

Kenya Resilient Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development



Brand new livestock market in Merille, to be equipped with proper water facilities by Kenya RAPID – Photo credits: Ismail Abdi Abdille

Project Budget: \$35.5 Million

Duration: September 2015 – September 2020

Number of Beneficiaries: 450,000

Coordinated by: Millennium Water Alliance

Partners:

Government

- County Ministries of Water, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Health and Education of Isiolo, Garissa, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir
- National Ministries of Water, Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Health and Education

Development partners

- CARE
- Catholic Relief Services
- Food for the Hungry
- World Vision

Private sector partners

- Acacia
- Aqua for All
- IBM Research
- SweetSense Inc
- The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation
- Vitol Foundation

Donors

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Swiss Development Corporation (SDC)

OVERVIEW

Kenya RAPID is a five-year development program bringing together public and private institutions and communities, to **increase access to water and sanitation for people and water for livestock, and to rebuild a healthy rangeland-management ecosystem.**

Kenya RAPID strongly supports the Ending Drought Emergencies Common Program Framework launched by the Government of Kenya in November 2015, recognizing that “Sustainable management of rangelands, water, crops, and increasing the contribution of livestock to the pastoral economy are critical to resilient livelihoods in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).”

IMPACT

From 2015 through 2020, the **Kenya RAPID** program will focus on five Northern Counties with high poverty rates, chronic food and water insecurity and low access to basic services: Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir. **It seeks to increase the average water coverage rate in the five counties from 37% to more than 50%.** The program also is designed, to create a model that can be adapted for use by other counties.

Three strategic objectives (SOs) will guide the program:

- SO 1: A responsive and accountable governance framework is in place and operational at county government level that ensures sustainable provision of water and pasture;
- SO 2: Replicable and scalable business models for sustainable WASH and livestock service delivery have been developed and operationalized; and
- SO 3: Communities have increased access to sustainable WASH services and improved rangeland management.

ITS NOT - BUSINESS AS USUAL

The **Kenya RAPID** program uses a public-private partnership model to combine the assets and experience of development actors, private and public institutions, to address the complex problems created by inadequate water access and poor governance of natural resources in the ASALs. It acknowledges that:

1. Strong county institutions are a necessary pre-condition to long-term sustainability;
2. Enhanced coordination and integration of development programs across sectors will result in more-coherent and efficient support to county governments, increasing impact;



Villagers of Atuntun celebrating the fact that they are Open Defecation Free (under KALDRR-WASH, the predecessor of Kenya RAPID) - Photo credits: Tabitha Gerrets

Program Areas: Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir

Program Goals:

- A responsive and accountable governance framework,
- Replicable and scalable business models for sustainable WASH and livestock service delivery,
- Increased access to sustainable WASH services and improved rangeland management.

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3. Private-sector participation in the WASH and livestock sectors will increase investment and options for improved and financially viable water-service delivery;
4. Communities must be empowered with the knowledge and ability to exercise rights and responsibilities for water and rangeland resources.

The identification of gaps, prioritization of needs, definition of strategic objectives, and the program’s technical approach were developed in a collaborative process led by the Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) in consultation with national and county governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

The **Kenya RAPID** program rejects the “business-as-usual” approach to development. All five counties and every one of the partners is a co-investor: human capital, financial capital, software, equipment, and other organizational resources will be collectively employed to achieve impact. At least US\$35.5 million will be invested through **Kenya RAPID**.

This program also marks a significant shift in role of MWA members, which, as NGOs, are often direct program implementers. In **Kenya RAPID**, NGOs instead facilitate a program that is implemented by county governments for delivery of water and sanitation services under the 2010 Constitution of Kenya. This shift is reflected in the day-to-day operational ‘heart’ of the program – a County Coordination Unit located within the counties’ administrative headquarters; a program decision-making structure that prioritizes national and county government representation and authority; and the provision for the direct transfer of program funds to county governments to support the program’s objectives.

