



# Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands - Improving Resilience

USAID Kenya / Ric Francis



*Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands – Improving Resilience works in the arid and semi-arid lands in northern Kenya, where drought is common and resources are slim.*

## **Presidential Initiative:**

Feed the Future

## **Funding Level:**

\$45.5 million

## **Duration:**

August 2012 – August 2017

## **Activity Goals:**

- Improve capacity of individuals and community-based enterprises to become more competitive in business and non-pastoral activities
- Support community structures to better manage natural resources and relieve pressure on the environment
- Support community and entrepreneur access to market information and produce markets
- Strengthen capacity to manage conflict
- Improve consumption of nutritious foods

## **Activity Accomplishments:**

- Established Sidai Super Service Centers in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties to provide animal health products and services across the region – more than KSh 3.5 million veterinary drugs sold through the centers
- 51,461 households reached with participatory learning, planning and action
- 62 Community Development Action Plans formed
- 3,517 households reached through livelihoods interventions
- 27,240 households reached through natural resource

## **ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands – Improving Resilience is reducing hunger and poverty, increasing resilience and social stability, and building a foundation for economic growth among pastoral communities in northern Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands. The activity is implemented by Adeso and works in five counties - Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Turkana and Marsabit counties.

Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands – Improving Resilience bridges humanitarian and disaster assistance with resilience strengthening and expanded economic opportunities through strengthening of livestock , disaster risk and conflict reduction, natural resource management and mapping of community resources, and other sectors.

## **ACTIVITY AREAS**

The activity works with communities to build their capacity to cope with and rebound from shocks such as recurring drought. Targeted interventions support local structures, in consultation with community members, to improve social, economic, and environmental resilience.

The activity focuses on six areas: strengthening and diversifying livelihoods; strengthening the livestock value chains; improving management and productivity of natural resources; conflict management; improving drought management; and, increasing consumption of nutritious foods.

The activity has conducted Focused Ethnographic Surveys and Optifood research to identify gaps and opportunities for nutrient dense diets for pastoralist families, and will endeavor to transform diets based on this evidence through behavior change communication.

The activity incubates self-help group savings with a Community Resilience Empowerment Fund, a KSh 45 million revolving fund to jumpstart small business ventures that enhance resilience through alternative livelihoods.

The activity implements transformational resilience through carefully screened local NGOs. These NGOs receive capacity-building as they expand the reach of resilience efforts across the north.

management activities

**Implementing Partner:**

African Development Solutions (Adeso), with funding to: Fin Church Aid, SIDAI, CO2Balance, GAIN, Community Owned Financial Institution

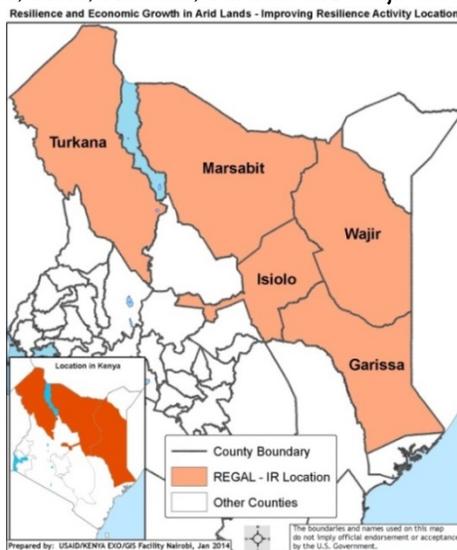
**Key Partners:**

The Government of Kenya, Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and Health in the five counties, National Drought Management Authority

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and the Center for Sustainable Dry Lands, Ecosystems and Societies; and local NGOs across the five project counties

**Activity Locations:**

Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir Counties



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<http://adesoafrika.org/improving-resilience-and-economic-growth-in-kenyas-arid-lands/>

The activity supports the Community-Owned Financial Institution, a Sharia-compliant credit service that helps pastoralists in Wajir and Garissa counties to grow their businesses.

**ACTIVITY IMPACT**

**Sidai "Super Service Centers" bring needed inputs for farmers and pastoralists to Northern Kenya**

Sidai Africa, Ltd. Super Service Centers are state of the art animal health products and services outlets established with support from USAID's Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands - Improving Resilience activity. They are the first private sector initiatives of their kind in northern Kenya.

Sidai will eventually support 15-20 franchisees – independent business owners - who will supply approximately 50 franchisee agents in northern Kenya. The franchisees and agents will serve livestock keepers of all types throughout these counties.

Sidai provides a market-based, sustainable approach for livestock keepers to access safe, certified, and reasonably priced quality drugs and professional services to keep their herds healthy and productive. Through the network, Sidai will facilitate vaccination of approximately one million head of livestock.

USAID is investing \$65 million in efforts to strengthen the resilience of communities in arid lands that suffer repeated environmental shocks. USAID is also helping to improve water and sanitation access, and help Kenya deal with a changing climate.



USAID/David Mureta