

USAID KENYA Accelerated Value Chain Development Program

Potato Value Chain

FY 2021 SECOND QUARTER REPORT

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International Potato Center

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	1
ACRONYMS.....	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1. BACKGROUND	1
2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (QUALITATIVE IMPACT).....	3
2.1 PROGRESS BY OBJECTIVES.....	3
2.1.1 Project Objective 1	3
2.1.2 Project Objective 2	4
2.1.3 Project Objective 3	6
2.1.4 Project Objective 4	9
2.2 LESSONS LEARNED.....	10
3. ACTIVITY PROGRESS (QUANTITATIVE IMPACT).....	10
4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING.....	11
5. CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.....	12
6. PROGRESS ON GENDER STRATEGY: YOUTH AND PRIVATE SECTOR.....	12
7. PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING	12
8. PROGRESS ON LINKS WITH GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AGENCIES.....	12
9. J2SR, SUSTAINABILITY, AND EXIT STRATEGY	12
10. WORK PLAN FOR Y3Q3.....	13
11. FINANCIAL SUMMARY Y3Q2	15
ANNEX 1. LIST OF DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS.....	16
ANNEX 2. PERFORMANCE TABLES	17

ACRONYMS

AVCD	Accelerated Value Chain Development program
FPO	Farmer producer organizations
GAP	Good agricultural practices
J2SR	Journey to Self-Reliance
KCSAP	Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project
KWETSO	Bungoma Potato Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd
KEPHIS	Kenya Plant Health Inspection Service
LF	Learning farm
TTFPO	Taita Taveta Potato farmer Organization
WAO	Ward agricultural officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 9 month cost extension from January to September 2021 supports sustainability of interventions that started January 2019 in Bungoma and Taita Taveta, focusing on further developing the farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to operate autonomously; supporting KWETSO, farmer groups and Taita Papa to produce certified seed potato and developing capacity of 6,000 farmers to farm as a business through numeracy training on numeracy learning farms. The county governments lead implementation of activities with guidance from AVCD, while FPOs and private sector drive the value chain to support the Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR).

The report will reveal this quarter was full of activities to develop farmers to farm as a business and develop capacity of FPOs. Through the season-long numeracy training program on numeracy learning farms (LFs) led by the county governments, WAOs trained 402 among the 849 farmer groups from phase 2 to be able to calculate cost of production and net income by unit of production (kg, ha, acre) from potato farming. 27 WAOs trained 7,169 farmers among the 402 farmer groups, above the target of 6,000 farmers in modules 1 and 2 in basic numeracy/business skills at 95 numeracy LFs. The FPOs revenue streams and coordination/management continues to develop.

The FPOs each aggregated seed and sold to members, with KWETSO (Bungoma Potato cooperative) earning its first revenue from the sales with 300 USD in profits. KWETSO also planted 1 acre of Sherekea variety to sell as ware potato – the income will be reported in next report following harvest and sales in August and is projected at 8 tonnes valued at 1,600 USD. Taita Taveta Potato FPO is aggregating member produce at aggregation points for onward sale to direct market – hotel and supermarket in Wundanyi, and is actively pursuing further direct markets.

There was a media run on the outcomes of the potato value chain AVCD interventions in June, featuring the benefits potato is bringing to Taita Taveta and how farmers are replacing maize with potato ([Taita Taveta farmers swap maize for potatoes to earn more](#))

This reporting period witnessed several milestones:

- Nandi Potato Cooperative Society obtained their Seed Merchant license SC00MR0174 from KEPHIS to produce certified seed. The cooperative was formed in phase 1 (2017) and has become a model cooperative for any crop nationwide.
- KWETSO potato cooperative is underway in their first season of certified seed production as an outgrower under Nandi Potato Cooperative license. ***This is a significant milestone and legacy from AVCD phase 1 whereby the Nandi Cooperative was supported to form and obtained their seed merchant license after AVCD interventions ended and has extended this license to KWETSO.***
- Three farmer groups producing certified with KCSAP-AVCD support produced and sold 19 tonnes of certified seed in Taita Taveta. ***A great milestone in seed system development as the first certified seed produced in the county.***
- Mbangamboi farmer group obtained financing from the Bimas Kenya Ltd microfinance institution to purchase one tonne of basic seed of Unica variety from ADC Molo to produce certified seed, an approximate value of 1,500 USD. ***Another milestone, the first instance of financing from a microfinance firm for a potato value chain activity in Taita Taveta.***
- Largely as a result of the AVCD investments expanding potato in each county, ***the counties collectively invested 53,900 USD during the quarter directly and in-kind to support potato value chain development***, supporting the J2SR, including:
 - Taita Taveta KCSAP program supported 17 farmer groups to purchase 42 tonnes of certified seed of the robust CIP variety Sherekea valued at approximately 21,000 USD

I. BACKGROUND

Potato farming in Kenya supports approximately 800,000 largely smallholder farmers and another 2m people along the value chain as market agents, transporters, distributors, processors, vendors, retailers, and exporters.¹ Despite low yields, the average gross margin of potato farming is \$720/ha, equivalent to an income of \$180/month compared with gross margin of \$550/ha, which is an income of \$92/month for maize.² Doubling productivity would result in increasing gross margins to \$1,300–\$1,400/ha, which translates to monthly incomes of \$325–\$350/ha. With such an income, potato farmers can be food secure and out of poverty and graduate from subsistence to farming as business.

During the 3 years of phase I of the Accelerated Value Chain Development (AVCD) program, the potato value chain component, led by the International Potato Center (CIP), supported about 46,000 farming households with improved technologies to improve farm productivity and engage in market systems in Elgeyo-Marakwet, Meru, Nandi, and Uasin Gishu counties.

Phase 2 of the AVCD potato component is replicating phase I interventions in the two new counties of Bungoma and Taita Taveta. These are not major potato-producing counties in Kenya, hence general knowledge of good agricultural practices (GAP) for potato and the access to commercial seed are weak. The theory of change (ToC) partly relies on increasing the number of potato farmers so that the benefits of this crop and its contribution to national production can be realized at a greater scale, thereby increasing the importance of potato in these counties.

To support the ToC, the potato value chain is promoting potato production and marketing in 17 nontraditional wards where potato is grown at a very low level or not at all due to the agro-ecology, and in 10 traditional potato-producing wards where potato is commonly grown due to conducive highland conditions and high rainfall agro-ecology (Table 1, Fig. 1).

TABLE 1. POTATO WARDS UNDER AVCD POTATO VALUE CHAIN

County	Sub-county	Ward	Traditional or Nontraditional Potato Agro-ecology
Taita Taveta	Mwatate	Chawia	Traditional
		Wusi/Kishamba	Nontraditional
		Bura	Nontraditional
	Voi	Ngolia/Wogonyi	Nontraditional
		Sagalla	Nontraditional
	Taita	Mwanda/Mgange	Nontraditional
		Werugha	Traditional
		Wumigu/Kishushe	Traditional
		Wundanyi/Mbale	Traditional
Bungoma	Kabuchai	Mukuyuni	Nontraditional
		Chwele/Kabuchai	Nontraditional
	Mt. Elgon	Cheptais	Traditional
		Chepyuk	Traditional
		Chesikaki	Traditional
		Elgon	Traditional
		Kapkateny	Traditional
		Kaptama	Traditional
	Sirisia	Namwela	Nontraditional

¹ Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. 2016. The National Potato Strategy, 2016–2020.

² ACIDI-VOCA. 2012. Kenya Maize Development Programme II: Performance Evaluation.

County	Sub-county	Ward	Traditional or Nontraditional Potato Agro-ecology
	Tongaren	Tongaren	Nontraditional
		Milima	Nontraditional
		Naitiri/Kabuyefwe	Nontraditional
		Ndalu	Nontraditional
		Soysambu/Mitua	Nontraditional
	Webuye East	Mihuu	Nontraditional
		Ndivisi	Nontraditional
	Webuye West	Misikhu	Nontraditional
		Bokoli	Nontraditional

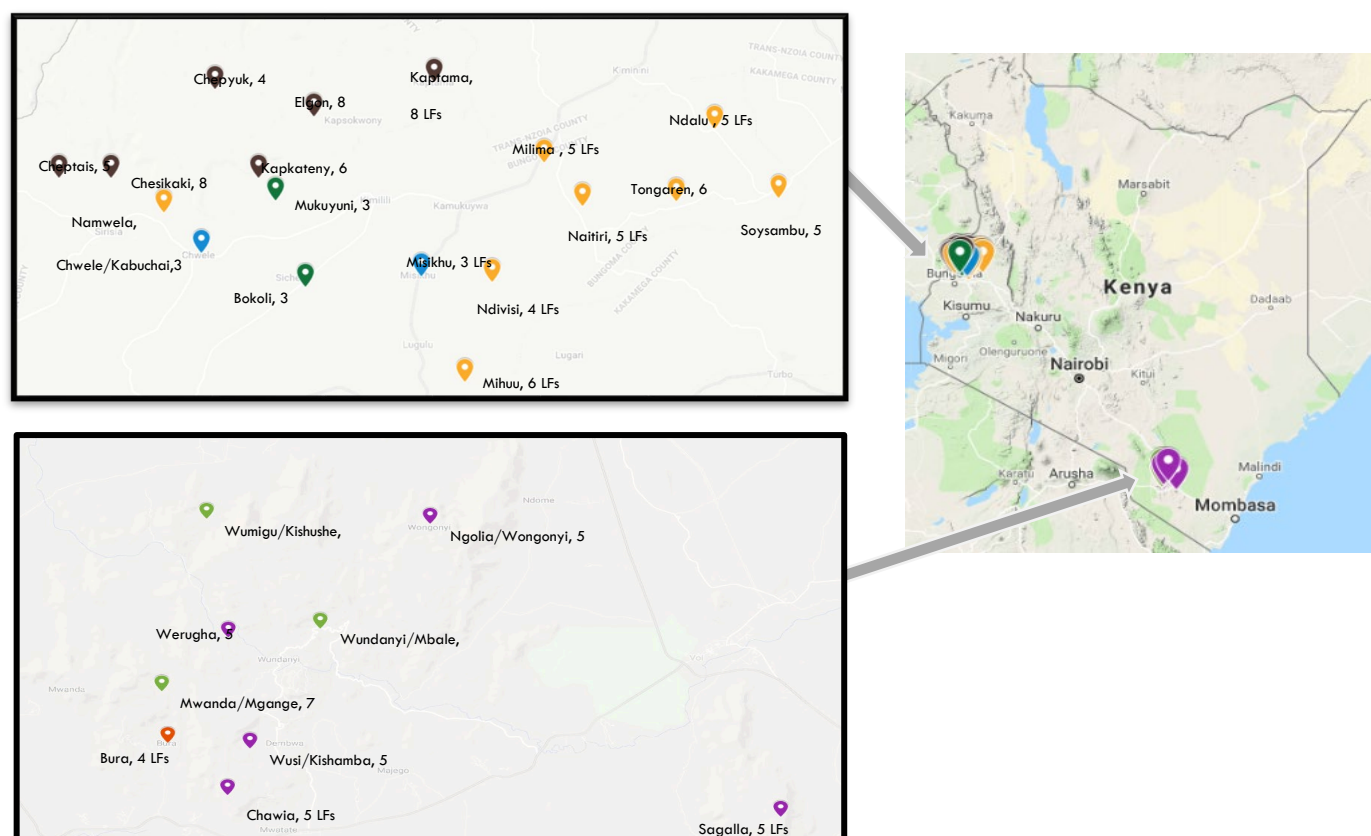


FIGURE 1. Map of AVCD potato learning farms by ward in Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties

2. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (QUALITATIVE IMPACT)

2.1 PROGRESS BY OBJECTIVES

The 9 month cost extension from January to September 2021 supports sustainability of interventions that started only 2 years ago in Bungoma and Taita Taveta, focusing on further developing the farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to operate autonomously; supporting KWETSO, farmer groups and Taita Papa to produce certified seed, and developing capacity of a targeted 6,000 farmers to farm as a business through numeracy training on numeracy learning farms (LFs). The county governments lead implementation of activities with guidance from AVCD while FPOs and private sector drive the value chain to support the Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR). Potato in Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties was relatively low profile until AVCD demonstrated potato contributes to food and economic security, resulting in these counties prioritizing the crop in county development plans and starting to invest through Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) and county government budgets.

2.1.1 Project Objective 1

Project Objective 1 brings farming as a business to the forefront of the potato farming system aligning with IR 1 Strengthened inclusive agriculture systems that are productive and profitable. Development of county-level potato strategies/programs are providing the enabling environment impacting *the number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies*. Further aligning with IR 4: Increased sustainable productivity, particularly through climate smart approaches, Project Objective 1 *increases production of the important national food security crop by increasing productivity of potato farming systems with climate smart technologies*.

Project Objective 1 focuses on adding depth to the good agricultural practices (GAP) training of phase 2 after a post-training assessment revealed limited numeracy/basic business skills among farmers. Through a season-long numeracy training program on numeracy LFs led by the county governments, WAOs are training 402 among the 849 farmer groups from phase 2 to be able to calculate cost of production and net income by unit of production (kg, ha, acre) from potato farming enabling farming as a business.

The GAP training exposed farmers to productivity-enhancing technologies that significantly improve yield, such as certified seed, hilling – and climate resilient technologies such as disease resistant, and water and heat stress tolerant potato varieties. While the GAP training embedded numeracy into each of the four modules, this was insufficient to develop numeracy skills as most effort was placed on GAP. Having numeracy as a standalone training is expected to build numeracy skills to ensure concentration on costing, etc. rather than technical aspects of production which have already been taught and reviewed in the trainings.

Applying technologies – farmer group numeracy training The training covers three modules over the cropping season: Module 1 Farming as a Business at planting, Module 2 Record Keeping at flowering stage and Module 3 Cost Benefit Analysis, Unit Production Costs at harvest. Modules 1 and 2 were completed during the reporting period. An extension guide to train farmers and a farmers numeracy guide are completed and public links are being generated.

27 WAOs trained 7,169 farmers, among the 402 farmer groups, above the target of 6,000 farmers in basic numeracy/business skills at the 95 numeracy LFs (Table 2, Fig. 2). The basic numeracy/ business skills training targets farmers who participated in a previous season of GAP training. Farmers and county government requested to extend outreach for the numeracy training beyond the target.

Resources and good planning with the county governments enabled to expand the numeracy training to accommodate this demand.

TABLE 2. FARMER GROUPS TRAINED BY WAOS AT NUMERACY LEARNING FARMS FOR LONG RAINS 2021 – APRIL TO JUNE

	Sub County	No. Wards	No. FG ^a	# Women	# Men	Grand Total	% Women	% Youth	Potato agro-ecology
Bungoma	Chwele/Kabuchai	2	12	198	47	245	81	7	Non-Traditional
	Sirisia	1	6	76	54	130	59	18	Non-Traditional
	Tongaren	5	70	837	392	1,229	68	9	Non-Traditional
	Webuye East	2	24	280	113	393	71	3	Non-Traditional
	Webuye West	3	25	267	128	395	68	3	Non-Traditional
	Mt Elgon	6	184	2,263	1,180	3,443	66	23	Traditional
	Subtotal	19	321	3,921	1,914	5,835	67	16	
Taita Taveta	Mwatate	3	26	279	124	403	69	14	Non-Traditional
	Voi	2	12	154	69	223	69	9	Non-Traditional
	Taita	4	44	509	199	708	72	8	Traditional
	Subtotal	9	82	942	392	1,334	71	10	
Total		28	403	4,863	2,306	7,169	68	15	

^a Farmer groups



FIGURE 2. Potato value chain. Left: WAO training members of Chakiloli farmer group on pest and disease management at their learning farm in Bura ward, Taita Taveta. Right: WAO training same farmer group on the importance of record keeping (Module 2) then giving group assignment for follow up.

The WAOs track all participation in the trainings through templates to continuously monitor farmers participating in AVCD/USG programs. WAOs will further collect applier of technology indicator data during Module 3 using a modified registration template to collect the data.

2.1.2 Project Objective 2

Project Objective 2 focuses on seed system development by supporting FPOs and farmer groups to produce certified seed and enable farmers to save quality seed on farm using specific technologies. To increase access to seed, especially by women and youth, FPOs will coordinate the collective purchase of inputs to support use of certified seed, creating markets for the seed businesses and resulting in increased yields of 25%.

Through developing seed roadmaps with county governments and supporting certified seed production by private seed businesses: KWETSO FPO in Bungoma and farmer groups in Taita Taveta, Project Objective 2 aligns with IR 2 Strengthened and expanded access to markets and trade *resulting in farmers buying certified seed which is critical for trade.*

Certified seed production by farmer groups in Taita Taveta From short rains 2020 season, three farmer groups producing certified with KCSAP-AVCD support produced and sold 19 tonnes of certified seed in the county. **A great milestone in seed system development as the first certified seed produced in the county.** The farmer groups collectively planted 4.6 tonnes of basic/CI seed this season purchased through a KCSAP grants and a microfinance loan, which is projected to produce approximately 50 tonnes of certified seed.

Mbangamboi farmer group obtained financing from the Bimas Kenya Ltd microfinance institution to purchase one tonne of basic seed of Unica variety from ADC Molo to produce certified seed, an approximate value of 1,500 USD. **Another milestone, the first instance of financing from a microfinance firm for a potato value chain activity in Taita Taveta.**

Certified seed production by KWETSO in Bungoma KWESTO potato cooperative is underway in their first season of certified seed production as an outgrower under Nandi Potato Cooperative license. **This is a significant milestone and legacy from AVCD phase I whereby the Nandi Cooperative was supported to form and obtained their seed merchant license after AVCD interventions ended and has extended this license to KWETSO.** KWETSO started with 2.4 tonnes of basic seed of varieties Unica, Sherekea and Shangi on 1.2 ha in Chepyuk ward, noting Bungoma county government allocated the land. The seed crop has been inspected by KEPHIS as per seed certification protocol. KWESTO further planted 8,000 apical cuttings for internal seed production for group ware production and sales with support from GIZ in collaboration with AVCD project.

Commercial production of apical rooted cuttings in Taita Taveta county Following careful backstopping to produce to right product of the right quality has resulted in improved performance of the nursery and they produce a top quality apical cutting – better quality than many other nurseries. Supply of apical cuttings is important for Taita Taveta to have a local source of early generation seed for the farmer groups/seed businesses to multiply into certified seed, rather than obtaining basic seed from KALRO or ADC Molo, 400 to 550 km away.

Over the season, Taita Papa produced 5,630 cuttings, having sold and/or distributed 2,858 cuttings to 14 farmer groups with a value of 280 USD of varieties Unica, Chulu and Wanjiku. As production is stabilizing, it is expected that Taita Papa will produce 30,000 to 50,000 cuttings a season, sufficient for 3,000 to 5,000 farmers at 100 cuttings per farmer.

Promoting use of apical cuttings by farmers to produce seed on-farm Responding to demand from the counties for training in apical cuttings, ToT for county teams in producing seed from apical cuttings trained 39 county staff comprising of 31 WAOs, 6 subcounty crops development officers and 2 AVCD county focal potato coordinators across Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties. 20 WAOs in turn trained and provided technical backstopping to 48 farmer groups representing 880 farmers who collectively received 8,500 cuttings (between 150-200 per group) which the first harvest should produce seed sufficient for 2 ha, and if remultiply a second time, which most groups do, sufficient for 20 ha or 0.4 ha per group of high-quality seed.

Coordinate payments for aggregated seed orders, applying technologies – improved genetics Bungoma: KWESTO bought 5 tonnes of seed from out of county and sold to FPO members, investing Kes 330,000 (~3,300 USD) for both seed and transport which generated Kes 360,000 (~3,600 USD), leaving a profit of Kes 30,000 (~300 USD) less miscellaneous expenditures. The Taita Taveta Potato FPO aggregated 2.8 tonnes in seed orders for farmer members valued at 1,500 USD. Aggregating seed orders is projected to become a revenue source for the FPOs.

Taita Taveta: The Taita Taveta Potato FPO (TTFPO) aggregated orders from trained individual farmers, groups and committee members who paid for 2.8 tonnes of certified seed valued at

approximately 2,000 USD, of which 2 tonnes was Sherekea, a climate resilient variety with high levels of disease resistance that farmers were exposed to at LFs and 0.8 tonnes was Shanghi variety.

Applying technologies - Saving seed on-farm KCSAP has supported an additional 14 farmer groups from the three producing certified seed to purchase 37.4 tonnes of certified seed of the robust CIP variety Sherekea valued at approximately 21,000 USD (this also includes the 4.6 tonnes of seed for certified seed production) under through competitive grants, while KCSAP contributed transport. This is an increase from last season (Sr 2020 – October 2020) when 10 farmer groups were supported by competitive KCSAP grants bought 26.5 tonnes of certified seed.

2.1.3 Project Objective 3

Project Objective 3 focuses on empowering potato FPOs to engage in marketing and value addition through organizational and business capacity development. The idea is to then provide necessary services among member farmers to support farming as a business.

Project Objective 3 will ensure better coordinated marketing systems for potato farmers through improving business performance of FPOs to increase *value of annual sales of smallholder farmers* contributing to IR 2 Strengthened and expanded access to markets and trade. In the reporting period, FPOs improved business performance advancing on FPO coordination and business plans, developing revenue streams and increasing membership.

FPO revenue streams Bungoma KWESTO earned 300 USD from sale of certified seed as described in Obj. 2. The FPO planted 1 acre of Sherekea variety to sell as ware potato – the income will be reported in next report following harvest and sales in August and is projected at 8 tonnes valued at 1,600 USD.

FPO revenue streams Taita Taveta TT FPO is securing two further contracts. TTFPO continues to supply Heritage Hotel and a supermarket in Wundanyi for 500 kg of potato per week. With fluctuating market prices, there is no signed agreement, TTFPO sells at current market prices. TTFPO organizes aggregation of potato from supplying farmers at collection points and the hotel/supermarket pick the potatoes from these points.

FPO/County monthly meetings. AVCD potato component supports the FPOs to host monthly meetings to support coordination within the FPO and the county governments. These meetings occurred April-June, with the FPO Secretary Manager recording the minutes for each meeting:

- Executive Monthly Progress/Planning Meetings: In attendance are FPO Chairman and Secretary Manager, county potato focal point and AVCD field officer.
- Full Committee/county Monthly Progress/Planning Meetings: TT FPO and KWESTO hold their full committee monthly meetings to review progress and agree on upcoming activities. Meetings are attended by FPO committee members and secretary manager, county staff from Department of Agriculture and Social Development/Cooperative and AVCD field officers.

Follow up from latest meetings include preparing for audits for each annual general meeting.

Business to Business Forum A one-day marketing forum for potato producers and buyers was for Taita Taveta county. The forum facilitated by National Potato Council of Kenya (NPCK) aimed at creating direct market linkages between farmers and market outlets. The forum was attended by 11 committee members from TT FPO representing the farmers and county executive from Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Trade, representing the enablers while buyers were represented from Sereni Fries and Viazzi Kings from Nairobi, one trader from Mombasa and two traders from Taita Taveta county. (Fig. 3).

Action points agreed during the marketing forum:

1. Establish a county demo plots for showcasing other varieties to farmers. Some of the varieties prioritized include: Markies, Manitou, Dutch Robijn, Konjo, Voyager and Challenger.
2. Training on post-harvest management practices.
3. FPOs need to increase the volumes by increasing the acreages under potato since the demand for potatoes in the region is higher than the supply
4. FPOs requires support in accessing tailor-made finances or credit services for potato production
5. FPOs requires support in entering into contract farming with the buyers for them to produce the required quantities and quality
6. FPOs will give some samples to the buyers for testing the suitability for chips and crisps

The plan to hold the B2B forum in Bungoma county was canceled following the restrictions stipulated in the Government Circular dated 17th July 2021 due to rising COVID-19 cases in Western region including Bungoma county.



FIGURE 3. Potato Value Chain. Left: Christine Mwakera County (Standing Infront), Chief Officer (CCO), Ministry of Trade and Tourism giving opening remarks during the Business to Business (B2B) potato marketing. Right: Group photo of the participants who attended the county potato strategy development workshop. Both B2B marketing form and startegy workshop were facilitated by National Potato Concil of Kenya.

Exchange/Exposure visit by KWESTO committee members With support from County Government and the AVCD project, the 11 elected committee members for KWESTO went on an exposure tour to Nandi, Elgeyo Marakwet and Uasin Gishu county where they held separate consultative meetings with management committee of three potato FPOS respectively: Nandi Potato Grower's Cooperative Society, Elgeyo-Marakwet Potato Marketing Cooperative Society, and Ainabkoi Potato Farmers' Cooperative Society – supported during AVCD phase I. The exposure tour took place between 17th and 21st June 2021. The committee members were accompanied by AVCD county focal point coordinator, AVCD field officer and FPO secretary manager (Fig. 4).

Summary of the lessons learned from the field exposure tour:

- The society must prepare annual budgets on time.
- The society must hold AGM as per the Cooperative Act.
- All members should be encouraged to pay their shares within one year of joining the FPO.
- For seed production, GAPs must be applied and KEPHIS should involve at each stage of production.
- The management committee should formulate policies on time to be implemented by the secretary manager.
- Farmers should be encouraged to stagger planting so that the society has access to continuous production.
- The society must expand their revenue streams for the society to grow and stand on its own.
- The society should prioritize own cold store to enable storage of tubers as they wait for better prices.

- The society should acquire at least two 50-tonne DLS for seed storage.
- Every subcommittee to perform its duties as clearly defined in cooperative by-laws and regulations.



FIGURE 4 – Potato Value Chain. Management committee of KWESTO Potato Cooperative during the exposure tour. The committee members were accompanied by AVCD county focal point coordinator, AVCD field officer and FPO secretary manager. Left. KWESTO Committee members holding a consultative meeting with members of Nandi Potato Cooperative committee and the County Chief Officer at the county office, Kapsabet town, Nandi county. Right. KWESTO Committee Members outside the 50 tonne seed storage for Nandi Cooperative in Ollessos ward, Nandi County.

Membership Recruitment Cumulatively, there were 205 and 736 paid members of KWETSO and TTPFO, respectively, as of end June, up from 165 and 568 end of March. Each member is required to pay a registration fee of Kes 500 and Kes 200 respectively for KWESTO and TT PFO. **The new members include 9 members from Ndile village in Ronge ward, Voi sub county. This is a new ward for potato where TTPFO committee members visited** upon on request from farmers and the committee members were impressed by the good turn out and the interest shown by the farmers on potato business.

Enhancing the Digital Platform Viazi Soko to Support Seed and Potato Marketing NPCK hosts the Viazi Soko (potato marketing) platform <https://npckviazisoko.com/> where farmers are able to query and access seed availability information such as; variety, quantity, price per kg, location and contacts of seed producer and market prices of ware potato in major towns. Following upgrade of the platform, farmers were able to order seeds worth Ksh, 4,215,749 (~42,000 USD) through the platform. Total of 2,671 bags of certified seed were ordered by farmers from the following counties; Nakuru (1,809), Meru (415), Nyandarua (222), Narok (92), Nairobi (85), Laikipia (40), Uasin Gishu (4), Elgeyo Marakwet (4). The seeds were delivered to their respective pick-up points by the logistic company working with NPCK. Currently there are 39 pick-up points in various counties.

Further Viazi Soko statistics:

- Currently there are 98,118 farmers registered on the platform
- 830 farmers are actively using the platform to access inputs, services and advisory information.
- 16 companies are registered on the platform and offering various products and services to farmer through the platform marketing the following products and services; seeds tubers, apical cuttings, minitubers, agrochemicals, fertilizers, mechanization, soil testing and spraying services.

NPCK and CIP trained 18 FPOs representatives in Taita Taveta FPOs on the platform use. FPOs are expected to train other members of the groups on the platform use. The trained FPO members representatives register and enjoyed the services offered through the platform.

2.1.4 Project Objective 4

Project Objective 4 develops the capacities of institutions, partners and stakeholders for the sustainability of the interventions and the J2SR. Transforming value chains is a process requiring enabling environment, capacity development at many levels, multi-stakeholder coordination, access to resources, behavior change and a monitoring system to guide support. Objective 4 builds upon gains made in Bungoma and Taita Taveta counties by developing the capacity of key potato value chain institutions to carry forth AVCD interventions.

Through capacity development of county government and FPOs, Project Objective 4 aligns to CCIR6 Improved Human, organizational and system performance *impacting county government investments in the potato value chain guided by county strategies/programs thereby contributing to enhancing uptake of productivity-enhancing technologies and streamlining value chains thereby supporting the J2SR through enabling more effective governance, policy, and institutions.*

Taita Taveta county potato strategy A two-day workshop was hosted by the county government with KCSAP, NPCK and CIP (Fig. 4). This is the second meeting, this time in person with virtual participation to populate the draft strategy following the one day meeting to develop the strategy outline. The draft will be reviewed, and a second workshop will be convened to finalise draft version 2 for sharing with county assembly for approval. The strategy is expected to be ready by August 2021 for launch and implementation.

Agrinutrition TOT Refresher Course A one-day agrinutrition refresher course for Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) and Community Health Assistants/ Extension Workers (CHAs/CHEWs) was held for 74 county staff (41 CHVs, 21 CHAs/CHEWs and 12 subcounty nutritionist and community health strategy officers) attended the course. It was organized and facilitated by the respective County Nutrition Coordinator, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, MoH and the County Home Economics Officer, MoA with support from AVCD Nutrition Specialist and PVC team.

Agrinutrition messaging by trained CHVs. 40 CHVs (31 in Bungoma and 9 in Taita Taveta) trained continued with agrinutrition messaging targeting the registered household (HHs). CHVs registered 1,242 HHs (1,072 in Bungoma and 170 in Taita Taveta) were with 1,216 children under 23 months (1,032 in Bungoma and 184 in Taita Taveta). The primary caregivers of the 1,216 children were trained on importance of dietary diversity for all the family members during the introduction session (i.e., introduction to nutrition and 10 common sources of food) that was conducted during the registration process end of May/early June.

Primary caregivers of 823 (639 in Bungoma and 184 in Taita Taveta) children were reached with agrinutrition messaging emphasising good nutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

In Taita Taveta county, primary caregivers for the 184 children have also received with the second and final agrinutrition messaging covering feeding infants 0-6 months and appropriate complementary feeding for children 6-23 months. The emphasis during session 2 is exclusive breastfeeding for infants 0-6 months and the need to give a variety of food from at least 4 out of the 10 food groups to children above 6 months.

ToT for county-led M&E 50 county staff (35 Bungoma and 15 Taita Taveta) participated in a ToT for M&E to:

- Define indicators: common understating on the indicators
- Define data collection methods and timeline
- Discuss and agree on tasks and responsibilities; who is doing what? when? how?
- Emphasis on data standards: quality, accuracy, validity, timely, relevance.

The counties will lead M&E for continuous and annually monitored indicators described in Performance Monitoring.

There was a media run on the outcomes of the potato value chain AVCD interventions in June, featuring the benefits potato is bringing to Taita Taveta and how farmers are replacing maize with potato ([Taita Taveta farmers swap maize for potatoes to earn more](#), Annex 2). Potato is much more suitable for smallholder farmers compared to maize which is only economical if produced on large-scale, whereas potato is economical even on a small scale – 1/8 to 1/4 ha – the area many farmers plant in Taita Taveta as per phase 2 endline study.

2.2 LESSONS LEARNED

Numeracy training is critical to enable farmers to know the cost of production to engage in smart contract farming. Farmers tend not to know their production costs, and even less so to calculate production costs to a unit: per kg, ha or acre to enable sound decisions when selling their produce. *The unit price is the main bottleneck in negotiating contract farming.* Many farmers consider the standard price of 0.22 to 0.30 US per kg as low as make estimations based on peak selling prices and they do not know their cost of production per kg. At a selling price of 0.20 USD per kg, using 100% certified seed with yields of 20 t/ha and 85% of production marketable, a farmer can earn 0.14 US per kg profit, or 1,400 USD/ha gross margin, or 2,800 USD annually/ha under two seasons, equivalent to 7.67 USD/day, much greater than poverty thresholds.

3. ACTIVITY PROGRESS (QUANTITATIVE IMPACT)

Activities contributing to all indicators with exception of CBLD-9 began in April with the rains and cropping season, noting annually monitored indicators of yield, area under technology and value of sales will be reported after the endline survey (Table 3, Annex 2). County and farmer demand resulted in many more farmers participating in numeracy training, beyond the target of 6,000 to 7,169 (EG.3-2). Resources and good planning with the county governments enabled to expand the numeracy training beyond the target to accommodate this demand. Similarly for nutrition messaging, demand was so great among the counties and households for training, that the indicator exceeded the target (HL.9-2).

TABLE 3. TARGETS OF FTF INTERMEDIATE RESULTS INDICATORS FOR THE POTATO VALUE CHAIN COMPONENT OF AVCD, JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER, 2021

Indicator	Target	Q2 Achieved	Q1 Achieved	Comment
EG.3-2: Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs [IM-level]	6,000	7,169	0	This was overachieved due to high demand from counties and farmers for numeracy training, and the resources to respond to this demand
EG.3.2-24 Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	6,000	0	0	Will be determined through continuous monitoring – collected during module 3 training in July
EG.3.2-26 Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance [IM-level]	1,100,000	0	0	Data will be collected using a rapid end-line

				survey following harvest and sales in early August
EG.3-10 -11,-12 Yield of targeted agricultural commodities among program participants with USG assistance [IM-level]	14 t/ha	0	0	Data will be collected using a rapid end-line survey following harvest and sales in early August
EG.3.2-25 Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]	800	0	0	Data will be collected using a rapid end-line survey following harvest and sales in early August
GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources [IM-level]	40%	0%	0%	Will be determined through continuous monitoring – collected during module 3 training, and rapid end-line survey
YOUTH-3 Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29) [IM-level]	10%	0%	0%	Will be determined through continuous monitoring – collected during module 3 training, and rapid end-line survey
CBLD-9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]	100%	100%	100%	Data from continuous monitoring
HL.9-2 Number of children under age 2 (0–23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs [IM-level]	400	823	0	1,242 primary care givers were reached with agri-nutrition training, of which 823 of their children are 0 to 23 months

4. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

For the extension phase, county governments lead monitoring of field activities for FtF and potato component specific indicators. CIP under the potato component is developing the capacity of the county governments to monitor continuously and annually monitored indicators. This is in response to demand from the counties during the co-creation process for this extension phase to strengthen skills in monitoring and evaluation.

WAOs and CHVs are continuously monitoring overall participants in USG supported programs using the numeracy training and nutrition messaging templates. WAOs are monitoring applicators of technology indicator through continuous monitoring. The numeracy training template was adjusted to accommodate feedback from farmers on applying several technologies. All farmers who can apply technologies participate in numeracy trainings and will be questioned at time of training registration for module 3 on use of diverse technologies. This will allow for actual data on applying technologies rather than extrapolating from a sample of the population in endline survey.

After harvest and sales in mid-August, the counties will lead the endline survey for the annually monitored indicators yield, area under technology and value of sales. Each WAO will survey 8 households (on average) and will swap wards to avoid bias. This was agreed in the county ToT for M&E. The AVCD Data Manager and Field Officers in each county will guide the county team through the process. A ToT for the endline survey will take place in July. To broaden capacity development, the ToT will train across the county team, in addition to the WAOs who will actually conduct the surveys.

5. CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The capacity development of counties during the past 2 years of implementation resulted in them being the most suitable to take the next step into leading monitoring activities. WAOs know the technical subject better than enumerators, and can ensure to get more accurate answers for technical questions. This will improve the accuracy of the data. This is an opportunity to respond from demand from the county governments to develop their capacities in monitoring and evaluation.

6. PROGRESS ON GENDER STRATEGY: YOUTH AND PRIVATE SECTOR

After supporting youth businesses based on youth groups and individuals owning businesses, observations reveal that businesses owned by an individual businesses are more sustainable due to group dynamics – especially of younger population without much experience in cooperative-style of business.

7. PROGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND MONITORING

After farmers observed the performance of robust varieties, of the 53.4 tonnes of seed farmers in Taita Taveta and Bungoma bought for the LR2021, 91% was of the robust variety Sherekea, resistant to late blight. Especially during the upcoming long rains when late blight disease pressure is great, resistance to the pathogen provides farmer with an effective tool to manage disease, along with reduced agro-chemical sprays. Two thirds of the seed KWETSO is multiplying for certified seed are of Sherekea and Unica, tolerant to late blight, heat and water stress, varieties.

8. PROGRESS ON LINKS WITH GOVERNMENT OF KENYA AGENCIES

CIP-AVCD continues to collaborate closely with county governments, they are the only partners in the project. County programs continue to invest in potato value chain to grow from the AVCD interventions.

9. J2SR, SUSTAINABILITY, AND EXIT STRATEGY

The extensive capacity building of staff within the county departments and those from private institutions operating within the two counties is central to all interventions as it ensures the continuity of activities beyond the project cycle. While developing capacity of large numbers of farmers to improve productivity is a core goal of the project, developing capacity of implementors

who drive the project will contribute to continued support to the system and scaling out interventions.

Largely as a result of the AVCD investments expanding potato in each county, **the counties collectively invested 53,900 USD during the quarter directly and in-kind to support potato value chain development.** The counties contributed by assigning a potato focal point for the county among the county-level officers (James Kaunda, Bungoma and Ruth FPO development, investing in an ICT tool SurveyCTO, mobile data collection platform being used by KCSAP who have engaged youth enumerators to profile primary producers of four value chains, including potato (Table 3).

TABLE 3. COUNTY INVESTMENT IN POTATO VALUE CHAIN APRIL – JUNE 2021

Bungoma		Taita Taveta			
Activity	County	Activity	KSCAP	Activity	County (In-kind)
FPO Exposure Tour	800,000	Seed, 849 bags, 17 FGs	2,122,500	TTFPO Office Premise	12,000
Field visit to support seed production	30,000	Seed transport cost	127,500	County focal point staff time (in-kind)	270,000
KWESTO office premise (in-kind)	12,000	TTFPO recruitment	1,000,000		
County focal point staff time (in-kind)	720,000	Service providers to support	106,000		
		Digitalizing potato farmers in Survey CTO	191,100		
Total (Kes)	1,562,000		3,547,100		282,000
Total (USD)	15,620		35,471		2,820

Nandi Potato Cooperative Society obtained their Seed Merchant license SC00MR0174 from KEPHIS to produce certified seed (Fig. 5). KWETSO is producing certified seed as an outgrower under Nandi Cooperative seed merchant license. ***This is a significant milestone and legacy from AVCD phase I whereby the Nandi Cooperative was supported to form and obtained their seed merchant license after phase I interventions ended – demonstrating the J2SR.***

FIGURE 5. Nandi Potato Cooperative Society Seed Merchant License

10. WORK PLAN FOR Y3Q3

Upon completing the majority of planned activities for the past quarter (Table 4), activities planned for July to September 2021 are related to closing out the season when harvest will occur late-

July/early August followed by potato sales. In timing with closing the season and monitoring, activities implemented in close partnership with county governments:

- Conduct module 3 of numeracy training which is done at harvest in July/August (WAOs conduct the training)
 - Module 3 is critical to conduct as this is where data for the appliers of technology indicator will be captured during training by WAOs
- Monitor harvest and storage of certified seed
- Finalise Taita Taveta County Potato strategy
- Conduct Business to Business forum in Bungoma county, which was delayed due to COVID measures
- Endline survey to be done by county governments under CIP supervision in August to collect yield, area under technology and value of sales indicator data
- Enter monitoring data for Module 2 and 3 numeracy training, continuous monitoring for appliers of technology indicator, nutrition messaging data from CHVs
- Prepare comprehensive 6 year final report of phases 1 and 2

TABLE 4. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES FOR Y3Q2 (APRIL TO JUNE, 2021)

Planned Actions for Y3Q2	Actual Status (Q2)	Explanations for Deviations
ToT for WAOs in numeracy training for farmers modules 1 and 2	Completed	
Technical backstopping of Taita Papa nursery	Completed	
ToT for county governments/WAOs to train farmers on cuttings	Completed	
County government: WAOs train farmer groups in using apical cuttings to produce seed on-farm	Completed	
County government: Support FPOs to consolidate farmer seed/input orders	Completed	
County government: guide Bungoma county investment in seed production	Completed	
County government: Support FPO monthly meetings	Completed	
County government: Support FPO in membership drives	Completed	
Support enrollment in training courses for FPO committee members in management and business skills	Cancelled	FPO preferred to invest in seed storage and FPO study tour
Support FPO linkages with buyers to provide potato under contract	On-going	Business to Business forum completed in Taita Taveta but delayed in Bungoma due to COVID measures
NPCK: Integrate an E-Extension component into Viazzi Soko platform	Delayed	Coordinating partner NPCK identified consultant to start July
County government: Develop County Potato strategy with Taita Taveta County Government and stakeholders	On-going	Process on-going, draft 1 under completion
Train farmer groups in seed production	Completed	
Arrange for outgrower certified seed production under a seed merchant license for Bungoma farmer groups	Completed	
Technical backstopping of seed production by farmer groups	Completed	
County government: Support data capture with CHVs on nutrition messaging	Completed	
County government: Meetings with stakeholders to follow the J2SR	Completed	

Planned Actions for Y3Q2	Actual Status (Q2)	Explanations for Deviations
Develop and disseminate communication materials/deliverables	Completed	
Continuous monitoring/spot check of interventions	Completed	

II. FINANCIAL SUMMARY Y3Q2

	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL EXPENSES	BALANCE	BURN RATE
Personnel	\$451,482	\$347,444	\$104,038	77%
Collaborators	\$20,500	\$14,425	\$6,075	70%
Supplies & Services	\$588,110	\$563,079	\$25,031	96%
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	0%
Operational Travel	\$13,183	\$10,413	\$2,769	79%
Institutional Overheads	\$166,480	\$143,266	\$23,214	86%
CG Fee	\$24,795	\$20,536	\$4,259	83%
ILRI Passthrough	\$63,226	\$52,017	\$11,209	82%
Grand Total	\$1,327,775	\$1,151,179	\$176,597	87%

ANNEX I. LIST OF DELIVERABLE PRODUCTS

Technical guides:

1. [Bacterial wilt. What every potato farmer needs to know about this destructive disease](#)

There was a media feature of the successes of AVCD with much focus on potato in Taita Taveta county:

2. Taita Taveta farmers swap maize for potatoes to earn more, print media, [Business daily 22 June 2021](#) <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/corporate/enterprise/taita-taveta-farmers-swap-maize-for-potatoes-to-earn-more-3446044>.
3. Taita Taveta farmers take up potato farming, TV coverage, 23 June 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQIEh3mnC4g>
4. Certified Potato seeds benefits farmers in Taita-Taveta, TV coverage, 22 June 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kFN7fuRxTNA>
5. Taita-Taveta Farmers ditch French beans for Irish potato, TV coverage, 18 June 2021. <https://youtu.be/9iAuUMQSieU>
6. Farmers Benefit from Planting Root Crops, online article, 21 June 2021. <https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/farmers-benefitting-from-planting-root-crops/>
7. Uzalishaji viazi waimarisha utoshelevu wa chakula na mapato ya wakazi Taveta. Print media, [MyGov. 22 June 2021](#) <file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/MyGov%20juni%2022,%202021-Kiswahili.pdf>
8. Potato growing improves food security, incomes of small-scale farmers in Taita. print media, [MyGov. 22 June 2021](#) <file:///C:/Users/user/Downloads/MyGOV%2022ND%20JUNE%202021-Final.pdf>
9. Viazi na faida zake: Wakulima wahamia kilimo cha Viazi. TV coverage, 24 June 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTKGXOcm4kk>
10. Kilimo cha Viazi: Wakaazi Taita na Ukambani wasema kilimo cha Viazi kina manufaa. TV coverage, 24 June 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoLi6F74VQw>
11. Sacco grows roots of success from nut seeds. print media, [Business daily 6 July, 2021](#). <https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/bd/corporate/enterprise/sacco-grows-roots-success-from-nut-seeds-3461974>
12. From farm to Bank: using potatoes to fight poverty. print media, People's [Daily 6 July, 2021](#). <https://epaper.peopledaily.co.ke/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=f862755f-4009-495a-80f5-2730a202c1e1>
13. Gold in Irish potato | Lower Eastern farmers employ new strategies: TV Coverage ,K24. <https://youtu.be/M2emJKsPmZU>

ANNEX 2. PERFORMANCE TABLES

Indicator Title: Number of individuals participating in USG food security programs [IM-level].																										
											Indicator Number: EG.3-2															
UNIT											DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and gender															
	Geographic Location					Activity Title															Date (2021)		W	M	Subtotal	
																							4,863	2,306	7,169	
																Totals:					0					
Results:																										
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking	Baseline		Reporting Period Jan-March 2021				Reporting Period April-June 2021				Reporting Period July-Sept 2021								FY 2021		FY 2021		End of Activity Target			
			Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target			
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M		
Sex*: Women (W), Men (M)																										
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[illegible][illegible]

Migori																							
Kitui																							
Taita Taveta			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0													
Bungoma			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0													

Indicator Title: Number of hectares under improved management practices or technologies with USG assistance [IM-level]																										
Indicator Number: EG.3-10 -11,-12																										
UNIT							DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and gender																			
	Geographic Location						Activity Title												Date (2020)		W	M	Subtotal			
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Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking	Baseline		Reporting Period Jan-March 2021				Reporting Period April-June 2021				Reporting Period July-Sept 2021				Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021				FY 2020		FY 2020		End of Activity Target			
			Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target			
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M		
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Kitui																							
Taita Taveta			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0													
Bungoma			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0													

Indicator Title: Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USG assistance [IM-level]																										
Indicator Number: : EG.3.2-26																										
UNIT							DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and gender																			
	Geographic Location						Activity Title												Date (2020)		W	M	Subtotal			
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Results:																										
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking	Baseline		Reporting Period Jan-March 2021				Reporting Period April-June 2021				Reporting Period July-Sept 2021				Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021				FY 2020		FY 2020		End of Activity Target			
			Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target			
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Taita Taveta			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Bungoma			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											

Indicator Title: Yield of targeted agricultural commodities among program participants with USG assistance [IM-level]																									
Indicator Number: EG.3.2-25																									
UNIT							DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and gender																		
	Geographic Location						Activity Title										Date (2020)		W	M	Subtotal				
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Results:																									
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking	Baseline		Reporting Period Jan-March 2021				Reporting Period April-June 2021				Reporting Period July-Sept 2021				Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021				FY 2020		FY 2020		End of Activity Target		
			Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	
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Kitui																							
Taita Taveta			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0													
Bungoma			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0													

Indicator Title: Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources											
Indicator Number: GNDR-2											
UNIT	DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and Percentage										
	Geographic Location		Activity Title			Date (2020)				Subtotal	
										0	
	Totals:										
Results:											
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking	Baseline	Reporting Period Jan-March 2021	Reporting Period April-June 2021		Reporting Period July-Sept 2021		Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021		FY 2020	FY 2020	End of Activity Target
		Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
	Sex*: Women (W), Men (M)										
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Garissa											
Marsabit											

Turkana											
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Migori											
Kitui											
Taita Taveta		0%	0%	0%							
Bungoma		0%	0%	0%							

Indicator Title: Percentage of participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources who are youth (15-29)											
Indicator Number: YOUTH-3											
UNIT	DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and gender										
	Geographic Location		Activity Title			Date (2020)		W	M	Subtotal	
										0	
Results:											
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking		Reporting Period Jan-March 2021	Reporting Period April-June 2021		Reporting Period July-Sept 2021		Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021		FY 2020	FY 2020	End of Activity Target
	Baseline		Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target
		Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sex*: Women (W), Men (M)											
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Migori											
Kitui											
Taita Taveta		0%	0%	0%							
Bungoma		0%	0%	0%							

Indicator Title: Number of children under age 2 (0–23 months) reached with community-level nutrition interventions through USG-supported programs [IM-level]																									
Indicator Number: HL.9-2																									
UNIT							DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and gender																		
	Geographic Location						Activity Title												Date (2021)		W	M	Subtotal		
	Bungoma, Taita Taveta						Number of children under 23 months reached through their primary givers at the various wards/community units								April-June						411	412	823		
							Totals:																		
Results:																									
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking Sex*: Women (W), Men (M)	Baseline		Reporting Period Jan-March 2021				Reporting Period April-June 2021				Reporting Period July-Sept 2021				Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021				FY 2020		FY 2020		End of Activity Target		
			Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	

Isiolo																							
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Homa Bay																							
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Kisumu																							
Migori																							
Kitui																							
Taita Taveta					0	0			89	95													
Bungoma					0	0			322	317													

Indicator Title: Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]												
Indicator Number: CBLD-9												
UNIT	DISAGGREGATE BY: Location, event, date and percentage											
	Geographic Location		Activity Title			Date (2021)		W		M	Subtotal	
	Bungoma and Taita Taveta		Percent of organizations with improved performance			April-June					100%	
	Totals:											
Results:												
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines	Baselin	Reporting Period Jan-March 2021	Reporting Period April-June 2021		Reporting Period July-Sept 2021		Reporting Period Oct-Dec 2021		FY 2021		FY 2021	End of Activity Target
		Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	

for setting targets and tracking	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sex*: Women (W), Men (M)											
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Makueni											
Kisumu											
Migori											
Kitui											
Taita Taveta		100%		100%						100%	
Bungoma		100%		100%						100%	

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