Self Help Africa in Kenya works with smallholder farmers to move them from subsistence to commercialisation through a range of projects – from supporting those in extreme poverty, to assisting enterprise development and business partnerships.

SHA works with smallholder farmers, farmer groups and associations across the country, including in the arid and semi-arid areas to address food security and nutrition challenges, and link farmers to markets through a farming as a business approach.

Agri-FI Kenya Challenge Fund

Cassava Aggregation - Supporting Smallholder Agriculture and Value Addition

Programme

European Commission

€ 24,434,786

2018

2022

Innow Development Ltd (IDL)

Nationwide, with a focus on arid and semi-arid lands

Cassava Aggregation - Supporting Smallholder Agriculture and Value Addition

European Commission

€ 7,013,496

2016

2022

UCRC (Uganda Community Resource Centre), Ubuntu Foundation, FAHAL Solutions, Rafiki Microfinance Bank, and TechnoServe

Coastal and Western Regions

Water for Kiptulwa School and Community, Keringet

The Rotary Foundation

€ 86,702

2017

2019

Direct implementation

Keringet, Kiprotwu

Youth Empowerment in Kisumu

Designer Group

€ 50,404

2016

2019

Direct implementation

Kisumu

Baringo Resilience Initiative: Nurturing Greater Opportunity (BARINGO)

European Commission

€ 5,500,000

2019

2024

Farming Systems Kenya and the Sustainable Agricultural Information Initiative

Toby, Baringo North and Migori sub-counties in Baringo County

Kenya Country Profile 2019

Kenya Programmes

Project Key

Kenya
Objective: To improve integration of smallholder farmers/pastoralists in climate-smart value chains.

Agri-Fi Kenya Challenge Fund is a €24 million five-year agri-business support programme that is part of the European Union’s Agriculture Financing Initiative programme.

It supports productive, adapted and market-integrated smallholder agriculture, including a contribution to the Africa Investment Facility.

The objective of the project is to increase the capacity of 100,000 smallholder farmers/pastoralists to practice environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agriculture as a business in inclusive value chains.

Over five years (2018-2022), Agri-Fi will assist smallholder households to move from subsistence farming to a more business-oriented approach.

There will be a focus on:

- Promoting environmentally sustainable farming practices;
- Participation of groups that are often excluded, including women and rural youth. They will have opportunities to participate, and profit from doing business across the value chain through input supply, production, processing, aggregation, marketing and retail.
- Development projects.

At the heart of Agri-Fi is an €18 million Challenge Fund that needs to be matched by the applicants, to support agri-businesses, NGOs and private and civil society interests. The Challenge Fund is backed by contributions from international, private and local NGOs, and by SlovakAid and Self Help Africa (10%).

The programme supports Challenge Fund applicants to leverage investment from European Investment Bank (EB) partner institutions.

Self Help Africa is collaborating with Imani Development, a private economic development consultancy, focusing on three specific thematic areas:

- Climate-smart agricultural inputs
- Agri-processing and aggregation
- Nutrition

The funded projects are required to support businesses in a wide variety of undertakings, including farmer training on climate adaptation, capacity development of cooperatives, equipment investments, improving quality standards, participatory research and marketing and branding investments, among others.

The Agri-Fi project seeks to explore and address some of the barriers to women’s participation, together with the question of access and control of resources. It provides training both to farmers’ organisations and to community-based organisations.

Agri-Fi is backed by contributions from international, public, private and civil society interests. The Challenge Fund is financed by the European Commission (90%), and by SlovakAid and Self Help Africa (10%).

As part of a blended financing model, the programme supports Challenge Fund applicants to leverage investment from European Investment Bank (EB) partner institutions.

The Fund awards grants that need to be matched by the applicants, to support agri-businesses, NGOs and private and civil society interests. The primary challenge is to increase the integration of small-scale farmers and semi-nomadic pastoralists, who are frequently excluded from agri-value chains. Business models have smallholders as suppliers of agri-products or customers requiring inputs, finance and equipment.

At the heart of Agri-Fi is an €18 million Challenge Fund which will be invested in supporting enterprise development projects.

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The Project in Numbers:

- 100,000 total direct beneficiaries
- 10,000 net equivalent jobs created
- 50 agri-businesses supported
- (to increase turnover by at least 25%)
- 15 trade associations supported
- 70% increase in smallholder/pastoralist production
- At least 20,000 hectares under climate-smart land management practices
- 15 trade associations strengthened
- 600,000 livelihoods transformed
Objective: To improve access of rural households to clean water and sanitation.

Located in the fertile Rift Valley, the Keringet area is very rural and lacks basic infrastructure. Most of the population are subsistence farmers with low incomes. In the neighbourhood of Kiptulwa, many households struggle to access clean water for both household domestic needs and for livestock and agriculture, and so have to walk over one kilometre to fetch water from an unprotected source. The main primary school in Kiptulwa has also been without proper latrines or pumped, safe water for a number of years.

In partnership with a local Rotary club (Rotary Keringeta), Self Help Africa is increasing access to clean, safe water and encouraging good hygiene and sanitation practices among the community and primary school pupils. Local water management committees have been set up in the community and the school and have helped to identify needs and appropriate sites for water access points. Two boreholes will be drilled and equipped, two springs rehabilitated, pumps installed and a water tank and tap provided at the school. Already, there are fewer incidences of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases.

- 3,371 with increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene
- 538 school children with access to Water and Sanitation for Health (WASH) facilities at school
- 200 youths (aged 18 to 34)

Objective: To increase access to employment opportunities for 200 youths.

Most young people living in the informal settlements in Kisumu county have limited opportunities to access meaningful employment. Youth unemployment is high in Kisumu, due to the slowdown in employment in the region and the lack of higher education, and is one of the biggest issues facing young people in Kisumu. It has led to idleness, drug use and desperation among youths in Kisumu, especially those found in Kondele and Obunga slums.

In partnership with Designer Group, an Irish construction and engineering company working in Kisumu on the East African Breweries (EAB) site, Self Help Africa is creating opportunities for 200 youths (50% male, 50% female) living near the EAB site to develop basic entrepreneurial, financial literacy and life skills over a 12 month period. A selection of the participants will also be afforded placement and internship opportunities with Designer Group and other local businesses.

Further to this, the Youth Empowerment project will partner with local technical institutions to create opportunities for 30 partial scholarships and internship opportunities in local cooperatives for young people.

- 200 youths (aged 18 to 34)

Objective: To improve access to food, nutrition and income security in northern Kenya.

The Baringo Resilience Initiative: Nurturing Greater Opportunity (BARINGO) project is seeking to contribute to food, nutrition and income security for 60,000 beneficiaries in northern Kenya.

The BARINGO project, which started in 2019, aims to promote secure and sustainable livelihoods amongst individual households that are prone to drought in Baringo County, enabling them to spread their risk and prevent production asset loss.

Mitigating the effects of climate change and building community resilience, the project is seeking to increase the food, nutrition and income security of smallholder agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households in Baringo County.

- 60,000 households