



THE REGIONAL PASTORAL LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE PROJECT (RPLRP)



SUCCESS STORIES FROM SAMBURU COUNTY, KENYA

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INTRODUCTION

The Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, is spearheading the World Bank aided Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP, Kenya), whose objective is to enhance livelihoods resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in cross-border drought prone areas and improve the capacity of the government to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency. The project is implemented in 14 arid and semi-arid counties in Kenya, among them Samburu County.

Samburu covers an area of approximately 20,089km². It borders Baringo and Turkana County to the west, Marsabit County to the north, Isiolo County to the east and Laikipia County to the south. The County can be divided physiographically into the following major units: Leroghi plateau which rises to over 2000 m, Nyiru and Ndoto mountains and Mathews range with altitudes of between 1,500 and 2500 metres. There is also the eastern flank of the Rift Valley and the plains slopping towards Lake Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo, ranging in altitude from 1000 to 1350 metres.

The climate of the County varies with altitude. Annual rainfall ranges from below 400 mm in the lowlands to over 1250 mm in the mountains. Eight percent of the County is classified as high rainfall with adequate moisture to support arable agriculture. The rest of the County is classified as rangeland.

The major occupation of the indigenous population is livestock production. The livestock population as per the 2009 population census is comprised of 184,666 heads of cattle, 550,750 goats, 387,698 sheep, 32,824 camels, 26,822 donkeys and 37,749 indigenous chicken. In addition there were 4,962 commercial chicken, 21,057 beehives and 187 pigs. In this whose proportion of Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASAL) is about 92 per cent, livestock have the ability to withstand severe fluctuations in weather patterns and environmental shifts and, therefore, provide both food and income security. Livestock are often one of the most important sources of cash income for livestock keeping households. Livestock keeping employs the majority of people and is by far the largest source of revenue generation in semi-arid Samburu County.

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CONSTRUCTION OF A BOREHOLE SAVES THOUSANDS OF LIVES AND LIVESTOCK DURING AND AFTER DROUGHT IN LENGARDE VILLAGE

The initial situation

During the initial stages of the project, RPLRP was keen on having communities reflect on their challenges and find solutions to them. Their elders brought Lengarde to the attention of RPLRP. A visit by the Samburu County Government and other partners was quickly organised. The situation that the team found was heart breaking: women walked over 20 km carrying water, while driving livestock. They woke up at 3 a.m. to walk to River Seiya where they dug sand wells to access unclean water. Children went to school at 11 am because they had to fetch water.

Lengarde community is a homogenous Samburu pastoral community of about 3,000 people, consisting of 1,000 youth, 1,000 adults (100 of them elderly) and 1,000 children.

Community-managed disaster risk reduction process identifies access to water as highest priority

Several meetings were held. After the introduction, they developed a write up using Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR), in which they identified their problem clearly. Using this process, they were able to prioritise, and the water problem was highest on the agenda. The facilitators of the CMDRR dug deeper using different methods, such as discussions to extract traditional knowledge.

Afterwards, the community was fully consulted in identifying the site for constructing the borehole, and a screening exercise was done. Experts from the National Environment Management Authority discussed the effects of the borehole on water and pasture, while the representative from the Ministry of Environment considered the possible impact on the environment. A feasibility study was done to ensure that the project

could be realised. This then went to the donor for consideration. Finally, engineers came to the site and handover was done for drilling.



Community consultation meeting at Lengarde primary school. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

The site of the Lengarde Borehole is within Lengarde Sub-Location, Wamba East Ward, Samburu East Sub-County of Samburu County. It lies within the Survey of Kenya topographic sheets for 79/3. Its defining coordinates in UTM are 0292355E and 0118669N (see figure 1). The area is served by the Wamba – Swari road, although most of the areas in the sub-location are served by foot paths.



Figure 1: GIS imagery of Lengarde area in Samburu East. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Involving the community during the drilling process

Each step in the drilling process was unique and the community was closely involved. They divided roles, provided some labour and local expertise for drilling construction and fencing. Gender was addressed through a deliberate involvement of women in the community. The one-third gender rule proportion was enforced in the formation of the committee. Feasibility and screening exercises were organised in such a way that vulnerable and marginalised groups could participate fully.

The main stakeholders of Lengarde borehole were the user community, the County Water Department, and the county livestock department. RPLRP facilitated the post-drilling and construction review for standard check, which was confirmed to work well.

From initial stages, test pumping was carried out and construction was allowed to go on. After completion, the facility was run by the community for some time, then handing over was done after ascertaining that there were no technical or methodological hitches.



Participants during the community consultation meeting. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Access to clean and sufficient water at last

Water from the borehole will be used for domestic and livestock purposes within the Lengarde community. The livestock population is made up of approximately 20,000 sheep and goats, 5,000 cattle, 2,000 camels and 2,500 donkeys, thus the total water requirement is estimated at 20m³/day.

"We are so happy as women of Samburu to get water close to us. We feel safe and we no longer have to put our lives and the lives of our children at risk, walking long distances to fetch water. We have clean, safe drinking water at our doorstep, thank you so much." - Mary Lenanyekie, community member.



Currently, Lengarde borehole is yielding 5 cubic litres of water hourly according to the county department of water. The department of livestock reports that about 1,500 livestock are drinking water daily from the facility, and about 500 households fetch drinking water daily.

Women, children, and other vulnerable groups in Lengarde have had relief from stresses associated with water distances and access. Currently, the community of Lengarde is enjoying a 14-20 km reduction in distance to water sources.

The immediate impact with possible long term effect is the improved condition and volumes of livestock seen in nearby market of Lookuniyiani: Lengarde is one of the corridors to this market. Sources also indicate that the Lengarde community population is increasing at the market. This is a sign that the time initially spent looking for water is now utilised vending for other livelihoods.

“Our effort as County Government have been supplemented. Availability of water means livestock in the area will add value, because they will reserve the energy normally spent walking for kilometres searching for water. It means good body condition, better market prices and better revenues.” - Reuben Lemunyete - Chief Officer for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and Chairman to County Steering Committee for RPLRP.



School enrolment in the nearby school is up. The increased number of girls in the school register is evident as they previously missed school to assist their parents in the search for water.

Kitchen gardens are also sprouting at the water source, one of elders found tending a garden of lush kales said that since the facility started working, they have started to diversify their income through small-scale sell of vegetables. He said eating the vegetables was also improving their nutrition.

A complete package of water services at Lengarde consists of a drilled borehole, construction of the water tank, the mounting of the solar pump, fencing of the water facility, the social amenities, the livestock drinking troughs, as well as the community domestic water tap. These are the components that distinguish this water facility from the rest, where communities are normally given water and a pump, hence labour especially for the vulnerable such as People Living with Disabilities and elderly and children is not reduced. In the case of Lengarde, the facility has completely reduced labour, reduced risk of damage to the facility due to fencing, provided ease to drinking through troughs, and sited the facility along a livestock corridor, which is very conducive for the famous Lookuniyiani market that is leading in sales now.



Training of Lengarde water users association on the management of the water facility. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.



Lengarde borehole 32m³ tank and pump house. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Factors contributing to sustainability

For the good practice to be institutionally, socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, the following should be put in place:

- Facilitate establishment of a water users association
- Formalise and train the community institution
- Facilitate linkage with the water department
- Strengthen community-led process of managing the facility

The partners mainly include the County Department of Water and the County Department of Livestock. At Lengarde, RPLRP facilitated the formation of a water user's committee which is composed of both men and women. People living with disability are equally beneficiaries as they sit and decide in this committee. Its role is to manage the facility on behalf of the community. They have charge monthly fee for basic maintenance as agreed by the community as a whole. Both gender are active in this process.

"I am so happy as a water user association member of Lengarde pastoral community for the initiative RPLRP took to train us on basic organisational skills that will help us ensure water is available to our communities." - Stephen Lesiokono, water user association member.

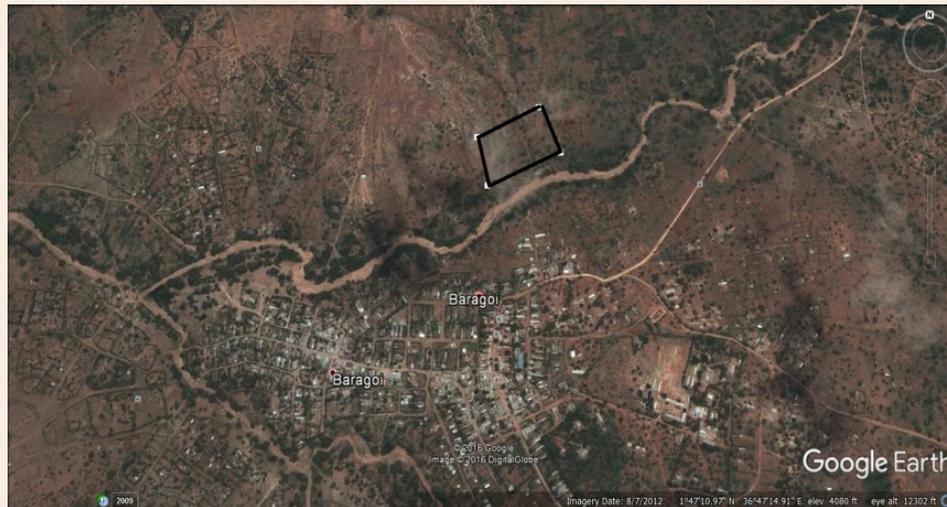
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Conclusion

Community and stakeholder involvement are key to the success of any project as we have learnt from this investment. Factors to be considered for reliability include an initial proper study of the regional needs of the water resource, with livestock corridors being key in this undertaking; and studying the social trends of conflicts, trade and infrastructural needs of these areas. Several meetings should be held involving target communities, stakeholders, and regional governments to fine-tune the process.

CONSTRUCTION OF A LIVESTOCK MARKET BRINGS PEACE TO WARRING COMMUNITIES IN NORTH OF SAMBURU COUNTY

Samburu County is located in the northern part of Kenya, in the former Rift Valley Province. Within this county, about 110 km to the north of Maralal town along the Maralal-Loyangalani road, lies Baragoi. Baragoi town is the headquarters of Samburu North Sub-County.



GIS image of Baragoi Livestock Market, GPS readings are; N 1o47'24.16" E 36o47'.16"

Livestock is a primary source of livelihood for pastoral communities there. The Baragoi livestock market serves the Turkana, and Samburu pastoral communities living in Baragoi and its environs. Traders from minority groups like Somali and other communities also benefit from using the market.

For a long time, the livestock markets in Baragoi were open air, which made it difficult to coordinate collection of cess and other important checks in the markets. Things changed for the better after the construction and commissioning of the Baragoi livestock market. The market has confinement stalls for camels, cattle, and small stock, in addition to a community area

for purchase of food and other commodities. There is an office for livestock officers, and livestock market associations as well.

In addition to the county government, the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP), the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Caritas Maralal, and the County Special Programmes Department, were involved in making the new market a reality. NDMA supported the livestock market peace scouting activity, while Caritas assisted in the launch activities by buying a total of 135 small stock to boost restocking by drought affected families. The County Special Programmes Department coordinated peace meetings to strengthen market operations.

RPLRP facilitated community meetings for stakeholder groups, including relevant government departments, to discuss and plan for the construction of the livestock market. Community participation helped to ensure ownership of the process. The market is co-managed by Livestock Marketing Association and the County Government, and it is linked with line departments, most notably the livestock department.



Community consultation in Baragoi market site. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya

Rejuvenation of trade yields peace, higher income and resilience

The new market, which is in the corridor of Samburu North feeder markets, is an economic hub for livestock producers, traders, service providers, and about 6,000 households in the area.

The market has contributed to peaceful coexistence of the Samburu and Turkana communities. This has been attributed to increased business interaction, sharing of core management responsibilities and equal representation in market activities such as the sale yard committee and the market peace scouts, which reduced animosity associated with mistrust. The sense of increased trust is also as a result of increased support to operations of peace committees in the Baragoi market. The benefits include increased enrolment due to reopening of several schools like Losurkoi, Kawap, and Marti that were closed due to conflicts.

According to Mr. Paul Leitoro, the Chairman of the Baragoi Livestock Marketing Association (LMA), this facility was meant to be a connector in conflict resolution and peace building for the warring communities. And the communities are already appreciating it.

“It is unbelievable to see our two communities sharing a table at the Livestock Market Committee and in weekly meetings to manage this facility. We hope for a peaceful existence and prosperous livelihood ventures of these two communities moving into the future,” a Baragoi resident, Mrs. Lorot says.

Regular livestock marketing partner meetings have improved information on livestock marketing, formation of livestock marketing structures in Baragoi, and joint collection of cess from livestock sales with the County Government. Communities now have an extra income from cess, which has added up to bursaries for school children and food at household level.

With the support of RPLRP, the special programmes department established a county-based monitoring system. This has increased community participation, improved quality of trainings and technical advice, quality assurance, sustainability and ensured linkages. The community structures are able to conduct themselves with reduced supervision. They only call for assistance on technical matters.

The community is more organised with integrated management employed by community structures; peace committees keep vigil for stolen livestock at the market, Water Users Associations are keen on water provision during market day, the LMA ensures sales are well coordinated, and the Animal Health Committee ensure healthy stock in the market. All this results in improved management of resources at community level, increased incomes from livestock sales and understanding of market structures.

My advice to the community is to allow peace to prevail as this facility is already a connector in conflict resolution and peace building for warring communities in this region,” Mr. Paul Leitoro - Chairman, Baragoi Livestock Market Association.

Whereas there is no doubt that the livestock market has changed the face of Baragoi, some constraints have persisted. Due to limited funds, important issues such as the link road that is eroded, and the slaughter slab that is quite far from the facility cannot be addressed yet. Part of the problem lies in differing stakeholder strategies and specific bias to sometimes unrelated projects. Although there is already improved capacity among community members, the committees are still weak and high poverty levels mean that the community needs and expectations are more than the project can address.

There have been many lessons learnt during the process of constructing the Baragoi livestock market. Its success is largely attributed to community involvement and widening stakeholder and development partner mobilisation. While capacity building of the LMA and co-sharing are key to strengthening the sustainability component. Another lesson is that

community resource mobilisation is easier if incentives that are deemed to bring incomes to the communities are introduced. For example, cess collection at the market is increasing community resources as a result of co-management with revenue department. Therefore, future project designs should be done in such a way that activities bring incomes to communities and create incentives to motivate active community participation. Lastly, partner involvement enriches the implementation process through technical inputs, lesson sharing, and cost sharing of resources.

The Baragoi livestock market affirms the importance of market access and trade for building resilience, which is captured by Dr. Boreya Lekenit, the County Director of Veterinary Services, Samburu County, when he says: “The current trend in livestock management calls for keeping livestock for business. The county welcomes this facility, as it will help in destocking well before the onset of drought. It will reduce pressure in the dry areas, allowing pastoralists to sell at the right time when they can fetch good prices on the market.”

The beneficiaries of Baragoi Livestock Market are the Turkana, and Samburu pastoral communities living in Baragoi and its environs. Other beneficiaries are the minority groups of the Somalis, and other communities who are traders in Baragoi Town. Within the community, all groups are benefiting including the women, youth, and people living with disabilities. The practice specifically promotes peace among the warring pastoral communities of Turkana and Samburu in Samburu North Sub-County. Other institutions apart from RPLRP involved include NDMA, Caritas Maralal, and County Special Programmes Department. NDMA has supported in livestock market peace scouting activity, Caritas has assisted in the launch activities by buying stock for pastoralist, a total of 135 small stock were bought from the market start date to boost in restocking of drought affected families; and County Special Programmes Department coordinated peace meetings to strengthen market operations. Baragoi livestock market has both gender in the committee constituted as well as representation of all community groups living in Baragoi.



Members of the County steering committee during a visit to the market. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.



Baragoi livestock market. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

CONSTRUCTION OF A STRATEGIC HAY SHED BRINGS PASTURE CLOSER TO THE LIVESTOCK IN SAMBURU COUNTY

The history of Nomotio hay shed

Nomotio Livestock Improvement Centre (NLIC) is situated 4 km east of Maralal town, in Samburu County. The centre was established in 1989 as a community-based project and was later registered with the then Ministry of Culture and Social Services and issued with a registration certificate No. SBU/DSS/CD/1/A.28. Pertaining to the management of the centre, the then Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing (MALDM) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Board of Management whose members were drawn from the then six divisions of the former Great Samburu District.

Nomotio LIC was established with the main objective of undertaking livestock breeding and multiplication programmes geared towards improving the local livestock breeds in the county and the region. The specific objectives were to:

- Improve, multiply and supply appropriate genetic stock to the livestock owners at a fair price,
- Provide non-formal training facilities in form of field days/seminars to livestock owners,
- Provide practical training facilities for students from other livestock training institutions, and
- Provide breeding services to livestock owners e.g. Bull service and artificial insemination.

Through MALDM and the current Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation, the centre received a lot of support from development partners and programmes like the European Economic Community, Kenya Livestock Development Program and GIZ.

Current status

Over the years and until recently, the performance of the centre has not been good. This is attributed to a number of challenges, including financial, managerial, infrastructural, insecurity, water scarcity, livestock/wildlife conflicts, illegal grazing and inadequate feeds during severe drought periods. But immediately after devolved systems of government were established, the current Samburu County Government saw the need and importance of refurbishing Nomotio LIC to serve the goal and objectives for which it had been established. Before the actual refurbishment commenced, the County Government, through the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, facilitated a needs assessment to establish the pressing needs and provide recommendations to the County Government for funding and soliciting more support from the national government, non-governmental organisations and other development partners.

During the financial year 2014/2015, a few achievements were realised, among which was the commissioning of the current Interim Board of Management by the County Executive Council Member Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. A lot of livestock infrastructural renovations and fencing of a few pasture paddocks have been accomplished too.

Land size and ownership

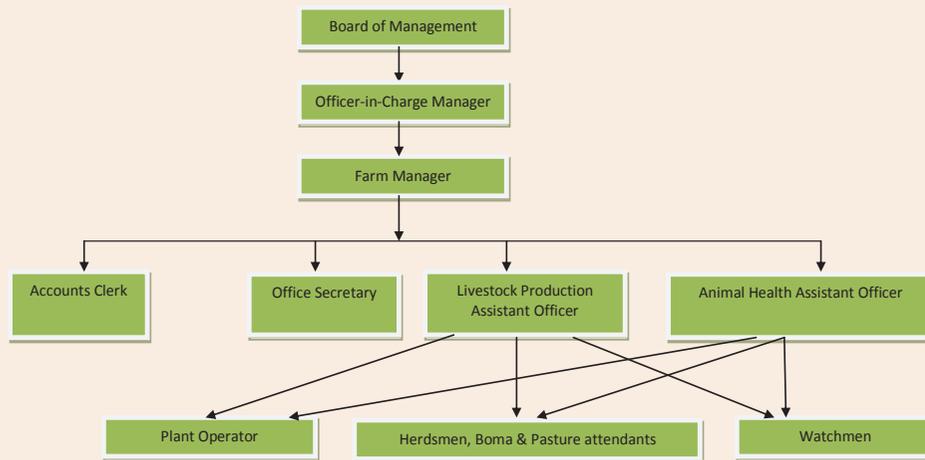
Initially the land demarcated for the centre was 1,600 acres but part of the land was allocated to other users by the then Samburu County Council. The Laikipia University was allocated about 600 acres together with the farm office blocks, the training hall, ablution block, two water tanks, pan catchment area and one big hay harvesting block. Other beneficiaries of

the allocations include Lkuroto Public Secondary School (10 acres), Melony Tannery (5 acres) and the proposed Slaughter House (5 acres).

Immediately after devolution, the land and all assets and developments therein automatically became the property of the Samburu County Government. Currently the County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in collaboration with the County Department of Land and Physical Planning is in the final process of acquiring a title deed for the farm. A sub-committee from the Interim Board of Management is following up on the matter.

The farm management structure

The centre is run by an Interim Board of Management on behalf of the department as stipulated in the MoU signed between the Board and the County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The Officer-in-Charge who is appointed by the County Department of Agriculture,



Organogram of the NLIC

Livestock and Fisheries offers technical assistance to the farm. The daily activities of the farm are managed and coordinated by the Farm Manager. He is assisted by two experts, Livestock Production Assistant and Animal Health Officers. The two posts are currently vacant and the new board is working on that to have the two posts filled. Below is the proposed Organogram for the centre.

Pasture production and conservation

The farm land mainly produces natural pasture dominated by the perennial *Themeda triandra* and a few annual grass species with a potential of 250 bales per ha, which can be harvested easily and at times grazed directly. During the 2012/2013 Financial Year, the Department of Livestock Production in collaboration with GIZ, established 80 acres planted with *Chloris gayana* (Boma Rhodes grass), *Cenchrus ciliaris* (African foxtail grass) and *Eragrostis superba* (Maasai love grass). The performance of the Boma Rhodes was impressive unlike the other two species. During the following year, 2014 the farm harvested a total of 9,000 bales of hay. Therefore the farm has the potential of producing over 80,000 bales per season. Pasture production and conservation by the farm management is however challenged by drought events and worsened by illegal grazing from the surrounding communities and wildlife.

Hay shed justification

Good farm management

The establishment of the hay shed enjoys the good farm management arrangement currently in place between the County Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the Interim Board of Management. The management structure reported here is strong evidence that the purpose of harvesting and storing the hay will be secure and technically well guided.

Nomotio LIC has an advantage of being strategically placed for livestock improvement activities as well as pasture establishment and conservation for the pastoral communities in the county. It is the only livestock improvement centre in the region. The enormous acreage allows for pasture development, harvesting and even conservation.

High hay production potential

The over 1,000 acres of farmland mainly produces natural pasture dominated by the perennial *Themeda triandra* and a few annual grass species with a potential of 250 bales per ha, which can be harvested easily and at times grazed directly. More paddocks can be prepared and planted with the improved grass species particularly the Boma Rhodes grass. If a target of 800 acres are established for pasture production and the rains are good, over 80,000 bales of hay can be harvested per season. This is more than enough for the farm livestock. Therefore, construction of a new hay shed in the farm serves as a strategic livestock feeds store for the surrounding communities. This is a big way to solve the rampant illegal grazing during times of scarcity and consequently boost peace and harmonious coexistence between the farm and the neighbourhood.

Hay shed site selection and management arrangements

A strategic site for the construction was identified inside the farm closer to the farm buildings for ease of management and security reasons. The hay shed is being managed by a selected committee with members drawn from the neighbouring communities under guidance of the Interim Board of Management. The sub-committee buys hay bales from the farm at subsidised price and later sell to the community at affordable prices (lower than market rate) with a small profit for the hay shed management. Individuals in the surrounding community are also encouraged to store their baled hay at a fee.



Hay shed construction. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Good community support

The new developments happening in the farm, including the appointment of the Interim Board of Management members and employment of support staff from the neighbouring communities have created a lot of support from the community. The hay site selection and election of a sub-committee to manage the strategic hay store is a good gesture of community support.

Good political will

The farm is receiving political support for its development giving hope for new development or investment in the centre. The department drafted Nomotio LIC Bill 2016, which is awaiting debate and consequently will become law. The bill is made to secure the farm in terms of bringing new management into the farm and enabling environment for our development partners willing to support the farm.

The selected committee together with members drawn from the neighbouring communities under guidance of the interim board manage the hay shed, which contribute to job creation for many casual workers and employs support staff from the neighbouring communities. This has created a lot of support from the community.



Hay shed construction. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.



Completed hay shed in Nomotio farm. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

In conclusion the County Government and partners are in the process of constructing an abattoir within Nomotio area which will add value to livestock production hence increase the pace of offload before drought. This will improve pastoral livelihood hence building their resilience the hay shade will be a source of feed for the livestock before slaughter.

Views from stakeholders

"I am so happy to be associated with RPLRP and its development partners as the establishment of these two facilities in NLIC will help in sustaining services intended for the farm especially associated with pasture management which normally is a big challenge faced." *Nomotio village administrator*

"Construction of this hayshed as well as the breeding boma is targeting right, as this farm has played a major role over the years to provide hay during drought and breeding stocks to pastoralist and agro-pastoral communities in Samburu." *Timothy Lemargeroy - Board Chair, Nomotio livestock improvement centre (NLIC)*

"I receive the hayshed with great thanks, having suffered due to lack of storage. We have been at the mercy of brokers who bring hay from far and charge exorbitant prices making it difficult to have feed availability because many pastoralists could not pay. We have suffered losses to both people and livestock due to conflict. This will now reduce movement as community due to the intervention." *Mr Lelekap - community land chairman*

"I am a board member and a mother am very happy that the facility will reduce frequency of meetings associated with resource conflicts and will have more time for family and other personal business." *Mrs Lenanyokie*

"RPLRP and the county government have assisted about 3,000 farmers to grow hay and at the moment more than 50 farmers are requesting storage in this new hay shed. They are watching to see the impact this will have in the next dry season; and already pastoral groups are reporting a reduction in stress." *Francis Ng'ang'a - Sub-county Production Officer*

LATAKWENY LIVESTOCK SALE YARD BECOMES AN ECONOMIC HUB AFTER ITS CONSTRUCTION BY RPLRP IN SAMBURU COUNTY, KENYA

The initial situation

Before the construction of Latakweny livestock market, it was an open air one. The market had no permanent structures. It was not developed except for temporary/makeshift structures which were used as stalls for a number of market commodities. These structures were also used as food kiosks. The market did not have a public toilet and the members of the community were forced to walk to the shopping centre, which was about 1 km away in order to access a toilet. There was no collection of any fee from the livestock merchants because of lack of control systems and structures. There were several small livestock holding yards made from thorny branches of local trees which were used to restrain the livestock waiting to be purchased by merchants. The pricing of livestock was through negotiation since there was no auctioneer. The community relied on water from a developed spring and the water was pumped to a reservoir and piped to the shopping centre and adjacent *manyattas*.



A section of temporary structures of what used to be Latakweny livestock market. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Due to this, it was hard to coordinate cess and other important checks in the Markets. However, after construction and commissioning was over, Latakweny livestock market was suddenly started operating at full throttle and management challenges vanished. As a result, the County Revenue Department saw its revenue levels increase sharply. Other benefits reported by the livestock department were reduction in theft stock cases reported at the market and improved control of sick animals.

The livestock buyers, the women and men vendors at the market site and the County Cess Department benefits a lot from the facility.



Livestock sale yard office block. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Latakweny sale yard comprises of the following structures: Yards (crush, receiving, holding and sale yards); ablution block/toilets; loading ramp and bay; shade; and office block.



Latakweny livestock sale yard. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

The benefits of the improved market

Today, the constructed Latakweny market, which is in the corridor of Samburu North feeder markets, is an economic hub for livestock producers, traders, service providers, and about 5,000 households in the area. The facility is secured with a perimeter fence and is guarded by community-based rangers or scouts. Infrastructure improvements have led to increased sales and economic opportunities for locals, creating a hub of activity and a host of new jobs for local resident pastoralists.



A section through the yards in Latakweny livestock market. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

A consultative community process resulted in reduction of costs during construction of the Latakweny livestock market by siting the market and designing stall to fall under huge acacia trees that provided sheds for traded stock. In addition these acacia trees were source of proteins as pods that fell from trees provides feed for livestock. People also used these as sheds relief from scorching sun in Latakweny. Additional office block created room for all partners such the cess collectors, LMA, Veterinary officer, and livestock officer. This meant less time spent by traders who rush against time to transport livestock. Women vendors are also having space within the facility hence giving them opportunity to increase their household income.



Latakweny community consultation meeting. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

The use of metal bars ensures durability since many other constructed livestock market yards have broken down due to termites and breakages. The construction of a multi-functional office block increases efficiency as other markets would require traders to go far looking for travel permits and may increase costs of operation, hence decreasing their presence in the market and affecting community benefits from similar intended facilities.

Before construction of Latakweny livestock market it was very hard for vulnerable groups to restrain their livestock. This at times led to loses but after construction, the yards provided security and confinement allowing all groups equal opportunity of bargaining and resting while waiting to purchase the stock.

Factors contributing to success and sustainability

To promote local ownership and governance, the LMA manages Latakweny market, collecting a small fee from every transaction. Mr. Lewuano, a youthful Chairman of Latakweny LMA, oversees day-to-day management. A proper model of co-management has started working after construction of the Latakweny livestock market where the community and the County Revenue Department are co-sharing revenue collection. This has created some form of employment hence empowering local pastoral community.

Capacity building of the LMA is key to strengthening the sustainability component. The aspect of co-management should also be strengthened for sustainability.

Establishment of a community-based livestock information system will improve market information sharing and balance the bargaining power of the pastoralists in Samburu North areas; establishment of community-based marketing groups is an indicator of success by the community by the end of the project. Community benefit through cess collected from livestock sales through school bursaries.

The pastoral community of Latakweny has increased their sales of livestock after the construction of the facilities as traders using trucks are increasingly attracted to this market due to increased availability of animals and ease of loading into the trucks.

Views from stakeholders

"I thank RPLRP for successfully mobilising partners to complete the project and for fully involving the LMA in the process. We will take the over after commissioning to run it sustainably on behalf of the project." *Mr Lewuano –Latakweny LMA*

"Latakweny community own large herds and normally they lack where to run to when drought hits. As a department we will ensure livestock are in good health to prime them for better prices." *Dr. Boreiya Lekenit– County Director of Veterinary Services*

"I am very happy to see the community getting an opportunity to sell flours, camel milk, cattle milk, snacks etc. to boost their economic base and feed their children during drought and other times. I encourage the community to use the facility to gain full benefits." *Christopher Kunder - Team Leader, Narok County*

"Livestock diseases should be watched closely to avoid quarantines and closing of the market, which would have a negative effect on business." *Judy Gachora - component head of livelihood support*



A shade for traders within Latakweny livestock market. Credit: RPLRP Samburu County, Kenya.

Contacts

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