



FRONTIER COUNTIES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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List of Abbreviations

ASAL	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
EDPCG	Education Development Partners Coordination Group
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
FCDC	Frontier Counties Development Council
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
WB	World Bank
DevCon	Devolution Conference
HoAGDP	Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project
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
RANGE	Resilient Approaches in Natural Rangelands Ecosystems
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
CSG	County Steering Group
UNICEF	United Nations Children's 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
PPG	Pastoralist Parliamentary Group
PLS	Pastoralist Leadership Summit
CASSCOM	County Agriculture Sector Steering Committee
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plan

Foreword from the Chairman



The year 2024 has been one of reflection, progress, and renewed commitment for the Frontier Counties Development Council. As a collective of ten counties, we continue to stand together with a shared purpose to unlock the potential of our region and improve the lives of our people. Since its establishment, FCDC has remained focused on addressing the long-standing challenges of marginalization while creating pathways for inclusive and sustainable development. What is most encouraging is not just the work we have done, but the growing strength of collaboration among our counties and partners. This spirit of working together is what continues to define and drive our success. Over the past year, we have made meaningful progress across sectors that matter most to our communities. In livestock and rangeland management, our efforts have helped strengthen pastoral livelihoods and resilience in the face of climate and economic shocks. In education, we are seeing encouraging steps toward a more inclusive future through investments in digital learning and early childhood development.

These are not just programmes; they are building blocks for long-term transformation. One of the highlights of the year was the successful convening of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit, held in Wajir County. This important platform was graciously presided over by H.E. William Samoei Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya, alongside senior leadership from the National Government, County Governments, the National Assembly, champions of industry, academia, and our communities. The Summit reaffirmed the importance of pastoralist economies to Kenya's development and provided a strong platform for shaping policy, strengthening partnerships, and mobilizing investment in our region.

In addition, the Council played a critical coordination role in supporting member counties in their preparation for the Fourth Basis for Revenue Sharing among County Governments. Through this process, FCDC helped articulate a unified regional position, ensuring that the unique needs and realities of frontier counties are better understood and reflected in national resource allocation frameworks. This is a vital step toward achieving equity and fairness in development.

We have also continued to strengthen our foundation as a Council. Through improved data systems, sector coordination, and knowledge-sharing platforms, FCDC is increasingly becoming a reliable hub for evidence-based planning and regional collaboration. None of these achievements would have been possible without the commitment of our Governors, the dedication of the FCDC Secretariat, and the continued support of our development partners and stakeholders. Your belief in this shared vision continues to inspire our work.

As we look ahead, we must build on this momentum. Our focus remains on deepening coordination, scaling what works, mobilizing greater investment, and ensuring that no community is left behind. The challenges we face are real, but so too is the opportunity before us. The future of the Frontier Counties is one we must shape together with unity, purpose, and determination.

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

Message From The Chief Executive Officer



The year 2024 has been a year of growth, reflection, and steady progress for the Frontier Counties Development Council. As I look back, what stands out most is not just the range of activities we have undertaken, but the way the Council continues to grow into a stronger and more effective platform for bringing counties, partners, and ideas together. Our work throughout the year was guided by a clear focus. At the center of this is our Sector Forums, which serve as our primary working units. These forums are led by County Executive Committee Members, Chief Officers, and Technical Directors, and they provide a practical and structured way for counties to plan together, coordinate actions, and respond to shared challenges. Through them, we strengthened coordination across sectors, supported better planning using evidence, and worked closely with counties and partners to deliver programmes that respond to real needs on the ground.

In the livestock sector, we supported efforts that are already making a difference in the lives of pastoral communities. Improved disease surveillance, wider vaccination coverage, and better rangeland management are helping communities protect their livelihoods and become more resilient in the face of recurring challenges.

In education, we made encouraging progress in both early childhood development and digital learning. Our partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation showed what is possible when teachers are empowered with the right tools and support. Thousands of learners have already benefited, and at the same time, we have gained a clearer understanding of the infrastructure gaps that must be addressed as we expand these efforts.

We also continued to strengthen governance and policy engagement, particularly through the Nawiri Programme and our support to county legislative processes. At the regional level, the successful convening of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit was an important moment. It reaffirmed the role of FCDC as a trusted platform for bringing leaders together, shaping dialogue, and drawing attention to the priorities of pastoralist communities.

Another important step forward this year was in our data and digital work. The rollout of the FCDC Digital Repository is helping counties access and use information more effectively. This is not just about technology; it is about making better decisions, improving coordination, and ensuring that planning is informed by reliable evidence.

At the same time, we are mindful of the challenges that remain. Limited resources, infrastructure gaps, and the need for stronger alignment across stakeholders continue to affect the pace at which we can move. These are not setbacks, but important lessons that are helping us refine our approach as we grow.

Looking ahead, our focus is clear. We want to deepen our impact by scaling what works, strengthening ownership at the county level, and aligning investments around shared priorities. We will continue to position FCDC as a trusted partner that can bring people together, coordinate effectively, and deliver meaningful results.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chairperson and the Governors for their leadership and guidance. I also thank our partners for their continued collaboration, and the FCDC Secretariat for their commitment and professionalism throughout the year.

Together, we are building a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Frontier Counties region.

Dr. Idle Farah
C.E.O, FCDC

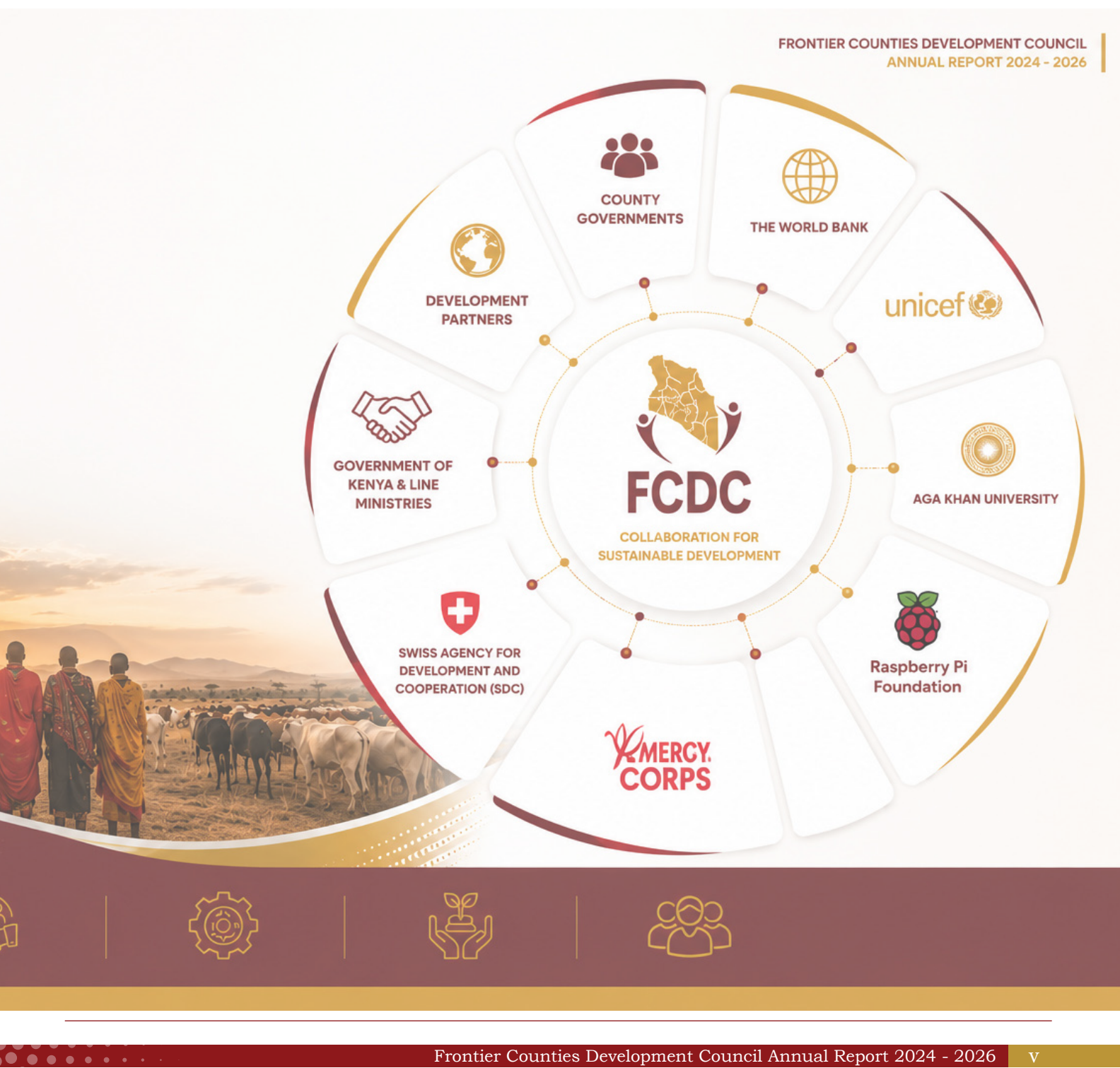
Acknowledgment

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 Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) Annual Report 2024 presents a year of measurable progress in strengthening systems, deepening regional coordination, and advancing inclusive development across its ten member counties. Established to address historical marginalization and unlock the socio-economic potential of Northern and Coastal Kenya, FCDC continues to play a pivotal role as a regional platform for coordination, policy influence, and strategic partnership-building. In 2024, the Council reinforced this role by focusing on interventions that go beyond isolated activities to drive systemic change and long-term resilience.

Across the agriculture and livestock sector, FCDC contributed to enhanced pastoral resilience through strengthened livestock health systems, large-scale vaccination campaigns, and improved disease surveillance. Over 594,000 livestock were vaccinated across targeted counties, significantly reducing disease risks and safeguarding livelihoods for pastoralist communities. Complementary investments in fodder production and rangeland governance further strengthened community capacity to manage climate-related shocks and resource pressures.

In the education and governance sector, FCDC expanded access to quality and relevant learning opportunities, particularly in underserved and pastoralist areas. Through its digital learning partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation, the Council supported teacher capacity development and reached approximately 48,000 learners across 80 schools, improving digital literacy and learner engagement. At the same time, ongoing collaboration on Early Childhood Development (ECD) strengthened the evidence base for policy and programming, while governance interventions under the Nawiri Programme enhanced county legislative capacity, public participation, and policy alignment.

FCDC also strengthened its role as a convener of high-level policy dialogue and regional collaboration. The successful hosting of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit brought together national leaders, policymakers, and development partners, elevating critical issues affecting pastoralists communities and generating actionable policy and investment priorities.

A key milestone in 2024 was the advancement of FCDC's data and digital transformation agenda. The pilot rollout of the FCDC Digital Repository in three counties established a foundation for improved data access, evidence-based planning, and inter-county coordination. This initiative positions FCDC as a regional knowledge hub, supporting more effective and informed decision-making.

Financially, the Council maintained strong fiscal discipline, mobilizing approximately KES 234 million in total revenue and recording a modest surplus. This reflects prudent financial management and continued confidence from both county governments and development partners.

Despite these achievements, the operating environment remained challenging. Resource constraints, infrastructure gaps, and delays in county-level processes affected the pace of implementation in some sectors. These challenges underscore the need for stronger alignment, increased investment, and sustained commitment from all stakeholders.

Overall, 2024 demonstrated that FCDC's approach is anchored in coordination, partnerships, and systems strengthening and is delivering results. The Council is increasingly positioned not only as a facilitator of development programmes, but as a strategic platform for driving regional transformation.

Looking ahead, FCDC will focus on scaling successful interventions, strengthening county ownership, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and mobilizing investments in priority sectors such as water, livestock, education, and infrastructure. The continued alignment of partners and stakeholders around shared regional priorities will be critical to accelerating progress and achieving lasting impact

Key Results At A Glance – 2024 Highlights

KEY RESULTS AT A GLANCE

In 2024, FCDC delivered impactful programs and strengthened systems across the Frontier Counties, driving resilience, economic growth, and inclusive development.



To promote sustainable development, regional collaboration, and improved livelihoods across the Frontier Counties.

10
Member
Counties

63%
of Kenya's
land mass

8M+
People
served



AGRICULTURE
& LIVESTOCK

594,000+

Livestock vaccinated across
the region

Strengthened livestock health
systems and pastoral resilience



EDUCATION &
EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT

48,000+

Learners reached

80 Schools supported
80 Teachers trained



DIGITAL LEARNING
& INNOVATION

150,000+

Early learners benefiting from
digital learning tools through
EIDU partnership

Hosted the Regional
EdTech Summit 2024



GOVERNANCE &
INSTITUTIONAL
STRENGTHENING

10

Sector Forums activated

Strengthened policy
development, oversight
and public participation



PEACEBUILDING
& SOCIAL COHESION

2,500+

Leaders and community
members trained in
peacebuilding

Enhanced early warning and
conflict mitigation systems



DATA, RESEARCH
& KNOWLEDGE
SYSTEMS

Digital Repository

Developed and piloted in
3 counties (Samburu, Marsabit
& Isiolo)

Strengthening data-driven
decision making



DIGITAL REPOSITORY

40+

Partners collaborating
across sectors and counties

Driving collective impact for
sustainable development



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHT
Digital Repository
KES 234 M

Funds from Donors **KES 215M (92%)**

Funds from Counties **KES 19M (8%)**

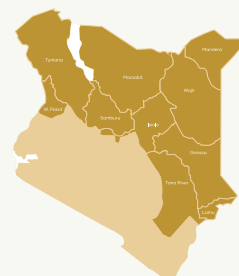
Partners



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



WHERE WE WORK 10 Frontier Counties



- Turkana
- Marsabit
- Samburu
- Isiolo
- Wajir
- Mandera
- Garissa
- Tana River
- Lamu
- West Pokot

Chapter One

1. Background

1.1 Establishment and Mandate FCDC

FCDC is a Regional Economic Bloc established in 2016 to enhance coordination, cooperation, and joint development across ten ASAL counties. It was formed through a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the founding counties and expanded in 2018.

1.2 The Regional Context



- Covers 63% of Kenya's landmass
- Represents 11% of the population
- Contributes 4.7% to GDP

The region faces structural challenges, including climate vulnerability, historical marginalization, and limited infrastructure.

1.3 Vision

A peaceful, prosperous, and equitable frontier region where people achieve their full potential.

1.4 Mission

To promote coordinated, inclusive, and sustainable development through inter-county collaboration and partnerships.

1.5 Structure of the Council

The FCDC operates through:

- Governors Summit (highest decision-making body)
- General Assembly
- Secretariat
- Sector Forums:
 - o Agriculture and Livestock
 - o Water and Blue Economy
 - o Education and Governance
 - o Peace and Cohesion
 - o Health
 - o Land and Physical Planning

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

Chapter 2: Strategic Results and Sector Performance (2024)

2.1 Agriculture and Livestock

Interventions focused on livestock health systems, fodder production, and rangeland governance under the LSS II and RANGE programmes.

Agriculture and livestock interventions implemented by FCDC during the reporting period were primarily delivered through the Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS II) Programme and complemented by coordination and systems-strengthening actions under the RANGE Programme. The focus remained on livestock health, fodder production, rangeland management, and institutional coordination, reflecting the dominant pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood systems in FCDC member counties.

2.2 LSS II Programme

During the reporting period, the Livestock Sector Strengthening (LSS II) Programme concentrated on strengthening livestock production and productivity through coordinated disease control, fodder production, and support to rangeland governance mechanisms across FCDC counties.

A major focus area was livestock disease surveillance and control. The programme supported the rollout and strengthening of the Kenya Animal Bio-Surveillance System (KABS), including targeted training of 29 veterinary officers (25 male, 4 female) in Turkana County to enhance disease reporting, early warning, and response capacity. This contributed to improved disease surveillance and coordinated management of priority livestock diseases.

The programme implemented large-scale livestock vaccination campaigns, particularly in Turkana County, where 230,355 animals belonging to 1,170 pastoralist households were vaccinated against priority diseases including PPR, LSD, RVF, Rabies, and Foot and Mouth Disease. In response to the Rift Valley Fever outbreak in Marsabit County, the programme activated a crisis modifier, reaching over 364,000 animals (goats, sheep, cattle, and camels) and 2,811 households. These interventions directly contributed to reduced disease incidence and livestock mortality.

Under fodder production, the LSS II Programme supported training of farmers in Garissa and Tana River counties, reaching 63 participants (33 male, 30 female) on fodder production, storage, processing, and marketing. The programme also supported existing fodder producer groups, including Rabsu Fodder Producers Group in Isiolo County, which expanded fodder production on two acres using climate-appropriate grass varieties, enhancing dry-season feed availability.

The programme further strengthened rangeland governance and institutional coordination by supporting the development and use of inter- and intra-county grazing plans, advancing community land registration processes in Isiolo and Marsabit counties, and supporting the establishment of pastoral associations, including the Tana River County Pastoral Association. These efforts contributed to improved coordination in rangeland use and resource sharing.

Overall, agriculture and livestock interventions under LSS II remained firmly focused on livestock health systems, fodder production, and rangeland governance, aligned with the programme's objective of strengthening pastoral resilience.



Figure 1: Vaccination exercise in Turkana County



Figure 2: Supported fodder production farm in Tana River County

2.2.1 RANGE Program

The Resilient Approaches in Natural Rangelands Ecosystems (RANGE) Programme contribution to the agriculture and livestock sector was systemic and complementary, focusing on coordination, policy engagement, and institutional strengthening related to rangeland and livestock governance.

FCDC's role under RANGE centered on outcome 3, which emphasizes collaboration between communities and government structures on economic, environmental, and social issues. In this regard, RANGE supported inter-county and inter-community peacebuilding dialogues, stakeholder sensitization forums, and government-to-government engagement platforms that addressed issues affecting livestock mobility, rangeland access, and resource-based conflict.

The programme also facilitated joint planning and learning forums involving county governments, and other partners to ensure sequencing, layering, and integration of livestock and rangeland interventions. In addition, RANGE supported evidence generation and policy engagement processes, including contributions to county sector planning frameworks such as the Marsabit County Agriculture Sector Plan, ensuring that livestock and rangeland priorities are reflected in county development agendas.

2.3 Education and Governance Sector

The Education and Governance Sector became operational in November 2023 following the formal constitution of the Sector Forum by County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) responsible for Education from FCDC member counties. In 2024, the Sector focused on coordination, policy engagement, pilot implementation, and capacity strengthening across education, early childhood development (ECD), digital learning, and governance systems, particularly within Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

2.3.1 Strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD)

In 2024, FCDC continued implementing its collaboration with the Aga Khan University – Institute of Human Development (AKU-IHD) under the Strengthening Early Childhood Development initiative, supported by the Hilton Foundation. The focus during the year was on coordination, evidence generation, and policy engagement.

Key achievements included:

- Convening a one-day planning meeting in February 2024 with County Directors of Public Health and Social Services to strengthen understanding of the Education Sector Forum, review findings from Phase 1 of the ECD baseline survey, and refine tools for Phase 2.
- Continued institutionalization of the ECD Sector Forum, providing a platform for inter-county dialogue on ECD policy, data use, and programming.
- Advancement of preparations for Phase 2 of the ECD survey, including tool refinement and collaboration with the National Council for Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) to ensure contextual relevance for nomadic and pastoralist settings.
- Participation in the Eastern Africa Regional Early Childhood Conference in March 2024, where FCDC contributed to regional discussions on harmonization of ECD policies and multi-sectoral approaches.
- Advocacy and visibility efforts, including a national televised panel discussion on ECD challenges in ASAL counties and engagement with governors during FCDC leadership forums.
- On November 11, 2024, FCDC signed a sub-award agreement with Aga Khan University (AKU) to launch a two-and-a-half-year partnership under the Care for All Project. Led by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and implemented through a consortium with AKU, this initiative aims to address the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work on women and girls in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties. The project acknowledges that this inequitable burden arises from deeply rooted cultural and traditional norms, which are further exacerbated by challenges such as climate change, poverty, and limited access to education and healthcare. These obstacles prevent women and girls from pursuing education, engaging in meaningful employment, and developing financial literacy, thus perpetuating cycles of inequality and poverty across generations. FCDC's strategic role in the Care for All project enhances its impact and reach. With established relationships at the national government level and strong collaborations with county governors, as well as active engagement with technical officials across its ten-member counties, FCDC is a crucial partner in advocacy and policy influence. This partnership leverages FCDC's unique position to promote the project's objectives, ensuring they resonate with policymakers and are embraced by local communities. By connecting policy frameworks with grassroots realities, FCDC plays a key role in shaping sustainable solutions that alleviate the burdens of unpaid care work, fostering greater equity and empowerment for women and girls in ASAL regions.

Strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD)



Dr. Elyas Abdi, the Director General MoE Kenya, joins colleagues from the region to discuss the course of ECD implementation in the region during Eastern Africa Regional Early Childhood Conference in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania



FCDC Education coordinator, Mr. Abdullahi Hassan, visit to the AKUIHD stand at the Conference

2.3.2 Advancing Computing Skills in Primary and Junior Schools

In April 2024, FCDC entered a pilot partnership with the Raspberry Pi Foundation (RPF) to support the Advancing Computing Skills initiative in eight frontier counties: Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Tana River, Lamu, and Turkana.

The project focused on teacher capacity development and curriculum-aligned digital learning, rather than infrastructure provision.

Key achievements during the year included:

- Training of 8 FCDC County Coordinators and 80 ICT teachers using a train-the-trainer approach.
- Introduction of computing content aligned with the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC), covering Scratch programming, spreadsheets, computing systems, and basic networking.
- Integration of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy to ensure learning approaches reflected local contexts and learner realities.
- Reach of approximately 48,000 learners across 80 schools through classroom-based delivery by trained teachers.
- Distribution of laptops to trained teachers to support classroom implementation.

Monitoring visits conducted across the eight counties confirmed increased teacher confidence and learner interest in digital skills. However, monitoring also identified significant constraints, including limited devices, unreliable electricity, and connectivity challenges, which affected the depth and consistency of learner engagement. The pilot generated practical lessons to inform future scale-up, particularly the need for stronger infrastructure support and continuous teacher mentorship.



Visit by The RPF Managing Director, Ms. Rachel Bennett, to Turkana County on 17th-19th October 2024 Media link of the visit on the County Website- <https://turkana.go.ke/2024/10/18/primary-school-learners-empowered-by-a-pilot-digital-literacy-project-in-turkana/>

2.3.3 Digital Learning Partnerships and Sector Engagement

Significant Beyond the RPF pilot, FCDC strengthened strategic partnerships to support digital learning and education systems:

- Signed a partnership with EIDU, supporting digital learning for approximately 150,000 early learners across FCDC counties through data-driven instructional tools.
- Co-hosted the inaugural Regional EdTech Summit in Garissa in June 2024 with EdTech East Africa, providing a platform for counties, policymakers, and partners to exchange experiences on education technology.
- Participated in national and regional education coordination platforms, including the Education Development Partners Coordination Group (EDPCG) and the Early Childhood Development Network of Kenya (ECDNEK), where FCDC registered as a corporate member.

2.3.4 Nawiri Programme

In 2024, FCDC implemented governance-related activities under the USAID Nawiri Programme as a sub-awardee to Mercy Corps, focusing on Samburu and Turkana Counties. FCDC's role was primarily policy, systems strengthening, and capacity support.

Key areas of support included:

- Engagement with County Assemblies to strengthen the capacity of liaison committees and women's caucuses on policy oversight, gender-responsive budgeting, and nutrition-sensitive legislation.
- Facilitation of technical processes supporting the development and review of livestock and animal health policies, particularly in Samburu County.
- Support to community-level governance structures, including Ward Development Planning Committees, to enhance public participation in planning and accountability.
- Supporting the review of the Samburu Livestock Development Policy (2015) and development of the Animal Health Bill, in collaboration with county technical teams.
- Facilitating community consultations to gather public input on livestock and veterinary policies.
- Strengthening collaboration between county executives, assemblies, and development partners to align legislation with pastoralist livelihoods.



Training of the Samburu County Assembly Liaison Committee and Women Caucus by the Senate



Figure 3: H.E President William Ruto issuing cheques during PLS meeting.



Figure 4: Panelists responding to questions the during the summit.



Figure 5: Wajir County learners entertaining participants during the PLS conference.

2.3.5 Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project

The Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project (HoAGDP) is a flagship investment under the World Bank supported North and North Eastern Development Initiative. It is designed to unlock economic opportunity, strengthen regional integration, and connect communities across northern Kenya through the Isiolo to Mandera corridor.

The project focuses on upgrading 764 kilometres of road, expanding digital connectivity through fibre optic infrastructure, and investing in essential facilities such as markets, schools, veterinary services, and milk cooling plants. These investments will reduce travel time, lower the cost of doing business, and improve access to education, healthcare, and markets across Meru, Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera counties.

More than a road project, HoAGDP takes a broader development approach. It brings together infrastructure, digital access, trade, and social services to improve livelihoods and create opportunities along the corridor. It also strengthens the capacity of key national institutions responsible for transport and infrastructure delivery.

The corridor serves as a vital economic link for historically underserved regions, opening up access to national and regional markets, including cross border trade within the Horn of Africa. As one of the six backbone projects under NEDI, it plays a central role in addressing long standing infrastructure gaps and supporting more balanced regional development.

The success of the project depends on strong community engagement and trust. The Frontier Counties Development Council serves as the regional coordination platform, bringing together its member counties to support implementation. FCDC facilitates dialogue between communities, counties, and national agencies, ensuring that the project reflects local priorities and realities.

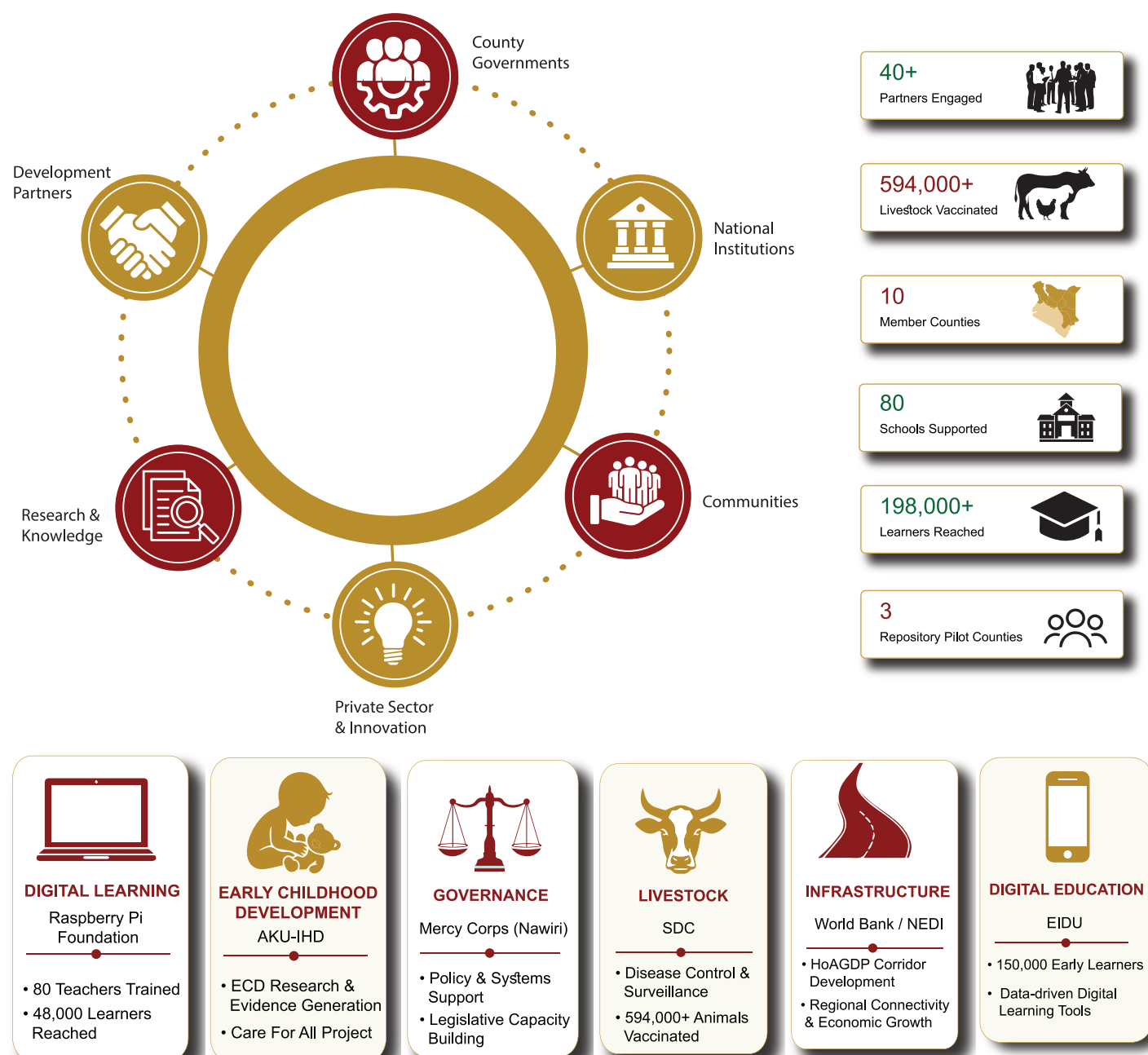
Chapter Three: Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships Driving Regional Transformation

In 2024, the Frontier Counties Development Council strengthened its role as a regional convener by fostering strategic partnerships that mobilized resources, enhanced technical capacity, and accelerated development outcomes across the ten frontier counties. Through collaboration with development partners, national institutions, county governments, research organizations, and the private sector, FCDC delivered coordinated interventions in livestock development, education, governance, digital transformation, infrastructure, and resilience building.

These partnerships enabled FCDC to leverage expertise, align investments, and create platforms for shared learning and policy engagement. Through collective action, partners contributed to strengthening pastoral livelihoods, expanding access to quality education, improving governance systems, advancing digital innovation, and promoting inclusive economic development throughout the region.

Key partnerships remained anchored on a shared commitment to evidence-based planning, local ownership, sustainability, and equitable development for communities in the ASAL region.



Chapter Four: Operations and Institutional Strengthening

4. Financial and Human Resource

4.1 Financial Report 2024

Financial Report FY2024 in KES	
FY2024	Jan - Dec 24
Revenue from non-exchange transactions	
Funds from the donors	215,492,790.00
Funds from counties	18,900,000.00
Total Revenue	234,392,790.00
Expense	
Direct Expense	
Programme Coordination, Governance & Advocacy	52,730,957.00
Capacity Building, Trainings & Knowledge Development	16,452,202.00
Livestock, Rangelands & Resilience Interventions	48,284,776.00
Research, Data & Evidence Generation	36,235,600.00
Audit, Compliance & Quality Assurance	1,027,988.00
Programme Administration & Operational Support	3,607,373.00
Subtotal Total Direct Expense	158,338,896.00
Human Resource	39,986,021.00
Operation and Maintenance	30,321,480.00
Total Expenses	228,646,397.00
Net Surplus/Deficit	KES 5,746,393.00

4.2 Human Resources

4.2.1 Internal Processess

In 2024, the Human Resource unit at Frontier Counties Development Council made significant strides in strengthening organizational capacity and fostering a positive work environment that supports the Secretariat's operational effectiveness.

During the year, FCDC successfully onboarded a cohort of interns to provide targeted support across the Secretariat. This initiative not only enhanced workflow efficiency but also contributed to youth capacity development by offering practical learning opportunities within the organization.

FCDC also conducted its annual staff performance appraisals, enabling a structured review of individual achievements, competency growth, and alignment to organizational objectives. Following this process, a salary review was undertaken for selected staff, reflecting the organization's commitment to recognizing performance, promoting equity, and enhancing staff motivation.

To reinforce teamwork, organizational alignment, and staff well-being, FCDC held its annual staff retreat at the end of 2024. The retreat offered an opportunity for reflection, team building, and strategic dialogue. As a result, staff and programme teams were able to realign their work plans and priorities to FCDC's overarching goals, ensuring coherent and coordinated delivery going into 2025.

Overall, these HR initiatives contributed to a more engaged, better-supported, and performance-driven workforce, positioning FCDC for strengthened programme implementation in the year ahead.

4.2.2 Staff Composition

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

4.2.3 HR Return Compliance

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

4.3 ICT and Digital Transformation

During the period under review, Frontier Counties Development Council made significant progress in advancing digital transformation and data accessibility across the Frontier Counties region. A key milestone in 2024 was the development of the FCDC Digital Repository, an innovative platform designed to centralize and streamline access to county-level data, sectoral information, and regional knowledge assets.

As part of the initial roll-out, FCDC successfully undertook a pilot phase in three RANGE Programme counties—Samburu, Marsabit, and Isiolo. This pilot aimed to test the system's usability, assess data integration needs, and evaluate its relevance to county planning and decision-making processes.

To enhance adoption and sustainability, FCDC trained a cohort of Trainers of Trainers (ToTs) drawn from the Departments of ICT and Economic Planning in the three pilot counties. The training focused on building technical capacity in:

- Navigating and managing the digital repository
- Uploading, organizing, and retrieving datasets
- Using the platform to support evidence-based planning
- Ensuring data accuracy, security, and standardization across county departments

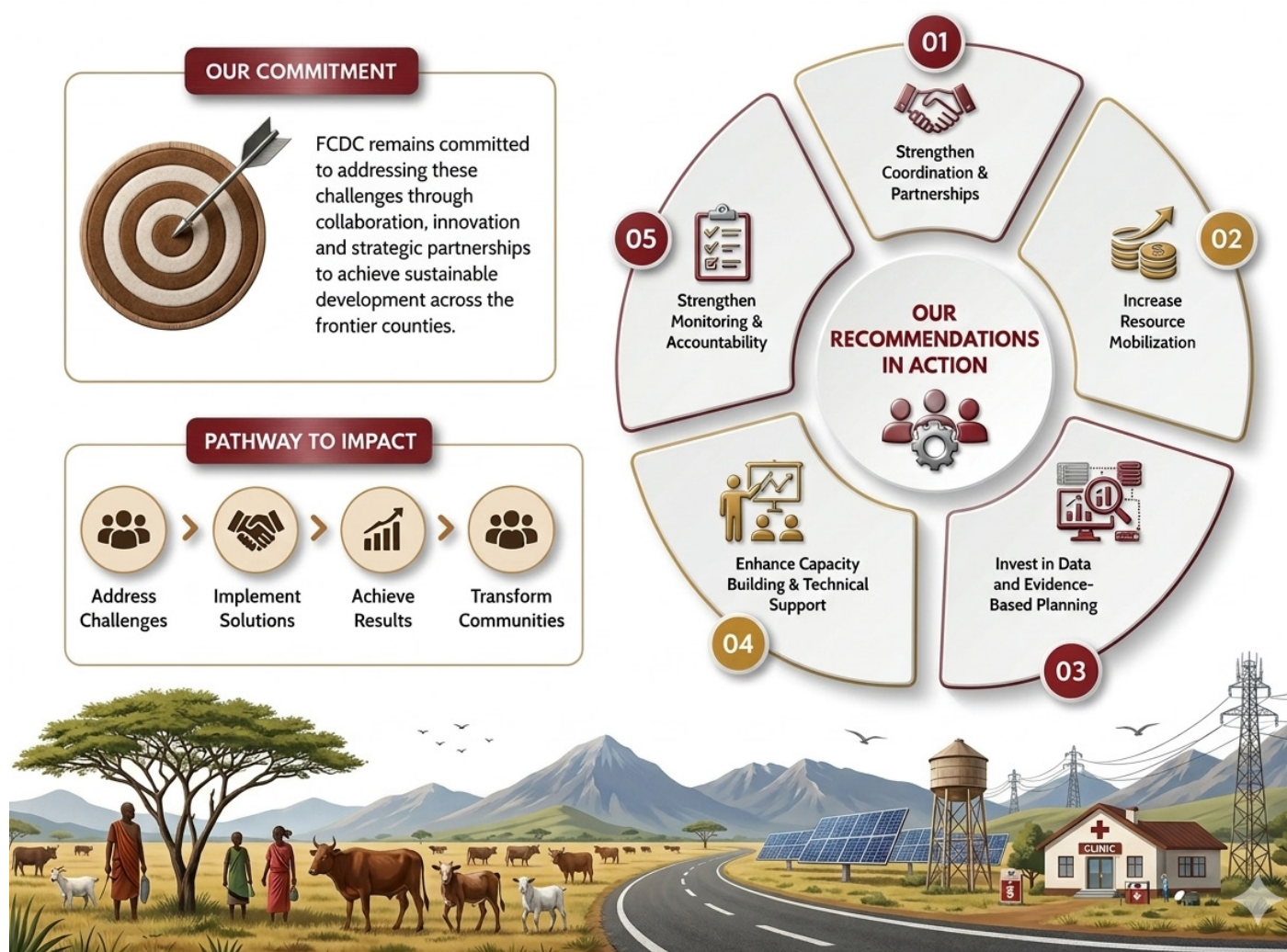
This capacity-building initiative equips counties with the skills needed to independently utilize and maintain the repository, supporting long-term data governance and digital transformation in the region.

The successful implementation of the pilot phase lays a strong foundation for scaling the digital repository to all FCDC member counties, further enhancing inter-county coordination, transparency, and access to development data.

Chapter Five

5. Challenges and Recommendations

Sector	Key Challenges	Recommendations
Agriculture	Delayed county documentation, low funding	Strengthen coordination, increase co-funding
Education	Data gaps, limited funding	Improve research tools, mobilize resources
Water	Limited resources, delayed MOUs	Strengthen partnerships, fast-track agreements
Peace building	Short training duration, cost pressures	Extend training, improve cost-sharing
Data Systems	Limited data integration	Promote data-driven planning



Future Outlook & 2025 Strategies Priorities

Building on 2024's momentum, FCDC will deepen coordination, scale high impact programmes, and ensure no community is left behind across the frontier counties region.

10

MEMBER
COUNTIES

FOUR STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS FOR 2025

A

1

Scale High Impact Programmes

- > Expand livestock vaccination reach
- > Scale digital learning to more schools
- > Deepen rangeland governance
- > Replicate successful ECD models

B

2

Strengthen Institutional Sustainability

- > Strengthen county ownership of programmes
- > Improve secretariat systems
- > Align with county CIDPs
- > Expand staff capacity

C

3

Expand Digital & Data Systems

- > Scale FCDC digital repository to all counties
- > Embed data-driven planning
- > Build county ICT capacity
- > Improve data governance

D

4

Deepen Regional Integration

- > Mobilise investment in water, livestock, education
- > Advance HoAGDP corridor development
- > Strengthen cross-border collaboration
- > Elevate frontier counties in national dialogue

Q1 2025

Scale digital repository
pilot to all counties

Q2 2025

Launch ECD Phase
baseline survey

Q3 2025

6th National ECD
Conference - Garissa

Q4 2025

Expand vaccination & RANGE
programme outcome

Ongoing

HoAGDP corridor
implementation &
monitoring

Annex 1:

Priority Area	Key Activities	Timelines	Partners	Status/Remark
FCDC Secretariat (Governors Meetings)				
24th PLS 2024	Existing booth showcasing FCDC initiatives	Dec 2024	County Governments, FCDC, DLCI, ASAL	Completed
Governors Meeting	2 Days meeting in Mombasa	Nov 2024	County Governments, FCDC, MRC, AKU, RPF, UNRCO	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	Completed
	NEDI frameworks and strategies Review		County Governments, FCDC, Partners, Kenha, World Bank, PMO	Completed
	FCDC/UNFPA Data Project		County Governments, FCDC, Partners	Completed
Sector Forum for Agriculture and Livestock				
Livestock Sector Strengthening	Vaccination Campaigns in Lamu, Mandera, Wajir	Jan-Dec 2024	FCDC, SDC, County Government	594,000 animals vaccinated
	Vet Staff training	Jan-Dec 2024	FCDC, SDC, County Government	29 Vets trained
	FCDC Repoting	Jan-Dec 2024	RANGE, FCDC, SDC, County Government	Recosting Established
	Research on conflict hotspots	Jan-Dec 2024	Garissa University	Studies on Isiolo-Garissa Conflict completed
	Community Land Registration	Jan-Dec 2024	County Governments of Samburu & Garissa	3 County land title given

Priority Area	Key Activities	Timelines	Partners	Status/Remark
Sector Forum for Education				
	Sector Forum for meetings continue	Feb- 2024	FCDC, AKUIHD, MOE, ECNEK, County \ Government	Completed
	Finalization of the of the stake-holders engagement on the ECD Baseline Survey	May -Dec 2024	FCDC, AKUIHD, ECNEK, MOE, County Government	Completed
	Engagement with (ECDNED) in the planning for the 6th National ECD conference in Garissa in 2025	June - Dec 2024	FCDC, AKUIHD, ECNEK, MOE, County Government	Completed
	MOU Establishment with Raspber-ry foundation	April 2024	FCDC and RPF	Completed
	Collaboration with RPF on Digital learning in schools	May - Dec 2024		Ongoing
	Collaboration with Mercy Corps in NAWIRI Program in Addressing persistent Malnutrition	Feb - Dec 2024		FCDC, Mercy corps county government of Turkana & Samburu
Sector Forum for Water and Blue Economy				
	Blue Economy Collaboration Framework Review	Jan-Dec 2024	County Governments, MWA, FCDC, KMA	Complete
Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project				
HoAGDP	Community Engagements in Isiolo	March - 2024	World Bank, Wajir County	20 stakeholders engagements meetings held
	Media and Communications in Isiolo	Jan-Dec 2024	World Bank, County governments, State Depart-ment of Roads, NEDI	Social media posts, press Media briefings.

Our Partners



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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



FORD
FOUNDATION

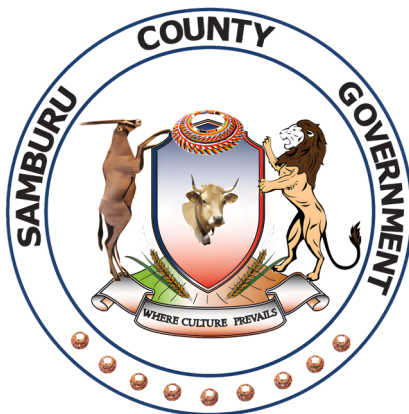
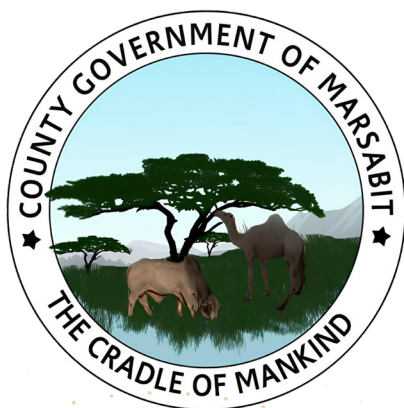
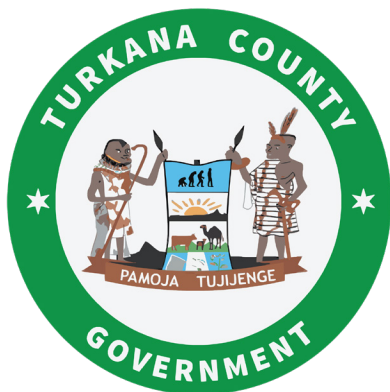


Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

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

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TRANSFORMING FRONTIER COUNTIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT