

ACCELERATED VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

The Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) activity aims to sustainably reduce poverty and hunger by transitioning households from subsistence farming to market-based farming, thereby increasing food and income security. The activity works closely with county governments, the private sector, and civil society to enhance the capacity and commitment of key stakeholders to sustainably scale agricultural technologies and innovations. The activity focuses on strengthening local capacities and accelerating enterprise-driven development by improving the agricultural productivity, food security, economic welfare, and resilience of farmers, producers, and traders.

Our Approach

The activity works in 15 counties that have high agricultural potential, but also have high poverty rates and chronic food insecurity. The aim is to advance inclusive agricultural and economic development by scaling technologies and innovations that accelerate value chain development, increase food and nutrition security, and increase incomes for all value chain actors. The activity contributes to the U.S. Government's Global Food Security Strategy objectives, focusing on inclusive and sustainable agricultural-led economic growth, strengthening resilience, and ensuring that the population is well-nourished, especially women and children.

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, AVCD shifted its work to also focus on assessing the impact of the pandemic on agricultural value chains. The activity worked with local partners to recommend actions to stop the spread of COVID-19 while keeping markets open. This included developing safety protocols to maintain market operations, using personal protective equipment in order to continue extension services, sharing best practices through cooperatives and community learning sites, utilizing new seed packs to stabilize production, and working with local radio stations to disseminate COVID-19 and nutrition messaging to communities in remote areas.

Target Value Chains and Interventions

Livestock: Many Kenyans living in the arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs) of Northern Kenya are nomadic pastoralists who depend on livestock for their livelihoods. The ASALs also have some of the highest rates of poverty and malnutrition in the country. The activity works with Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Garissa and Wajir County Governments, pastoralists, and other Feed the Future partners to increase livestock productivity, enhance greater access to markets, and contribute to an enabling environment to enhance the trade of livestock.



Members of the Napeikar Core Innovation Group, who benefit from improved livestock herd management knowledge provided by AVCD in Turkana County. Photo: USAID

Budget: \$9.7 Million

Duration: 2019–2021

Focus Areas

Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo, Garissa, Kitui, Makeni, Taita Taveta, Homa Bay, Migori, Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia, Kisumu, and Siaya

Implementing Partners

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
International Crops for Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics
International Potato Center (CIP)

Key Partners

County Government Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Health
Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services
Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
Egerton University
Kenya Dairy Board
National Potato Council

Dairy: The activity works with Busia, Vihiga, Kisumu, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori, and Makeni County Governments to help commercialize the dairy sectors in these counties and to develop county-level dairy development strategies to drive sector growth. AVCD works with Farmer Producer Organizations, which act as platforms for coordinated delivery of technologies and innovations in breeding, animal health, feeding, and advisory services, targeting smallholder farmers. AVCD also supports private sector-led dairy extension services, digital dairy platforms to enhance service delivery, and dairy business hubs for improved access to inputs and markets.

Drought Tolerant and Nutritious Food Staples: The activity is working with the Taita Taveta and Bungoma County Governments to transform the potato value chain through a private sector-led, commercial-oriented approach. Drought-tolerant crops help farmers maintain their livelihood and income when the unpredictability of rainfall and drought impact the regular planting season. AVCD builds partnerships with the national and county governments, private seed companies, and farmer producer organizations to establish a sustainable seed supply system and to build the capacity of the farmer producer organizations to become business hubs for collective action for targeted smallholders.

Key Achievements (2020)

- Supported policy change that has led to 10 ASAL counties increasing their budget allocation for the agriculture and livestock sectors by over 340 percent.
- Reached 80,705 individuals with food security programs, 60 percent of whom were women.
- 65,806 individuals applied improved management practices or used agricultural technology.
- Over \$16,791,804 in annual sales for participating pastoralists, smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.
- 18,749 children under two years old were reached with community level nutrition interventions.

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