



2023



**FRONTIER COUNTIES  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

## Table of Contents

|                                                                                           |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Foreword from the Chairman .....                                                          | iv  |
| Note from The Chief Executive Officer .....                                               | v   |
| Acknowledgment.....                                                                       | vi  |
| Executive Summary.....                                                                    | vii |
| <b>1. Background</b> .....                                                                | 1   |
| 1.1 About FCDC .....                                                                      | 1   |
| 1.2 What Do We Do?.....                                                                   | 1   |
| 1.3 Vision .....                                                                          | 1   |
| 1.4 Mission.....                                                                          | 1   |
| 1.5 Structure of the Council .....                                                        | 2   |
| <b>2. FCDC Year 2023 in Review</b> .....                                                  | 3   |
| 2.1 Agriculture and Livestock .....                                                       | 3   |
| 2.2 Education.....                                                                        | 3   |
| 2.3 Water and Blue Economy.....                                                           | 4   |
| 2.4 Peacebuilding .....                                                                   | 4   |
| 2.5 Infrastructure Development .....                                                      | 4   |
| 2.6 High-Level Meetings and Events.....                                                   | 4   |
| <b>3. Operational Highlights</b> .....                                                    | 5   |
| 3.1 Governor's Meetings.....                                                              | 5   |
| 3.1.1 The 8th Devolution Conference .....                                                 | 5   |
| 3.1.2 Inter-County Consultations .....                                                    | 5   |
| 3.2 Consultation with development partners.....                                           | 6   |
| 3.2.1 Deris Wanaag Collaboration.....                                                     | 6   |
| 3.2.2 NEDI Frameworks and Strategies Review .....                                         | 8   |
| 3.2.3 FCDC/UNFPA Data Project.....                                                        | 8   |
| 3.3 Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock (SFAL) .....                               | 11  |
| 3.3.1 Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS) Program .....                                  | 11  |
| 3.3.2 Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu Transforming the Environment through Nexus (LISTEN) ..... | 17  |
| 3.5 Sector Forum for Education and Governance .....                                       | 19  |
| 3.6 Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy.....                                          | 22  |
| 3.7 Sector Forum for Peace, Cohesion, and Conflict Resolution .....                       | 25  |
| 3.8 Other Programs .....                                                                  | 26  |
| 3.8.1 Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP).....                            | 26  |
| <b>4 Financial and Human Resource</b> .....                                               | 29  |
| 4.1 Financial Report 2023.....                                                            | 29  |
| 4.2 Human Resources .....                                                                 | 29  |
| 4.3 Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) .....                                 | 30  |
| <b>5. Challenges and Recommendations</b> .....                                            | 31  |
| <b>6 Future Outlook</b> .....                                                             | 32  |
| 6.1 RANGE Project.....                                                                    | 32  |
| 6.2 TRIINK Project .....                                                                  | 32  |
| 6.3 Collaboration with Mercy Corps /USAID NAWIRI on Addressing Persistent Acute           |     |



|                                                                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 6.3 Collaboration with Mercy Corps/ UNICEF on Addressing Childhood Malnutrition (PAM) ..... | 32 |
| 6.4 Collaboration with Raspberry Pi Foundation on Enhancing Computing Skills .....          | 33 |

## List of Abbreviations

|         |                                                                      |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FCDC    | Frontier Counties Development Council                                |
| WB      | World Bank                                                           |
| LISTEN  | Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu Transforming the Environment through Nexus |
| DevCon  | Devolution Conference                                                |
| UNICEF  | United Nations International Children's Fund                         |
| NEDI    | North and North Eastern Development Initiative                       |
| SFoW&BE | Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy                              |
| SFH     | Sector Forum for Health                                              |
| SFAL    | Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock                           |
| SFPC    | Sector Forum for Peace and Cohesion                                  |
| SFE     | Sector Forum for Education                                           |
| LSS     | Livestock Sector Strengthening                                       |
| LaSEF   | Land Sector forum                                                    |
| REB     | Regional Economic Bloc                                               |
| AKU-IHD | Aga Khan University's Institute for Human Development                |
| ECD     | Early Childhood Development                                          |
| MOE     | Ministry of Education                                                |
| NACONEK | National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya                      |
| WB      | World Bank                                                           |
| EKN     | Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands                                |
| REREC   | Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation.              |
| CSG     | County Steering Group                                                |
| UNFPA   | United Nations Population Fund                                       |
| MALFC   | Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives        |
| SDC     | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation                         |
| DALF    | Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries                  |
| KABS    | Kenya Animal Bio Surveillance System                                 |
| CDRs    | Community Disease Reporters                                          |
| AMREF   | African Medical and Research Foundation                              |
| LIC     | Livestock Improvement Centre                                         |
| IPSS    | Institute of Peace and Security Studies                              |
| GaU     | Garissa University                                                   |
| PPG     | Pastoralist Parliamentary Group                                      |
| IGAD    | Inter-Governmental Authority for Development                         |
| CASSCOM | County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee                         |
| CIDP    | County Integrated Development Plan                                   |

|       |                                         |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|
| WCCPC | Ward Climate Change Planning Committees |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|



|         |                                                        |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| WDP     | Ward Development Plan                                  |
| ASDSP   | Agriculture sector development support program         |
| WFP     | World Food Program                                     |
| MIDP    | Merti Integrated Development Program                   |
| VSF     | Veterinaires Sans Frontieres                           |
| NRT     | Northern Rangelands Trust                              |
| LMS     | Livestock Market System                                |
| CCCF    | County Climate Change Fund                             |
| PCRA    | Participatory Climate Risk Assessment                  |
| DLCI    | Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative     |
| KMA     | Kenya Maritime Authority                               |
| IDA     | International Development Association                  |
| HoAGDP  | Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project             |
| CDI     | Catholic Diocese of Isiolo                             |
| GRC     | Grievance Redress Committees                           |
| GRM     | Grievance Redress Committees Mechanism                 |
| ICCN    | Isiolo Civil Society Network                           |
| KeNHA   | Kenya National Highway Authority                       |
| KANCO   | Kenya Aids NGO Consortium                              |
| KIEC    | Information Education Communication                    |
| FMB     | Frontier Counties Development Council Management Board |
| AFRALTI | African Advanced Level Telecommunication Institute     |
|         |                                                        |

---

## Foreword from the Chairman

---



The establishment of FCDC is rooted in a strategic vision to enhance collaboration within the devolved context. Operating as a county-driven mechanism, FCDC aims to amplify the collective voice of its ten member counties, emphasizing crucial elements such as political ownership and goodwill. As a cohesive institution, FCDC mobilizes joint efforts to effectively address persistent regional challenges, seize emerging opportunities, and implement innovative practices. Going beyond immediate concerns, FCDC lays the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development, peace, and cohesion, with a focus on lasting positive impacts. Additionally, the mechanism serves as a dynamic platform for the exchange and dissemination

of innovative practices, fostering a culture of shared learning and adaptability. Furthermore, the FCDC plays a pivotal role in coordination and advocacy, ensuring a unified and strategic approach to regional advancement.

As the Chairman of FCDC over the past two years, I take great pride in the significant strides we have achieved. Our collaboration with Member Counties and the National Government, facilitated through the Sector Forums, and the North East Advisory Group for Development Partners, has notably increased operational effectiveness. This encompasses the implementation of strategic initiatives, the exchange of experiences and best practices, and capacity-building for County Executives and Assemblies. These concerted efforts translate into tangible improvements in services for our end-users, and for this, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our unwavering Development Partners.

The frequency, strategic focus, and impact of Governors' meetings have grown substantially. I commend my fellow Governors for their steadfast support and collaborative spirit in advancing our shared goals. Special acknowledgment goes to the FCDC Secretariat, led by the CEO, for their commendable performance, and I urge them to persist in their pursuit of excellence. Looking ahead, we envision more prosperous Frontier Counties contributing to a stronger and more empowered nation through entrenched devolved governance. Our ultimate goal is an economically empowered FCDC region living in harmony with itself and its neighbors. God bless FCDC.

**H. E. Hon. Mohamud M. Ali, EGH**  
Chairman, FCDC, and Governor, Marsabit County



## **Note from The Chief Executive Officer**



The inception of the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) in 2016 marked a pivotal moment in the collaborative endeavors of the FCDC region. After two years of careful consideration and thoughtful process, the objective was clear: to foster synergies, improve coordination and cooperation, and fortify institutions for regional development. This journey reached its pinnacle with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on March 2, 2016, initially by Governors of seven counties – Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera, and Isiolo, leading to FCDC's official registration on April 21, 2016. The forum expanded its membership to ten counties in September 2018, welcoming Samburu, Turkana, and West Pokot. Operating under the regulatory framework provided by respective County Assemblies through the FCDC Act, the Council executes its mandate through Sector Forums.

Three Development Partners supported FCDC during its initial stages: The World Bank Kenya Country Office, The United Nations Regional Coordinator's Office in Nairobi, and the Embassy of Switzerland in Kenya.

In 2023, there was substantial growth in Strategic Partnerships, activities, services, and human resources across various sectors. Key focus areas included Agriculture and Livestock, supported by the Livestock Sector Strengthening Program and LISTEN, funded by the Swiss and Dutch Governments, respectively, and the Education sector, backed by funding from the Aga Khan University Institute of Human Development. Our impact on the Water & Blue Economy, Peace & Cohesion, and other sectors has been equally significant.

The visionary oversight of the FCDC Governors, who consistently fostered collaboration between Counties, the National Government, and other partners, played a crucial role in our growth. We extend our gratitude to the successive Chairs of FCDC, Gov. Nathif Jama (2015 to 2017), Gov. Ali Roba (2018 to 2022), and the current Chairman, Gov. Mohamud Ali (from 2022). I also commend the strong leadership of my predecessor, Hon. Mohamed Gulleid, for his focused stewardship, and I intend to draw heavily from his successes to uphold the growth of FCDC.

The support received from National and member County Governments, the Donor community, Development Partners, the Private Sector, and Civil Society organizations during 2023 has been invaluable. I extend my gratitude to all contributors for their efforts in making the year a success.

The annual report provides insights into our current engagements, facilitating collaboration and scalability. To ensure successful implementation and address the accompanying expansion, we have revised our human resource and finance manuals and developed a cost-sharing policy to accommodate negotiated cost agreements with partners. The Council is cognizant of County Governments' challenges and has adopted innovative funding strategies, including implementing the cost-sharing policy.

In closing, I appreciate our Editorial Board, Sector Coordinators, and the entire FCDC staff for their invaluable contributions to our mandate. I trust this report will inspire you to participate more in our collective efforts. Long Live FCDC!

**Dr. Idle Farah**

C.E.O, FCDC



## **Acknowledgment**

---

The FCDC Secretariat is grateful for the cooperation and unwavering support from our development partners and stakeholders; they enabled us to achieve the activities covered in this report.

The secretariat is also thankful to all the governors from our member counties for their selfless support and continued stewardship, which have enabled us to achieve our mandate to serve our people.

We particularly appreciate all our Sector Forum Coordinators and Staff who have been working enthusiastically with our esteemed partners in resource mobilization to support various activities and program implementation to improve the lives and livelihoods of communities in the FCDC region.

Lastly, we thank the editorial board members for their diligence in developing this detailed report.





## Executive Summary

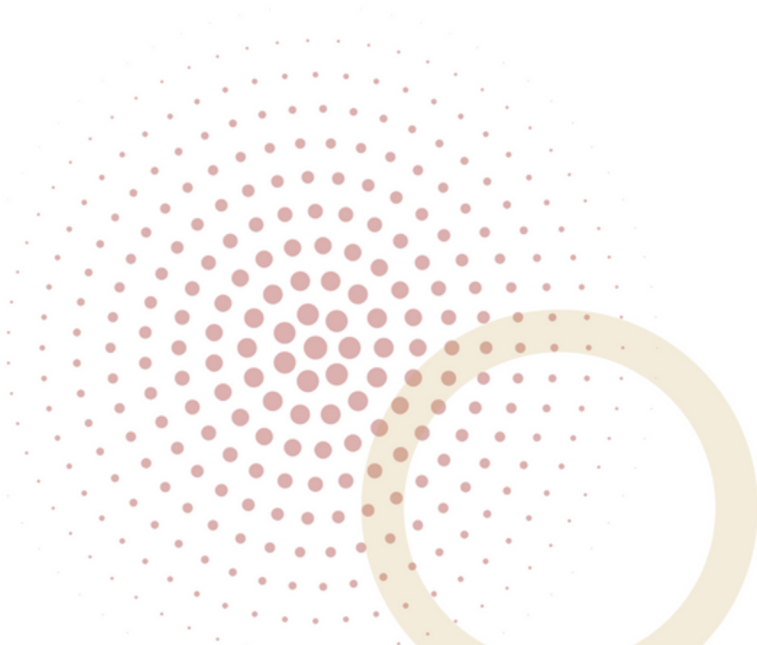
The FCDC Annual Report for 2023 underscores the significant strides made toward fostering peaceful, prosperous, and equitable development across its ten member counties. Since its inception in 2016, FCDC has been a key player in addressing historical marginalization while harnessing the potential of devolution opportunities.

The report starts with an overview of FCDC's establishment, highlighting its pivotal role in amplifying cooperation, coordination, and information flow among member counties. The Sector Forums, each with a dedicated coordinator within the FCDC Secretariat, tackle specific challenges head-on.

The Report then delves into a detailed account of FCDC's achievements in 2023, spanning vital sectors such as Agriculture and Livestock, Education, Water and Blue Economy, Peacebuilding, Infrastructure Development, and High-Level Meetings and Events. The report highlights successful vaccination campaigns and robust partnerships with notable organizations like the United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the Swiss Development Agency, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Aga Khan University, Mercy Corps, and SNV.

Operational activities, including Governor's Meetings and Consultations with Development Partners, are highlighted. FCDC's active participation in the 8th Devolution Conference is a focal point, with insights from Governors and Development Partners emphasizing the vital aspects of cooperation, collaboration, coordination, equalization, and strategic projects.

The combined impact and accomplishments of 2023 showcase FCDC's unwavering commitment to evidence-based planning and integrated development strategies. The report accentuates the council's pivotal role as a catalyst for positive change, addressing historical marginalization and championing data-driven policies. Collaborations with UNFPA, SFAL, and the successful LISTEN Project demonstrate a nuanced, community-focused approach, ensuring resilience and environmental consciousness in the Frontier Counties. In essence, the report underscores FCDC's dedication to fostering regional collaboration, sustainable practices, and inclusive development.



## F.C.D.C Counties







## **1. Background**

### **1.1 Establishment of FCDC**

FCDC is a Regional Economic Bloc (REB) established in 2016 following two years of reflection among member counties and their development partners on how they could create synergies among themselves, enhance coordination and collaboration, and strengthen institutions that would take the lead in developing the region. The reflections climaxed in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 2nd March 2016 by Governors of the seven counties of Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera, and Isiolo, agreeing to create FCDC and paving the way for its official registration on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016. On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018, three counties, Turkana, West Pokot, and Samburu, joined the bloc, bringing the total number of member counties to ten.

The FCDC counties occupy 63% of the Kenyan landmass and constitute 11% of the national population but contribute only 4.7% (cumulatively) to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The FCDC counties have suffered prolonged marginalization and persistent inequality with respect to other regions in Kenya for over 50 years post-independence. In addition, the FCDC Counties are largely arid and partly semi-arid and hence are afflicted by natural resource limitations occasioned by climate change characterized by recurrent droughts.

The Council has a Secretariat and offices based in Nairobi, with technical and management staff drawn mainly from the FCDC region.

### **1.2 The Mandate of FCDC**

- We at FCDC believe that genuine development and long-term peace can only be accomplished through all stakeholders' joint and coordinated efforts, with communities at the center of all activities.
- We intend to assist our member counties in contributing to and profiting from devolution's tremendous prospects by strengthening peace and security, fostering a business-friendly climate, and improving service delivery by acting as catalysts and facilitators.
- We focus on improving people's access to critical services in agriculture and livestock, education, water, land, and peace and cohesion. Our advocacy work ensures that development initiatives are conceived and executed in response to the priorities and needs of the communities.

The council's objective is to address historical marginalization and take advantage of the opportunities presented by devolution to front a common agenda for peaceful socio-economic development. FCDC promotes cooperation, coordination, learning, and information flow between counties to enhance socio-economic development, promote peaceful co-existence among its member counties, and strengthen devolution and subsidiarity of counties, sub-counties, and wards.

FCDC is mandated to facilitate the review and the integration of relevant policies, mainly those directly affecting frontier counties, to ensure better collaboration among concerned agencies and authorities beyond frontier counties' boundaries and jurisdictions.

FCDC has established Sector Forums to enhance cooperation, coordination, and information flow between counties in specific sectors. Sector Forums established so far include Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock (SFAL), Sector Forum for Peace and Cohesion (SFPC), Sector Forum for Health (SFH), Sector Forum for Lands and Physical Planning (LaSEF), Sector Forum for Education (SFE) and Sector Forum for Water & Blue Economy (SFoW&BE). Each Sector Forum has a Coordinator within the FCDC Secretariat.

### **1.3 Vision**

"A Peaceful, prosperous, and equitable Frontier Counties where people achieve their full potential and enjoy a high quality of life"

### **1.4 Mission**

A Peaceful, prosperous, and equitable Frontier Counties where people achieve their full potential

A peaceful, prosperous, and equitable frontier counties where people achieve their full potential and enjoy a high quality of life.”

## 1.5 Structure of the Council

The Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) operates under a structured framework to facilitate effective governance and development initiatives. At its helm is a chairperson selected from among the governors, alongside nine other governors who form the council’s membership. Together, they offer invaluable insight and direction on matters pertaining to policy formulation and legal considerations.

### GOVERNORS SUMMIT

The Governors of The Member Counties  
& The Secretary C.E.O

### FCDC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Chairperson of Forums For Speakers Majority Leaders,  
Minority Leaders & Women Caucus

### FCDC SECRETERIAT

C.E.O; Deputy C.E.O; Chief Operating Officer (C.O.O)  
Project Managers: Finance & Administration Advisor, Technical Advisors;  
Sector Forum Coordinator; FCDC

### FCDC SECRETERIAT

Agriculture & Livestock Sector  
(SFAL) - 10 CECMs

Peace & Cohesion Sector  
Forum -(10 CECMs)

Health Sector  
(SFH)-10 CECMs

Land & Physical Planning Sector  
(LSF)-10 CECMs

Youth, Innovation and E-Government Sector  
(SFYIG) - 10 CECMs

Education Sector  
(SFE) - 10 CECMs

Water, Environment & Natural Resources Sector  
(SFWE)-10 CECMs

Facilitating the day-to-day operations of the FCDC is a dedicated secretariat comprising six specialized sectors, as well as a finance and administration unit. Under the astute leadership of the Chief Executive Officer and a proficient Management Team, the secretariat oversees the implementation of the council’s objectives. The six sectors encompass agriculture and livestock, water and blue economy, peace and cohesion, education and governance, health, and land.

Each sector is staffed by technical experts tasked with providing both administrative support and specialized knowledge essential for the successful execution of projects and initiatives. By leveraging the collective expertise within these sectors, the FCDC endeavors to address the frontier counties’ multifaceted challenges, fostering sustainable development and progress across the region.

## **2. FCDC Year 2023 in Review**

The year 2023 was a highly productive period for FCDC and its partners, with significant programs, meetings, collaborations, and engagements across various sectors to further the development agenda for the Frontier Counties.

### **2.1 Agriculture and Livestock**

The Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS) program played a crucial role in the livestock sector. It successfully conducted large-scale vaccination campaigns, protecting over 302,000 animals against priority diseases such as PPR, CCPP, Black Quarter, Sheep and Goat Pox, and Lumpy Skin Disease. These interventions reached nearly 18,000 beneficiaries in Lamu, Garissa, and Samburu counties, reducing livestock deaths and disease prevalence.

The LSS program also facilitated three strategic SFAL coordination meetings attended by FCDC, county executives, national representatives, and stakeholders. These meetings focused on disease control frameworks, vaccination campaigns, and policy advocacy priorities. Additionally, LSS organized a partner's roundtable meeting in Garissa, gathering insights from 20 organizations engaged in livestock development.

Infrastructure developments were also evident in the livestock sector. LSS supported fencing and seed provision for a 100-acre fodder farm at the Nomotio Livestock Improvement Center, which is expected to yield 12,000 hay bales annually. Fodder production training and seed support were provided to farmers in Marsabit and Mandera, which are projected to increase annual hay output by 500 tonnes and thus contribute to fodder production and enhance livestock development.

Progress was also made in disease surveillance and reporting. LSS engaged with county governments to strengthen the capacities of technical teams and community disease reporters. Refresher training for 23 disease reporters was conducted during the vaccination campaign in Garissa. Cold chain improvements were also initiated by providing RVF diagnostic kits to Garissa County.

LSS also facilitated the establishment of the Regional Pastoralist Association, bringing pastoralist groups from frontier counties together in a workshop to deliberate on a draft constitution. The association advocates for pastoralist issues, empowers communities, and promotes sustainable rangeland practices.

### **2.2 Education**

FCDC forged strategic partnerships to strengthen early childhood development and computing skills in the education sector. A significant collaboration was formalized with Aga Khan University's Institute for Human Development (AKU-IHD), securing an initial grant funding of KES 5.3 million. The activities focused on forming an Education Sector Forum and gathering data towards developing an ECD Sector Plan tailored explicitly to FCDC counties. Two planning workshops were held with AKU-IHD, bringing together stakeholders like MOE, NACONEK, and USAID to establish objectives and strategies. A subsequent CECMs forum meeting officially elected leadership and reviewed preliminary survey findings to refine the ECD Plan outline.

FCDC also initiated a partnership with Mercy Corps under the USAID NAWIRI program. This partnership aims to contribute to Nawiri's goal of reducing levels of persistent acute malnutrition in Samburu and Turkana counties through advocacy and policy influence at national and county government levels. Furthermore, FCDC partnered with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, securing up to GBP 200,000 to promote computing skills training for teachers and out-of-school youth across 8 FCDC counties.

### **2.3 Water and Blue Economy**

The newly established Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy (SFoW&BE) displayed active engagement, organizing inaugural meetings in early 2023 that brought together county water directors, CECMs, and stakeholders. A Development Partners Roundtable was conducted to explore collaboration and resource opportunities. Strategic discussions were held with partners like the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) to align priorities between SFoW&BE



Sensitization workshops were held to gather feedback on harnessing Blue Economy opportunities in Lamu and Tana River counties. Ideas emerged around investments in eco-tourism, agriculture, renewable energy, fishing, and maritime trade. However, challenges such as environmental sustainability, capacity building, and governance were highlighted. Recommendations emphasized multi-stakeholder collaboration and sustainable Blue Economy models.

Internally, progress was seen through sharing a draft concept note on SFoW&BE and reviewing the FCDC Blue Economy Framework to refine priority thematic areas and activities. Continuous stakeholder engagement efforts are underway in respective counties.

## **2.4 Peacebuilding**

In the peace and cohesion sectors, FCDC provided technical assistance to Isiolo, West Pokot, Marsabit, Garissa, and Samburu counties to develop customized policies, bills, and roadmaps for institutionalizing peace structures. Workshops facilitated by peacebuilding experts enabled counties to tailor draft FCDC frameworks to their unique contexts. These efforts fostered goodwill and buy-in from county assemblies and executives to ratify the initiatives. As a result, Isiolo, West Pokot, and Marsabit have finalized their peacebuilding frameworks.

FCDC also extended support towards registering communal lands in Garissa, Samburu, and Marsabit counties to secure community rights. The Kamuthe has received its land title, while efforts on other registrations continue. Assistance was provided to the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group to advocate for priorities impacting pastoralist communities, such as equalization funds, livestock marketing boards, and climate financing mechanisms.

## **2.5 Infrastructure Development**

Under the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project, FCDC plays a third-party monitoring role for the project. Activities in 2023 included producing gender-sensitive community profiles for project-affected wards to inform engagement strategies. Community meetings were held to provide updates and gather feedback in collaboration with local entities. Training sessions were conducted to equip grievance redress committees with dispute resolution skills. Media engagement aimed to share project information and address concerns reached approximately 50 journalists.

## **2.6 High-Level Meetings and Events**

Significant high-level meetings and events were held in 2023. FCDC actively participated in the 8th Annual Devolution Conference, showcasing achievements through an interactive booth. A breakfast meeting at the event gathered insights from Governors and Development Partners on Frontier County development priorities and collaboration prospects.

Introduction meetings were held with County Leaders regarding the Kenya-Somalia Borderlands collaboration initiative supported by Deris Wanaag. These meetings familiarized officials with the program's objectives and opportunities. Two workshops reviewed progress on the World Bank's North and North Eastern Development Initiative (NEDI), validating project frameworks and strategies across sectors.

Furthermore, FCDC signed an MOU with UNFPA to strengthen demographic and socioeconomic data analysis for evidence-based planning. Workshops were conducted to gather insights from county officials and experts in order to refine indicators and align development priorities. The initiative aims to produce comprehensive country-specific data reports to guide decision-making.

Overall, 2023 marked substantial progress for FCDC, reflecting impactful programs, enhanced coordination, strategic partnerships, and engagements across various focus sectors. These efforts have laid robust foundations for uplifting Frontier County communities. The key achievements made across various focus sectors will be discussed in detail in the following sections of the report.

### **3. Operational Highlights**

#### **3.1 Governor's Meetings**

##### **3.1.1 The 8th Devolution Conference**

The 2023 Devolution Conference, held from August 15th to 19th in Eldoret, marked a significant convergence of government officials, development partners, and stakeholders focused on enhancing the devolution process in Kenya. The conference gave FCDC a critical opportunity to engage with other stakeholders, discuss challenges, share best practices, and forge partnerships.

FCDC proudly highlighted our initiatives and progress through an interactive and detailed booth. Our exhibit showcased sector-specific factsheets reflecting our achievements and plans, aligning with devolution goals. These documents emphasized our mission, the strides we've made, the challenges we face, and our collective aspirations for the FCDC counties.

Visitors to our booth gained insight into the unique developmental strategies of each FCDC county, presented through tailored sector plans that spanned critical areas such as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and agriculture. We also presented investment prospectuses, inviting stakeholders to discover and contribute to the growth opportunities fostered within our regions.

Cultural heritage was vividly displayed, with artifacts celebrating our rich and diverse traditions, underscoring the devolution aim of empowering local identities. Additionally, our socio-economic plans were available, outlining our comprehensive approach to development to tackle poverty, unemployment, and inequality and promoting sustainable growth and resilience. This thorough presentation at the conference underlined our commitment to devolution principles and the empowerment of Frontier Counties.

##### **3.1.2 Inter-County Consultations**

The breakfast meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, in Eldoret, was a significant forum for high-level profile decision-makers from the County level and Development Partners. This gathering, held on the sidelines of the devolution conference, focused on three critical areas. First, it facilitated the interaction between FCDC Governors and development partners, enabling them to exchange strategic inputs and collaborative frameworks. Second, the event provided a platform for development partners to evaluate the current status and envision the future trajectory for the Frontier Counties and the Council. Lastly, plenary sessions were organized, allowing Development Partners and Excellency Governors to present their regional plans and discuss how the FCDC Counties can engage and benefit from these strategies. The following were the outcomes of the meeting;

- i. Development Partners and the government should jointly push for more equalization between the counties and at the national level and support the Frontier Counties in their endeavors.
- ii. There is a need for better communication and collaboration between development partners, especially in areas such as trade corridors and water. Addressing the issue of water scarcity has been a significant concern for the country's economy and livelihoods.
- iii. Implementing mega projects that will have more impact, such as the construction of major dams that will be used to store water that can be utilized for irrigation and watering livestock.

#### ***Insights from Governors***

- **Isiolo County-** Acknowledged the equalizing effect of devolution but noted that Frontier Counties are still behind. The county leadership is focused on project implementation that changes livelihoods and builds resilience, especially against climate change.
- **Samburu County-** Identified water security as the primary challenge and foundation for addressing other county development issues.



addressing other county development issues.

- **Mandera County**- Expressed a commitment to supporting development partners through compliance and co-funding, with a shift toward resilience-based programs and long-term solutions for drought and climate change.
- **Tana River County**- Emphasized the need for continuous engagement and support from development partners.
- **Lamu County**- Highlighted the urgent issue of climate change, precisely the rising sea level and its impact, and the necessity for sustainable water solutions like solar-powered boreholes.
- **Wajir County**- Urged an emphasis on uniform development nationwide and the timely allocation of government resources for project completion and infrastructure development.

### ***Insights from Development Partners***

- **European Union (EU)**- Stressed the necessity for a strategic “catch-up” plan to tackle regional inequalities and ensure Frontier Counties do not lag while emphasizing the interdependence of development and security. The EU is ready to lend expertise on establishing an Equalization Fund and to collaborate on resilience building, particularly in climate-related issues, to leverage the North for climate solutions. They highlighted the Global Gateway for facilitating investments through soft loans.
- **The World Bank**- Focused on a holistic approach to development through the NEDI Framework and the new CPF, targeting increased productivity, inclusivity, and resilience to future crises, particularly climate-induced ones. The World Bank is keen on ensuring the efficient implementation of its investments and maintaining agility to support the country's development goals.
- **Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN)**- Concentrated on economic cooperation, with a new strategy to bolster trade and investments in key sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, health, and logistics. The EKN underlined the importance of stability and resilience, proposing significant food and water security investments and climate adaptation initiatives.
- **Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC)**- Shared their efforts in expanding grid infrastructure and renewable energy solutions, emphasizing the importance of county partnerships for successful project implementation. They introduced innovative approaches like cost-sharing arrangements to speed up the execution of energy projects.

## **3.2 Consultation with development partners**

### **3.2.1 Deris Wanaag Collaboration**

Deris Wanaag is a cross-border project covering Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Lamu, seeking to enhance peace and stability and strengthen social and economic dynamics in the border areas between Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. The project acknowledges that enhancing peace and stability and improving social and economic conditions can only be achieved through increasing collaboration between the three countries, respective local administrations, and communities across the borders.

The objectives of the project are:

1. Support effective policy and programming informed by a comprehensive understanding of the conflict and violent actor dynamics, structures, and actors.
2. Strengthen formal and informal mechanisms (including cross-border mechanisms) to build resilience.
3. Address community needs to mitigate against drivers of instability and violent extremism.



A high-level meeting for introduction to the Kenya Somalia and Ethiopia Borderlands Programme (Deris Wanaag) was held in Nairobi on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the newly elected leadership of the four counties with the Borderlands Program, clarifying its objectives and the expected advantages, and detailing the supportive role of the British High Commission. This gathering aimed to establish a shared understanding and encourage collaborative input, aligning county leaders with the program's strategic vision.

The event brought together stakeholders, political leaders from both levels of government, representatives from the British High Commission, and subject-matter experts and facilitators, all converging in the North Eastern region to partake in this engaging and insightful dialogue. The following were the outcomes and key take-ways from the meeting;

- i. FCDC county leaders now clearly understand the Borderlands Development Initiative and are aware of the initiative's benefits and the British High Commission's support.
- ii. The meeting fostered constructive engagement, encouraging county leaders to provide valuable insights and perspectives that can inform the initiative's design and implementation.
- iii. Engagement on the ground and the project's impact need **to be felt in the communities. There is a need for enhanced coordination with the county governments**, possibly by including the project in County Steering Group (CSG) meetings.
- iv. Conflict sensitivity is key as all conflicts have different motivators and consequences, and there is a need for the project to focus on good governance.
- v. Gender and youth empowerment - There is a need for concerted efforts to include women and youth in the design and implementation of the project.
- vi. Historical marginalization of the region- The launch of this project recognized the aspect of these challenges, and there was an understanding that the UK is focused on fruitful partnerships.
- vii. There is a need for rapid response to insecurity and a focus on supporting sustainable resolutions.



Additionally, a second meeting for introduction to the Kenya Somalia and Ethiopia Borderlands Programme was held in Nairobi on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The primary objective of this meeting is to introduce the elected leadership who missed out on the initial meeting held on 29th September, from the four project counties to the Borderlands Program, providing them with a comprehensive understanding of its goals, potential benefits, and the role of the British High Commission in supporting this initiative. The meeting will also facilitate open discussions to gather input from the county leaders, fostering engagement and alignment on the initiative's strategic direction.

The following were the outcomes and critical take-ways from the meeting;

- i. Mandera and Lamu County leaders now clearly understand the Borderlands Development Initiative and are aware of the initiative's benefits and the British High Commission's support.
- ii. The meeting fostered constructive engagement, encouraging county leaders to provide valuable insights and perspectives that can inform the initiative's design and implementation.
- iii. There is a need for a follow-up on the Kenya Borderland Security Meeting held in Wajir.

### **3.2.2 NEDI Frameworks and Strategies Review**

A review workshop on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 brought together representatives from the World Bank, FCDC, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport and Roads, Office of the Deputy President, County Governments, Council of Governors, and other agencies. This workshop aimed to review the NEDI frameworks and strategies and discuss the implementation of these strategies to enhance development in various sectors of the economy. The objectives of the workshop included;

- i. Review the NEDI strategies/frameworks with stakeholders.
- ii. Validate the NEDI strategies/frameworks with stakeholders.



- iii. Develop a joint operationalization plan and financing modalities for the 4 NEDI strategies/frameworks with stakeholders.

Several resolutions were made, including;

- i. Finalize the coordination framework and budget for coordination between the Office of the Deputy President, CoG, Representative of County Coordination Unit, FCDC, and World Bank.
- ii. Merge the NEDI SMS into one consolidated Security Plan for all NEDI projects and use the HoAGDP Security Management Plan (SMP) as a review model and the World Bank to facilitate a workshop for MASCC to review and harmonize the Security Management Plan. Representatives from the NEDI Counties should be included in this process.
- iii. A Multi-Agency Security Team/Committee for NEDI projects should be formed.
- iv. Develop a comprehensive capacity-building plan for communication staff at all levels to enhance their skills in communication and messaging, media relations, stakeholder engagement, and reporting.
- v. Establish a clear communication structure that allows for effective communication between NEDI, the World Bank, and all stakeholders involved in implementing NEDI projects, including County Project Implementation Units, development partners, and the public.
- vi. Allocate a specific budget for communication in each NEDI project and ensure that it is factored into the overall project budget. Additionally, the NEDI Coordinator should be designated as the spokesperson and face of NEDI to enhance visibility and credibility.

### 3.2.3 FCDC/UNFPA Data Project

The FCDC region's development has been hindered by unsuitable past policies and the lack of targeted resource allocation and community engagement. Despite devolution efforts, the region faces high poverty rates, low literacy, and inadequate access to services, compounded by infrastructural isolation. Addressing these issues requires evidence-based policies supported by comprehensive data analysis, currently limited by fragmented and underutilized information across various sectors. The FCDC's new initiatives aim to bridge this gap, focusing on impactful, data-driven development strategies to advance the region's socioeconomic growth. The project will be implemented with the following objectives;

- i. To build the capacity of counties to collect, analyze, disseminate, and use population-related data, including integrating population dynamics into programming.
- ii. To collect, analyze, and publish demographic, health, and socioeconomic data for the FCDC counties.

The project is set to unfold across the FCDC regions- namely Lamu, Tana River, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Turkana, Samburu, and West Pokot Counties—focusing on county governments while engaging with stakeholders at both the county and national levels. It will encompass a multi-sectoral approach, gathering and analyzing evidence from health, population, urbanization, education, environment, agriculture, livestock, labor, and other critical sectors as determined in collaboration with the FCDC and its partners.

The project will take six months to train all counties on data collection, analysis, dissemination, information use, development, and report publication. The following are the expected results;

- i. County-specific statistical reports on demographic and socioeconomic data are published and disseminated.
- ii. The statistical capacity of FCDC counties strengthened.
- iii. Integration of population dynamics into programming is enhanced.

FCDC held a two-day workshop on 27th – 30th November 2023 on prioritization and indicator



validation as part of its commitment to fostering evidence-based development planning. This collaborative event that involved county representatives and subject matter experts from the Directorates of Economic Planning, Education, Health, Environment, and Gender, from the member counties was designed to align on strategic indicators critical for sustainable development.

The workshop was jointly facilitated by FCDC, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and academic experts from the University of Nairobi, employing a highly interactive format encompassing presentations, shared experiences, and group discussions. During the sessions, attendees were provided with a comprehensive overview of FCDC's goals, leading to in-depth discussions about tailoring demographic, economic, and health indicators to address the unique challenges and opportunities within the frontier Counties.

Each county group diligently worked to assess the proposed indicators, ensuring their relevance and applicability in facilitating informed decision-making for regional development initiatives. The following were the key outcomes, findings and recommendations;

- i. A consensus was reached on several indicators specific to each county, emphasizing the tangible impact of the data project within communities.
- ii. Further sensitization of leadership on the project's goals was deemed necessary.
- iii. The importance of including gender and youth perspectives in project design was highlighted.
- iv. Future data collection and workshops should emphasize community engagement within the counties.
- v. Decision-making processes within Frontier Counties should be data-driven to enhance governance and policy effectiveness.
- vi. Consistent Participation: Retaining the same participants for future validation sessions was suggested to ensure continuity and effectiveness in the validation process.
- vii. Adoption of Virtual Meetings: For counties like Tana River and Garissa, which faced logistical challenges, adopting virtual meetings was recommended to ensure their continued active participation.
- viii. Flexibility in Planning: As demonstrated by the change of the workshop venue to Nairobi, the necessity of adaptability in planning was highlighted as a key learning point.

A second workshop was held in Malindi on 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> December 2023. FCDC, in collaboration with UNFPA, convened a strategic data validation workshop as part of the ongoing strengthening of evidence-based development planning in the Kenya Frontier Counties Project. This session was designed to validate data and refine development indicators catering to the ten frontier Counties. The workshop sought to build on the foundations laid by previous indicators validation sessions in Nairobi and Isiolo, streamlining the data validation process and ensuring all counties aligned their development objectives. The following were the key outcomes and findings;

- a) Successful engagement of the Frontier Counties of Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Tana River, and Lamu in the data validation process, despite the absence of Garissa and Tana River in prior validation of the indicators workshop.
- b) Utilization of email communications to pre-validate indicators with Garissa and Tana River, leading to an efficient and smooth workshop experience.
- c) Affirm the relevance of the data and indicator set and establish a unified approach to development planning across the participating counties.
- d) Emphasis on the importance of tailored indicators and data that reflect the unique challenges and opportunities within the FCDC region.

The following were the recommendations made and required actions;

- i. Planning for subsequent workshops should account for contingencies that allow remote participation, ensuring that no county is left behind in the development planning process.
- ii. Plan the launch of county-specific reports for each FCDC County to detail localized insights and development plans, ensuring the representation of each county's development trajectory.
- iii. Develop and release a comprehensive FCDC regional report that encapsulates the collective

development strategies, integrating the individual county reports to present a unified regional vision.

- iv. Implement a robust feedback mechanism post-launch to allow for ongoing evaluation and refinement of the development indicators based on the counties' practical application and evolving needs.

### **3.3 Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock (SFAL)**

Set up in 2017 by FCDC with the help of SDC, SFAL consists of County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) in charge of livestock and agriculture from the 10 member counties. The objective of the Forum is to promote cooperation, coordination, and information flow between counties and with the national Ministry of Agriculture Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives (MALFC) and other stakeholders on issues related to agriculture and livestock development in the FCDC region.

The Forum harmonizes county policies and sector plans, creates synergies among counties, and debates on inter-county topics related to agriculture and livestock development to come up with recommendations or binding agreements.

SFAL meets quarterly to deliberate on relevant issues emerging at the county, regional, and national levels and to keep tabs on the goings-on within the Government of Kenya and among development partners that have a bearing on agriculture and livestock development in the FCDC region. The Forum determines priorities for its secretariat to work on. The SFAL secretariat hosted by the FCDC secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day running of the SFAL, mobilizing resources, and implementing programs and projects prioritized by the Forum.

#### **3.3.1 Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS) Program**

Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS) II is a four-year program (2022 - 2026) funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). LSS II is implemented in 10 counties led by Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) in partnership with the target 10 FCDC County Governments. The overall objective of the LSS II program is to contribute to the resilience of the pastoralists in the FCDC region to droughts, livestock disease outbreaks, and natural resource conflicts. To achieve this goal, the program focuses on three outcomes: (1) Livestock production and productivity in the FCDC region improved through effective and coordinated management of livestock disease, (2) Improved management of rangeland resources across FCDC counties for enhanced peaceful co-existence of communities and (3) Enhanced coordination and advocacy on policy dialogue and emerging issues in the FCDC counties.

#### **Key Highlights and Achievements**

##### ***a) Strengthened control of priority diseases to reduce disease prevalence and livestock deaths***

Carried out vaccination of over 302,684 animals (252,069 goats and sheep, 51,615 cattle) belonging to 2,958 pastoralist households (approx. 17,748 people benefitted) against Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Black Quarter, Sheep and Goat pox and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in three counties - Lamu (970 households; 55,756 animals; 48,607 cattle, 7,149 sheep and goats), Garissa (1,446 beneficiary households; (M: 944 F:502); 173,898 animals - 131,288 Goats, 39,602 sheep and 3,008 Cattle) and Samburu (542 households; 34,033 sheep and 38,997 goats). This helped reduce disease prevalence and livestock deaths in the intervention sites.



At the same time, in Turkana County, the program partnered with the Veterinary Services Directorate and other development partners to support a cross-border livestock vaccination exercise in the sub-counties of Loima and Turkana West, whose animals had crossed into the neighbouring country of Uganda.

The overall goal of the activity was to reduce disease transmission from the animals returning from the neighbouring country of Uganda. The diseases vaccinated against included Peste de Petits Ruminants (PPR), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), and sheep and goat pox. Other diseases that were covered include rabies and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD). The exercise benefitted 100,669 livestock out of the targeted 150,000 livestock. The vaccinated livestock included 88,933 shoats, 8,597 cattle, 1,917 camels, 1,050 donkeys, and 167 dogs. The exercise benefitted a total of 667 households, reaching 4,002 people.

#### ***b) Enhanced coordination and management structures***

During the reporting period, the program continued taking the lead in coordinating the Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock (SFAL). The 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> SFAL meetings were conducted separately in Nairobi and attended by participants from the FCDC secretariat, County Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers, County Department, and national government representatives. The following were the key recommendations agreed upon by the participants during the SFAL meetings;

- (a) Lobby for increased funding to the livestock department at the county level.
- (b) Lobby for increased projects for the livestock sector from the national government.
- (c) Proper documentation is needed for the county contributions towards LSS-supported activities.
- (d) Create a conducive environment for third parties involved in the livestock sector at the county level.

#### ***c) Strengthened Disease Surveillance Systems***

The Kenya Animal Bio Surveillance System (KABS) reporting system improved through consultative engagement with the Mandera County Government. Through the program support, the County Department for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (DALF) plans to capacity-build the technical staff on livestock disease reporting through the Kenya Animal Bio Surveillance System (KABS).



Further, refresher training and mentorship for Community Disease Reporters (CDRs) in Garissa contributed to enhanced disease reporting.

Throughout the vaccination campaign in Garissa, 23 CDRs (19 male and 4 female) were engaged to support the vaccination campaign. The 23 CDRs received refresher training and coaching from the Veterinary officers to better execute their functions at the community level.

#### ***d) Improved Lab infrastructure and cold chains through equipping***

Significant progress has been achieved in establishing the foundation for enhancing laboratory infrastructure and equipping cold chains in Garissa. The County was selected based on comprehensive need assessment reports and their contributions to this initiative. FCDC helped the Counties develop a list of equipment needed for enhanced service delivery service. The LSS program procured and delivered RVF diagnostic kits to Garissa Veterinary Laboratory. This milestone represents the first step towards reducing livestock diseases and preserving essential vaccine supplies in these regions.

#### ***e) Advanced and Strengthened One Health Strategy***

Successful Coordination of One Health Partners for Developing and Implementing One Health Strategy in Isiolo, Mandera, and Wajir Counties. 7 participated in coordination meetings with FCDC, AMREF, and VSF Suisse representatives. One health strategy for Isiolo County has been finalized and forwarded for County Executive for discussion and adoption. Through planned vaccination, enhanced proactive response to zoonotic disease outbreaks, notably Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Mandera and Wajir Counties.

#### ***f) Meetings with Development Partners in the Livestock sector***



The program facilitated the Garissa County Resilience Round-table meeting in September 2023, bringing together 20 implementing partners active in the livestock sector in Garissa. The meeting provided a platform for partners to map ongoing interventions in disease control, vaccination campaigns, livestock production, and marketing. The key outcomes from the meeting were identifying gaps, opportunities for collaboration, and recommendations to the County Government on priority areas for policy and resource allocation to strengthen resilience. The event helped promote stakeholder coordination for integrated and effective livestock disease management.

Additionally, the program facilitated fruitful field visits for monitoring purposes in Garissa County,



in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy, led by Ambassador Nicolás Randin, Assistant Director General and Head of the Sub-Saharan Africa Division and the CEO of FCDC.



#### **g) Support to Livestock Improvement Centers and Fodder Production support**

During the reporting period, the program supported the Livestock Improvement Centre (LIC) in Nomotio to expand fodder production activities through the fencing of 100 acres and the provision of 300 kgs of Boma Rhodes seeds. The expected harvest from the farm as a result of this intervention is 12,000 bales.



The program supported the training of 133 (55 Male, 78 Female) farmers on fodder production and storage in Marsabit County; the training was conducted from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 in four farmer groups located in Saku Subcounty which included Jaldesa Community Forest Association, Dambal Duba Rukesa, and Naramat youth group. The on-site training for 4 days included theory and practical demonstrations on planting methods, bailing, and seed harvesting. These training sessions were recorded. A one-hour-long radio talk show was held, and 3 recordings of fodder production training sessions aired in two languages (Rendille and Kiborana), reaching an estimated 403,110 people.

The program supported the farmers with assorted grass seeds, which included *Cenchrus ciliaris* (300Kgs), *Eragrostis Superba* (250Kgs), *Lucerne* (25Kgs), and *Bracharia* (50Kgs) distributed to the 133 farmers on the onset of rains. As a result of the intervention, the annual hay harvest is expected to increase to 500 tonnes in Marsabit County, reducing dependence on external imports and risks of fodder-related livestock diseases. Additionally, the program supported the training of 100 farmers on fodder production and storage in Mandera County; the training was conducted from 24th October to 15th November 2023 in 4 farming clusters located along river Dawa which included; Border Point 1, Fiyo, Bulla Hajji and Bela. Each farmer was also given 5kgs of Sudan grass, which is highly nutritious and makes good hay.

#### **i) Establishment of the Regional Pastoralist Association**

Between June 5th and 9th, 2023, a regional cluster workshop was held in Isiolo, gathering 30 participants from pastoralist associations in Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Garissa, and Wajir counties. The primary objective was to initiate discussions on establishing a regional pastoralist advocacy group, exploring potential structures such as cooperatives, NGOs, CBOs, or companies. A draft constitution was crafted, and consensus was reached to form a Regional Pastoralist Association. The association aims to empower pastoralist communities, safeguard their rights, enhance livelihoods, and promote sustainable practices through advocacy, representation, capacity building, and collaboration. Additionally, the workshop aimed to disseminate the findings

capacity building, and collaboration. Additionally, the workshop aimed to disseminate the findings of the conflict between Garissa County and Isiolo communities, as found by Garissa University's Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS).



Furthermore, identifying inter-county grazing routes and estimating households and livestock numbers migrating between counties were key aspects addressed during the workshop to create awareness of the pressure on Isiolo County.



Regional workshops were held to discuss the establishment of the regional pastoral association and to provide an interaction of the different member counties; the workshops also provided an opportunity to develop County grazing maps and plans. The essence of developing the grazing maps and plans is to enhance the sustainability of the utilization of pasture and water resources in the Counties. Grazing planning is also envisaged to reduce the impact of droughts and conflict over resources, a frequent occurrence in the region.

#### ***j) Research on Conflict Hotspots***

Our vision has been to integrate Garissa University (GaU) into the FCDC counties' peace process, which remains crucial for our future endeavors. GaU is poised to embark on its second phase of work, focusing on studying the Wajir-Isiolo conflict once the floodwaters recede. Despite our initial intention for them to conduct the study before the onset of El Niño rains, the timing was delayed until the rains arrived. Our commitment is directed towards ensuring these studies' publication and official launch. We aspire that these endeavors will yield valuable evidence, offer solutions, and carve out a meaningful space within the broader landscape of regional peace initiatives. Garissa University (GaU) will extend an invitation to the forthcoming county directors' meetings to enhance the collaboration between the two organizations. The overarching goal is to foster synergy, specifically impacting policies and practices at the county and national levels.

#### ***k) Community Land Registration***

FCDC facilitated the registration of three community lands—specifically, Kamuthe in Garissa, Arsim, and Nari Mirimo in Samburu County. The processing of the title deed for Kamuthe (Garissa) is currently in its final stages, while the registration processes for the other two are underway. FCDC is actively supporting the registration of Obbu community land in Marsabit, having initiated the



first scoping mission to meet with the relevant county officials in Marsabit. The commencement of the registration process is contingent upon receiving the necessary documents from the Marsabit County government.

### ***1) Pastoralist Parliamentary Group Activities***



Formed in 1988 and consisting of members of the National Assembly and Senate representing pastoral constituencies, the PPG's primary role is to mainstream the pastoralists' agenda within national governance and development planning policies, strategies, programmes, and plans. LSS Programme II continues the work started with the PPG under LSS Programme I to ensure they are more proactive in developing legislation to deepen devolution, address historical marginalization, secure communal land and resource rights, and promote livestock production and trade. In FY2023, some of the Policies targeted through the PPG include;

- (a) Advocated for establishing a Livestock and Livestock Products Marketing Board through active involvement of the PPG members. Spearheaded efforts to expedite an executive order through persistent follow-ups with the Office of the President and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, facilitated by engagement with the Senate committee.
- (b) Championed policies supporting the operationalization of the Equalization Fund through active advocacy efforts. This is aimed at providing crucial support to FCDC counties.
- (c) Worked towards implementing the Community Land Act 2016, mainly focusing on securing community lands, especially in trust land areas. Additionally, efforts were directed toward facilitating community land registration and titling.
- (d) Collaborated with stakeholders, including PPG, in comprehensive engagement on the Environment and Climate Change bill. The amendment bill to the Climate Act of 2016 was



passed in the National Parliament. The focus was on incorporating mechanisms for natural resource benefit-sharing to enhance environmental sustainability.

- 
- 
- (e) Engaged in the process of domestication and ratification of IGAD Model Law on regional transhumance by the Kenya National Parliament. The IGAD Protocol on Transhumance is intended to facilitate formal livestock cross-border mobility in the region and mitigate risks associated with such mobility, such as the transfer of livestock diseases and the propagation of small arms.

### **3.3.2 Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu Transforming the Environment through Nexus (LISTEN)**

In 2023, FCDC was pivotal in the LISTEN Project, which was implemented across Laikipia, Isiolo, and Samburu Counties. This initiative focused on policy, legislative, and governance reforms, particularly addressing climate change challenges. LISTEN's approach aligned with national frameworks, emphasizing devolution's significance in Kenya's governance structure. The project aims to foster sustainable development through strategic partnerships among public, governmental, non-governmental, and civil society organizations. These collaborations were crucial for Kenya's transition to a sustainable, low-emission development model, impacting agriculture, energy, water, environment, and transport sectors.

LISTEN significantly bolstered policy and governance in these counties, enhancing the capabilities and coordination of state and non-state actors. This included working with county governments to establish necessary structures within the Department of Climate Change educating key officials about relevant policies and legislative frameworks. The project also supported various coordination efforts, such as facilitating workshops for the Technical Working Group (TWG), the County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee (CASSCOM), and the County Steering Group (CSG). These activities contributed to developing vital legislation and the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) in the three counties.

Community engagement was another critical aspect of LISTEN's approach. The project established and trained Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPC) in specific wards, empowering local communities to address their unique priorities. These efforts focused on key areas in Chari, Kinna, Burat, Suguta Marmarm, Poro, Loosuk, Salama, Rumuruti, and Segera, as outlined in the Ward Development Plan (WDP). The prioritized issues included livestock management, recurrent droughts, resource-based conflicts, disease outbreaks, water and pasture scarcity, insecurity, financial access limitations, educational deficits, nutritional challenges, market access, and land tenure issues.

LISTEN's involvement in identifying and addressing these priority areas has enhanced climate change planning and sustainable development. The project's success stemmed from its collaborative approach, partnering with county governments and organizations like Kenya Rapid Plus, ASDSP, WFP, MIDP, VSF, NRT, and LMS. This comprehensive strategy aimed to improve understanding of the local landscape, facilitate knowledge management, and support the application of effective policies and legislative frameworks for the betterment of the communities in the nine wards.

The LISTEN Project made significant strides in combating climate change and enhancing environmental governance in arid and semi-arid counties. The project's impact, evident in its extensive reach and depth, has been transformative across various facets of environmental management and community engagement.

## **Key Achievements**

### ***a) Training and Capacity Building***



*Isiolo - Kinna Ward Climate Change Planning Committee (WCCPC) engaging in the Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA)*

This year's cornerstone of our achievements has been the comprehensive training of 44 Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPC) members across four wards - Loosuk and Poro in Samburu County and Salama and Rumuruti in Laikipia County. The training provided these members with a robust foundation in climate change basics, policy, and legal frameworks, and the intricacies of the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) mechanism. They were also equipped with skills for developing effective climate change project proposals, empowering them to initiate meaningful and impactful projects within their communities.

### ***b) Policy and Legislative Advancements***

The project has been instrumental in developing and enhancing 23 key policies and legislative documents. These include the Isiolo Rangeland Management Policy, various drafts of Rangeland Management Bills and Policies, County Climate Change Policies and Acts, and other crucial documents that form the backbone of environmental governance and sustainable resource management in the respective counties. These policies and legislations are not mere documents; they represent a paradigm shift towards more responsible and informed environmental stewardship.

### ***c) Comprehensive Reporting and Planning***

Our efforts have culminated in the production of 3 detailed Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA) reports for each of the counties involved. In tandem, 12 strategic development plans have been formulated, including 9 Ward Development Plans and 3 County Integrated Development Plans. These documents serve as blueprints for sustainable development, aligning county-level initiatives with grassroots needs and priorities.

### ***d) Stakeholder Engagement and Sensitization***

The project's success is also marked by the active involvement of 24 key stakeholders, encompassing various ministries and committees such as the Ministry of Water, Environment and Natural Resources, CSG, CASSCOM, and the WCCPCs in each county.

This extensive collaboration network has been pivotal in integrating climate change considerations into broader county agendas. Moreover, through our public participation initiatives, we have sensitized an estimated 1000 individuals beyond the above ministries, spreading awareness and fostering a community-driven approach to environmental challenges.



*Members of the CASSCOM Samburu County undertaking a policy consultative meeting*

In conclusion, the LISTEN Project's impact over the past year has been profound and far-reaching. By building capacities at the grassroots, shaping policies and legislation, facilitating comprehensive planning, and fostering widespread stakeholder engagement, we have laid a solid foundation for sustainable environmental management and climate change action. As we progress, these accomplishments serve as both a benchmark and a catalyst for continued progress toward a more resilient and environmentally conscious society.

### **3.5 Sector Forum for Education and Governance**

The Sector Forum for Education and Governance coordinates joint programs in the functions of education and governance within the FCDC member counties. Similar to the other sector forums, its objectives are

- i. Enhancing productivity, performance, and service delivery of the sector;
- ii. Harmonizing education and governance policies and sector plans among counties;
- iii. Advocating on issues related to the sector;
- iv. Creating synergies between counties and reducing duplication of activities;
- v. Coordinating education infrastructure developments in the region;
- vi. Forum for information sharing and learning experiences.

### **Key Highlights and Achievements**

#### ***Collaboration with Aga Khan University Institute of Human Development on Early Childhood Development (ECD)***

FCDC / AKU, through the Institute for Human Development, entered into an MoU on 9th Feb 2021. The general purpose of this MOU includes the following:

- i. Joint educational and research activities, including applications for funding to promote these activities;



- ii. Exchange of scholarly work

- iv. Any other miscellaneous, incidental, and ancillary activities in furtherance of the above purpose

An addendum to the 2021 MoU was signed on 21st September 2023 by the CEO of FCDC and Director AKUIHD for a grant of KES 5,263,800 (with FCDC contributing KES 381,300) to support the Education Sector establish a forum and initiate an ECD Sector Plan. We have so far received 60% of the grant and have undertaken the following crucial activities;

#### ***a) Planning Meeting with Key ECD Stakeholders***



A two-day planning workshop was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to develop a roadmap for establishing the FCDC Education Sector Forum and developing the ECD Sector Plan. The workshop attracted participation from a mix of stakeholders from the Ministry of Education (Directorate of ECDE), National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK), USAID (Directorate of Education and Youth), Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), Aga Khan University Institute for Human Development (AKU-IHD), Muslim Education Council, M-lugha Foundation (an Education technology local organization) and Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI).

Progress toward tangible outputs derived from the planning meeting included:

- a) Development of draft MoU for the Education Sector Forum;
- b) Development of an outline of the ECD Sector Plan;
- c) Drafts for TOR and Data Collection Tools developed;
- d) Sharing the developed phase 1 data collection tools with CECMs for Education, ECDE, and Health and Social Services Directors for feedback.

## ***b) Planning Meeting of FCDC CECMs Education***



A one-day meeting on November 21, 2023, in Nairobi successfully brought together CECMs in education from the FCDC region, NACONEK, MOE, FCDC secretariat, M-lugha Foundation, and AKUIHD. The meeting was convened with the objectives of establishing the FCDC Education Sector Forum and initiating the development of the ECD Sector plan.

The meeting yielded significant outcomes, including:

- a) Review and endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Education Sector Forum, which was collaboratively developed during the planning meeting with various partners.
- b) Unanimous election of Chair and Deputy Chair for the FCDC Sector Forum for Education (SFE)
- c) Immediate conduct of the inaugural SFE meeting following the election of officer bearers.
- d) Presentation of the preliminary Phase 1 ECD survey report, highlighting key findings such as the number and types of ECD centers, gender-based enrolments, statistics on children with disabilities, teacher qualifications based on gender, special needs training for teachers, availability of mobile schools, existing policies, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, health services, and birth certificate registration, among other crucial aspects;
- e) Fine-tuning the outline for the ECD sector plan previously developed during the planning phase.

## ***c) Planning Meeting of ECDE Directors***

The ECDE Directors' one-day meeting, followed closely on the heels of the CECMs gathering, built upon the discussions from the previous day and yielded remarkable outcomes, which included:

- a) Exchanging experiences and best practices in ECD across the counties;

b) Discussion of the endorsed MoU for the SFE to internalize and domesticate for effective use;

c) Further refining the ECD Phase 1 survey report;

d) Launching a WhatsApp forum for ECDE Directors and other key stakeholders to facilitate sharing feedback and best practices.

### 3.6 Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy

#### Key Highlights

##### *a) Establishment of SFoW and Blue Economy*



FCDC, in collaboration with the Millennium Water Alliance through the Kenya Resilient Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development (RAPID+), is jointly undertaking efforts to form the FCDC Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy. A two-day Technical Workshop in Nairobi from January 17-18, 2023, to establish the FCDC Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy.

The workshop aimed to sensitize technical county directors on forum operations, the benefits of a water sector forum, and address challenges in rural and urban water access. Key challenges included limited rural access due to non-functional water points and poor governance, while urban challenges involved inadequate financing and corporate governance issues. Thematic areas for the sector forum encompassed water resource knowledge management, policy frameworks, corporate governance, rural water supply, and private sector involvement. Proposed solutions included creating central data repositories, developing policy instruments, improving corporate governance, and formalizing rural water supply structures. The workshop also introduced the concept of Blue Economy, outlining thematic areas and activities for aquaculture, fisheries, desalination, ecotourism, and conservation. The workshop set the stage for the inaugural Sector Forum Meeting for the CECMs of Water on January 26, 2024, in Nairobi.

##### *b) Water Sub-Sector MOU Signing*

The FCDC Water Sub-Sector MOU Signing Workshop convened in Nairobi aimed to review thematic



priorities, develop an operational plan, facilitate MOU signing, and identify resourcing strategies. Challenges included inadequate resources and policy coordination.

Recommendations focused on finalizing the SFOW concept note, stakeholder mapping, organizing a donor roundtable, enhancing publicity, establishing a web page, addressing national-level policy issues, and planning the next meeting for September 19th and 20th, 2023, including field activities. Emphasis was placed on sustainability and reduced reliance on development partners.



*Group photo with the directors during Water Sub-Sector MOU Signing Workshop - June 19th and 20th, 2023*

### **c) Development Partners Round Table Meeting**

The FCDC Sector Forum for Water (SFOW) held a Development Partners Round Table Breakfast Meeting in Nairobi on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The session aimed to bring together FCDC Governors, Development Partners, SFOW members, FCDC secretariat, and selected National Government Departments. Objectives included introducing the SFOW concept note, engaging in plenary discussions, identifying gaps and opportunity areas, and discussing the Year 1 work plan. Challenges and opportunities in finalizing the concept note, identifying three years' activities for the region, and forming partnerships were addressed. Recommendations included resourcing Year 1 activities and emphasizing collaboration among stakeholders.





#### ***d) Engagements with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA)***

In a meeting held at the FCDC offices on November 15, 2023, with FCDC representatives and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), key discussions focused on reviewing the SFOW concept note, identifying thematic areas for partnership, and outlining the next steps. The meeting highlighted the convergence of FCDC SFOW and NDMA resilience agendas, emphasizing FCDC's potential roles in lobbying, financing, convening, and normative advocacy. Specific comments on thematic areas included considerations for water resources knowledge management, legal and policy frameworks, corporate governance for regulated water utilities, improving rural water supply, and market-based solutions. Action points included further concept note review, engagement with water sector actors, sharing SFOW MOU with NDMA, and organizing a high-level meeting between NDMA and FCDC SFoW leadership in January 2024

#### ***e) Review of FCDC Multi-Agency Blue Economy Collaboration Framework***

A review of the FCDC Multi-Agency Blue Economy Collaboration Framework resulted in the revision of opportunities areas for partnership. Thematic areas further developed into the Blue Economy operational plan for prioritized years (i.e., Years 1, 2, and 3). There was a need for further engagement with the stakeholders within the respective county and stakeholders, which is currently ongoing.



*KICC Review of FCDC Multi-Agency Blue Economy Collaboration Framework - June 21-23, 2023*

#### ***f) Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement- Lamu and Tana River***

The stakeholders' public participation report for the FCDC and Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) strategy on harnessing Blue Economy opportunities was conducted on June 12, 2023, in Lamu County and on November 2, 2023 for Tana River County. The two separate engagements highlighted the collaborative efforts to explore the sustainable use of ocean and coastal resources for economic growth and environmental conservation. Chaired by the Director General of KMA, the workshops



involved discussions on FCDC's Blue Economy objectives, KMA's contributions, and Lamu and Tana River County Governments' initiatives. Investment opportunities in Blue Economy included deep-sea fishing, aquaculture, crab and lobster farming, modern fish processing plants, maritime trade, environmental conservation, and recreational facilities.

Based on the challenges discussed and feedback from stakeholders, recommendations were developed with an emphasis on sustainable practices, stakeholder collaboration, capacity building, and governance frameworks for the long-term viability of Lamu and Tana River County Blue Economy.



*Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement in Tana River*

### **3.7 Sector Forum for Peace, Cohesion, and Conflict Resolution**

FCDC Sector Forum for Peace and Cohesion (SFPC) was established in 2019 to enhance cooperation, coordination, and information flow between counties, the national government, and other stakeholders on peace, cohesion, and security issues. The forum comprises the County Executive Committee Members (CECM) and other officials responsible for peace and cohesion in the member counties.

The Forum promotes peace and cohesion in the FCDC region through proactive responses to peacebuilding initiatives; harmonizes peace and cohesion policies and plans amongst the county members through joint planning, development, and implementation; and coordinates the development of peace dividend infrastructure in the FCDC region. SFPC holds coordination meetings to monitor its activities and relevant developments and provide policy direction to the FCDC Secretariat in its strategic priorities. In addition, it collaborates with SFAL, particularly on rangeland resource management, which is key to conflict management in the FCDC region.

#### **Key Highlights**

##### **a) Policy Support for Tailoring FCDC Draft Peace Frameworks to County Contexts**

The Peace Sector has provided technical support to Isiolo, West Pokot, Marsabit, Garissa, and Samburu Counties. These counties have successfully adapted the FCDC draft peace frameworks to suit their unique situations. Moreover, in partnership with USAID KUZA, the Sector has received requests for technical assistance from Wajir and Mandera counties, and plans are underway to address these requests.



The assistance entailed mobilizing various stakeholders, including relevant County Government Departments, National Government Administration Officers, and Civil Society Organizations implementing peace programs.



Technical writing workshops were conducted to facilitate the development of customized draft peace-building and conflict management policies, peace bills, and roadmaps for ratification by county executive committees (CECs) and subsequent passage by respective county assemblies.

### ***b) Development of County Specific Peace frameworks***

The technical assistance has enabled Isiolo, West Pokot, Marsabit, Garissa, and Samburu Counties to develop draft peace-building and conflict management policies and bills. Additionally, these counties have developed roadmaps for processing their respective peace frameworks.

### ***c) Establishment of Goodwill from Counties***

The technical assistance has facilitated the establishment of goodwill among members of the County Executive Committee and County Assembly, fostering support for processing peace frameworks to enable implementation. The secured buy-in from MCAs and CECMs will lead to the institutionalization of peace organs proposed by the policy and bill within beneficiary counties.

Given the demonstrated tempo and commitment, it is anticipated that Samburu County will soon approve the peace frameworks, thereby increasing the number of FCDC member counties with approved policies and laws for peace to four, alongside Turkana and Lamu.

## **3.8 Other Programs**

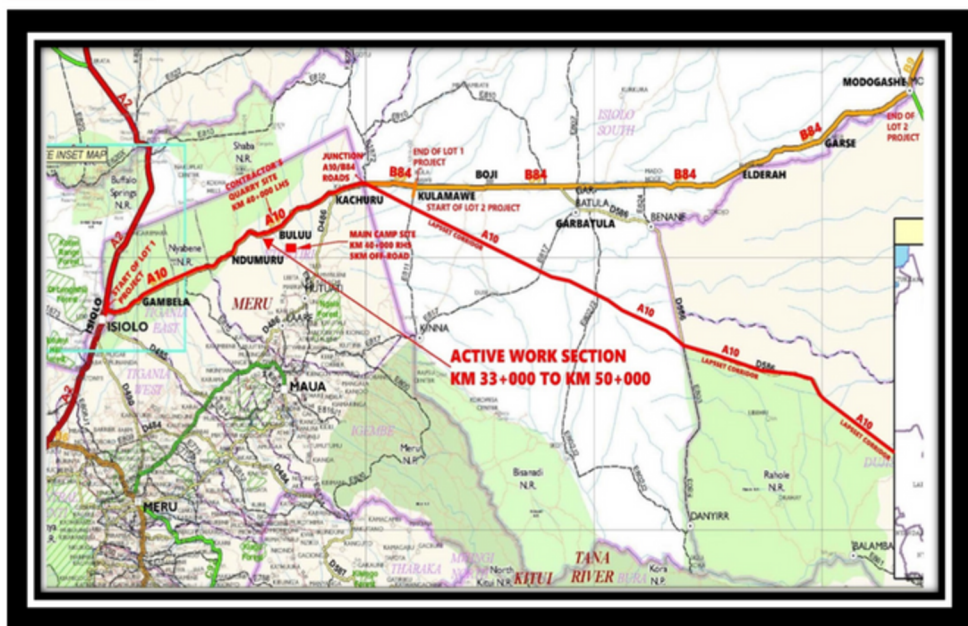
### **3.8.1 Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP)**

The Government of the Republic of Kenya (GoK) has received Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP). The Credit proceeds will be towards financing strategic priority areas identified, namely, upgrading sections of the Isiolo-Mandera road corridor, installation of digital infrastructure along the road corridor, enhancing regional trade facilitation and transport, improving resilience and human capital development in Kenya, and provision of selected socio-economic infrastructure and services to the communities in the project area. The project objectives are to improve (a) the movement of people and goods and digital connectivity and access to social services to communities at designated locations along the targeted sections of the Isiolo-Mandera Regional Road Corridor; (b) the capacity of selected transport-related institutions in Kenya.

In HoAGDP, FCDC plays a third-party monitoring role, providing support to the project in stakeholder engagement with the local community, local administrative agencies, and the County government of Isiolo to ensure the project can be implemented as per schedule and scope, addressing community concerns, updating on the project's progress and plans.

### ***Isiolo-Modogashe Corridor***

The road from Isiolo to Modogashe is divided into two sections: Lot 1- from Isiolo to Kulamawe (77 kilometers) and Lot 2 from Kulamawe to Modogashe (113 kilometers plus a 15-kilometer loop road within town).



Map of the project road - Isiolo-Modogashe stretch

### ***a) Community Engagement, Outreach Sessions, and Stakeholder Engagement***

As a third-party monitor, FCDC is responsible for creating a gender-sensitive community profile for each ward along the road corridor. These wards along the Isiolo-Modogashe road include Wabera, Ngaremara, Kinna, Garbatula, and Sericho. Gender-sensitive community profiles have been created for each of these wards in Isiolo County that the road corridor runs through. The community profiles were created to grasp the community and its interests comprehensively. This information on community profiles influences the significant stakeholder involvement for the project's success and aids in developing a plan for engaging stakeholders.

Additionally, it details the community members' preferred mode of participation and their potential degree of enthusiasm in taking an active role in a project. Several stakeholder consultations occurred during the reporting period to ensure that all project participants' requirements and preferences were considered. The following are the community and stakeholder engagement initiatives done during the reporting period:

- i. 15 community meetings were held in all the centres traversed by the road corridor. In collaboration with KANCO, the Catholic Diocese of Isiolo organized the meetings, which community members, grievance redress committees, the local administration, and the contractor attended. The communities were duly apprised of the project's advancements, the opportunities that became available to them, and the imperative for their active participation in the execution of the project. The communities were also informed of the grievance redress mechanism and the procedure for reporting grievances. The community was aware of and sensitized to the GBV/SEA reporting mechanism via the toll-free number.
- ii. Nine grievance redress committee meetings were held at various project sites during the quarter. The Contractor, members of the local administration, and the grievance redress committees were participating at the CDI-organized meetings. Training was provided to the Grievance Redress Committees (GRC) regarding the proper management of complaints, in

- ii. Nine grievance redress committee meetings were held at various project sites during the quarter. The Contractor, members of the local administration, and the grievance redress committees were participating at the CDI-organized meetings. Training was provided to the Grievance Redress Committees (GRC) regarding the proper management of complaints, in

addition to their assigned duties and responsibilities. Training enabled the committees to acquire knowledge about the GRM process as well as the duties and responsibilities of the team. The GRM committees were made aware of the importance of reporting emergent issues or incidents and addressing grievances through the meetings.

- 
- iii. Two meetings comprising non-state actors from Isiolo and Meru County were convened with the participation of the CDI. The initial meeting was convened on October 5, 2023, by Isiolo Civil Society Network (ICCN)- an umbrella organization for Isiolo civil society organizations. The primary purpose of the meeting was to disseminate information regarding the HoAGDP project components and its current status. The participation of non-state actors in the initiative as significant stakeholders was a considerable improvement. Potential areas of collaboration with ICCN member organizations in their respective fields of work were also deliberated during the meeting. Sexual and reproductive health concerns and gender-based violence constituted potential domains for cooperation among the involved parties. The Gender-based violence technical working group convened its second meeting in Meru on October 9<sup>th</sup>, with participation from 27 individuals (M=12, F=15). The purpose of the meeting was to extensively deliberate on GBV issues within the project area and to explore potential collaborations and partnerships between the CDI and the other members. It was determined that increasing the frequency of these meetings would enhance the exchange of information and expertise regarding GBV, given that specific collaborators possess substantial experience in executing GBV initiatives within the project areas.
  - iv. FCDC, NEDI, and KeNHA convened a meeting with members of parliament for Isiolo South and Lagdera. The purpose of the meeting was to update the legislators on the progress of the projects and request that they urge community leaders to encourage support, particularly in light of the proliferation of settlements along the road corridor. The assembly served as a forum for the legislators to express their concerns, subsequently shaping potential practical suggestions and recommendations for emerging issues and challenges.
  - v. Two meetings were conducted at the Gitoro Pastoral Centre and the Catholic Hall, respectively, between CDI-KANCO, FCDC, Egypt, the Contractor, and the interfaith teams from Meru and Isiolo. The HoAGDP overview and its significance and influence in the region were discussed at the meetings. Routine progress meetings with interfaith leaders were formulated as a strategy for moving forward.

## ***b) Media and Communications***

Through collaborative efforts with the Catholic Diocese and KANCO, media & and communication activities were implemented through various media platforms, including;

- a) Sensitization through Local FM stations: The Joint venture between CDI (Catholic Diocese of Isiolo) and KANCO has facilitated 1 radio talk show on Radio Shahidi, where the project overview was highlighted.
- b) Stakeholder engagement with Meru Media/Journalists & reporters covering the HoAGDP zones of influence: A stakeholder engagement meeting was held with 47 reporters (F=23, M=24). The meeting aimed to give an update on project progress, provide an overview of the project, rally for media support in disseminating accurate, factual project information, and highlight the reporters'/media's concerns and expectations.
- c) Development of IEC materials on the project, GRM process: The joint venture has developed and produced various IEC materials carrying different project messaging to sensitize the communities, providing information and updates on the project. These materials include GRM and SGBV Messaging, which have been placed in all the campsites, settlements, and strategic offices along the project route.



## 4 Financial and Human Resource

### 4.1 Financial Report 2023

| Financial Report FY2023                       |                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| FY2023                                        |                                                                                                                                                                      | Jan - Dec 23              |
| <b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions</b> |                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |
| Funds from the donors                         |                                                                                                                                                                      | 102,311,429.45            |
| Funds from counties                           |                                                                                                                                                                      | 15,518,913.60             |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                          |                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>117,830,343.05</b>     |
| <b>Expense</b>                                |                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |
| <b>Direct Expense</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |
|                                               | Effective and coordinated management of livestock disease outbreaks                                                                                                  | 23,096,116.00             |
|                                               | Increased access and use of feed and fodder to supplement rangelands resources                                                                                       | 8,111,500.00              |
|                                               | Inter and intra-county grazing plans developed and used, and community land registration                                                                             | 17,754,169.00             |
|                                               | Enhanced coordination and advocacy on policy dialogue and pastoralist affecting issues in rangelands, livestock mobility and resource conflicts in the FCDC counties | 5,486,431.00              |
| <b>Meetings/Workshops</b>                     |                                                                                                                                                                      |                           |
|                                               | Development Partners meeting                                                                                                                                         | 667,137.00                |
|                                               | Program steering committee/PCU meetings                                                                                                                              | 217,050.00                |
|                                               | Pastoralists Leaders /Pastoralist Parliamentary Group Advocacy on pastoralist issues                                                                                 | 92,500.00                 |
|                                               | Inter community and intra county peacebuilding meetings                                                                                                              | 992,500.00                |
|                                               | Governors Meeting                                                                                                                                                    | 658,750.00                |
|                                               | SP1563-01.4-Workshop/training                                                                                                                                        | 15,792,255.00             |
|                                               | Planning Meeting/Meetings with CECMs Education and Directors ECDs                                                                                                    | 1,459,033.00              |
| <b>Subtotal Total Direct Expense</b>          |                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>74,327,441.00</b>      |
|                                               | Human Resource                                                                                                                                                       | 33,061,239.55             |
|                                               | Operation and Maintenance                                                                                                                                            | 6,212,122.25              |
|                                               | Travel Expenditure                                                                                                                                                   | 2,126,423.00              |
|                                               | Other Cost                                                                                                                                                           | 5,390,321.46              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>121,117,547.26</b>     |
| <b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>KES (3,287,204.21)</b> |

### 4.2 Human Resources

#### a) Internal Processes

During the FY 2022/2023, FCDC developed the FMB board Structure, which consists of the 3 senior Management staff, two board members, and the CEO, to facilitate the Organization and support the delivery of the Council's Mandate.

During the period under review, FCDC, under the LSS II Programme, conducted the recruitment of the Programme officer and M&E officer, who reported in October 2023. The Programme also supported the Recruitment of officers and interns whom the Council supported. During the period, FCDC also received various officers recruited under the HOAGDP Programme, which included the two liaison officers in Walla and Lolionge CDUs, a CDU officer, and a communication officer.



In addition, the council received two seconded staff from West Pokot and Samburu counties within the period under review. This significantly enhanced the FCDC secretariat's capacity and improved its coordination between member Counties.

The Council also reviewed contracts for staff and interns whose terms were nearing completion within the year. This allowed for the review of contracts ending within the financial year and guided the organization regarding contract extensions in the FY 2024, contingent upon funds availability. The organization is improving the documentation and storage of all personnel files by digitizing all physical documents into individual folders to transition to paperless operations in the upcoming years.

#### ***b) Review of Manuals***

During the year under review, FCDC conducted a comprehensive review of its finance manual to include specific provisions for staff daily subsistence allowances. This update mainly addresses allowances for various roles, including drivers, interns, CECMs for Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries, officers and drivers involved in Livestock vaccination campaigns, research assistants, enumerators, and data clerks.

FCDC also developed its cost allocation and cost-sharing policy during the year, which outlines the negotiated indirect cost agreement share during programs and partnerships.

#### ***c) Staff Composition***

FCDC operates through sector forums, and the composition of FCDC personnel involved in these forums includes full-time/permanent employees, secondees, and consultants.

#### ***d) HR Returns Compliance***

FCDC has submitted all staff statutory deductions to the relevant authority during the year under review.

### **4.3 Information, Communication and Technology (ICT)**

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has witnessed global prominence in institutional operations, and the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) and its member counties have embraced this trend.

Fortunately, all members within the Frontier Counties Region have embraced open data policies, ensuring that public data is readily accessible to their constituents. This initiative has significantly improved service delivery and citizen engagement within the devolved units.

#### **Key highlights and achievements**

- i. Established an internal database within FCDC to catalog projects undertaken by various sector forums for easy reference.
- ii. Introduced monthly FCDC Newsletter highlighting notable achievements of sector forums
- iii. Conducted consultations with the African Advanced Level Telecommunication Institute (AFRALTI) to initiate the Academy Program rollout in the Frontier Counties, commencing with Garissa County. This included securing financial support for curriculum integration and procurement of laboratory equipment.
- iv. Enhanced FCDC's online presence through a comprehensive overhaul of its official website.
- v. Negotiated with County Executive Committee Members of ICT in the FCDC Region to develop County-Specific Information Communication Technology Sectoral Plans.
- vi. Compiled a database to facilitate the development of a baseline survey on E-governance priorities for member counties

- vii. Formulated a contact list of the ICT Governance Structure in the Frontier Counties.

## Chapter Five

### 5. Challenges and Recommendations

The challenges and recommendations for enhancing effectiveness in key sectors highlight critical issues faced by the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) in 2023 are summarized below;

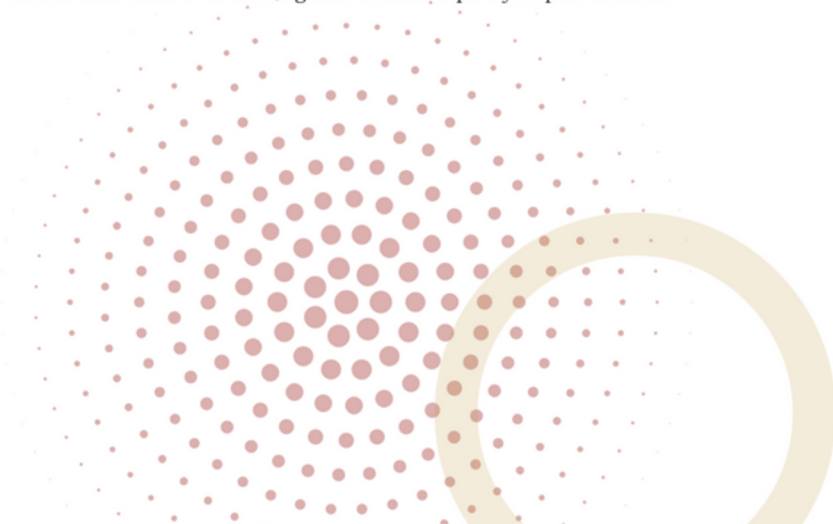
In the Agriculture & Livestock sector, the Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS) program faced delays due to the postponed livestock vaccination interventions caused by delayed documentation from some county governments. Additionally, inadequate financial allocation for fodder production initiatives in county budgets affected co-funding activities. During vaccination campaigns, pastoralist communities in Garissa and Samburu counties showed reluctance and apathy, requiring consistent animal health education. Recommendations include continuous engagement with county leadership, community participation and sensitization, collaboration with organizations, involvement of local administration, and enhanced veterinary education.

In the education sector, challenges included inadequate technical support in Phase 1 of the Early Childhood Development (ECD) research, insufficient financial resources for Phase 2, and missing information that created a data gap. Recommendations suggest that FCDC take the lead in improving the Phase 1 report, validating Phase 2 data collection tools, and mobilizing resources for the research and development of the ECD sector plan.

Water and Blue Economy faced challenges such as a lack of resources to participate in the Lake Turkana Fisheries Study and MOUs with counties prepared but not formalized. Recommendations advise seeking partnerships with counties and development partners and fast-tracking the formalization of developed MOUs.

In the Peace and Cohesion sector, challenges included short durations for technical writing workshops, high participant expectations regarding allowances, venue dissatisfaction, and the cost of publishing bills and public notices. Recommendations propose increasing the duration of future technical writing workshops, sensitizing county personnel on partner financial policies, and encouraging counties to demonstrate commitment by contributing to costs.

Under the FCDC/UNFPA Data Project, there are challenges of limited comprehensive data analysis across various sectors. The recommendation suggests promoting data-driven decision-making within Frontier Counties for effective governance and policy implementation.





## **6 Future Outlook**

### **6.1 RANGE Project**

Driven by a vision of a strengthened livestock sector flourishing within sustainably managed rangelands that conserve biodiversity, Mercy Corps and its consortium partners, FCDC and ITC, present Resilient Approaches in Natural Rangeland Ecosystems (RANGE), a 5-year program funded by the Dutch Embassy, to strengthen communities to improve sustainable economic and social development in a well-managed landscape in the three ASAL counties of Isiolo, Marsabit, and Samburu. RANGE is designed to reach >500,000 (direct and indirect beneficiaries) small-scale pastoralists and male and female agro-pastoralists through producer associations, community structures, women and youth groups, government stakeholders, private sector actors, and development partners.

RANGE proposes an integrated package of activities and interventions that will strengthen rangeland management and encourage regenerative practices, ensuring migratory and sedentary livelihoods can peacefully co-exist; improve herd management and market access for small-scale producers; strengthen the institutions and policy frameworks that govern the livestock sector, and prioritize the development of robust spatiotemporal data sets to improve outcomes and help mitigate the impact of climate change and prevent further land and rangeland degradation.

The research and evidence-strengthening component of the RANGE project plays a pivotal role in fostering knowledge dissemination and capacity building in the three counties. By actively training and involving local MSc and PhD students as Local Research Partners, we contribute to their academic development and enrich the project with diverse perspectives and innovative approaches. While the engagement will evolve around using geo-information effectively, it should thoroughly explore pertinent issues, generating robust evidence that can inform policies and interventions in the project counties and ASALs in general.

### **6.2 TRIINK Project**

The TRIINK (Tackling Regional Inequality and Inclusion in Northern Kenya) project addresses the significant regional disparities in Northern Kenya, characterized by high poverty, low human development, and infrastructural challenges. Utilizing the framework of Kenya's 2010 Constitution, the project focuses on improving local economic development and service delivery in marginalized areas through devolution and the Equalization Fund.

Funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC), the project is part of the Kenya Accountable Devolution Program (KADP) Phase III. The KADP supports various activities to enhance devolved service delivery, promoting a citizen-centric approach. The FCDC, an intergovernmental organization comprising ten member counties, facilitates cooperation and coordination among these counties to foster socio-economic development and peace.

**Implementation Period:** The project will run for 15 months, from November 2023 to December 2024.

**Expected Outcomes:** TRIINK aims to bridge the development gap in Northern Kenya by effectively leveraging devolution and the Equalization Fund, leading to improved service delivery, local economic growth, enhanced social cohesion, citizen-centric investments, and more equitable resource distribution.

### **6.3 Collaboration with Mercy Corps/USAID NAWIRI on Addressing Persistent Acute Malnutrition (PAM)**

In May 2023, a funding proposal was submitted to the Mercy Corps/USAID NAWIRI program titled "Creating an Enabling Environment in FCDC Counties for Addressing Food Security and Nutritional Needs through a Multi-Sectoral Approach." The proposal outlined potential areas for

collaboration and partnership, including:

- 
- 
- a) Mapping nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive policy and legal landscape through Strengthening of Community Health Systems and Structures, Gender and Youth Empowerment, Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation, Rangelands and Natural Resources Policy, and Trade Revolving Fund Policy.
  - b) Strengthening FCDC Sectoral Forums, such as Sector Forums for Agriculture and Livestock (SFAL), Peace, Cohesion, Conflict Resolution, Health, Education and Governance, and Sector Forum for Gender & Youth Empowerment.
  - c) Enhancing coordination between FCDC and NGOs operating in Turkana and Samburu counties, fostering collaboration between Governors and Mercy/USAID NAWIRI leadership, and promoting cooperation between NGOs and the leadership of the two counties.
  - d) Engaging leadership through existing forums for governors, Speakers, Majority, Minority Forum, County Secretaries, Parliamentary Women Caucus, and Parliamentary Pastoral Group.
  - e) Implementing Knowledge Management through short-term consultancy focused on critical evidence-building areas for advocacy, disseminating existing and new findings/recommendations, and developing Integrated County Development Information Systems (ICDIS).
  - f) Scaling up FCDC ownership and advocacy support in initial/ongoing areas by encouraging the counties to pass or implement the Ward Development Fund Act/Bill, Gender Bill, and FCDC Bill.

## **6.4 Collaboration with Raspberry Pi Foundation on Enhancing Computing Skills**

In December 2023, in collaboration with the M-lugha Foundation, a local IT organization, a joint funding proposal was submitted to the Raspberry Pi Foundation, a UK-based organization. The proposal, titled “Adapt and Pilot the Computing Curriculum (TCC) to Support Secondary Schools and Youth Centers,” outlined potential areas for collaboration and partnership, including:

- a) Providing in-service training for government ICT teachers in 150 schools across 8 counties. This training aims to equip teachers to deliver computing lessons to students from Grades 4-10, aged 8-16. Additionally, a proportionate number of teaching assistants will be trained to ensure the delivery of a high-quality computing curriculum aligned with the new national Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC).
- b) Translating the computing curriculum and associated resources into Kiswahili and regional indigenous languages to enhance comprehension among learners.
- c) Implementing a Hub program involves delivering an adapted version of existing Raspberry Pi Foundation content to 700-1000 out-of-school youth aged 18-25. These sessions, scheduled for 60 minutes daily from Monday to Friday throughout the calendar year, aim to provide valuable computing education.

**Annex 1:**

| Priority Area                              | Key Activities                                                   | Timelines    | Partners                               | Status/Remark                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| FCDC Secretariat (Governors Meetings)      |                                                                  |              |                                        |                                                                 |
| 8th Devolution Conference                  | Existing booth showcasing FCDC initiatives                       | August 2023  | County Governments, FCDC               | Completed                                                       |
| Inter-County Consultations                 | Breakfast Meeting during DevCon                                  | August 2023  | County Governments, FCDC               | Completed                                                       |
| Consultation with Development Partners     |                                                                  |              |                                        |                                                                 |
| Consultation with Development Partners     | Meeting with Partners on programs and initiatives                | Ongoing      | County Governments, FCDC, Partners     | Ongoing                                                         |
|                                            | Deris Wanaag Collaboration                                       |              | County Governments, FCDC, Partners     | Ongoing                                                         |
|                                            | NEDI frameworks and strategies Review                            |              | County Governments, FCDC, Partners     | Ongoing                                                         |
|                                            | FCDC/UNFPA Data Project                                          |              | County Governments, FCDC, Partners     | Ongoing                                                         |
| Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock |                                                                  |              |                                        |                                                                 |
| Livestock Sector Strengthening             | Vaccination Campaigns in Lamu, Garissa, Samburu, Wajir           | Jan-Dec 2023 | FCDC, SDC, County Government           | 302,684 animals vaccinated                                      |
|                                            | Capacity building of disease surveillance systems                | Jan-Dec 2023 | FCDC, SDC, County Government           | 23 CDRs trained in Garissa                                      |
|                                            | Support to Livestock Improvement Centers in Nomotio and Nasukuta | Jan-Dec 2023 | FCDC, SDC, County Government           | Fencing and fodder production support provided                  |
|                                            | Support Fodder Production in Mandera and Marsabit                | Jan-Dec 2023 | FCDC, SDC, County Government           | 133 Farmers trained in Marsabit; 100 framers trained in Mandera |
|                                            | Meetings with development partners in the Livestock Sector       | Jan-Dec 2023 | FCDC, SDC, County Government, Partners | 1 meeting held in Garissa                                       |
|                                            | Establishment of the Regional Pastoralist Association            | Jan-Dec 2023 | FCDC, SDC, County Government           | 9 PA and 1 RPA formed                                           |
|                                            | Research on conflict hotspots                                    | Jan-Dec 2023 | Garissa University                     | Studies on Isio-lo-Garissa Conflict completed                   |
|                                            | Community Land Registration                                      | Jan-Dec 2023 | County Governments                     | 3 lands registered; 1 initiated                                 |
|                                            | Engagement with Pastoralist Parliamentary Group                  | Jan-Dec 2023 | PPG                                    | 5 policies advocated                                            |



|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|



| Priority Area                              | Key Activities                                 | Timelines       | Partners                           | Status/Remark                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LISTEN                                     | Stakeholder Engagements                        | Jan-Dec 2024    | FCDC, Dutch Embassy                | Ongoing                                                                   |
|                                            | Development of policies and legislation        | Jan-Dec 2025    | FCDC, Dutch Embassy                | Ongoing                                                                   |
| Sector Forum for Education                 |                                                |                 |                                    |                                                                           |
| SFE                                        | Collaboration with AKU on ECD                  | Oct-Dec 2023    | FCDC, AKU, NACONEK                 | 2 planning meetings; Phase 1 Baseline Survey Completed; Phase 2 Initiated |
|                                            | Stakeholder Engagements on ECD Baseline Survey | Oct-Dec 2024    | FCDC, AKU, NACONEK                 |                                                                           |
| Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy    |                                                |                 |                                    |                                                                           |
| SFoW&BE                                    | Inaugural sector forum meeting                 | Jan 2023        | FCDC, MWA, County Governments      | Completed                                                                 |
|                                            | MOU Signing Workshop                           | Sept 2023       | FCDC, County governments, Partners | Completed                                                                 |
|                                            | Development Partners Engagement                | Sept 2023       | Development Partners               | Completed                                                                 |
|                                            | Engagement with NDMA                           | Nov 2023        | NDMA                               | Completed                                                                 |
|                                            | Blue Economy Collaboration Framework Review    | Jan-Dec 2023    | County Governments, Partners       | Ongoing review                                                            |
|                                            | Public Participation in Lamu and Tana River    | June & Nov 2023 | KMA, County Governments            | Completed                                                                 |
| Sector Forum for Peace and Cohesion        |                                                |                 |                                    |                                                                           |
| SFPC                                       | Technical Support for Peace Policies and Bills | Sept 2023       | County Governments, Partners       | 5 Counties supported                                                      |
| Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project |                                                |                 |                                    |                                                                           |
| HoAGDP                                     | Community Engagements in Isiolo                | Nov 2023        | World Bank, Isiolo County          | 15 community meetings held                                                |
|                                            | Media and Communications in Isiolo             | Jan-Dec 2023    | World Bank, County governments     | 1 radio talk show                                                         |

## Our Partners



Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC



THE WORLD BANK



Embassy of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



**unicef**



Pastoralist Parliamentary Group - PPG

*Pastoralism : Our Pride and Life!*



Drylands Learning  
and Capacity  
Building Initiative



*At FCDC, we believe that meaningful development and sustainable peace can only be achieved through collective and coordinated efforts by all stakeholders, with communities at the centre of all initiatives.*

### Contributors

1. Abdullahi Hassan Maalim – Lead Coordinator, Education and Governance
2. Abdullahi Atosh – Finance and Administration Manager
3. Halimo Ali – Policy and Advocacy Advisor

4. Bonaya Gufu – Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
5. Edwin Siywate – Communication Assistant
6. Halima Ibrahim Golicha – CGM Liaison

