



USAID Nawiri Learning Brief: Isiolo & Marsabit Counties MECAT Baseline Findings

Background

The Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Assessment Tool (MECAT) baseline aimed to understand respective county Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) capacities, identify relative weaknesses and gaps and develop county-based M&E capacity development plans. The assessment was informed by conceptualization of how county M&E capacity can be strengthened to enhance data demand and information use.

The county combined M&E and Information & Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) baseline assessment sought to (i) strengthen county M&E systems, including on the use of data and information for informed decision-making; (ii) fulfill accountability and reporting requirements, and (iii) assess learning and adaptive programming capacity strengths and needs. This aligns with government plans as stipulated in the County Government Act 2012, Article 108 Clause (1)(c), which gives provision for M&E, and The Constitution of Kenya 2010, Article 10 Clause (2)(c), which seeks to ensure good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability in carrying out development policies, projects and programs. To support actualization of the Constitutional Act, Nawiri has supported the strengthening of county M&E capacity by rolling out County Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems (CIMES¹) and the electronic version e-CIMES, in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. The CIMES platform aims to improve access, timeliness and the publication of national and county data, while also serving as a useful database for research and analysis in counties and across the country.

The baseline MECAT for Isiolo and Marsabit Counties looked at relevant key strengths and weaknesses to better understand and quantify the CIMES' M&E functions, its capacity to meet performance objectives and identify critical gaps, towards the development of supportive, county-based M&E capacity development plans.

Summary Findings and Lessons Learned

- M&E technical staff in both county M&E Units have limited capacity overall. Capacities need to be strengthened on sector M&E plan development, conducting evaluations and surveys, developing survey protocols, routine monitoring, database management, ensuring data quality including Data Quality Audits (DQAs), data analyses and producing analytical reports.
- Budget support for M&E activities remains extremely limited, with to date no M&E units in different sector offices. The only M&E Unit with technical staff exists in the county Economic Planning Departments.
- The rollout of the e-CIMES needs the support of senior political leadership to ensure accountability and transparency of county government performance. Experience shows that senior leadership support in some counties (e.g., Machakos, Bungoma, Tana River and Taita Taveta) has meant successful e-CIMES roll out. Nawiri is using this learning to inform related plans.

Applying the Findings and Lessons Learned

Key Lessons Learned	Adaptation or implication	Link to the DIP or TOC
<p>1. The e-CIMES system has the potential to help ensure monitoring data demand and to facilitate the utilization of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive data and information by county stakeholders to foster more informed decision-making and collaborative learning for adaptive programming.</p>	<p>1. Nawiri has integrated nutrition indicators into e-CIMES system roll out to enhance decision making, learning and adaptation in Marsabit and Isiolo Counties.</p> <p>2. Through strengthening collaboration with development partners like WFP and PREG members, Nawiri will continue supporting M&E capacity development and the implementation of an integrated M&E Policy framework, through e-CIMES roll-out.</p>	<p>P3, SP 3.1 and LLO 3.1.1.3</p>

	<p>3. To enhance M&E data quality in the counties, Nawiri will support the establishment and effective functioning of County M&E TWGs, develop RDQA guidelines and build the capacity of county M&E staff on how to effectively implement RDQA in respective county sectoral offices and MSP-N platforms.</p> <p>4. Considering Isiolo and Marsabit County Governments' commitment to maintaining their database servers, Nawiri will provide technical support to county ICT departments to help strengthen the database management systems.</p>	
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[See the full CRS Nawiri USAID Nawiri's Isiolo County MECAT Baseline Findings Report for all sources cited.](#)
[See the full CRS Nawiri USAID Nawiri's Marsabit County MECAT Baseline Findings for all sources cited.](#)

This summary is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Catholic Relief Services, recipient of cooperative agreement no. [72DFFP19CA00002] and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

