocating the needs of their communities. In 2023, a proposal was initiated and addressed to the Kithyoko government officials for the construction of road bumps along the Garissa- Thika highway which passes through Mwatungo village near Mwatungo primary school and Mwatungo AIC. The CLA members have remained proactive with follow-ups to the Kithyoko administration to ensure that the bumps are erected.

Members of the same CLA were also proactive in lobbying for a Nyumba Kumi in one of their villages, Kwamaluki, which has rising cases of insecurity. With continuous follow-up with the Kithyoko assistant chief and chief, the CLA members were authorized to mobilize the community members of the respective village, and a Nyumba Kumi was elected which is effective till today.

2.4.0 Lobby, Advocacy and Inclusive Governance

The level of citizens participation and governance in a wide range of policy making activities, determine the quality of service delivery, community development programs, priorities and performance standards. This is important in orientation of government programs towards positive response to community needs, build public support, and encourage a sense of cohesiveness.

The engagement of duty bearers on key community concerns to ensure favourable public policy environment and inclusive governance for sustainable livelihoods. Critical to realize these was increased citizens' awareness on policies, as well as increase community's avenue, and comprehension to influence policy and decision-making processes.

Project Outcomes

As a means to increase public participation, six Community advocacy networks capacity was strengthened on the governance, public participation and policy processes; in Machakos, Makueni and Kitui counties and guided on community actions. Through collaborations with Pelum Kenya, the community members, the CAN and WRUA members actively participated in County Integrated Development Plans processes, Kitui and Makueni County sand conservation policy development and enforcement respectively.

The Ikolya river, Middle and Lower Mwitasyano WRUAs in Makueni, Machakos and Kitui counties, respectively, advocated for the Water Act in the efforts to protect the water resources especially the uncontrolled sand harvesting. This led to controlled sand harvesting through public participation (community engagement) in regulation of sand conservation and harvesting. Kitui County through consultative multi-stakeholder meetings has developed a draft policy on Kitui River Basin Sand Utilization and Conservation Policy 2023.

Kitui county river basins sand utilization and conservation policy 20231.pdf



The effects of uncontrolled sand harvesting along Usiunene river, Kilome Sub County-Makueni county

Through community action, the Makueni Sand Authority was also tasked with the enforcement of the Makueni Sand Conservation and Utilization Act 2022 after the citizens noted gaps in its implementation.

There has been community action in Kithyoko, Masinga sub county to lobby and advocate for enforcement of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Cap 360, Meat Control Act Cap 356 and Public Health Act Cap 242. Inades also engaged the Kajiado, Machakos and Makueni Counties and media stations, Citizen, K24, TV 47, Star Newspaper, in sensitizing and creating more awareness on the illicit donkey bush slaughter.



Community Action against donkey bush slaughter- Masinga Sub County-Machakos County

2.5.0 Short Term Projects

IFK implemented two short term projects. One of the short-term projects was aimed at promotion of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Family Farming funded by UNFAO while the other one was aimed at enhancing adoption of agro ecological practices funded by PELUM Kenya.

3.0 Challenges faced

- High inflation rate.
- Limited budgets to implement capital expending activities like exchange visits, and field days
- Illegal donkey bush slaughter for meat and skin that spiraled in the year 2023 with uncertainty.
- Handling of loan defaulters among the SHG members the Kithyoko sub-location.
- Fear has also been an element affecting the membership of SHGs due to false promises made by other parties/stakeholders. In the Miangeni sub-location, there was notable fear of community members attending community meetings due to swindling cases that had become rampant in the villages.
- The capacity or lack of both the national and county governments to facilitate effective participation is one of the major challenges in public participation
- Prolonged policy processes

4.0

Lessons learnt

- Stakeholder involvement such as the county government, national government, other development partners and private sector contributes to smooth implementation of the projects.
- The selection of seedlings that are adaptable to the local environment is essential in the tree planting exercise.
- Many parts of the target counties experienced above average rainfall in the months of November and December. This led to drowning cases reported around Kilome sub-county and Kitui County. There is need to collaborate with the government to strengthen community-based disaster preparedness mechanisms.
- Use of CRPs as change agents was realized to be very pivotal for continuous capacity building of the donkey owners/users groups.
- Gender equity was witnessed in Kajiado County as most men and youth were embracing women driven initiatives as well as women groups as was witnessed during pasture production training session where even men turned out in good numbers.
- Engaging school going children was the most effective way of creating a lasting generational change especially in environmental conservation and improvement of donkey welfare.
- SOFDEV operations policies need to be amended to align to current paradigm microfinance conversations that can also include change of policies to accommodate default management.
- Proper default management practices and proper appraisal led to 80% of the SOFDEV units recording profits above Ksh.100,000
- There is a need to diversify the capacity provided to the SHGs. Over 95% of the women in SHGs belong to savings and loaning groups in the community. This has thus seen a reluctance of community members to join the SHGs due to the savings and loaning component in SHGs.
- The capacity to facilitate public participation should be enhanced in both levels of government through a partnership between the governments, non-state actors and development partners. Involvement of all relevant stakeholders is thus key to ensure sustained participation in policy and or legislative processes.
- The rural farmers have different coping mechanisms/innovations which need to be improved to ensure appropriate response to future challenges as a result of climate change

IFK Financial Partners in 2023



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations





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