These women are among USAID’s Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) beneficiaries in Kenya. (Photo credit: Jeri Muchura/USAID)

PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Kenya’s 23 counties in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) are home to over 10 million people and constitute over 70 percent of Kenya’s landmass. ASAL counties have suffered and continue to suffer from recurrent drought, human conflict, and a legacy of marginalization by government and lack of international investments.

To address these issues, the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) in Kenya brings together humanitarian and development partners to build resilience in these vulnerable pastoralist communities in northern Kenya. USAID defines resilience as “the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.”

The PREG program unites multiple USAID programs and implementing partners which work with the Kenya National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) and county governments to coordinate resilience and economic growth activities. PREG targets nine ASAL counties and builds on community-identified strengths and priorities, while tapping into the remarkable survival abilities of local populations.
USAID is investing more than $291 million in northern Kenya to increase resilience and economic growth among pastoralist communities. Priorities include increasing adaptability, reducing risk, and improving social and economic conditions to target causes of vulnerability.

PREG’s partnership model is unique in that it links and coordinates diverse partner activities working with the same people in shared geographies. This coordination and integration of complementary humanitarian and development assistance activities allows for USAID and partners to adjust as communities increase resilience over time. PREG is applying the partner-driven approach to coordinate regionally on improving livelihoods and governance; strengthen livestock value chains; enable access to water sources and water, sanitation and hygiene services; increase conservation measures; address conflict; and promote inclusiveness and gender responsiveness.

ACHIEVEMENTS

A survey by USAID in mid-2015 provides compelling evidence of results achieved through PREG’s collective efforts in two and a half years, including a 12 percent reduction in the depth of poverty and a 28 percent increase in women’s dietary diversity in the nine counties. Additionally, the survey results indicate positive trends in children’s dietary diversity, reduced household hunger and access to improved water sources. The partnership has achieved results in the following areas:

**More than 700,000 people** supported in building their assets to increase ability to withstand chronic shocks and stresses

**More than 500,000 people empowered** through community-development action and leveraged $12 million of public and private resources for education, health, market, infrastructure and other services

**20 livestock markets developed** to benefit more than 44,000 households in five ASAL counties

**More than 1.8 million people served** with emergency nutrition support

**Nearly 190,000** people with newly gained access to water and 23,000 with newly gained access to improved sanitation

**A network of more than 100 state-of-the-art animal health outlets** created in partnership with Sidai Africa, Ltd.

**More than 9,000 pastoralists** with access to quality animal healthcare services

**Nearly 60,000 people** reaping increased economic benefits from wildlife conservancies in northern rangelands, such as education scholarships, employment, and women’s micro-credit services. Conservancies are generating over $1M in annual revenues.

**Nearly 300,000 pastoralists** supported through community-based natural resources management groups, managing over 2 million hectares of grazing land.