

# REPORT OF GEWE SURVEY TO MAINSTREAM GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN ALL DRIC PROJECT AT NATIONAL AND ISIOLO COUNTY LEVELS.



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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To all, we Say God Bless You

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## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

ACT	Accepted Legal Framework
AGPO	Access to Government Procurement Opportunities
ACF	Action Against Hunger (Action Contre La Faim)
Boda Boda	Motorbike Enterprise
CCM	Comitato Collaborazione Medica
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CHW	Community Health Worker
CNAP	County Nutrition Action Plan
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DRIC	Drought Resilience in Isiolo County
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
E4I	E4Impact
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HR	Human Resources
HH	House Holds
IMC	International Medical Corps
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LA	Local Associations
MoALF	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOE	Ministry of Education
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NGEC	National Gender Equality Commission
NRT	North Rangeland Trust
PPA	Participants Participatory Approach
PPE	Probability Proportional Size
PWD	Person with Disability
SOMINEREC	Social Ministry Research Network Centre
SIG	Special Interest Groups
SMART	Standard Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
VSF	Vétérinaires sans Frontières–Suisse
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WW	WeWorld Onlus

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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This report presents findings from a gender survey on Gender equality and women empowerment aspects in a Nutrition sensitive project amongst communities in Isiolo County conducted by We World- GVC which is part of a consortium of five INGOs (namely Veterinaires Sans Frontieres

Suisse (VSF) Kenya, Comitato Collaborazione Medica (CCM), Entrepreneurship for Impact (E4IMPACT) Social Ministry Research Network Centre (SOMINIREC) that has been awarded a 4 years' grant co-funded by the European Union on building drought resilience in Isiolo County DRIC (Building Drought Resilience Project) through sustainable livelihoods Grant contract **FED/2019/159965-4/11**.

The main purpose of the survey was to capacitate DRIC projects components to mainstream Gender equality and Women empowerment (GEWE) at national and county levels with particular focus on women as binding agents towards improvement of health and nutrition outcomes and HHs FNS in the households.

The geographic scope covered seven (7) wards of Isiolo County namely Oldonyiro, Ngaremara, Chari, Cherab, Kinna, Sericho and Garbatulla. Site selection was guided by the implementation areas that DRIC project is operating in. The survey sample included households of persons in formal employment<sup>1</sup>, non-formal employed households<sup>2</sup>(HH), DRIC staff emanating from the consortium members of We World GVC, VSF – Suisse, SOMIRENEC and CCM and mapped county officials for health – nutrition, public health, disease surveillance, nursing services; Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries – veterinary services, livestock production and agriculture; Department of Gender; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Devolution - National Drought Management Authority(NDMA); Water Sanitation and Hygiene.

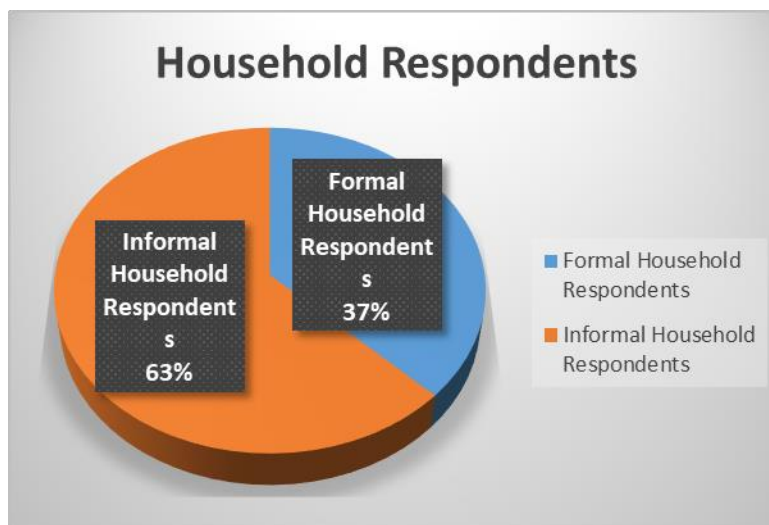
The study drew findings from a review of literature from existing national and Isiolo County documents on GEWE; as well as primary qualitative and quantitative data obtained from face to face interviews at HH level. A total of 297 household quantitative interviews were conducted at the community level, 28 key informant interviews with County Officials, DRIC staff and alike CSOs. Additionally 6 (Focus Group Discussion)FGDs of ten(10) participants each drawn from groups of Water Users Association, Young girls and boys association, Peace Committee members, Grazing Committee members, Agriculture Producer groups and PWDs HH and an additional one(1) DRIC consortium staff of seven(7) members. Total respondents reached by the survey were 331 of the total projected 420 respondents reaching 79% mapped target.

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<sup>1</sup> Formal employment categorise included teachers, school management, education officers, county officials at ward levels, Government administration officers, health community workers and volunteers, CSO staff and Agriculture officers.

<sup>2</sup> Non formal employment categorise included herders and grazing committee members, women groups, self-help groups, youth groups leaders and their members, community and religious leaders, farmer groups, food producers, HH group models for food production, small business enterprise owners, community disease reporters(CDR), peace committee members, Drip irrigation groups, mother to mother support groups and water users association.

Figure 1.HH Gender survey respondents.



Graph on proportion of respondents drawn from formal employment and non- formal employment HH.

To provide accountability and critical input to the development of the survey, focal points were appointed from the consortium members made up of We World GVC coordinating the mobilization of key informants, CCM, VSF Suisse, SOMINIREC and E4IMPACT. To ensure that survey results were practical and feasible for integration on mainstreaming gender approaches in DRIC project, key DRIC staff and County departmental point persons were presented with preliminary results for inputs and refining implementable recommendations.

### ***Key Findings & Recommendations***

The DRIC project design and development was conceived from a gender lens, indicators were derived from women dietary patterns, women livelihoods, targeting groups that have women composition, women representation within existing cooperatives, cultural, social barriers, gender dynamics being barriers that hinder female employment and resilience. The findings of the survey will support the action of mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment in all project components through a gender sensitive approach, sensitization and dissemination of the findings up to ward levels.

### **Effects of Gender on GEWE (Gender Equality and Women Empowerment)**

- Notable the continued shifting norms among youth (young boys and girls) in urban HH of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist who have access to opportunities of training, finance, crop production and sale.
- There still remains impediments arising from patriarchal system which dictates limiting women participation in activities outside the household.
- Women being agents of patriarchy; boys are oriented to take up leadership roles while girls are trained on care work.
- HH living in urban settings, have more access to waged opportunities and building micro-enterprises. This increased chances of literacy for women as well. Rural households experience less opportunities for waged jobs as well as microenterprises. In addition, illiteracy is more rampant in the rural context especially amongst women.

- Cultural beliefs and practices limit women, youths and PWDs participation at the community level and this is exacerbated by lack of community leadership support in prioritization for capacity opportunities and other benefits.
- Women and youth are more involved in production activities and men take up the sale and lease aspects.
- Child marriages affects a household since the mother is a child (taking care of another child).
- Low awareness levels on GEWE amongst DRIC project consortium members

### Effects of Gender on Food and Nutrition

- Cultural practices, beliefs and taboos that prohibit women and children from eating certain parts of an animal. Women and children are not expected to eat foods such as chicken, eggs and certain vegetables/fruits. On the quantity of food to be eaten, men are expected to eat large quantities in comparison to women and children.
- HH Poverty contributed by recurring drought and calamities. Loss of livestock and crops makes it difficult for families to access a balanced diet (variety of food types). Low purchasing power also limits HH in rural areas far from the market ability to access variety foods.
- Low-literacy levels of women; whom culture and social norms bestow the responsibility to decide what food is to be eaten (limited knowledge of nutritious preparation processes, what comprises balanced diet foods and feeding practices) jeopardies nutrition level of families in the county.
- Shifting dynamics at the HH as men and boys remain more susceptible to drugs and substance abuse leaving women and girls as heads of HH and main providers at the same time producers yet have no say on the power. Whereas women's' lack of capacity to make decision within the HH and community levels leaves them with limited opportunity to explore innovative ways of addressing access to quality foods for the HH.
- PWDs feel left out from participating in community-based activities, they are not informed or targeted for activities.

### Effects of Gender on Food Security

- Lack of value chains and improved technologies on women focused crop production and interventions that address gender and climate change. Women's' limited know how on drought resistance crops, lack of gender friendly technologies.
- Food production and sustainability interventions have not included women at both policy and implementation levels. Men and young boys dominate in decision making on food security at community food security committees, giving views, being targeted for trainings, enjoy and benefit from the trainings and are selected members in community organized committees.
- Legal, policy, administrative, social and cultural challenges to realizing improved food security in the HH. Limited knowledge among households on food types, community food preferences associated to cultural values.
- Synergy building with other sectors such as WASH (*Mother to Mother support groups cited lack of farming tools and water for their Kitchen gardens*), nutrition, governance (infrastructure development and poor security along farming zones), Disaster risk management (drought and calamities)



## Effects of Gender on Livelihoods

- Women are substantially engaged at the household level and community – women’s role amongst pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in rural areas is that of production, household chores and sale of milk while for HH in urban areas<sup>3</sup> women take up role of enterprising (small businesses), sale of milk and farm produce or are in salaried employment( with a wage).
- PWDs, young boys and girls participate minimally in family livelihoods. Girls are however given most of household care work in families where women actively engage in livelihood activities.
- Rural areas have limited access to markets thus deter HH from engaging in other income avenues apart from crop production and livestock production.
- Enterprises: women put up small businesses, engage in poultry and honey, enterprises that are near the homestead while the men take up the livestock sales, farm produce sales and other enterprises at town center level.
- Income spending: women and young girls spend a large amount of their income on food and clothing while the men and boys spend more on assets and community obligation.
- Young boys and girl’s engage in livelihoods, working towards diversification but require more capacity.

## Recommendations

### Specific Recommendations to the County Government

The County line ministries of MOE, MOALF, MOH and NDMA present an opportunity of linking with organisations in support of women to literacy programming and engaging men and boys in support to women and girls’ education initiatives. The directorate of Adult and Continuing Education has an opportunity to partner with the DRIC programme and utilise their structures to establish interest and reach out to more women as the programme intervenes on its main objective.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries ongoing interventions to introduce gender technologies , partner with departments of water and sanitation, utilize community engendered groupings and introduce small livestock for women care and management – trainings, partnerships and technologies introduced – for Kinna, Burat, Garbatulla, Wabera, Bura-pesa and Oldonyiro wards

Ministry of to be capacitated to sensitize health workers and key County liaison officers for DRIC project on GEWE survey findings in the three (3) sub counties.

County government commitment on gender equality and women empowerment in the CIDP being enablers through linkages and other partnerships with women led groups and other groups composed of majority women members to access trainings and platforms for decision making at community levels as well as access to quality services of nutritional provisions, farm inputs and subsidies.

## Policy and legislative frameworks

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<sup>3</sup> Places defined as urban are those near a marketplace or a shopping center.

There are opportunities for the county to adapt and implement the draft gender policy, rally partners and other county sectors behind the CNAP action plan for implementation and realisation. This policy has a wide popularity having received a wide audience in its development may require to be adopted as the main gender policy for the county.

Advocacy challenging the Unpaid Care Work burden for women using proposed approaches such as increasing community healthcare workers capacity on nutrition knowledge, rethinking support to children centres (*a success case of Tharaka Nthi County*) to support women with children to allow them engage in paid work.

Advocacy and sensitisation of SGBV including proposed popularisation of hotlines and call numbers. The high SGBV rates in the county call for alternative and various numbers available for help in cases of incidences of early marriage, assault among others.

There is an opportunity for the county budget making process to increase budget allocation on food and nutrition.

The department of gender at the county level should enhance GEWE advocacy up to the ward levels.

Development and formulate policies and regulations for inter-sector strategies to address women and men involvement in improving nutrition and food security

Train DRIC project consortium members on a common understanding on GEWE right from inception.

### **Specific Recommendations to the Sub County Government**

- Utilise the existing schools structure of gender clubs by empowering teachers to train club members using Saturday platforms train teachers and parents on food and nutrition, kitchen gardens demonstrations and re-usable water management. It's an avenue of targeting girls especially on early marriage and Unpaid Care Work (UCW) at the expense of their education.
- Exposure of women and youths through benchmarking of homo and hetero-genius groupings by interactions or use of technology – collaboration and virtual platforms.
- Groups involved in food and nutrition programmes at community level and Health facilities Level 1,2 and 3 supported with linkages to access trainings, decision making platforms, county government services ( targeting pregnant and lactating mothers to access CHV/CHW visits and advise), farm inputs and nutrition provisions from partners and donors.

*“Lack of farming tools to support crop production cited as a challenge,” Mother to mother support groups interviewed during the non-formal employment HH survey in the rural communities”.*

- Targeted trainings to agro-pastoralist HH on harvesting and post-harvest handling for men, women and youths engaged in production.
- Trainings through water users, storage, treatment and harvesting of water for all wards.
- Develop strategies to support women, young boys and girls access trainings in IGA and financial services. The challenge on lack of income and voice having been as a result of lack of capacity for the different groups can be addressed through IGA trainings. Public Private

Partnerships (PPP). SACCOs that are regulated and protect the investments of the members can be considered since they are flexible and can allow membership from the different cadres in the society. Partnerships with the state offices relevant for building of these, can be considered to protect and at the same time expose the communities to available financial services.

### **Specific Recommendations to the Ward Government**

- Rethink on threats such as women empowerment being a cause of family break-ups as a strength to address harmful cultural practices, barriers of social norms and existing beliefs/myths.
- Health – CHV trainings on nutrition, sensitizing health workers, proper management of nutritional supplements processes, recording and utilization.
- Through using of community easily acceptable approaches (public participation forums), dissemination and communication support HH to address cultural barriers that hinder adoption of positive health and nutrition practices, nutritional value of food to be prepared at family level and nutritional needs of different family members when preparing meals.
- Building synergies with County Departments implementing CNAP and strengthen screening and monitoring of under-five nutritional concerns at village levels
- Follow up and recording keeping of issued supplementary feeding for under five children with malnutrition ensuring HH prioritize their feeding.

### **Specific Recommendations to stakeholders including CSOs**

- Improving traditional locally available foods that grow naturally, training HH on acceptable nutritional preservation methods of milk, honey and vegetables.
- Women and girls already engaging in IGAs at the urban places near to the market, unlike their rural counterparts. Tapping onto emerging opportunity within the rural setting for women and young girls in pastoral and agro-pastoralist HH proposed IGAs taking cognisance of the burden of care work. Adult education intervention in this area would lift the capacity of the women and girls. In addition, their support through organised structures would also help in the intervention.
- Come up with strategies to support women, young boys and girls access trainings in IGA and financial services.
- Train women to increase their self-worth and confidence at the County level targeting all wards linking them to available resources. Adult Literacy programming for women presents an area for mainstreaming with the already on-going drought resilience intervention and not necessarily a standalone intervention.
- Establishing men and boys engagement strategies and interventions through shifting norms of positive masculinity among emerging men in championing for more women involvement at the community level.
- Linkages with other key sectors of WASH, governance, health and nutrition, disaster risk management, other likeminded partners and donors.
- Policy advocacy through rallying men and women in agriculture to build a mass and increase their capacity to demand for quality services from the County government service providers.

- Support to education programming especially targeting schools on anti- early marriage campaigns, girls education incentives (can be replicated from successful national and other CSO initiatives), school based clubs and capacity to teachers.
- When preparing meals. Proposal to engage more women and girls in -rural settings and pastoral and agro-pastoral HH in simplified trainings on food preparation processes and adapting locally available food types to increase dietary varieties for children under five
- Devise inclusive approaches, how PWDs can be effectively involved. This would include targeted approaches in inviting the members. Consideration of the limitation on the various disabilities during distribution of seed capital, nutritional talks and interventions. This could include venue of meetings, invitation media, registration and having a data base of the different PWDs, building their voice through movement organisations, considering them for leadership opportunities.

### **Effects of COVID on GEWE**

The COVID 19 pandemic has affected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist HH in rural and urban setting by increased in travel cost which has impacted the way HH access services such as taking under five(5) children to health facilities for vitamin A supplement, access to food from the market and taking food products to the market. Other effects are low demand of livestock sales which is the main source of livelihood for Isiolo men, fear to access health services from facilities for pregnant and lactating mothers and closure of markets.

## INTRODUCTION

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Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (GEWE) is essential to the work of DRIC Project in Isiolo County. This is because it is necessary to ensure systematic integration of gender equality outcomes within the context of a nutrition sensitive project in building drought resilience practices to ensure no one is left behind, women, youth and PWDs participation and voices are recognized, mitigation measures on gender and climate change are in place and the agency to reduce the prevalence of stunting among children below 5 years. Equitable access of girls, boys, women and men to opportunities, trainings, resources, rights, choices, participation, and decision-making is vital to secure inclusive resilience to drought in the County among vulnerable groups. If programs are designed and implemented —without a specific focus on gender inequality, there is a risk that interventions targeting groups of vulnerable pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities may not reach those most in need, and may even exacerbate, rather than address gender inequalities.

Stakeholder mapping and categorization was an initial stage within the study in ensuring that no one is left behind, taking into cognizant the do not harm principle and ensuring vulnerable groups are reached (PWD, youths especially young girls, views of children and the elderly) and their views matter.

Further, the study looked at the gender awareness levels amongst DRIC consortium staff and County focal points from ministries of MoALF, MOE, MOH and Nutrition Department. Additionally interrogation of existing community cultural norms, beliefs, practices, community lifestyles and food preferences, vulnerabilities amongst men and women, young boys and girls differentials, intra and extra home dynamics that support or deter women empowerment which ultimately affects under five year children nutrition were sourced through administering of KIIs and FGDs of homogenous groups and HH engaged in various livelihoods of pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, employment and enterprising.

This report therefore presents survey findings on existing gender dimensions in the area of Gender Equality and women empowerment, food and nutrition, food security and Livelihoods. The study gives a picture of existing gender dimensions at the HH in pastoral and agro-pastoralist who are either in formal or non-formal employment resident in rural or urban settings. Further highlighting presenting barriers, availed and emerging opportunities in engendering programming and applying a gender sensitive approach.

### Background

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralists form the majority of Isiolo County inhabitants and their livelihoods are impacted by drought and unpredictable rainfall, leading to reduced crop yields, low livestock productivity, high livestock mortality, low income and food and nutrition insecurity<sup>4</sup>. The proposed action addresses this vulnerability through a multi-sector One Health approach which encompasses human health, animal health and environmental interventions, together with the creation/facilitation of a common platform for coordinating at institutional level and sharing good practice. The proposed project will use a group-based methodology to deliver a wide range of social and technical support to pastoralists and agro-pastoralists covering pasture rangeland

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<sup>4</sup> DRIC Project Consortium application on building drought resilience in Isiolo County through sustainable livelihoods.

management, fodder, animal husbandry and veterinary support, animal products enterprise development and climate information, complemented by capacity building, economic empowerment and livelihood diversification. The overall objective being to contribute towards increased resilience to droughts and other negative impact of climate change for vulnerable groups and reduce number of children under 5 years who are stunted in Isiolo County. Ensure key productive household (HH) assets and community investments are sustainably built and recovery capacities against recurrent droughts are strengthened, with a particular focus on women's economic empowerment: by creating/strengthening self-help groups for savings; building financial capacities and livelihoods diversification/IGAs; productive and domestic water resource development; and mobilisation for participation in the One Village One Product initiative. Approaches and other value-added elements within the project will mainstream a gender-sensitive approach through the identification of cultural and social barriers, gender dynamics, which are some of the existing barriers to female employment and resilience at HH level. These will foster the integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in all project components.

### **Institutional Alignment (DRIC Project)**

In 2020 WE WORLD a consortium member of the DRIC project commissioned a gender survey to find out existing GEWE mechanisms in Isiolo County level of either legal frameworks, policy, strategies and sessional paper/circular and community dynamisms in place to initiate or strengthen a GEWE approach, existing levels of awareness on gender issues in relation to nutrition and food security. Proportion of community leaders and HH members who have attended GEWE training, food and nutrition, security and livelihoods. What challenges are faced by women in access to GEWE trainings, access to services such as financial and examining pathways with highest value impact on gender equality and women empowerment. Additionally, assess the level of engendered interventions through stakeholder feedback.

The project approaches are participatory and multi-sectoral based on an integrated plan of actions to address FNS and sustainable livelihoods, by creating broad partnerships and enhancing multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at county level. Capacity building in order to strengthen CSOs and LAs, by fostering their capacity to plan, coordinate and implement strategies to improve FNS and sustainable livelihoods, based on the Participants Participatory Approach (PPA). Gender sensitive which adheres to the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion conceptual framework (GESI), defined by the International Development Group, UNDP 2017, to promote women's (and youth) social and economic inclusion and mainstream gender equality. Following the GESI framework, the project aims to: identify the overlapping layers of disadvantage that surround women (and youth) belonging to poor, vulnerable and excluded families; analyse the barriers; develop holistic, data-driven development approaches that address multi-dimensional exclusion/deprivation. During training for groups/HHs and LAs, specific attention will be dedicated to the GESI approach and supervision by an external gender expert will guarantee the mainstreaming of this approach in all the activities. Women will be the main beneficiaries of the training programs on FNS and food production, entrepreneurship and IGAs support, while adolescent girls will be a privileged target group under the training program implemented by schoolteachers. Human rights-based approach will support focus on protection of the right to food, healthcare, and quality education for all. Particular attention will be paid to protecting

disadvantaged population groups<sup>5</sup>. Finally, best practices will draw on the consortium experience in implementing alike projects on resilience.

### **Study Objectives**

The aim of the proposed survey is to support the mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a nutrition sensitive project to build drought resilience in Isiolo County. Enhance it's mainstreaming in all DRIC project components at national and county level with particular focus on women as binding agents within the households towards improving health and nutrition and HHs FNS in Isiolo County

#### **It is understood the Specific Objectives of the survey are:**

- Assess gender sensitivity within alike projects of nutrition, food security and livelihoods. Utilizing best practices, government strategies and policies both at the national and county level. Pick out key guidance on gender mainstreaming in projects from national and county government resource packs.
- Derive insights and key lessons for DRIC project implementing partners and policy makers at county and national levels in support of improved design of agricultural policies and programs. Resulting in leveraging on women empowerment across agriculture nutrition pathways and realize impact of both nutrition and women empowerment.
- Conduct a gender context analysis in Isiolo County to understand the power relations, engendered roles and norms, risks and vulnerabilities, access, control of various types of capital available including physical, financial, natural, human, political and social.
- Examine cultural beliefs, norms, myths that contribute to non-program constraints in achieving women empowerment, nutrition outcomes to inform implementation, monitoring, evaluation and communication sectors of health, nutrition, Agriculture, food security and livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene of the We World GVC project activities in Isiolo county
- Assess level of gender awareness amongst Isiolo County officials Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture livestock and fisheries in coming up with gender sensitive approach/strategies that best build household resilience. Capacitate the officials to increase ability to conduct gender analysis, collect and analyze gender - disaggregated data.
- Design and develop modules/guidelines, manuals, materials on gender sensitive approach and a training programme targeting Isiolo County and sub-county Authorities on gender sensitivity in programming.
- Develop an innovative strategy, aligned to existing strategies as identified, to mainstream the gender sensitive approach to enhance resilience building and food and nutrition-sensitive approaches

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<sup>5</sup> DRIC Project Consortium application on building drought resilience in Isiolo County through sustainable livelihoods.

- Design trainings for the project staff, community leaders, teachers and local population on gender sensitive approach to support engendered decision making and advocacy-based approaches
- Recommendations on engendering the DRIC project's Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition interventions and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene interventions in Isiolo County.

***The findings of GEWE survey will contribute towards mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE) in all project components through;***

- Development of manuals, modules, materials for the training in GEWE
- Sensitisation forums on GEWE modules targeting County, Sub County and Ward level officials
- Sensitisation forums on GEWE findings and adopting standard government guidelines on food production and security targeting Health care workers/HF staff, CHEWs CDRs grazing management committees/Range land workers Conduct training on GEWE for the DRIC project implementation teams
- Development of a proposal to include the gender sensitive approach in the national/county strategy.



## **METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS**

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### **Methodology**

This study is outward-looking and research-driven, to assess the existing gender dimensions across a range of thematic areas of women empowerment, food and nutrition, food security and livelihood. The survey used a mixed methods and participatory approach to collect and analyse data to determine existing gender dimensions, inequalities and discrimination present within the DRIC project intervention areas being implemented in Isiolo County. The target respondents were drawn from different cadres of stakeholders as expressed in the call through mapping and categorization in ensuring all categories are involved (principle of leave no one behind) and their contribution taken into account. Literature review was sampled from mapped documentation on gender equality and women empowerment available at national and county existing policy and strategies, alike projects best case scenarios/practices, partner reports and existing project application, baseline and assessments reports. The sampling strategy was a two (2) stage probability proportional size (PPE) cluster sampling strategy followed by simple random selection of respondents. Determinants of sample size entailed power calculation and power analysis.

Field data collection was administered using a simple to understand survey questionnaire of HH characteristics of formal employed or non-formal employed, KIIs survey questionnaires were in the categories of county government officials and DRIC consortium staff. To triangulate the data FGD questionnaire reflected the non-formal employed HH. The questionnaires were administered virtually through a Google form format that generates responses through an excel sheet uploading. Enumerator selection criteria, training, tools pre-test and checklist was generated and likewise administered virtually. The consortium members will deliver an integrated package to beneficiaries with different but complementary activities in the six priority wards, together with additional activities in the four other wards.

The survey adopted a comprehensive and participatory approach entailing discussions with all actors as identified in the programme. The type of stakeholder participation envisaged for this study was that of empowerment, designed to enable people to make their own decisions, work out what to do and take action.

Data Analysis, data deductions, verification, missed data and arising data collection impediments were taken into consideration. A cross-over mixed analysis technique was administered during analysis in which quantitative data are qualitized (i.e. narrative profile formation); and qualitative data are quantified (e.g. effect sizes); and the quantitative and qualitative data correlated. Other parameters taken into consideration during the survey process was gender sensitive approach in examining the level of gender awareness among respondents and extent to which the interventions/planning is engendered.

### **Study Limitations**

The nomadic nature of Isiolo target respondents who are pastoralist and agro-pastoralist who sometimes move from place to place in search of pasture for the animals was a limitation. During the survey period some of the target HH had migrated leaving few homesteads. Secondly, Infrastructure in the County especially roads and availability of internet was also a challenge. To compensate for this enumerators mapped HH that were in the seven (7) ward areas with more

permanently settled communities, information was filled out on hand copy sheets and uploaded on the real time Google forms in areas that had patches of network coverage. Finally, due to the cosmopolitan nature of the population with majority ethnic group being the Borana and Sakuye communities, three quarters of the enumerators were from these communities while a third represented other communities present of Turkana, Meru and immigrant groups.

Focal points from the DRIC project consortium membership were established to review and provide feedback on the proposed survey methodology, feedback on the inception report, data collection tools, participate in enumerator training and tool pretesting on the zoom platform. There was also continuous engagement between the gender expert and enumerators during field data collection exercise on the WhatsApp platform and analysis of the input real time Google forms on spread sheet at the end of each data collection day. Finally, virtual validation of survey findings by County ministry representatives and DRIC consortium staff was resourceful. Data collection included sharing of field action photos from the FGDs following verbal consent. Views of children were equally captured at HH level and an adolescents' group FGD conducted with consent obtained from HH head and their organization based in Ngaremara ward respectively. Obtaining of consent and review of data collection documentation was to adhere to survey and research ethical guidelines of ensuring effective processes, accountability, protection of, and respect for, human and child rights.

## CONTEXT OF GENDER DIMENSIONS ISIOLO COUNTY

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### County Integrated Development Plan 2018 – 2022

The objective of the County on gender empowerment is to mainstream gender in all government and private sector to promote equitable socio-economic development between men and women, boys and girls. This will reduce gender inequality at all levels of development.

The County proposes to use a gender socio-economic empowerment approach that aims to increase women and women groups' involvement in own or group productive business enterprise through supporting vulnerable groups to access funds especially the widow and widower groups, utilising affirmative action in the workplace, ensuring institutions employ all gender categories proportionately as envisioned in the constitution of Kenya. It aims at reducing gender related conflicts in the community, take stock of the number of policies formulated and operational that promote gender equality within county programmes addressing barriers that encourage gender disparities, block inter-cultural interactions, diversity promotion and discrimination against women<sup>6</sup>.

### Socio-economic Framework and Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE)

#### Isiolo County Demographic Characteristics

Isiolo county has a total population of 268,002 persons as per the 2019 census and of this 139,510 are male, 128,483 are female, and 9 intersex persons. There is an average size of 4.6 persons per household and a population density of 11 persons per square Km<sup>7</sup>. Male inhabitants comprise of 52% of the total population at 139,510 and female's make 48% being 128,483 women and girls living in Isiolo County. There are 142,333 people living in rural areas and 125,669 live in towns. Male headed HH comprise of 71.6% while female headed HH amount to 28.2% of the total 32,236 HH residing in the County. Literacy levels at the county stand at 59.8%, inhabitants with no form of education are at 42% majority being female living in the rural areas amongst pastoralist HH. The under-five (5) years children comprise of 16% of the population a total of 25,662 of which 13,488 are boys and 12,734 are girls. The population largely consist of Oromo speaking Borana and Sakuye communities, Turkana, Samburu, Rendille, Meru, Somali and other immigrant communities.

#### Economic Characteristics

Isiolo County is one of the 23 ASALs Counties of Kenya with three (3) main livelihood zones; Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Formal employment representing 67%, 26% and 7% respectively. Nearly three quarters of the county's total population lives below the poverty line (IMC, 2011)<sup>8</sup>. The area suffers from chronic drought and food shortage, with HH dependant on food aid<sup>9</sup>. Main economic activities include pastoralism, subsistence agriculture, small scale trade, limited harvesting of gum Arabica resin<sup>10</sup>. Communities residing in Isiolo county mainly the Borana are traditional pastoralist residing mostly in rural areas, other pastoralist communities include

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<sup>6</sup> Isiolo County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP); 2018 -2022.

<sup>7</sup> 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census

<sup>8</sup> IMC – International Medical Corps report, April 2011

<sup>9</sup> Actionaid women leadership in humanitarian crises and conflicts report; 2020

<sup>10</sup> Infotrack research, 2020 countyinfotrak.infotrak

Turkana, Samburu and Rendille who reside both in urban and rural areas while other migrant groups of Meru, Kikuyu practice agri business. Women in most pastoralist HH are house workers with limited education or not educated at all. In urban areas women are in formal employment where they earn a salary, engage in business (small and big enterprises), involved in agri-business and crop production while in the rural areas womens' role remain that of house-work or small businesses.

The county maintains an informal economy largely based on income from pastoralism and cattle trading, agriculture and tourism. Livestock trade accounts for 70%, small scale business 10% and tourism 10%. The poverty rate is 72% with 41% of the population living a nomadic lifestyle. The main agricultural products are beef, milk and limited cultivation of crops<sup>11</sup>.

### **Context of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**

Men control productive assets such as land, livestock and income from these assets. On the other hand, women control low value assets and cannot be leveraged for income. Though the women from pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities have control over their income, they have to share a portion of it with their spouse to keep harmony in the HH<sup>12</sup>. Women are more inclined to patriarchal gender norms and have limited voices in household decision making. Traditional cultural norms especially in rural pastoralist HH limit women and girls to service delivery. Gender based violence (GBV) and harmful cultural practices of FGM and child marriages are prevalent in both pastoralist and agro-pastoralist HH<sup>13</sup>. This is exacerbated by the location with HH in rural settings adhering to cultural practices higher than counterparts in urban setting.

At the marketplace, womens' involvement is found in small enterprises and crop production for sale in rural and urban agro-pastoralist HH. The women led enterprises are more around the household that gives them an opportunity to multi-task between income generating activities and household work.

Shifting norms for positive masculinity is notable among men in pastoralist HH as livelihoods change due to persistent droughts, climate change, diseases, further migration of animals in search of pasture and water, loss of milk as one of the incomes for pastoral women and continuous raiding of animals. These leaves the women with little choice but to take up the role of HH heads and men's role in providing. Men on the other hand come in handy in support of women in their small business enterprises<sup>14</sup>. Separation, divorce, widowhood and polygamy has seen the rise of female headed HH. Younger men were also reported to be engaging more in drug and substance abuse as the role of HH head slowly shifts away with the younger women (formal employment and enterprising) depending on the elderly women (grandmothers, mothers, aunty, elder sisters) to take care of their children.

### **Food and Nutrition**

Key drivers of poor nutrition status in Isiolo County include; chronic food insecurity, high prevalence of childhood illness, inadequate dietary diversity, poor access to safe water, poor

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<sup>11</sup><https://isiolo.go.ke/about-us-2/#.X83P17NRU2w>

<sup>12</sup> Gender analysis of women economic empowerment, Isiolo, Kajiado and Laikipia County; SNV 2017

<sup>13</sup> USAID/Kenya final gender analysis report, 2020 <https://banyanglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/USAID-Kenya-Final-Gender-Analysis-Report.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> From abandonment to autonomy: Gendered strategies of coping with climate change; Isiolo County Nitya Rao Journal, 2019.

hygiene and sanitation practices, and inadequate basic structures (incomes and assets for the households)<sup>15</sup>. Existing coping strategies on how households respond to food shortage or lack of money to buy food: 24% of the HH rely in less preferred and less expensive food; 18% borrow food or rely on help from friends and relatives; 20.5% limit portion size at meal time; 17% restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat; 20% reduce number of meals eaten a day<sup>16</sup>.

During the Isiolo County Smart survey on nutrition and health there was a notable increase of pregnant and lactating women at risk of malnutrition, one of the causes being anaemia and low folic acid levels which was attributed to low nutrition status of the mother<sup>17</sup>.

There was improvement in access to different types of food, these was attributed the good performance of the 2018 long rains. HH dietary diversity increased to consuming more than 5 food groups. Notable however is that the consumption of iron and vitamin A<sup>18</sup> still remains low in most HH.

### **Food Security**

Livestock herding remains the main occupation of Isiolo residents with 38 % of the household heads practicing livestock herding. There was a slight decrease on Proportion of household heads relying on charcoal/ firewood as their main occupation. Sale of livestock as the current main source of income increased from 34% in 2018 to 40% in 2019. Livestock sector was performing well attributed to good performance of the 2018 long rains. Body condition for all livestock species was good with improved milk production and was expected to improve further in all the livelihood zones hence fetching better prices in the market<sup>19</sup>.

However, at the close of 2019 and beginning of 2020 drought an invasion of desert locusts increased food and nutrition insecurity, livestock disease outbreaks, pests and diminishing fodder led to mortality of sheep, goats and cattle<sup>20</sup>. Reduced livestock production meant household mobility, young men had to move the livestock further from the county, women and children lost milk supplies for consumption and sale. Consequently, the drying up of rivers and water pans due to drought forced the women and girls to travel longer distances in search of the commodity. Men who lost all animals had to devise other survival tactics such as supporting relatives (father, father in-law, brother or Clansman) to herd their livestock in exchange for some animals in the form of wages for the labour provided.

Crop failure on the other hand saw an increase in food prices since food consumed was transported from outside the County. Cultural beliefs and taboos have also contributed to women and children

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<sup>15</sup> Integrated SMART survey report(nutrition), Isiolo County, Kenya, 2019. <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

<sup>16</sup> . <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

<sup>17</sup> Iron folic acid supplementation during pregnancy reduces maternal anaemia, risks of low birth weight, which can be obtained from iron rich foods of vegetables, fruits and liver. <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

<sup>18</sup> Iron and Vitamin A consumption are very important for pregnant and lactating mothers for the child's nutritional value; <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

<sup>19</sup> Integrated SMART survey report(nutrition), Isiolo County, Kenya, 2019. <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

<sup>20</sup> Food & Agriculture Organization(FAO) strengthening Resilience in Isiolo, Marsabit and Meru counties

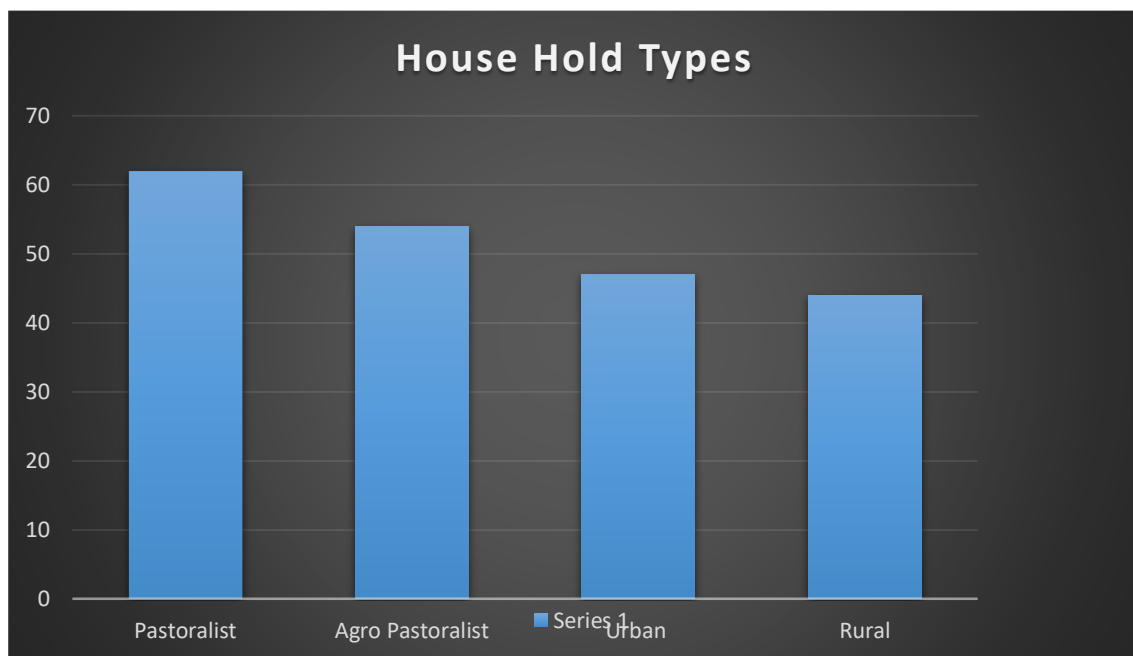
being prohibited from eating certain nutritious foods<sup>21</sup>, leaving them to remain a, ‘preserve for men and young boys’ or deemed to be outside the pastoral community food chain.

### Livelihoods

Per capita water consumption (drinking, cooking and personal hygiene) for Isiolo County was 14.2l/person/day. The food and nutrition survey for Isiolo County indicated that 65.3% of the population relies on piped water for household consumption, 7.8% on boreholes, 8.2% on dug wells and 12.4% from water kiosks and surface water<sup>22</sup>.

Shifting livelihoods in contexts of drought and consequent water and pasture scarcity imply shifts in the gender divisions of labour, alongside control over incomes and processes of decision-making. Livelihoods in Isiolo County is classified into pastoral (livestock keeping) agriculture (farming) and agro-pastoral (both livestock and animal keeping) and non-agro pastoral (neither livestock keeping nor farming). Floods and droughts highly affect livelihoods in the county. In dealing with adherence of climate change HH are diversifying to include both farming and non-farming livelihoods<sup>23</sup>.

Figure 2. Number of HH types reached during Field Data Collection.



Categories of HH surveyed in Isiolo county, pastoralist and agro-pastoralist living in urban or rural settings

Women at pastoralist HH are tasked with taking care of the young and animals and sick members of the family (including the extended family) in addition to their household chores whereas the men and young boys graze the animals. In agro-pastoral communities men’s role is that of taking

<sup>21</sup> Managing Livelihoods risks, Income diversification and livelihood strategies of households in pastoral settlements in Isiolo County Kenya.

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

<sup>23</sup> International Journal, perceptions of the effects if floods and droughts on livelihoods, lessons from arid Kenya; Amy Quandt and Yunus Anthony Kimathi, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCCM-11-2014-0132>.

care of the animals. Women, young boys and girls are the main source of labour for crop production.

### **NGEC Framework and Guidelines for GEWE for Counties**

NGEC guidelines support the application of gender perspectives in county processes. The revised guideline (2019) on integration of gender equality and inclusion in County development provides a window through which counties can engender their processes and make them accessible to every member of the community with emphasis on vulnerable population practical needs and strategic interests. Additionally, the guidelines also highlight areas where some counties have excelled and how comparative advantage can be used as a guide to provide equal opportunities for special interest groups (SIGs). In other counties gender inclusion remains theoretical. This is alluded to contextual existing patriarchal traits. PWDs still remain invisible and the elderly have not been formally programmed for.

The guidelines elaborate why gender matters in community programming; Article 260 of the Kenya Constitution expounds on minorities and marginalized communities and groups. The framework further devises to reach all groups especially vulnerable groups. Envisaging that County processes and interventions will not be gender blind, disability blind and vulnerability blind in progressively accessing the highest standards of health, reproductive health, housing, reasonable standards of sanitation, clean and safe drinking water, formal education and social security among other defined economic and social rights(ECOSOC)<sup>24</sup>.

The guide borrows from the Constitution of Kenya 2010; Article 27(4) that spells out the rights and protection of all people, women, children, PWDs, youths, minors and marginalized groups. It is the cornerstone and basis for promoting gender equality and inclusion. The guidelines further layout the processes of applying gender perspectives at county level being:

- It's the practise of seeing how development program affects women and men in different ways
- Part of every stage of the program should involve analysis and assessing the needs of the entire population
- Mapping all categories and identifying special interest groups
- Be aware of cultural constraints that prevent participation of certain groups.
- Taking into consideration gender equality as a factor in program performance measure.
- Coordination measures for gender equality should aim at improving a process of eliciting action or build a body of good practise<sup>25</sup>.

### **County Frameworks, Strategies and Policies on GEWE**

At county key ministerial level the Gender department falls under the docket of Ministry of Education, Vocational training Youth Sports Gender Culture and Social services and the key role being to direct all activities in the department. The gender national department has seconded an

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<sup>24</sup> 2019 NGECE guideline for Counties

<sup>25</sup> NGECE guide for County government leadership Integration of gender equality in County Development, 2019.

Officer in the County tasked in assisting gender mainstreaming interventions in reference to the national guidelines for counties by NGECC.

Existing policy mechanism, directives or strategies that are in various ministries and departments within Isiolo County emanating from the gender survey KIIs conducted with County Officials of various departments that support or encourage GEWE interventions.



**Table 1.1 GEWE mechanisms in place Isiolo County line Ministries**

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>GEWE Policies, Strategies and Mechanisms in Place</b>
<b>Ministry of Health – Public Health</b>	Human Resources (HR) manual stipulates gender aspects for personnel (recruitment guidelines, maternity and paternity) and service provision – confidentiality on gender issues.
<b>National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)</b>	HR guidelines on recruitment and community participation and inclusive practices.
<b>Ministry of Agriculture livestock and Fisheries (MoALF)</b>	Draft Gender policy (at County Level) and the AGPO(Access to Government Procurement Opportunities) procurement window for women, youth and PWDs.
<b>Ministry of Education &amp; Vocational training Youth Sports Gender Culture and Social services. – Gender Department</b>	Gender policy on youth, women and PWDs in place and the Enterprise development Fund ACT. Borrow from NGEC guidelines on integration of gender equality guidelines for counties.
<b>Ministry of Education &amp; Vocational training Youth Sports Gender Culture and Social services. – Early Childhood education</b>	Gender circular captured from the education policy. Borrows from the National policy on gender Ministry of Education
<b>Health - Nutrition</b>	Not available
<b>Health –Medical</b>	Health committees are engendered with both genders represented.
<b>County Assembly – Health Committee</b>	Gender policy in draft and at the County Assembly level for enactment
<b>Health –Nursing</b>	HR consideration of gender in deployment of nurses to hardship areas
<b>Health –Disease Surveillance</b>	Not Available
<b>MoALF – Livestock and Fisheries</b>	Recruitment, resource allocation and incentives, borrow NGEC guidelines for counties in implementing activities
<b>Ministry of Education – Education</b>	Gender mainstreaming policy and strategy borrowed from national education policy on gender
<b>Health –Community health services</b>	No guidelines but adhere to gender balance in meetings and community activities.

### **Gaps in the GEWE Frameworks, Strategies and Policies at County Level**

The County gender policy is still in draft form, the reference to NGEC guidelines for counties is generic and does not specifically address the contextual concerns and existing gender differential in the communities. The gender department has been designated under the Ministry of Education and Vocational training hence not a standalone department that offers advisory to the different county arms of executive, legislature and every official at the county level charged with the responsibility of providing services, recruiting staff and responding to public concerns. The gender equality and women empowerment guidelines are left to each ministry in implementation and

determining the parameters with which to interact and provide quality social economic rights at the community levels. This notwithstanding the nutrition department has no guideline on gender integration whereas the food security interventions in the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries is more aligned to participation levels and access to tendering processes by the different categories of youth, women and PWDs.

***Respondents of the County key informants (KIIs) on issues that they want addressed in the CIDP on food security, nutrition and gender. The CIDP has existing gaps in engendering nutrition, food security and livelihoods as outlined:***

- Low capacity on food diversification and food security by community members.
- Agency of gender mainstreaming in schools and institutions to foster food sustainability.
- Application of a gender lens in all agri-nutrition projects (recruitment and interventions).
- Agency (representation) on women focused value chains (access and control factors of production and sale), nutrition behaviour change and communication.
- Climate change early warning information systems including welfare indicators of under five-year old children and lactating mothers (the vulnerable groups that shoulder effects of climate change).
- Nutrition sensitivity in food diversification and dietary modification.

## **FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY GENDER EFFECTS IN DRIC PROJECT**

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### **GEWE (GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT)**

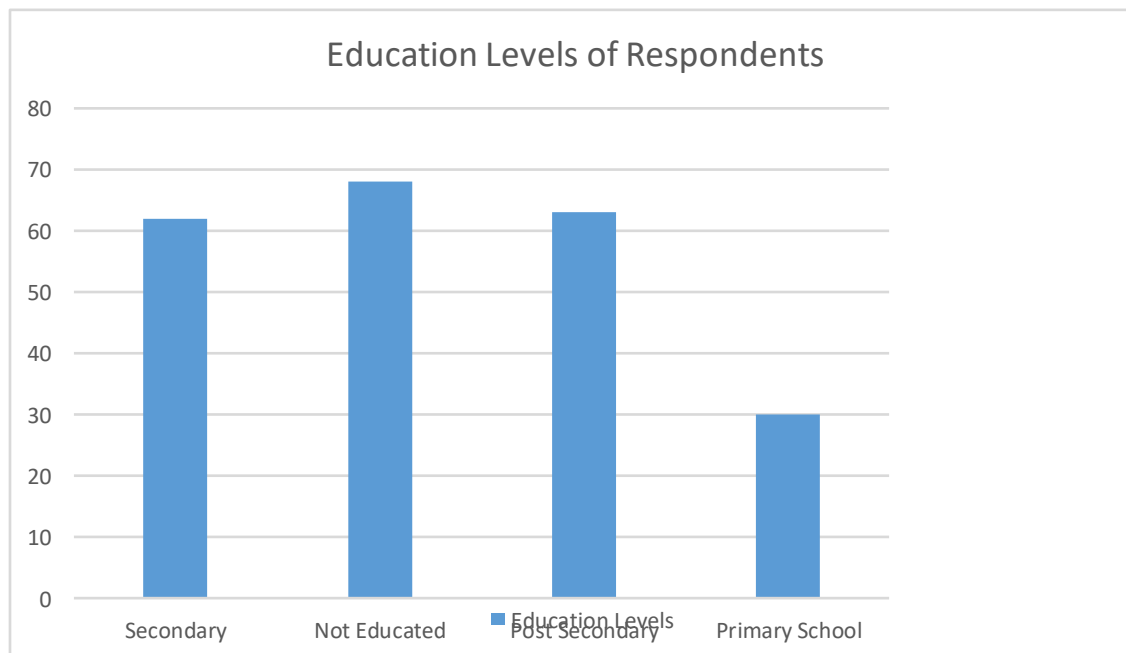
Isiolo County is predominantly male-dominated and patriarchal, as is the case in many societies in the world. The pastoralist and agro-pastoralist HH interviewed during the gender survey in both rural and urban settings shared that men are the sole decision makers at home level on access and use of family assets such as livestock, land, crop production and in some households determine food to be eaten (as they are providers). On equal access to opportunities, participation and decision making at the community level interventions of food security and nutrition; in urban settings women and young girls have access to trainings and financial services, attending committees on nutrition, food security and livelihoods. Unlike their counterparts in rural areas access and contribution to community committees was limited or not there at all. These was attributed to low levels of literacy, overburdened with care work, cultural beliefs, practices and prioritisations at HH level.

Challenges encountered at community and HH level in prioritizing men, women or youth in accessing or being prioritised for GEWE trainings; ***“Yes there exists challenges and most prevalent being that some culture still hold that a woman’s place is the kitchen”***. FGD, with non-formal employment category Agro-pastoralist (practise growing plants for food or sale and keep livestock, live in rural areas far from the market); Group of different categories of persons with disabilities;

HH surveys of respondents in formal employment responses on challenges community members encounter in accessing or being prioritized as men, women or youth for GEWE trainings; ***Cultural barriers still remain prevalent, male dominance and the belief that the place of women being in the kitchen, lacks of qualified professionals to conduct GEWE training at the county and the distance to the training venues was far away and inconvenient for women”***. KIIs respondents in formal employment majority living in urban areas near the markets; categories of Community Health Workers (CHW), County officials, Government administration and Education (Teacher) responses

**Level of education of respondents interviewed at HH;** 68 of those who revealed their education status were uneducated many being women, 62 and 63 respondents had attained secondary and post-secondary education respectively while 30 respondents attained primary school level education.

Figure 3. Education levels of respondent at HH types.



Education Levels of respondents' formal employment and non-formal employment (pastoral and agro-pastoralist HH) living in rural and urban settings.

### Barriers to ensuring gender equality and women empowerment

- Women and girls are overburdened by unpaid care work at the HH level; leaving them with no time to be involved in paid work or other social activities outside the home.
- HH living in urban settings and in waged opportunities had more access to services and opportunities due to high levels of literacy, closeness to the marketplace and services.
- Male dominance in decision making at HH level.
- Cultural beliefs and practices limit women, youths and PWDs participation at the community level and this is exacerbated by lack of community leadership support in prioritization for capacity opportunities and other benefits.
- Women and youth are more involved in production activities and men take up the sale and lease aspects.
- More women are involved in small enterprise however literacy levels and continuous hand picking by community leaders of same focal points lock them out of training opportunities

### Opportunities for enhancing gender equality and women empowerment

- Shifting norms of positive masculinity among emerging men in championing for more women involvement at the community level.
- Literacy programming for women presents an area for mainstreaming with the already on-going drought resilience intervention and not necessarily a standalone intervention.
- Food security and nutrition interventions have an opportunity to engage more with women, youth and PWDs through the SMART farm methodology, introduction of the farming insurance and increasing crop and livestock production per yield.

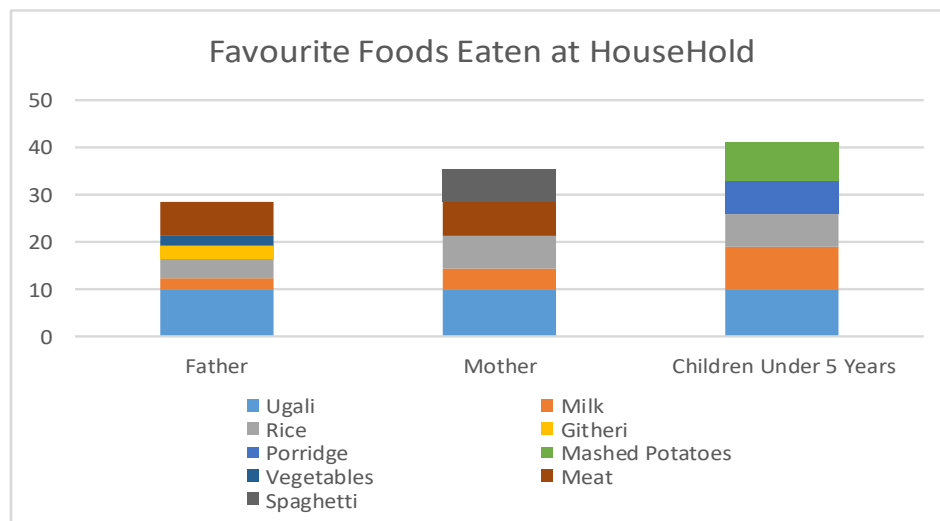
- Linkages – linking the drought resilience interventions and project areas to government services and incentives such as benefiting from farm inputs, fertilizer, upgraded seeds, water projects for both farming and domestic use, GBV prevention and reporting (child marriages) etc.
- Women’s role models already in formal employment and running small enterprises can work closely with the other women in the community especially in rural agro-pastoral and pastoralist communities to have sharing sessions.

## FOOD AND NUTRITION

The common foods eaten at HH level were more of carbohydrate foods among the Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist HH in rural area non-formal employment food types eaten were ugali, milk, rice, spaghetti and githeri and a few eat vegetables; while HH living in urban areas formal employment, agro pastoralist and pastoralist food types eaten were milk, rice, spaghetti, cereals, ugali, meat and vegetables.

*According to respondents from the non-formal and formal employment in pastoral and agro-pastoral HH, children under five years common type of food eaten was milk, rice, porridge (mostly made from maize meal), ugali, mashed potatoes and a few respondents mentioned vegetables/fruits.*

Figure 4. Favourite food eaten at HH level by different categories.



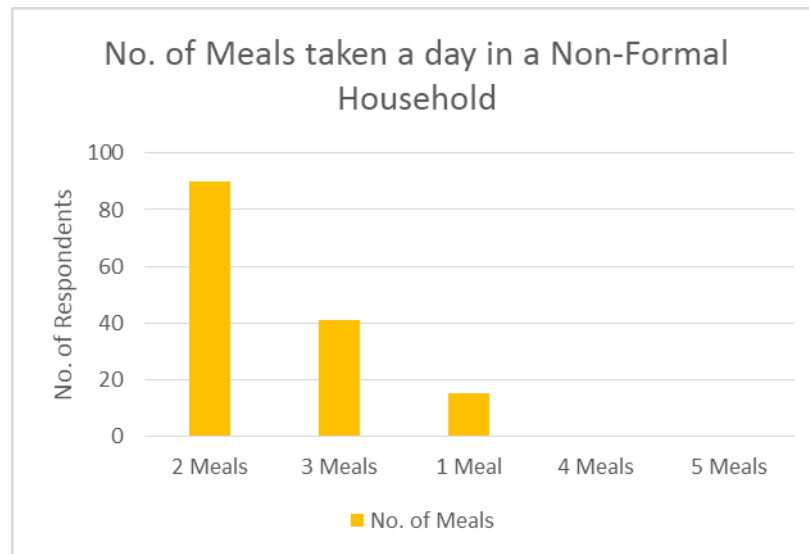
*Variety of food eaten at HH level, rural and urban areas in formal and non-formal employment HH is similar apart from vegetables and meat frequently eaten in formal employment HH residing in urban areas.*

Popular agencies that offer and have conducted food and nutrition trainings in Isiolo county of the 296 HH respondents interviewed from both formal and non-formal employment residing in rural and urban settings include four most mentioned organizations that were County and National Government department of nutrition and CHW, World vision, Living Goods and ACF. Others mentioned at least thrice were VSF, CCM, RedCross, USAID and NRT. Two thirds of the HH respondents have not been trained in food and nutrition.

On who decides what food is to be eaten at the HH level three quarters (269 respondents) said it is the mother while a quarter (27 respondents) cited father. Cultural beliefs on food; once an animal is slaughtered pastoralist and agro-pastoralist HH living in rural settings far away from the market men eat the head, liver and upper parts of the animal, women (young and elderly) eat intestines and hide legs while children below five years eat the heart and liver. There was shifting dynamics on food and nutrition for urban HH in formal employment and enterprising (pastoral and agro-pastoralist) who had the access (live near the market place) had purchasing power to buy meat hence women could choose any part (to buy and cook). In all the HH (formal and non-formal employed) among the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist living in both rural and urban settings the father is served first with large quantities of food which was attributed to him being the head of the HH and requires a lot of energy to provide for the family. Young children are expected to eat small quantities of food while when there is scarcity of food mothers and the young girls eat last or do not eat at all. Pastoralist and Agro-pastoralist HH in rural and urban settings respondents indicated women and young girls income is more budgeted for household food and clothing compared to men and young boys put their money in community obligation and assets.

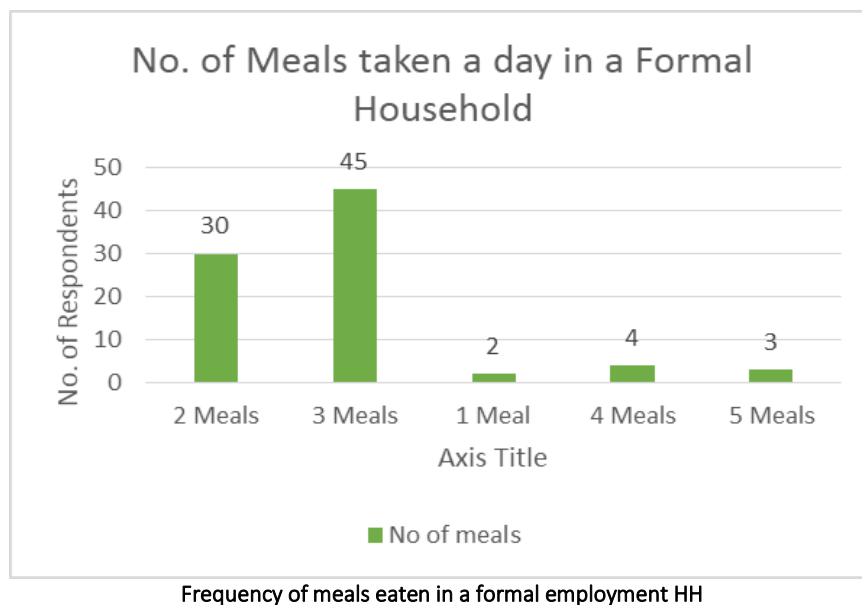
Frequency of meals eaten per HH, most non-formal employed rural settling HH pastoralist and agro-pastoralist of families who eat two (2) meals a day were 90, followed by three (3) meals a day and the least one (1) meals a day. In formal employed urban setting HH some families ate up to five (5) meals a day, majority had three(3) meals a day, followed by two (2) meals a day, four (4) meals a day and least was one (1) meal a day.

Figure 5. Number of meals eaten in a Non –Formal employment HH.



Frequency of meals eaten in a Non-formal employment HH

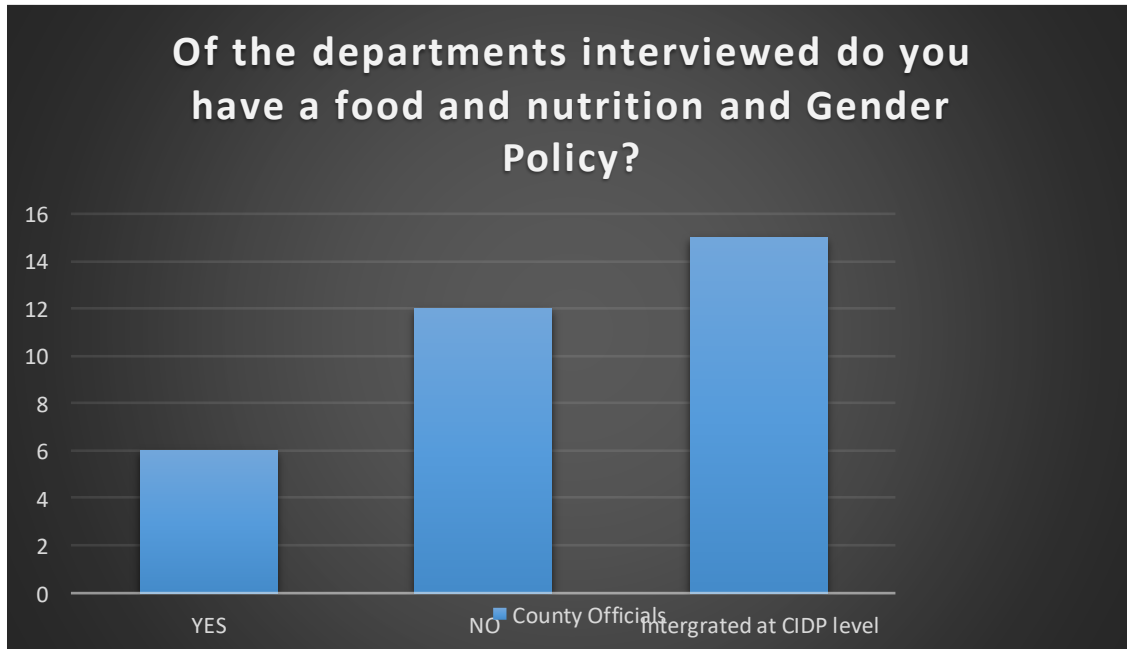
Figure 6. Number of HH types reached during Field Data Collection.



**Challenges cited by respondents on implementing gained food and nutrition knowledge.**

- Low literacy levels amongst pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities living in rural areas making it difficult for women who decide what is to be eaten at home to implement the knowledge gained.
- Poverty – low income households residing in urban and rural setting have no capacity to purchase (low purchasing power) or access the required foods that comprise a balanced diet.
- Cultural practices, beliefs and taboos especially for the pastoral HH that give high value to certain foods and prohibit others. Women, girls and children prohibited to eat certain parts of an animal, game meat, chicken, eggs and some type of vegetables.
- Men and women relationship at HH level where men make most decisions and leave the women to only implement (prohibiting women and youths from attending trainings, contributing towards community committees on food, food security and livelihoods) that support provision of food at HH.
- Lack of required resources such as firewood for cooking; women in most pastoralist HH in rural areas travel far distances to fetch firewood which also exposes them to the danger of GBV.

Figure 7. Departments interviewed on policy of Food, Nutrition and Gender.



*No of Isiolo County Departments that have in place a food and nutrition policy and gender policy*

County officials’ key informants on County departments with nutrition policy were Ministry of health (public health, nutrition and nursing), Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and fisheries, Education and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Ministry of Health, NDMA and MOALF are the only ones that have in place an action plan for nutrition. Most of the departments borrow nutritional guidelines from CNAP (County Nutrition Action Plan). ***Annexe 2 (Available Food and Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihood mechanisms at County Level).***

### **Barriers to ensuring Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**

- HH Poverty as a result of persistent drought, calamities, loss of livestock and crops makes it difficult for families to access a balanced diet (variety of food types). Low purchasing power also limits HH in rural areas far from the market ability to access variety of foods.
- Literacy of women; entrusted with the decision on the food to be eaten (limited knowledge of nutritious preparation processes, what comprises balanced diet foods and feeding practices).
- Cultural practices, beliefs and taboos that prohibit women and children from eating certain parts of an animal; foods such as chicken, eggs, certain vegetables/fruits. On the quantity of food to be eaten men are expected to eat large quantities in comparison to quantities for women and children.
- Womens’ lack of capacity to make decision within the HH and community levels leaves them with limited opportunity to explore innovative ways of addressing access to quality foods for the HH.



## Opportunities for enhancing gender equality and women empowerment

- Presenting opportunity for female headed HH households living both in urban and rural areas to diversify access to a variety of food types through diversification of their livelihoods, access to resources and knowledge.
- Groups involved in food and nutrition programmes supported with linkages to access trainings, decision making platforms at community levels, County government services (pregnant and lactating mothers CHV/CHW visits and advisor), farm inputs and nutrition provisions from partners and donors.

*Mother to mother support groups interviewed during the non-formal employment HH survey in the rural communities said “lack of farming tools to support crop production was a challenge”.*

- Supporting HH to address cultural barriers that hinder adaptation of positive health and nutrition practices, nutritional value of food to be prepared at family level and nutritional needs of different family members when preparing meals.
- Building synergies with County Departments implementing CNAP.

## FOOD SECURITY

Production of crops and livestock rearing is a preserve of women and young boys (women and girls are more tasked with crop production, taking care of the young animals and sick animals) while the young boys are either employed as herdsmen or take up care of family livestock. Women and young girls are tasked with providing labor at home and in the farm, taking care of animals such as the young livestock or sick animals (which are left behind in the homestead), chicken and bee keeping.

**Table 1.2 Extent men, women, young boys and girls are the main source of crop and animal production derived from Formal and Non formal Employment HH.**

GENDER	OF RESPONDENTS SOURCE OF CROP /ANIMAL PRODUCTION	OF TOTAL RESPONDENTS
MEN	71	297
WOMEN	136	297
YOUNG MEN	44	297
YOUNG WOMEN	6	297

**Involvement in food security committees, as members, accessing trainings and taking part in decision making processes.** Survey response indicated that women and young girls benefit more from these platforms both for the formal and non-formal employed HH in urban and rural areas. Though the women and young boys offer the much-needed labour for crop production, they have no access and control over the sale of land or crop harvested, leasing out the lands or the use of value addition technologies. Shifting roles and responsibilities and emerging gender challenges

where young boys and men are engaging in drug and substance abuse abandoning their roles at HH, heightening insecurity both in rural and urban areas.

### **Barriers to ensuring gender equality and women empowerment**

- Lack of value chains and improved technologies on women focused crop production and interventions that address gender and climate change.
- Lack of Food sustainability, public participation on food security at the county level interventions and policy making.
- Impediments of integration and building synergies with other sectors such as WASH (*Mother to Mother support groups cited lack of farming tools and water for their Kitchen gardens*), nutrition, governance (infrastructure development and poor security along farming zones), Disaster risk management (drought and resilience building)
- Legal, policy, administrative, social and cultural challenges to realizing improved food security in the HH.
- Use of non-qualified veterinary personnel who use non - certified animal feeds and drugs.
- Land ownership is communal with women having no say on use nor ownership.

### **Opportunities for enhancing gender equality and women empowerment**

- Gender and climate change strategic opportunities. Women participating in programming strategies and interventions to address climate change.
- Linkages with other key sectors of WASH, governance, health and nutrition, disaster risk management, other likeminded partners and donors.
- Value chains and improved technologies for women food production and sales.
- Policy advocacy through rallying men and women in agriculture to build a mass and increase their capacity to demand for quality services from the County government service providers.

## **LIVELIHOODS**

Type of livelihoods that men, women, young boys and girls engage in varied according to the setting (place they live in rural or urban) and type of livelihood practised. The non-formal employment category HH survey pastoralist living in rural areas; men kept livestock or sold charcoal, the women stayed at home carrying housework, the young boys helped with herding and the girls assisted the mother. Their urban counterparts' men kept livestock in some HH young boys sold hides and skin or engaged in boda boda business whereas the women and girls had small businesses or in casual labour (housework).

Formal employed category living in both rural and urban areas apart from working in formal engagement also either kept livestock, was involved in crop farming or enterprising. In a few HH women were involved in unpaid work.

**Table 1.3 Type of livelihoods men, women, young boys and girls engage in**

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>TYPE OF LIVELIHOOD ENGAGED IN</b>				
<b>MEN</b>	Livestock - rearing & sale	Farming - production & sale	Casual Labour - construction	Employment	Sale of Milk and Honey
<b>WOMEN</b>	Care Work - unpaid	Sale of Milk	Poultry rearing and sale	Small business	Farming – production and sale
<b>YOUNG BOYS</b>	Sale of Hides & Skin	Sale of Charcoal	Boda boda	Herding	Employment
<b>YOUNG GIRLS</b>	Helps Mother at home Care work (paid and unpaid)	Farming - production	Small Business	Youth merry-go-round	Livestock – rearing of the young ones.
<b>Persons with Disability – Young men</b>	Small enterprise	Livestock – rearing and sale	Farming – production and sale	Service provision – shoe making	Tailoring

More (116 men and 33 women non-formal employment HH) young men living in urban and rural settings are involved in income generating activities while the young women mostly in town are the ones involved in activities that generate income; HH survey respondents a total of 42 young women with disability engage in IGA of these 14 live in rural and 28 in urban areas.

Three quarters of men in non-formal employment HH and about half the men in formal employment HH have access to IGA trainings and financial services. When the respondents were asked what they do with the income women and girls reported they use their remittance on food and shelter, men and boys on the other hand spend their income on assets and communal obligations. Young boys were more engaged in trainings and access to finances for IGA, men and women PWDs were the least selected to benefit from IGA services.

At the marketplace more men were engaged in sales of both crop and animals, women and girls participate in small enterprising or housework (three quarters of the respondents from formal employment and non-formal employment HH women and girls revealed they participate in unpaid care work).

Young boys and girls are diversifying IGAs from the traditional livestock rearing and selling and taking up more dynamic enterprises that earn income on a daily basis such as boda boda, carpentry, hair dressing and tailoring.

### **Barriers to ensuring gender equality and women empowerment**

- Burden of care bestowed on women at the HH level leaves them with little or no time to engage in productive roles.
- PWDs and both young boys and girls have minimal participation in their livelihoods because of the stigma and lack of access to information and opportunities to participate in training.
- Rural areas non-access to markets deter HH from engaging in other income avenues apart from crop production and livestock.
- Limited capacity among the young boys and girls as they venture into diversifying livelihoods including IGA trainings.
- Access to trainings and financial services more skewed towards men.

### **Opportunities for enhancing gender equality and women empowerment**

- Women and girls already engaging in IGAs at the urban places near to the market, unlike their rural counterparts. Rethinking on other presenting enterprises rural women can easily and conveniently be involved without comprising care work.
- Devise inclusive approaches, how PWDs can be effectively involved.
- Come up with strategies to support women, young boys and girls access trainings in IGA and financial services.
- Linkages and synergy building with governance, education and disaster management sectors at the marketplace in addressing men dominance in decision making.

## CONCLUSION

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Partnerships, collaboration and coordination mechanisms at County department level already exist with partner organisations working with Isiolo county government in addressing food and nutrition, food security and livelihoods. Survey findings by HH employment category and residence show that there are visible gender dimension gaps existing between HH in formal employment and non-formal employment and women and girls vulnerabilities are heightened by whether the HH lives in rural or urban settings.

Nutrition for under five (5) year old children is left for mothers (women) who are already overburdened with HH care work, have low literacy levels to comprehend nutrition aspects, hindering cultural practices, taboos, norms, food preferences, poor feeding practices, GBV adherence, child marriages, diminishing livelihoods due to prolonged famine, natural calamities and disease and demanding productive roles in urban areas coupled by inaccessible markets.

The agency of women empowerment and men and boys engagement in addressing existing barriers on gender equality, food and nutrition, food security and livelihoods in the County presents; an opportunity to address existing gender disparities (between men and women, boys and girls), track existing equalities and inequalities prevalent in pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, rethink strategic drought resilience approaches and positioning of communities for policy advocacy.

Finally, the DRIC staff has begun implementation of the project on a high note. They have grasped the different areas of intervention as per the individual organisations. However, different organisations are at different levels of understanding in Gender, with some having Gender policy and others not. In this case, the absence of a co-ordinated gender approach limits the staff capacity to assess and analyse their programming from a gender perspective yet the gender perspective has a very high impact on the project. We therefore recommend a gender training for the DRIC staff.

## ANNEXES

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### **Annexe 1: Terms of Reference Request for Proposals**

**Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a Nutrition sensitive  
project to build drought resilience in Isiolo County**

**October 2020**

<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed survey and that the overall objective is to carry out an assessment and capacitate DRIC projects components to mainstream Gender equality and Women empowerment(GEWE) at national and county levels with particular focus on women as binding agents towards improvement of health and nutrition outcomes and HHs FNS in the households.</li> <li>To support the mainstreaming of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in a nutrition sensitive project to build drought resilience in Isiolo County.</li> </ul>
<b>Location</b>	Isiolo County, Kenya
<b>Duration</b>	3 Months
<b>Start Date</b>	21 <sup>ST</sup> October
<b>Reporting to</b>	The firm/organization will be supervised by the Programme Manager – WE WORLD National office and supported by the Project Coordinator based in Isiolo.
<b>Contract</b>	Institutional Contract

#### Annexe 2: Available Food and Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihood mechanisms at County Level.

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Food &amp; Nutrition, Food Security and Livelihood Mechanisms at the County</b>
Health – Health; Planning and Budgeting	In place CNAP – County Nutrition Action Plan
<b>Public Health - Water Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	Integrated WASH and nutrition activities
<b>NDMA</b>	Policy included in Drought livestock diseases and other hazards
<b>Ministry of Education – Gender Department</b>	Draft gender policy touches on nutrition and food security.
<b>Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF)</b>	Adopted National Government Nutrition policy
Health – Nutrition	Yes CNAP focuses on HH food security
<b>County Assembly –Committee of Health</b>	No
<b>Health – Nursing</b>	CNAP offering nutrition services in level 3 & 2
MoALF – Livestock department	Yes Rangeland management policy and livestock sales.
<b>Ministry of Education -Education</b>	Yes principles derived from Kenya Basic Education Act.

#### Departments that have integrated Food Security, Nutrition and Gender in the CIDP

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Food Security, Nutrition and Gender integrated in the CIDP</b>
NDMA	Yes food security, ending drought, emergencies and climate adaptation
Health – Nutrition	CNAP
Education –ECD	Food rations budget
MoALF - Agriculture Department	Yes –Agri-nutrition, promotion of drought resistant crops and gender friendly technologies.
Health – Health	CNAP integrated in CIDP
Health – Nursing and Disease Surveillance	Yes
MoALF – Livestock	Yes in Agriculture sector plan
Ministry of Education	Yes school feeding programme
CHW –Community Health Workers	Yes Nutrition screening tool

### **Departments with Food Security, Nutrition and Gender Action Plan**

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>ACTION PLAN</b>
NDMA	Mirrors the National level and anchors food security
Gender Department	Captured in thematic focus on Agriculture, food security, strategic plan for enterprise fund which has SME linked to agriculture and livestock for food security.
Health -Nutrition	Adapted from National one
Health – Health	CNAP, Food Security and Nutrition except Gender.
MoALF – Agriculture	Agriculture Sector plan
Ministry of Education	Drawn from the national one

### **Annexe 3: References.**

Isiolo County Integrated Development Plan, CIDP 2018 -2022. [cog.go.ke](http://cog.go.ke)

The state of Kenya Population, 2020 <https://kenya.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf>

2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census; Vol 1 Population by County and Sub-county.

Integrated Health and Nutrition SMART survey Isiolo; IMC 2011  
[http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/SMART Survey Reports/Isiolo County Survey Report](http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke/wp-content/uploads/SMART_Survey_Reports/Isiolo_County_Survey_Report)

Actionaid women leadership in humanitarian crises and conflicts report; 2020  
<https://actionaid.org/publications/2020/>

Health and Nutrition SMART survey reports; Infotrack research, 2020 countyinfotrack.infotrack  
County Government of Isiolo; <https://isiolo.go.ke/about-us-2/>

Gender analysis of women economic empowerment, Isiolo, Kajiado and Laikipia County; SNV 2017

USAID/Kenya final gender analysis report; 2020 <https://banyanglobal.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/USAID-Kenya-Final-Gender-Analysis-Report.pdf>

From abandonment to autonomy: Gendered strategies of coping with climate change; Isiolo County Nitya Rao Journal, 2019.

Integrated SMART survey report(nutrition), Isiolo County, Kenya, 2019.  
<http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>  
<http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

Iron folic acid supplementation during pregnancy reduces maternal anaemia, risks of low birth weight, which can be obtained from iron rich foods of vegetables, fruits and liver.  
<http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

Iron and Vitamin A consumption are very important for pregnant and lactating mothers for the child's nutritional value; <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

Integrated SMART survey report on Nutrition); Isiolo County, Kenya, 2019.  
<http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

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Managing Livelihoods risks, Income diversification and livelihood strategies of households in pastoral settlements in Isiolo County Kenya. <http://www.nutritionhealth.or.ke>

International Journal, perceptions of the effects if floods and droughts on livelihoods, lessons from arid Kenya; Amy Quandt and Yunus Anthony Kimathi, 2017.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/JCCM-11-2014-0132>.

NGEC guide for County government leadership Integration of gender equality in County Development, 2019.



**Annex 4: Data collection tools, List of Enumerators, List of Respondents and groups, Data analysis spread sheets.**

**Links for Google form questionnaires – Data Tools:**

ITEM	QUESTIONAIRES Link
HH Survey Formal Employment	<a href="https://forms.gle/wQkEnv3JKtZvBKag9">https://forms.gle/wQkEnv3JKtZvBKag9</a>
HH Survey Non Formal Employment	<a href="https://forms.gle/ehvoXr2pyc8TUrtw5">https://forms.gle/ehvoXr2pyc8TUrtw5</a>
KII County Officials	<a href="https://forms.gle/ziTjUDiz1wcxiwF9">https://forms.gle/ziTjUDiz1wcxiwF9</a>
KII DRIC Staff	<a href="https://forms.gle/KJgJGAq72SaaK7Lr8">https://forms.gle/KJgJGAq72SaaK7Lr8</a>

**Responses, data analysis spread sheets and list of Respondents**

HH Survey Non Formal Employment

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XmU6t1uSjl28wv2khn0siePp3jhlHvSDICG61aiis4o/edit?usp=sharing>

HH Survey Formal Employment

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ywCR0MgGIHg9dE\\_CHa55n7PYcNN-KIwThplQJu9NIil/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ywCR0MgGIHg9dE_CHa55n7PYcNN-KIwThplQJu9NIil/edit?usp=sharing)

KII County Officials

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10zCup\\_N7X1LTu\\_5BirBqmedjZzylVuuPAaj9hKCYeuc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10zCup_N7X1LTu_5BirBqmedjZzylVuuPAaj9hKCYeuc/edit?usp=sharing)

KII DRIC Staff

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jfpmwZMD8f5H4TI63v4SZpDEekdbmLLpkmRsX8NTfKc/edit?usp=sharing>

**List of Enumerators**

Name	Area Based	Contact
Abdul Rashid Ali	Kinna: Kulamawe/Barambate/ Yakbarsadi	0710931025
Juma Dida	Kinna/Rapsu/Moliti/Duse	0706586923
Fouzia Hassan	Sericho: Iresa Boru	0723718663
Rahma Adan jillo	Sericho/Madogashe/Badana	0707612928
Ramathan A.Dahir	Garbatulla/Tana/ Malkadaka	0798460769
Janerica	Ngaremara: Ngaremara /Kiwanja	0712180428

	Ngaremara- Gotu/Boji Deera	
Abdikarim	Cherab-Bassa/Yamicha/ Lafey/Alango	0715794956
	Cherab: Chari-Merti/Matarba	
Catherine Nkatha	Burat, Kilimani, Leparua	0726738582
Juma Golicha	Chari-Bulesa	0728729911
Ibrahim Nura	Chari -Biliqio	0717225706
Mugo	Isiolo County KII – for County Officials	0723706194