



USAID Nawiri Transition Workshop Brief

Nairobi, Kenya

Introduction

The USAID Nawiri program is a five-year initiative funded by the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) with the overarching goal of sustainably reducing levels of persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). A key objective of USAID Nawiri is to prepare local systems and institutions to assume financial and technical responsibility for the implementation of nutrition programming in the future.

Since Nawiri's launch in 2019, two consortiums implement it in four ASAL counties: Catholic Relief Services (CRS) leads in Isiolo and Marsabit counties, and Mercy Corps (MC) leads in Samburu and Turkana counties.

In recognition of the complexity of persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya's ASALs and the need for local, context-specific, and sustainable solutions, USAID designed Nawiri as two phases:

1. providing partners with the time, support, and access needed to research the local drivers of persistent acute malnutrition
2. designing interventions that are rooted in evidence, contextually informed, and viable for the Government of Kenya (GoK)—at national and county levels—to scale up

Despite significant investment to address acute malnutrition in Kenya's ASALs over many years, acute malnutrition rates frequently remain at or above emergency levels and often fail to improve, even when households' access to food and quality health care increases. USAID recognizes the need to identify and address the underlying causes of acute malnutrition through an integrated, multi-sectoral activity that leverages ongoing emergency and development activities. This learning will help inform similar contexts in which acute malnutrition rates remain high despite recent programmatic attempts.

To review the learning generated to date by the Nawiri program and consider the implications for activity design and implementation plans, USAID Advancing Nutrition and the USAID Resilience Learning Activity designed and facilitated a hybrid workshop¹ from February 14–18, 2022, for USAID, USAID Nawiri partners, and GoK national and county officials. The event engaged about 140 people in Nairobi, 60 in Isiolo (which also included participants from Marsabit county), 50 in Samburu, and 30 in Turkana. An estimated 40 percent of these participants were representatives of national and county government. An additional 30 people joined the Zoom conference individually, including stakeholders from Washington, DC, bringing the total to 310 participants.

The event brought together Nawiri partners, USAID Kenya Mission, USAID Washington, and GoK stakeholders to launch the implementation phase of activities and strengthen collaboration across the four Nawiri counties. The workshop objectives were to—

1. Jointly review findings to date from Phase I activities (formative research, pilots, secondary data review) and application to the theory of change (TOC) and implementation plan
2. Discuss and validate implementation priorities to determine which activities will move forward
3. Discuss and validate continued learning priorities and plans
4. Review progress on sustainability planning and prioritizing outcomes to sustain

¹ Given COVID-19 conditions at the time, the workshop required a hybrid format, which linked four in-person meeting rooms via Zoom.

Organizers designed the workshop using USAID BHA’s model for culmination workshops during the refine and implement phase of Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA) programming, and adapted it based on the unique context in which the Nawiri program is implemented. From the beginning, Nawiri has operated in collaboration with the government, providing support and engagement at every stage. The significant presence of government representatives at this workshop reflects the success of this approach. In addition, coordination across counties is a fundamental part of how Nawiri operates, with strong lines of communication and an ongoing commitment to learning from each other.

This brief highlights key content presented in the workshop to share learning to inform similar contexts. The intention is for the learning generated by the Nawiri program to inform similar contexts in which acute malnutrition rates remain alarmingly high despite programmatic efforts to date. In addition, stakeholders may benefit from the Nawiri program experience as they transition from the early part of programming, focused on research, to later stages focused on capacity strengthening and scaling up evidence-based interventions.

Overview of the Workshop's Activities

The first day of the workshop included chiefs of party presenting a high-level overview of each consortium's TOC and research findings, as well as a discussion of the One Nawiri Framework. Each subsequent day, each consortium presented a select set of changes to its TOCs based on research learning, which was followed by an open discussion. Changes were presented and discussed for each TOC purpose. On the final day, consortia presented sustainability plans and USAID Advancing Nutrition provided an overview of an opportunity to receive future nutrition-related technical assistance from the project.

Phase I Research Findings and Theory of Change Modifications

Samburu and Turkana Counties

The following are a select set of preliminary findings for each program purpose, implications for design, and proposed modifications to the [theory of change](#) for programming taking place in Samburu and Turkana Counties².

² The changes presented are some key adaptations based on preliminary learning from research that was completed by the time of the transition workshop.

Goal: Persistent Acute Malnutrition is Sustainably Reduced in Kenya's Arid and Semi Arid Lands

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
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Purpose 1. Vulnerable households maintain food security despite exposure to shocks and stresses.
 Sub-purposes (adaptations noted in **bold**):

- 1.1: Affordable, diverse, safe, and nutritious foods are **consistently available across the two counties, including in remote “last-mile” communities, to support optimal nutrition outcomes** year-round and over time.
- 1.2: Households **access** sufficient, safe, diverse, nutritious and **sustainable diets required by their diverse members.**
- 1.3: **Engagement of men and women in responsive, nurturing care for themselves, partners, and children, including adolescents, is sustained.**
- 1.4: Infant, children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) consume nutritious foods including in times of shocks and stresses.

Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Household Economy Analysis, Food Markets System Assessment, Milk Availability Study that examined livestock milk output, Turkana County Consultation, Samburu County Consultation, Labor Market Assessment

<p>Across all livelihood zones, food is mainly obtained through market purchase, except for livestock products (meat and milk), which is primarily consumed from the household’s own production. At the same time, cash income has declined for all wealth groups. In addition, the productivity of the pastoral production systems is declining.</p>	<p>Invest in interventions that contribute to restoring ecosystem services (nutrient cycling, erosion control, water retention) by addressing root causes of land degradation and building linkages to livestock production and productivity for the benefit of household nutrition through partnering with communities and county governments. Strengthen the system for dissemination and interpretation of climate risk information for farmers and pastoralists.</p>	<p>Vulnerable households manage production systems of staple and nutritious foods (crops and animal-sourced foods) to increase year-round productivity. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 1.1.1 (blue) - IA.</p>
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<p>Systemic constraints that have led to the current weak food market supply chain include local traders dealing in the same goods; general perishability of fresh produce; added costs of transport; significant seasonal variations in supply of food items due to erratic and unpredictable climatic conditions; regulatory environment creating high taxes; and prolonged processes of getting permits.</p>	<p>Design financial inclusion strategies for supply chain market actors, noting that women have fewer opportunities for accessing financial services, training, and credit. Strengthen existing markets and/or create new markets to improve access and storage facilities in strategic corridors to support food traders and vendors to stabilize supply through regular bulk purchasing and transport.</p>	<p>Vulnerable households increase purchases of more affordable diverse and nutritious foods from local markets, vendors, and shops. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 1.1.2 (blue) - 1B.</p>
<p>Despite the cultural and nutritional importance of milk in the diets of rural households in Samburu and Turkana counties, milk production at the household level is low, with variation depending on the lactation cycle and the health and nutritional status of the ewe/doe. Increasing livestock productivity continues to be an important strategy to improve access to nutrient-rich foods in the marketplace and at the household level. General consensus among technical leaders is that increased fodder/pasture production and conservation for dry-season grazing, breed improvement, and animal health is a priority area for improved livestock productivity. Emerging approaches in community-based breeding schemes are promising.</p>	<p>Promote long-term strategies aimed at improving breeding practices and strengthening current herd management practices. Apply evidence-based community breeding schemes using high-performing animals (heat tolerant, high milk-yielding, low-feed inputs). Support initiatives for dry-season livestock feeding by partnering county governments to promote fodder production and conservation for dry-season feeding, while leveraging approaches developed by other partners in the area.</p>	<p>Households improve per-animal and per-herd productivity to maintain year-round availability of milk and animals, including in the face of shocks and stresses. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: Outcome 1.1.1.1 (purple) - 1A.</p>

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<p>While areas under cultivation have increased, production has not increased due to climate change challenges, including frequent droughts; water insecurity; limited knowledge on climate-smart technologies due to limited private-sector actors; and limited access to agronomic services on climate-smart agriculture.</p>	<p>Support smallholder farmers (pastoralists and agro-pastoralists) in adopting climate change adaptation technologies and approaches that can improve crop production, such as the Smallholder Farming Systems Approach. This will be implemented by working with households and communities to map their resources and use agro-ecological principles to restore ecosystem function for better soil fertility, moisture retention, vegetation cover, and water availability.</p>	<p>Households invest in and adopt climate-smart/risk-informed techniques and technologies to reduce crop production risk. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: Outcome 1.1.1.2 (purple) - IA.</p>
<p>Studies highlighted a scarcity of fresh vegetables and fruits in rural markets due to lack of access to appropriate post-harvest storage and processing technologies for extending the shelf life or palatability of fresh produce. High prices of fresh produce in markets is partly due to high losses during transportation of produce from source markets to end markets. Inadequate access to cold chain transport and storage facilities leads to high post-harvest losses. Fish is sold at very low prices due to inadequate access to cold-storage facilities.</p>	<p>Introduce technologies for extending the shelf life of perishable vegetables, fruits, milk, and fish, such as solar-based cooling technologies that include motorbike-mounted milk chillers (to transport fresh milk back to the village when animals migrate); mini solar-powered cold plants that can be set up in markets; and new solar-drying solutions to dry and package vegetables and fruits to extend their shelf life.</p>	<p>Local agripreneurs extend shelf life or palatability through clean, safe post-harvest storage or processing of fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, and fish. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: Output 1.1.2.1.1 (white) - IB.</p>

Goal: Persistent Acute Malnutrition is Sustainably Reduced in Kenya's Arid and Semi Arid Lands

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>Despite male-dominated household decision making, in the absence of men (such as during periods of drought or in an emergency), women step in or take risks and take the lead. Intra-household conflict manifests at times when women resist decisions made by men or when they do not consult men. Increased income-source diversification increased women’s household decision making, and increased income is associated with increased household food security, while access to savings and credit is not. In addition, increased income also worked indirectly to influence household food security through increased women’s household decision making.</p>	<p>Introduce household dialogue approach in which couples have an opportunity to reflect together on the gendered division of labor in their households and jointly design and implement plans for their households. One key adaptation Nawiri will make at the outset is the adaptation of various tools and approaches (i.e. household dialogue approach) for polygamous unions.</p>	<p>Women and men jointly and adaptively manage household resources, including in the face of shocks, to optimize nutrition outcomes over time. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 1.2.2 (blue) - IC.</p>
<p>Purpose 2. Vulnerable households have low disease burden. Sub-purposes (adaptations were made to intermediate objectives and lower-level outcomes under these sub-purposes): 2.1: Households adopt and maintain optimal water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices in the face of shocks and stresses. 2.2: Target groups utilize reliable and quality health and nutrition services, including during shocks.</p>		
<p>Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Water Security Assessment, Gender Analysis, Political Economy Analysis, Turkana and Samburu County Validation Forums 2021</p>		

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Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>Women and girls will continue to bear the burden of fetching water and collecting firewood, which significantly affects their own energy expenditure, as well as reduces time for infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and care, income generation, education, and participation in public life. It cannot be overestimated how critical a role water security plays in multiple TOC pathways, including as a direct and indirect barrier to the uptake of recommended maternal, infant, and young child nutrition (MIYCN) behaviors in the ASALs.</p>	<p>Implement a gender-transformative approach to piloting of any intervention in the water sector, and prioritize ways to minimize the time and energy burden of water collection on women and girls. Additionally, take steps to increase women and girls' involvement in water-related decision making and income generation to increase ability to access consistent, clean water, and to increase their participation in accountability mechanisms.</p>	<p>Households adopt and maintain optimal WASH practices in the face of shocks and stresses. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: Sub-Purpose 2.1 (green) - 2A.</p>
<p>Purpose 3. Stable and resilient nutrition enabling environment Sub-purposes (adaptations noted in bold):</p> <p>3.2: Natural ecosystems are rehabilitated and sustainably managed from local to landscape level to reduce climate and non-climate risk and vulnerability and maximize health-benefiting services for humans and animals.</p> <p>3.4: Sustained, peaceful coexistence, including in the face of climate- and non-climate-related shocks and stresses.</p>		
<p>Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Nawiri Gender Analysis, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Study, Governance for Nutrition Brief</p>		
<p>Engaging men and boys must involve broader efforts to increase mutual empathy and support among genders (e.g., equal access to educational opportunities for girls and boys) that lead to greater equality between males and females in their relationships, families, and roles as parents and caregivers.</p>	<p>Empower male champions with the skills to conduct group-based gender education and reflection to change violence against women and girl-related attitudes and behaviors at the level of the individual, couple, or household.</p>	<p>Men and adolescent boys are leading efforts to change gender and generational norms (change agents). For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: Outcome 3.1.3.1 (purple) - 3A.</p>

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Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
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Purpose 4. Formal institutions monitor, learn, and adapt to more effectively manage and scale interventions to prevent and respond to acute malnutrition.

Sub-purposes (adaptations were made to intermediate objectives and lower-level outcomes under these sub-purposes):

- 4.1: Integrated planning priorities focused on reducing acute malnutrition implemented at ward level and below.
- 4.2: Institutional capacity of government improved to lead, manage, and coordinate acute malnutrition interventions
- 4.3: Information systems are used for effective decision making, learning, and adaptation.

Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Turkana Political Economy Analysis, Samburu Political Economy Analysis, Governance for Nutrition Brief

<p>Limited opportunities for public participation in county government planning and processes have led to poor accountability on the use of resources, and the government faces few checks on its choices or its spending. This is compounded by high illiteracy levels in these counties—up to 80 percent—and a lack of policy communication or outreach that addresses this issue. As a result, communities are unable to effectively hold their leaders accountable. County governments therefore face few incentives to develop policies or allocate spending that target community needs, and the delivery of services that may support better nutrition outcomes continue to fall short.</p>	<p>Scale up the Ward Development Plan (WDP) committees in Samburu based on learning from Turkana to not only address health and nutrition needs in terms of planning, but also support them in implementing those plans, including contingency plans for responding to shocks. Assess scaling this model, including proposed multi-county legislation by the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), to institutionalize WDPs in all ASAL member counties.</p>	<p>Civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, and informal structures—especially those representing women, adolescents, youth, and children—influence policy development, development agenda, and implementation. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 4.1.1 - 4A.</p>
<p>Responsibility for nutrition is split among county departments of agriculture, health and education, trade, and other sectors. This leads to rivalries and competition for resources. With programming split along department lines, finding unified ways of</p>	<p>Promote adopting a multi-sectoral approach to planning, budgeting, monitoring, and reporting to coordinate collecting evidence and informing actions to sustainably reduce persistent acute malnutrition.</p>	<p>County government capacity in budgeting, planning, and financial management improved.</p>

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measuring results is complicated. Policymakers and planners cannot identify drivers of malnutrition or devise appropriate interventions because data is scattered. Low capacity among legislators at the county level also contributes to poor planning and resourcing for improved nutrition outcomes.	Do this by strengthening and institutionalizing the Multi-Sectoral Platform for Nutrition (MSPs). Ensure the USAID Nawiri evidence is reflected in the next County Integrated Development Plan (2023–2027), a five-year development planning framework that reflects the county development priorities, as no development programs or projects can be implemented outside this.	For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: Outcome 4.2.2.1 - 4B.

Isiolo and Marsabit Counties

The following are a select set of preliminary findings by program purpose area, along with proposed modifications to the [theory of change](#) for programming taking place in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties³.

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya		
Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>Purpose I. Vulnerable households' consumption of safe foods meets their daily nutrient requirements.</p> <p>Sub-purposes (adaptations noted in bold):</p> <p>I.1: Caring and feeding practices for children under two and five, children in specific complementary feeding stages, PLW, and adolescent girls equitably improved. (CRS, Action Against Hunger [ACF], UNICEF-Isiolo, Concern Worldwide Marsabit, Africare, World Vision, International Rescue Committee/Kenya Red Cross Society, county government, We World, Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth, Cesvi, integrated community case management, PSI, national government programs, climate-smart approaches, Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme, Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, Anglican Development Services, National Drought Management Authority)</p>		

³ The changes presented are some key adaptations based on preliminary learning from research that was completed by the time of the transition workshop.

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>1.2: Household equitable access to nutritious and safe food year-round improved. (County GoK, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PSI, Livestock Market Systems [LMS] activity, Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance [PACIDA], financial institutions-banks/small and medium enterprises, Scaling Up Nutrition [SUN]-Chapter, WeltHungerHilfe)</p>		
<p>Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Nawiri Participatory Epidemiology Study, Social Behavior Change Assessment, Milk Matters, Trials of Improved Practices for Complementary Feeding (TIPs), desk review and field assessment to understand the role and potential of the private sector in addressing acute malnutrition in Isiolo and Marsabit counties.</p>		
<p>The field team examined existing appropriate local interventions for increasing milk production and access, particularly during dry seasons. Livestock diseases were ranked as the most important factor in access to and availability of milk during the dry season. Livestock diseases were said to reduce milk yield and lead to mortalities.</p>	<p>Improve veterinary services at the community level by linking private and public veterinary service providers to local communities to reduce the prevalence of animal diseases.</p>	<p>Existing appropriate local interventions for increasing milk production and access, particularly during dry seasons. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: SP 1.2 (white).</p>
<p>Milk, meat, and fish value chains are most feasible and show the greatest potential in addressing malnutrition in Isiolo and Marsabit. Barriers to modernizing these value chains include lack of infrastructure (transport to remote areas, refrigeration/storage, processing and preservation, communications), lack of services (financial, electricity), and high transaction costs.</p>	<p>Develop meat and milk value chains through support to SMEs. Activities will include training, provision of inputs/technology for processing and preservation, and supporting aggregation and market linkages for producers.</p>	<p>Opportunities and barriers to ensuring food availability and access in the ASALs. Identify food value chains showing the most potential in improving nutrition outcomes. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 1.2.1 (purple).</p>
<p>Not having enough money to purchase food can result in borrowing money to buy food and/or getting food on credit from local shops. Access to and availability of fresh fruits and vegetables are inadequate (i.e., only sold one day a week),</p>	<p>Support evidenced-based household-level preservation practices, especially during rainy seasons.</p>	<p>Barriers and facilitating factors to complementary feeding and use of preserved foods for feeding children 6–23 months of age.</p>

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>especially during the dry/lean season. Poor road infrastructure, long distances to markets, and limited market days led to increased food prices and poor-quality fruits and vegetables. Prices have further increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>		<p>For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: SP 1.1.</p>
<p>Pregnancy and childhood illness episodes are seen as normal and not requiring any special attention. Shifting livelihoods often result in less household resources for women and children. Income generating activities remain scarce for women in particular. Community-level providers are not adequately equipped with basic tools (e.g., child growth-related tools). Prioritization of the consumption needs of special groups, including children under five and pregnant and lactating women, is inadequate.</p>	<p>Strengthen first line of care/community-level providers to enhance service provision and access. Reposition pregnancy and childhood illness episodes as critical moments requiring attention and extra care.</p> <p>Incorporate feeding requirements into provider engagement with women during antenatal care (ANC) and during visits for sick children.</p> <p>Expand support and tools given to providers to better engage with community members (e.g., supporting visualization of child growth using both length mat and scale).</p> <p>Support community sanitation or water committees to use inexpensive test kits to monitor water quality and advocate for system-level treatment, and to ensure handwashing stations are maintained.</p>	<p>Identify key actors influencing program-related behaviors, their roles, and opportunities to change these critical behaviors.</p> <p>Identify factors that inhibit or would motivate improved uptake and practice of priority behaviors among the key actors.</p> <p>For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: SP 2.1 (white).</p>

Purpose 2. Illness among children under five years of age, adolescent girls, and PLW is reduced.

Sub-purposes (adaptations noted in bold):

2.1: PLW, adolescent girls and children under five utilization of health and nutrition services including IMAM increased.

2.2: Households sustainably utilize sufficient, reliable and safe water for domestic and production purposes. (We World, Kenya Resilient Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development [RAPID], CRS)

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya		
Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
2.3: Household, community, and institutions' hygiene and sanitation practices improved.		
Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Strengthening Health Facility and Community Resilience through Expanded IMAM Surge Approaches; desk review on understanding nutrition and health system drivers of acute malnutrition in Kenya's ASAL counties of Isiolo and Marsabit; Nawiri Participatory Institutional Capacity Assessment (PICA); Regional Data Quality Assurance (RDQA) reports on Isiolo and Marsabit Counties		
The functionality of the community health system is hampered by vast geographical areas, persistent conflict and low deployment of community health volunteers.	In the shorter term, expand interventions to include a drought response component by including activities like mass screening, outreach support, active case finding, and increased household visits. In the long term, facilitate advocacy and support joint planning processes at the county level. Support counties to pass the Community Health Services Bill and advocate for increased resources for nutrition, and strengthen preventive activities, including through broader Nawiri community engagement approaches.	Determine the extent to which the functionality of the nutrition and health system in Kenya's northern ASALs has influenced persistent acute malnutrition rates. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: SP 2.2 (white).
<p>Purpose 3. Formal and informal institutions and local systems sustain reduction of acute malnutrition.</p> <p>Sub-purposes (adaptations were made to intermediate objectives and lower-level outcomes under these sub-purposes):</p> <p>3.1: Formal and informal institutions and local systems adaptively manage interventions and approaches to reduce acute malnutrition.</p> <p>3.2: Women, youth, and other marginalized groups have increased influence over nutritional outcomes.</p>		
Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Natural Resource Management (NRM) desk study in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties; The Participatory Institutional Capacity Assessment (PICA) on Implementing Multisectoral Nutrition Approaches in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties; desk review of government-sector framework for nutrition in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties; the County Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity (MECAT) Baseline Assessment of Isiolo and Marsabit Counties; Gender, Youth, and Social Dynamics Analysis; Nawiri Participatory Epidemiology Study; other CRS Development Food Security Activity reports.		

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>The natural resource base is the bedrock of dryland livelihoods; its condition has a direct impact on productivity (high-quality forage results in improved livestock nutrition and associated improvements in human nutrition), Livestock production is the dominant land use (82 percent pure pastoralism, 6 percent agropastoralism, 12 percent other). Fragmentation of landscapes and accumulation of boundaries, whether physical or not, is created by settlements, changes in land use, state restrictions, or insecurity. The expansion of farming and settlements in areas of dry-season grazing in Marsabit means that the wet season areas are now continuously grazed, leading to a decline in important forage plants and the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>Prioritize livelihood interventions that focus on supporting mobile livestock production and marketing. Ensure interventions do not contribute to further fragmentation or degradation of the rangelands, or conversion to other forms of land use.</p>	<p>Assess systems and institutional arrangements for accessing and managing natural resources. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: LLO 3.1.1.2 (blue).</p>
<p>Among the five capacity themes assessed—policies, programs, and frameworks; resources (human, financial) and infrastructure; coordination and partnerships; evidence-based decision making; and cross-cutting themes—all were found to be inadequate, apart from cross-cutting issues in Isiolo County, for which capacity was above average.</p>	<p>Strengthen all capacity dimensions in both Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. Mainstream food and nutrition security aspects in government planning, budgeting, and implementation at all levels. Support multi-sectoral integration of nutrition in all sectors.</p>	<p>Assess institutional and system capacity to implement an effective multi-sectoral response to address malnutrition at county, sub-county, ward, and village levels. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: LLO 3.1.2.1 (blue) and LLO 3.1.2.2 (blue).</p>

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>Women don't have enough livestock to sustain the family while the men and livestock are away, especially during the dry season. This increases their workloads, which further undermines optimal IYCF, feeding habits, and nutrition status. Growing insecurity is further undermining women's health and nutrition and increasing their workloads. Key influencers at the community level play a critical role in sociocultural change, thereby helping create enabling environments for positive social change, including by engaging community, religious, and traditional leaders; the need for this remains urgent.</p>	<p>Implement household dialogues (SMART Couples) and community conversations for household- and community-level sensitization and engagement on negative social norms and equitable division of labor. Strengthen an enabling environment for working with traditional leaders/custodians of culture.</p>	<p>Identify how productive, reproductive, and community roles of women, men, girls, and boys, and their time use and workload, relate to acute malnutrition. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 3.2.1 (purple).</p>
<p>Purpose 4. Extremely poor and chronically vulnerable households have sustainable livelihoods. Sub-purposes (adaptations were made to intermediate objectives and lower-level outcomes under these sub-purposes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1: Traditional mobile pastoralists and small-scale agro-pastoralists have increased healthy and viable livestock herds. 4.2: Small-scale agro-pastoralists have increased productivity of climate-smart, profitable, and nutritious crops. 4.3: Extremely poor and chronically vulnerable households—especially women, youth, and people with disabilities (PWD)—have diversified sources of income within and beyond agriculture. 		
<p>Research studies that generated the preliminary findings and led to TOC adaptations: Adapted Nutrition Friendly Graduation Pilot - Increasing HH incomes for access to year-round nutritious and safe foods, and health products and services; participatory analysis and co-design of the Adapted Milk Matters interventions identification of community-defined intervention options for increasing dry-season milk availability from livestock and accessibility for the target communities; scoping study into opportunities and constraints to livestock service delivery in Northern Kenya; Participatory Epidemiology Study generating evidence on the drivers and seasonality of acute malnutrition and identifying interventions to address these; livelihoods and nutrition desk study; Nawiri Natural Resource Management (NRM) study; Food and Market Systems Field Study Summary Report.</p>		

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>Routine data showed improvement in minimum acceptable diet (MAD) overtime after the pilot interventions. At baseline, only 6.38 percent of children achieved MAD; three months later, this increased to an average of 36.2 percent. Similarly, the number of children who met the minimum meal frequency increased from 20.1 percent to 56.6 percent for breastfed children and 2.0 percent to 10.6 percent for non-breastfed children. Unconditional cash transfer combined with business training (set up, savings), health and nutrition education, and counseling improved MAD in target households.</p>	<p>Scale up the nutrition-friendly graduation approach to additional villages and to Marsabit.</p>	<p>Evaluate the extent to which the Adapted Nutrition-Friendly Graduation Pilot helps improve minimum acceptable diet practices (MDD and MMF) within 12 months. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 4.2.2 (purple).</p>
<p>Priority interventions focused on livelihoods and income-generating activities largely geared toward improving year-round access to and availability of nutritious foods (specifically high-quality proteins). Specific intervention preferences included access to credit or capital, support to both livestock and non-livestock livelihoods, and income-generating activities.</p>	<p>Prioritize interventions to support livelihoods, income-generating activities, and financial inclusion (savings and internal lending communities/financial services, restocking market linkages, business mentorship/vocational training).</p>	<p>Identify how women describe and prioritize the causes of malnutrition in children and mothers. Offer suggestions for improving malnutrition in these contexts. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 4.3.1 (purple) and IO 4.3.2 and IO 4.2.3 (purple).</p>

Goal: Sustainably reduced acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana Counties of ASAL regions of Kenya

Preliminary Findings	Implications for Design	Theory of Change Adaptations
<p>Priority interventions to increase milk availability identified by the community were (animal health services; fodder/ pasture production and preservation; restocking; and income-generating activities (IGAs).</p>	<p>Improve veterinary services at the community level through linking private and public veterinary service providers to local communities to reduce prevalence of animal diseases. Offer milk vouchers or conditional cash transfers to malnourished children and PLW to enhance immediate consumption while also stimulating milk markets.</p>	<p>Local community participants' suggestions on livestock and non-livestock interventions that directly or indirectly increase availability and access to livestock milk, particularly during the dry season. For specific adaptations to the TOC, see: IO 4.2.2.</p>

These findings, and more, led to adaptations to the theories of change, which are mapped out in red text [here](#). A more comprehensive view of the learning generated through the past two and half years of research by each consortium can be found in the [learning briefs](#).

The range of multi-sectoral topics that are being studied to generate evidence for the Nawiri program are listed below:

- Livelihoods
- Agriculture and livestock
- Food systems and markets
- Health and nutrition
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Society and norms
- Government/institutions/capacity

Sustainability Presentations

On the final day of the workshop, the consortia for the Nawiri counties presented their sustainability strategies. In Samburu and Turkana counties, partners envision sustainability as transforming beneficiaries to partners, dissemination to dialogue, and vulnerabilities to abilities. In Isiolo and Marsabit, Nawiri's approach to sustainability fosters locally led, owned, and managed processes, including co-design and alignment with county government priorities and strategies.

One Nawiri Framework

All learning across the four counties informs the [One Nawiri Framework](#), which is a holistic vision of what the Nawiri program is doing to address persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya. While context-specific differences are threaded throughout, the framework is a shared vision for how all the multi-sectoral efforts lead to the same goal. It consists of a map of the four Nawiri counties with links that present research and desk reviews highlighting the drivers of and solutions to addressing persistent acute malnutrition in the Kenya ASALs. The framework also features documentation of the process—operational approaches—the Nawiri program is taking to succeed. The framework will continue to be developed as research comes in over the life of the Nawiri program and can be used by any stakeholder to learn from the Nawiri program research and present evidence emerging by technical area or geographic area.

Next Steps and Concluding Remarks

As the workshop wrapped up, facilitators emphasized several key themes:

- **Addressing acute malnutrition requires keeping people at the center:** As we implement our programs, we must keep our ultimate goal in mind—addressing persistent acute malnutrition and keeping those vulnerable to it at the heart of our work. We still need to identify hotspots and the households to collaborate with there. Eliminating poverty is crucial to eliminating malnutrition.
- **Building partnerships is essential:** It is important to work together and engage at all levels, including co-creating program activities with county government. Strong political commitment is necessary as well, and embracing the county government's commitment to address malnutrition. Nawiri is consistently working toward achieving solutions for malnutrition that are truly led, owned, and managed by Kenya. The collaboration among the Nawiri consortia in carrying out their research and sharing lessons learned throughout their Phase I experiences was evident leading up to and during this workshop, and is a strength.
- **The phased approach has enabled adaptive learning:** Nawiri's separate phases have allowed the programs to learn and adapt before full-on implementation begins. It is important to

leverage opportunities identified in Phase I. As implementation begins, we will continue to modify programming based on the learning generated.

Taken together, the two Nawiri consortium have made adaptations to their theories of change and implementation plans based on their research findings and taking into consideration the county government recommendations for program implementation. Going forward, the two consortiums will further integrate and address points raised in the transition workshop and feedback provided from USAID on their Phase II scaling-up and capacity-strengthening plans.

Overall, research conducted during the first two years of Nawiri yielded critical information that shaped consortium partners' insights for how to best address the complex problem of persistent acute malnutrition in Kenya's ASAL region. The bigger-picture research findings were translated into specific changes to the consortium partners' TOCs and led to refined programming approaches.

As learning is further generated by the program, it will continue to shape Nawiri programming and be shared with government, USAID, and other stakeholders to ensure continued learning about the root causes of acute malnutrition, where rates remain alarmingly high despite programmatic efforts to date.



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August 2022

USAID Advancing Nutrition is the Agency's flagship multi sectoral nutrition project, addressing the root causes of malnutrition to save lives and enhance long term health and development.

This document was produced for the U. S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared under the terms of contract 7200AA18C00070 awarded to JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. The contents are the responsibility of JSI and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.