

THANK YOU!

Your generous donations and support have directly helped our climate resilience and food security project in Baringo County, Kenya

Supporting families to cope with climate change

Successive years of drought has made it harder for households in Baringo County in Kenya's Rift Valley to feed and provide for their families. Soaring temperatures and long dry spells have caused crops to fail. Watering holes have dried up, making the lives of marginalised herders even more precarious and uncertain. For four years, Self Help Africa has been working with 10,000 of Baringo's most vulnerable households, helping small-scale farming families and semi-nomadic communities to withstand the worst effects of climate change.

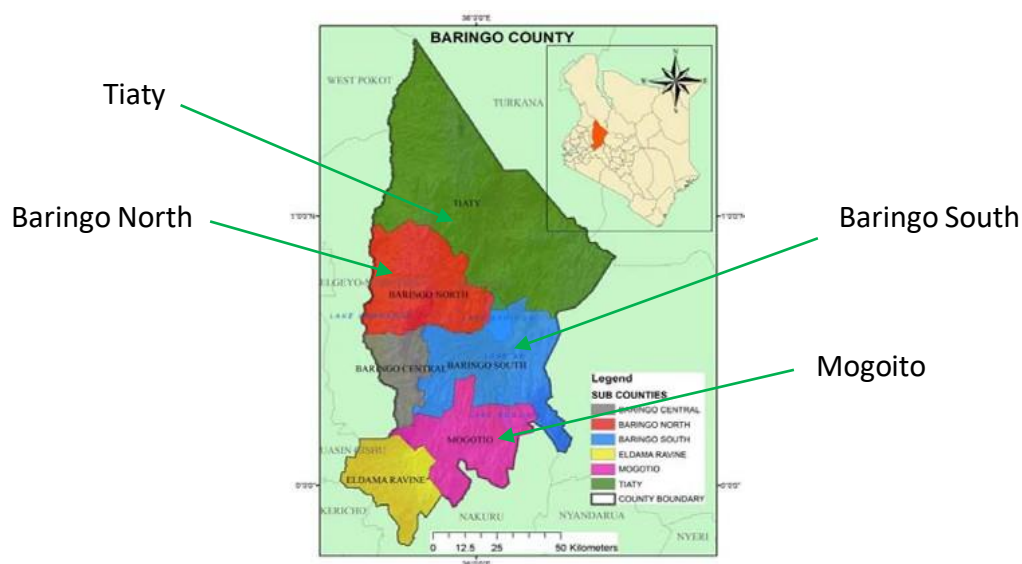
Across an expansive programme of activities that to date has reached over 60,000 people, farming households have been provided with improved quality seed and drought tolerant seed varieties, introduced to new crops that grow better in the hotter, drier conditions, and have been assisted with livestock programmes that have improved the breeding and resilience of goats, poultry and other farm animals.

At last year's Dublin Ball you contributed to this project, enabling Self Help Africa to deliver life-changing projects to these communities.

About the Baringo project

Self Help Africa (SHA) implemented a five-year project (four years plus a no-cost extension for an additional year) entitled **Baringo Resilience Initiative: Nurturing Greater Opportunity (Baringo)** in partnership with Farming Systems Kenya.

The Baringo project fostered secure and sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers, agro-pastoralists, and pastoralists vulnerable to drought. The initiative aimed to enhance food, nutrition, and economic security for 10,000 agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households (60,000 beneficiaries) in four sub-counties of Baringo County, Kenya.



Baringo reach and results

- Overall, the project reached 631 Farmer Producer Groups with a total membership of 12,927 smallholder farmers (67% women) with interventions on increasing crop production, improving nutrition, natural resource management and increasing market access. Originally, the project aimed to reach 400 farmer groups with approx. 10,000 members, however through our effective partnership with Farming Systems Kenya and local adoption/demand we have been able to reach more farmers.
- 118 Mother 2 Mother Support Groups (M2MSGs), with a total membership of 2,519 have been supported and trained through the Baringo project. The focus has been the promotion of optimum maternal infant and young child nutrition. Original target 100 groups.
- 53 Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were trained in maternal infant and young child nutrition; these CHVs are part of the Ministry of Health's remit and they continue to deliver and support the messaging beyond the project timeframes. A breast-feeding week was delivered in August 2023.
- Household dietary diversity has been promoted through Kitchen gardening, including training via 53 CHVs. 520 conical kitchen gardens have been provided (with training on how) for convenient access to green nutritious vegetables for use in the household.
- 5,000 poultry chicks were procured for 50 M2MSGs – these chickens are a vital source of nutrition (eggs, meat) and household income (sale of eggs/chicks, chickens for meat); this is a culturally acceptable way for women and young people to augment their family income.



Clockwise from left: Kitchen gardens with a quick-to-build, water-efficient conical design providing easy access to nutritious vegetables; chickens are a great way for women and young people to raise extra income from eggs, plus a source of nutrition.

- As part of training 537 (target: 400) Lead Farmers in climate smart agricultural techniques, including agriculture and animal husbandry, soil testing was carried out in 574 demo plots; 10,250 farmers adopted sustainable climate resilient practices, and 83 lead farmers were sponsored to attend agricultural shows in Nakuru and Kabernet.
- Access to farm inputs has improved through promotion including certified seeds and seedlings - Sweet potatoes - 476,000 vines; Cassava cuttings – 190,000 cuttings; Green grams – 1032 Kgs of Biashara variety; Finger millet – 901 kgs; Sorghum – 1,800 kg; Nyota variety of beans – 2,000 kg and Ground nut – 2,000 kg. Additionally, seeds for household vegetables were procured for distribution to M2MSGs.
- Crops and livestock activities were increased (promotion of integrated disease and pest management for crops and livestock) - Livestock disease surveillance, vaccination and mass treatment; 7 Plant clinics launched with 17 plant doctors for Marigat, Koriema, Tangulbei, Emining, Mogotio, Barwessa and Kabartonjo; promotion of pasture conservation and fodder production; 46 pasture seed farms established with *Cenchrus ciliaris*; 193 FPGs

established pasture production farms; 13 hay sheds constructed; 20 sets of box balers and brush cutters and 40 milling machines procured.

- Promotion of livestock upgrading included 200 Dorpers, 200 Galas and 60 Sahiwals.



The Baringo project has improved pasture production, post-harvest loss reduction through better storage e.g. hermetic sacks for grain, dry hay off ground stores, natural land management solutions e.g. fencing and flood defences, tree planting, use of climate smart agricultural techniques such as Zaipits, in which seedlings are watered and grown before planting them out in the fields, reducing risk of loss.





Left to right: Dorper sheep, gala goat, Sahiwal cattle. These important livestock provide meat, milk and incomes and the project has improved quality via breeding and medicines access

- Gender and social inclusion training and mentoring was delivered to 34 'Training of Trainers' leads, 640 gender champions within groups. 400 copies of gender training manuals were created, printed and distributed.
- In 20 schools, water harvesting systems established and water, sanitation and hygiene training was delivered through two awareness campaigns; 59 teachers were trained as lead trainers on nutrition and WASH. 1,670 pupils were selected for training on hand washing and hygiene, to cascade messaging to other pupils and to their wider families. An additional 8 wells have been rehabilitated and are serving thousands more.
- 30 vegetable gardens were established in the schools. These were linked to rainwater harvesting systems and water tank storage (10K litre tanks), with run off to supply the hand washing facilities and then run off to feed the school gardens/orchards.



Community Health workers undertaking infant nutrition screening as part of the Baringo project.



Pupils at Marigat Primary School trained as WASH monitors, using the rain water harvesting system for washing hands, then the runoff waters the school garden/orchard. This is one of 30 schools reached by the project.

- Rehabilitation of water sources: 5 boreholes fully equipped (Endao, Kapcheluguny, Koriema, Kamugei and Kamweiton communities) plus 1 water spring pipeline (Kaweiton Lastmile Pipeline).
- Rehabilitation of degraded pasture lands: Maregut (Kipchar Spring), Lamalok Primary School. Training on Farmer-managed natural resources and tree growing delivered and maintenance tools procured.
- Rainwater harvesting: tanks procured and installed for 150 households, 4 x farm ponds created.
- Utilising invasive plant species; workshop on feed formulation; nutritional analysis. 15 milling machines procured for groups.
- Promotion of agri-enterprise development: 60 members of Oron Cooperative in Tiaty trained in business development for livestock, developing a business plan for access to financial services. 37 members of honey aggregation centres trained in business development. Honey handling and processing equipment procured. 48 lead trainers were trained in dryland enterprise development.
- Procurement and distribution of bee hives: a total of 280 Kenya Top Bar Hives (KTBH) were distributed to 54 groups with a total membership of 756 (408F, 348 M) across the project areas. Each of the 54 selected groups received 5 hives and in Baringo South, 14 groups received 70 bee hives, 15 groups in Mogotio received 75, 13 groups in Baringo North received 65 bee hives and 14 groups from Tiaty Sub County received 70 bee hives. The groups have also been trained by the technical team from the county.

- Promotion of access to financial services: 4,113 farmers in 373 groups trained by lead trainers on Village Savings and Loans; to date savings of approx. 9.1m Kenya Shillings (\$70K) and revolving loans to members of 5.7m KSH (\$44K).



*Processing animal feed from invasive species (*Prosopis juliflora*) and *acacia*. The machine can also be used to process hay.*



A honey warmer, preventing crystallisation of the honey, at the honey aggregation centre



Kenya Top Bar Hives at a lead farm in Baringo



The Baringo project has supported market access for farmers and small businesses in various agricultural value chains. Weighing scales for farmer groups have helped them ensure they receive a fair price at the 'farm gate' for their sorghum, millet and maize.

What next?

The climate in Baringo will remain unpredictable with delayed rains, drought and flooding. The Baringo project has helped the local farmers, schools and households become more resilient and prepared for uncertain seasonality. In July 2024 an EU delegation visited the Baringo project. Feedback was highly positive and early conversations have taken place about a possible new food security and climate resilience project in the area, which will build on results achieved; it will have a particular focus on water management.



Thank you for your generous support.