

Livelihoods:

The project enhanced food security at the household level and reduced the impact of drought among 513 beneficiaries (78 males and 435 females). This component incorporated four key resilient approaches:



Aloe vera farm

Aloe Vera Production, Value Addition and Commercialization:

The aloe vera farmland, covering 13.5 acres, supported 170 households. From January to December 2023, aloe vera farmers harvested 3,378 liters of liquid sap, which was processed into 1,470 kilograms of solid form and sold at 350 Kenyan shillings per kilogram, earning 514,500 Kenyan shillings. Additionally, aloe vera value-added products generated 14,300 Kenyan shillings. The total revenue from the sale of solid aloe vera and value-added products amounted to 528,800 Kenyan shillings. The collected funds were pooled to facilitate financial access for members, reduce poverty rates among those who lost livestock due to raids and banditry, and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable community members in Nanam and Lorus villages.



Aloe vera soap making process

Sustainable Flood-based Farming:

Nakinæ akiyar farmers prepared their farmland before the April-June rains and subsequently harvested 45 bags of sorghum, each weighing 50 kilograms, totaling 2,250 kilograms from May to July 2023. This produce supplemented the food supply for 70 households (23%) with a total of 397 children (187 males and 210 females) who benefited directly. Additionally, 48 households sold their harvest at a rate of 300 Kenyan shillings per kilogram of sorghum.



A government official from KEFRI inspected aloe group members preparing aloe value-added liquid soapy detergent, shampoo and solid soap.

Rangeland Reseeding and Pasture Production:

Pasture group farmers received training in grass production, harvesting, storage, entrepreneurship, and routine management practices to increase yields, minimize losses, and maintain product quality. The group cultivated 15.5 acres of farmland and, after a successful April-June rainy season, harvested and baled 2,000 tonnes of the *Cenchrus ciliaris* grass species. The harvested seeds were replanted in November to increase the area under production.

Village Savings and Lending Association (VSLA) Groups for Income Generation:

Three lending and borrowing groups were established to improve the living standards of member households, prioritizing children's basic needs and wants, and better nutrition for entire family members. From August to December 2023, members contributed savings worth 110,020 Kenyan shillings and loaned out 53,450 Kenyan shillings, which were repaid with a 10% interest rate as stipulated in the constitution. Members were eligible to borrow three times the number of shares they saved in the group, resulting in loan amounts ranging from 3,000 to 15,000 Kenyan shillings. The member households have been economically empowered, enabling them to support school-going children by providing learning materials, school uniforms, medical bills, and food. Members have shared plans to enroll new learners in the 2024 academic year.