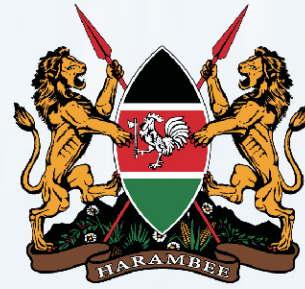
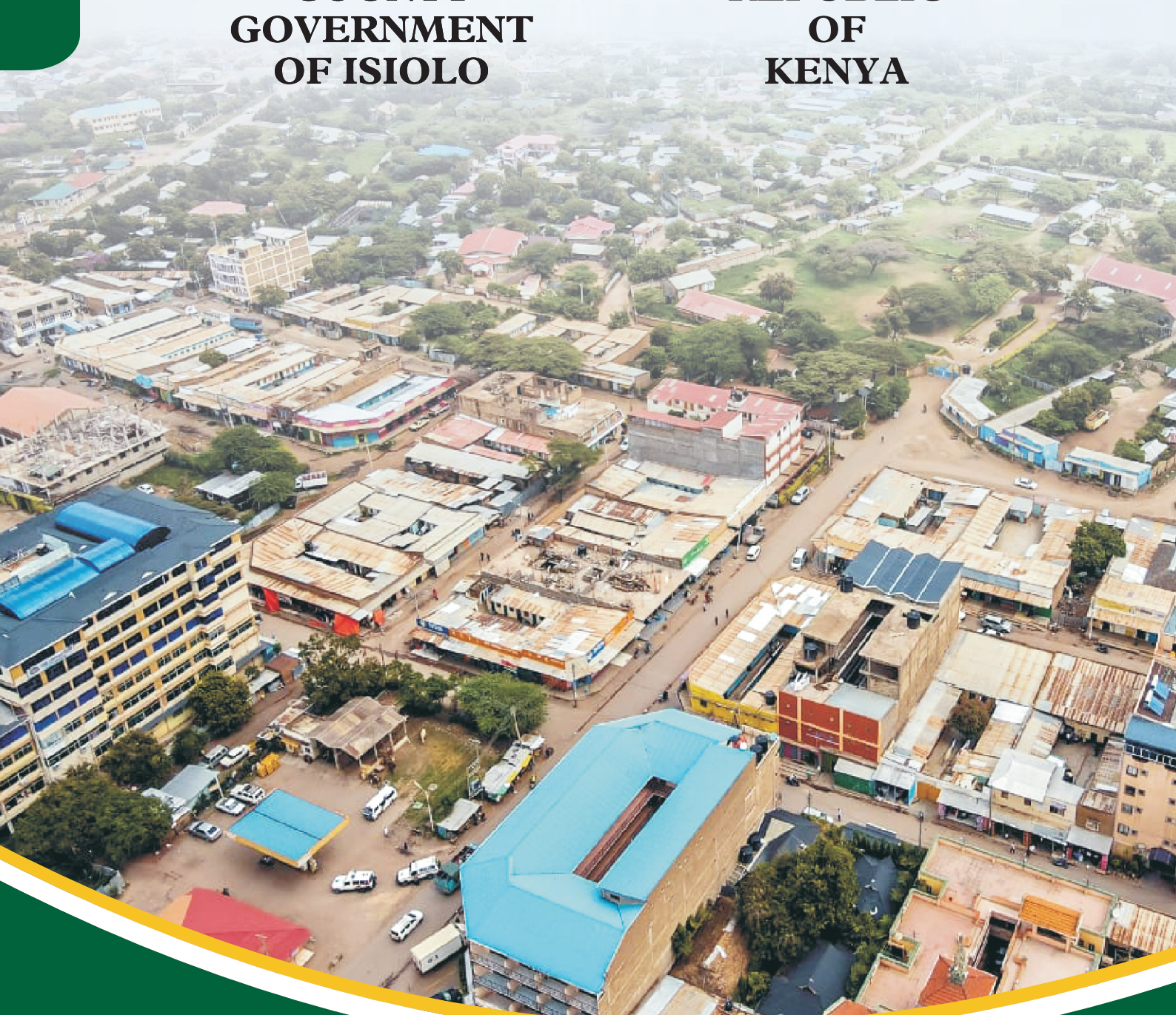




**COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
OF ISIOLO**



**REPUBLIC
OF
KENYA**



Celebrating

**10 YEARS OF DEVOLUTION:
*The Present and the Future***

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VISION

A secure, just, integrated and prosperous county where all enjoy full potential and high quality of life.



MISSION

Facilitation of an inclusive participatory engagement in development; creation of a vibrant and welcoming environment that allows optimal utilization of available resources.

GOVERNOR'S FOREWORD

injected substantial financial resources to actualize Isiolo Export Abattoir and is also working closely with the national government through the Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry on the same aspiration.

Equally, the provision of clean, safe and sufficient drinking water for the great people of Isiolo is close to my heart. In this regard, we have successfully drilled several strategic boreholes across our county and rehabilitated water infrastructure. I have also successfully lobbied with the national government for the construction of two mega dams in our county. These efforts I believe will significantly contribute to diverse sustainable livelihoods within Isiolo and her neighboring ASAL counties.

Access to quality albeit affordable health care is a key goal that I hold dearly. To realize this, we have made sure health facilities across our expansive county have drugs and other medical supplies. Similarly, we have partnered with the Ministry of Health to fast-track upgrading of Isiolo County Teaching and Referral Hospital (ICTRH) to level 5 status. Once done, the National Government will be in every financial year inject an additional 1B for the hospital's operations. My administration is also constructing a state-of-the-art Casualty, Accidents and Emergency centre. I envision that once complete and fully equipped, the critical unit will serve the greater Northern Kenya region.

Further, my administration appreciates the critical role education plays in the path from abject poverty. We therefore partnered with Direct-Aid Africa to sponsor 50 youth to undertake study in technical courses abroad. Similarly, my administration is also implementing a school feeding program targeting learners in Early Childhood Development and Education Centres (ECDE) across the county.

Concerted efforts between my government and the national government has made insecurity in our great county a thing of the past. I therefore invite you to invest in Isiolo and make her the holiday destination of choice. We are proudly home to diverse cultures, both the Unique Five and the Big Five within our game reserves. Our county also boasts of an international airport which will soon host reputable airlines and is home to unparalleled LAPSET projects.

His Excellency

**ABDI IBRAHIM
HASSAN**

Governor, Isiolo County

Devolution has irrefutably demonstrated to be the only hope of making concrete strides towards sustainable development in Arid and Semi-Arid Counties (ASAL) given its consultative and decision-making processes. Thanks to devolution, present day Isiolo County has huge business potential which continues to attract a broad-spectrum of investors.

I am particularly delighted that my administration is among the 23 county governments that are partnering with the national government in pioneering implementation of County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIPs) development program. Once in place, the CAIP in Isiolo will create great opportunities in manufacturing and investments emanating from value addition and aggregation of agricultural products translating into long-term benefits for players in dissimilar agricultural value chains. Similarly, these will help address the issues of unemployment and underemployment among our youth and women.

We have also as government remained true to our commitment to ensuring that our herders benefit from pastoralism under the harsh realities of climate change. In line with this, my administration has

His Excellency

**H.E DR. JAMES
L. LOWASA**

Deputy Governor, Isiolo County



Over the past 10 years devolution has contributed great gains in the health care sector across our nation. Previously highly marginalized like other Northern Kenya Counties, Isiolo County is a big beneficiary of these gains. Thanks to devolution the Isiolo County Teaching and Referral Hospital (ICTRH) now has a functional state-of-the-art Renal Dialysis Centre, that has been alleviating the suffering of many vulnerable families who in the past sought expensive dialysis services from private hospitals.

The great people of Isiolo County are grateful for devolution as through it we have a fully functional modern dental unit at ICTRH where their dental issues are catered for. Further, thanks to devolution, critical patients at ICTRH and Garbatulla sub county hospital receive oxygen at the comfort of their wards unlike in the past where they had to expensively hire oxygen cylinders from private hospitals in neighboring counties.

Equally, we have been able as a county government to establish a CT-Scan centre, refurbished and upgraded our laboratory at ICTRH, strengthened our referral system by making available ambulances in all the three sub-counties and supported the establishment of KMTC Isiolo Campus through construction of classes and a 224-capacity student's hostel.

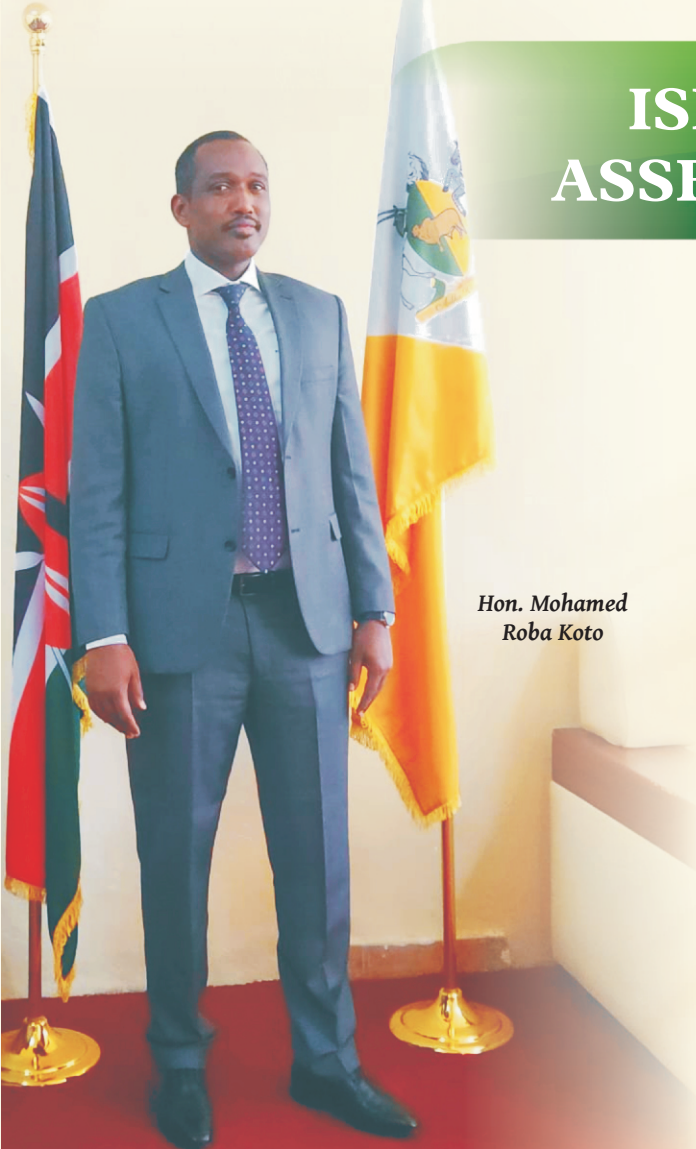
Under Governor Guyo's visionary leadership, the County Government is in the process of constructing and equipping a modern Casualty, Accident and Emergency Centre at ICTRH. Governor Guyo's administration has also through my office partnered with the Ministry of Health to fast-track upgrading of Isiolo County Teaching and Referral Hospital (ICTRH) to level 5 status. Similarly, his administration has also improved the procurement and dispatchment of essential drugs and other medical supplies to health facilities across our county.

In order to bring quality albeit affordable healthcare services closer to the people, the county government of Isiolo under Governor Guyo has also laid out plans to construct two level four hospitals one in Bulapesa and the other in Ngaremara area. To improve service delivery, we have also strengthened our human resources for health by employing more nurses, pharmacists, medical officers and doctors that will service in all our health facilities.

In addition, devolution has also substantially contributed to the water sector, Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE), the livestock sub-sector, agriculture, youth empowerment and conservation of our environment. Specifically, in the agriculture sector our people who are traditionally pastoralists are now practicing agro-pastoralism as a resilience building mechanism to adverse effects of climate change.

I strongly believe that our county's potential is boundless under devolution. It is my hope that future generations will protect the gains we are building on even as they reap big from them.

ISIOLO COUNTY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER



*Hon. Mohamed
Roba Koto*

As the Speaker of the Isiolo County Assembly, I have had the privilege to witness firsthand the array of challenges that our remarkable county has faced, as well as the boundless potential it holds. Our communities have time and again displayed their remarkable resilience in the face of harsh droughts and resource constraints. It is this very spirit of unwavering determination that fuels my drive to guide the Assembly towards pioneering initiatives capable of catalyzing transformative changes that will empower each and every Isiolian.

Upon assuming office, I was met with the dire impact of one of the most severe droughts in recent memory. Recognizing the urgency, I swiftly collaborated with the Governor to declare the situation a county disaster, a decision that propelled us into action. By uniting our efforts, we marshalled critical resources and partnered with non-governmental organizations to provide essential relief. Despite the gravity of the circumstances, our collective resilience prevented the loss of a single life. This experience underscored the immense potential that lies within our unity.

My vision extends to an Isiolo where every individual's voice is not only acknowledged but also addressed with utmost sincerity. This vision has driven me to pioneer mobile Assembly sessions, set to commence in Merti this coming September. I am acutely aware of the longstanding disconnect that communities have felt from the governance process, and this is a gap I am determined to bridge. I invite you to engage directly with your elected representatives, articulate your concerns, and witness the true essence of democracy in action. The Assembly I lead will not be merely an institution, but rather an embodiment of your aspirations.

The judicious allocation of resources stands as a cornerstone for

sustainable development. Under my leadership, a significant achievement was attained in the realm of education. The allocation for bursaries, which play a pivotal role in shaping the educational journey of our youth, underwent a remarkable enhancement. The allocation, which was formerly set at 50 million, was elevated to an impressive 75 million. This increase stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to nurturing the educational aspirations of our young minds, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder their pursuit of knowledge and excellence. This move, grounded in cooperation and consensus, reflects our belief that by investing in education, we are investing in the future prosperity of Isiolo County.

In the span of merely nine months since assuming the role of the Speaker of the Isiolo County Assembly, our collective efforts have yielded remarkable results. As we stand at this pivotal juncture, on the cusp of change, we proudly announce that we have produced five pivotal bills, each a testament to our unyielding commitment to shaping a prosperous future for Isiolo.

This journey began with the Isiolo County Alcoholic Drinks Control Bill 2023, a response to the critical need for prudent regulation of alcoholic beverages within our county. With foresight, we recognized the importance of fostering responsible consumption and safeguarding the well-being of our community members. This bill, a testament to our dedication, is poised to enhance public health and safety while promoting an environment of mindful consumption.

In tandem with our resolve to foster development, the Isiolo County Development Partner Support Coordination Bill 2023 emerged. This bill represents our aspiration to forge stronger connections with our esteemed development partners. By creating a structured framework for coordination and collaboration, we aim to harness external support effectively and channel it toward initiatives that drive our county's growth and progress.

A cornerstone of our mission is the Isiolo County Water and Sanitation Services Bill 2023. This legislative endeavor encapsulates our unwavering commitment to providing access to clean water and sanitation services for every resident. By establishing comprehensive regulations and strategic mechanisms, we strive to elevate the quality of life across Isiolo.

Amid these transformative undertakings, the Isiolo County Markets Bill 2023 comes to the fore. Recognizing the significance of vibrant marketplaces in fostering economic growth and entrepreneurship, this bill endeavors to reshape the marketplace landscape within our county. By setting forth comprehensive guidelines and standards, we seek to cultivate an environment that stimulates commerce, enhances consumer experiences, and drives local economic prosperity.

Our progress thus far is a testament to the power of collaboration, foresight, and dedication. As we stand on the precipice of actualizing these visionary bills, we are thrilled to announce that their finalization is imminent, with the upcoming month heralding the culmination of our legislative journey. These bills signify the embodiment of our vision, the culmination of our aspirations, and the embodiment of our collective pursuit of a brighter future for Isiolo. However, the significance of these legislations is incomplete without your active participation. To promote transparency and inclusivity, I have thrown open the doors of the Assembly to the youth and will soon introduce live proceedings. My vision revolves around an Isiolo where every citizen is bestowed with empowerment.

The journey that lies ahead is undeniably challenging, yet I find solace in the boundless potential that resides within the people and communities of Isiolo. The Assembly I lead remains steadfast in its commitment to pioneering innovative solutions, embracing progress, and nurturing dialogues that propel the county forward. I implore you to join hands with us in crafting your destiny. In unison, we will construct an Isiolo characterized by prosperity, justice, and unity. The time has come for a sweeping transformation, and I am resolutely convinced that this transformation commences now.



ISIOLO COUNTY POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



**H.E. ABDI IBRAHIM HASSAN
(GUYO)**
Governor, Isiolo County



Hon. ADAN DULLO FATUMA
Senator, Isiolo County



Hon. MUMINA BONAYA GOLLO
Women Rep, Isiolo County



Hon. JOSEPH SAMAL LOMWA
MP - Isiolo North Constituency



Hon. MOHAMED TUBI BIDU
MP - Isiolo South Constituency



COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF ISIOLO COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



H.E. ABDI IBRAHIM HASSAN
Governor, Isiolo County



H.E. DR. JAMES L. LOWASA
Deputy Governor, Isiolo County



Hon. DADHE BORU
Isiolo County Secretary and
Head of the Public Service.



Hon. YUSSUF DAHIR
CECM - Lands, Physical Planning,
Roads, Transport, and
Urban Development.



Hon. YUSSUF MOHAMED
CECM - Agriculture, Livestock
Production, Fisheries
Development, and Irrigation



**Hon. AILEEN KAJUJU
MUNGIRA**
CECM - Education, Youth,
Sports, Gender, Culture,
and Social Services.



**Hon. Dr. LAWRENCE
MWONGELA**
CECM - Tourism, Trade,
Cooperative, and
Enterprise Development



Hon. ALI WARIO SARITE
CECM - Water Sanitation, Energy,
Environment, Natural Resources



Hon. ABDULLAHI BANTICHA
CECM - Finance and Economic
Planning

ISIOLO ECDE LEARNERS BENEFIT FROM GOVERNOR GUYO'S
SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME



The County government of Isiolo launched a school feeding programme for ECDE learners in May this year in order to improve retention.

Governor Abdi Hassan Guyo said the programme targets 164 ECDE centres. The food launched then was to sustain the children for second term only. However, the long-term intervention will see food items rice, beans and cooking oil donated to all ECDE centres in all 10 wards across the county.

According to Save The Children, 26% of children in Kenya are living with stunted growth due to malnutrition. In Isiolo, according to the Health and Nutrition Survey 2020 report, 16.7 percent of children are malnourished. Speaking during the launch, Galgalo Ali the director ECDE hailed Governor Guyo for his efforts in ensuring that ECDE children are supported.

He said the feeding programme will significantly contribute to the retention and transition of the children to the primary level. Galgalo however lamented that in the past ECDE learners have been going hungry resulting to majority of them dropping out while others have registered dismal performance.

"I must laud our governor for providing these food items which will go a long way in ensuring access, retention, and completion in our ECDE," Galgalo said adding that ECDE learner have in the past suffered immense hunger.

He said the provision of food will also improve child health and development, play and participation.

Governor Guyo said the programme will have a huge positive impact on literacy levels in the county. He said his administration will ensure no child drops out schools due to lack of food.

"The ECDE level is a critical stage in developing literacy levels of society. My administration will therefore put in place sustainable mechanisms of ensuring that no child drops out school because of food scarcity.

Teachers at Mwangaza ECDE centres and Waso primary school hailed the program adding that the program had helped double the enrollment.

"We are pleased to report back that the enrollment rate had doubled up this term as more kids join the classes," said Madam Lucy Kendi adding that this could be the only meal that most learners from poverty-stricken households have.

She appealed to the Governor to ensure sustainability of the program to ensure kids from less fortunate families benefit. The feeding programme is in line with Governor Guyo's goal of ensuring pupils in ECDEs are retained in school.

School feeding programmes are one of the most significant and widespread social safety nets. Benefits of these programmes include promoting higher school attendance and reducing dropout rates, improving concentration and educational performance in school and children's nutrition and offset lost income for struggling families.



GOVERNOR ABDI GUYO EMPOWERS YOUTH, WOMEN and PWDs WITH ECONOMIC ENABLERS



Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Guyo mid this year launched a Youth and Women Empowerment Program, in a move aimed at enabling the beneficiaries to venture into business, fend for their families while also providing employment opportunities for others.

Addressing Members of public during launch of the program at the Isiolo Police Grounds, Governor Guyo assured the people of Isiolo that his administration was committed to deliver on the promises that he made to them prior to his election as governor, key among them being the economic empowerment of women and youth.

Two 14-seater Nissan passenger vehicles, 100 motorbikes, four tuk-tuks, 100 sewing machines, 100 hairdressing salon equipment, 30 shaving machines, and 10 car wash pumps and water storage tanks were issued to selected youths and women in Isiolo Central Sub-County.

Governor Guyo however warned the beneficiaries against selling the equipment, and instead use them to fend for themselves and employ others for years to come. He said that the log books for motor bikes, tuk-tuks and vehicles will remain in the custody of the County secretary in order to deter any possible transfer of ownership.

"I want to urge all of you to use what you have received today to fend for your families and empower yourselves. Not many people are lucky to be given such economic enablers so I must discourage the idea of selling whatever you have received," said Governor Guyo adding that he his administration has put in place measure to ensure beneficiaries of the program don't sell what they received.

Speaking in the same event, Isiolo County Commissioner Geoffrey Omoding lauded the move to provide the equipment to less privileged members of the community, noting that the program was in line with the bottom-up

economic transformation model that is spearheaded by President William Ruto. He also encouraged the County boss to continue working closely with the National Government for the benefit of Isiolo residents especially in the areas of security and construction of roads.

Isiolo County Assembly Speaker Hon. Mohamed Roba Qoto asked the beneficiaries to now commit themselves to work tirelessly and increase the number of items donated to them by buying more, hence employing more youths in the near future. He also called upon them to desist from alcoholism and spending too much time on Miraa.

Japhet Ng'olua, one of the beneficiaries who received a motor bike thanked Governor Guyo for the life transforming initiative, and asked those who were not lucky to receive the equipment during the first phase to give the beneficiaries ample time to venture into business so that they can contribute to economic growth of the community as they also help themselves.

"I am grateful to our Governor for giving me a motorbike for business. This will help me fend for my young family and also help me get money for development. I urge all my colleague youth to use the equipment they have received today to make a difference in the lives."

Governor Guyo made an appeal to those in positions of leadership and those who are financially well to desist from competing with less privileged members of the community whenever relief opportunities such as bursaries, cash transfers or even programs similar to the one he just presided over are rolled out. Guyo such initiatives are meant to only empower the most vulnerable members of the society.

He said that similar programs will be rolled out at ward level across the expansive county.



ROADS NETWORK

IMPROVEMENT BY ISIOLO GOVERNMENT

Roads are key drivers of socio-economic development of communities across different counties in Kenya. In particular, they do provide access to; employment, social, health and education services making them critical enablers in the fight against poverty.

It is against this background that, Governor H.E Abdi Ibrahim Guyo's administration hit the ground running to conduct a comprehensive roads' survey that helped identify the poorest stretches of road network across the ten wards in the expansive county. It is from the results of this that the Governor embarked on a mission to improve their condition through grading and murraming.

According to the County Chief officer in charge of Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Dr. Ali Wario Waqo, the County government has managed to grade 405 Kilometers of Earth roads, graveled 32 kilometers and opened 120 kilometers of new roads.

This has, according to him led to a tremendous improvement in terms of accessibility and reduced travel time.

"We are already witnessing enormous changes in both our social and economic status due to improvements this administration has made on our roads," said Dr. Ali. Dr. Ali added that the people of Isiolo are set to benefit from engineered graveled climate proof roads courtesy of the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KERRA), with four roads already at the final design stage, and work set to begin in September of 2023.

These roads are Isiolo-Oldonyiro road, Gotu- Merti

road, Kinna-Kulamawe road, and the Kinna-Rapsu road.

In a move aimed at easing access to the town especially during the rainy seasons, Dr. Ali further noted that the county government has completed the grading and murraming of 20kms of roads within the township wards of Bulapesa, Wabera and Burat.

Regarding the quality of road construction work, Dr. Ali said that the department ensures that the murram to be used is tested and approved before engaging the contractor, and also monitors the workmanship to make sure that the murram is well compacted and the drainage system well done.

He assured the people of Isiolo that Governor Guyo's administration was committed to improve access roads in line with the pledges that H.E the governor made prior to his election into office.

"Governor Guyo is committed to have a first-class road infrastructure in Isiolo. His vision is having a transport infrastructure that eases the movement of goods and people within the county," said Dr. Ali adding that the governor appreciates the role roads play in socio-economic development of a community.

The ongoing construction of the Horn of Africa Road which joins Isiolo to Mandera through Modogashe is also expected to be a major game changer in terms of movement of goods and services, and will open up the region for economic growth. As part of corporate social responsibility, Isiolo County has been allocated a further five kilometers of tarmac road that will further improve the road network.





FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

Isiolo County First Lady leads free screening

Cancer has in recent years become a huge health menace to countless individuals, families and communities around the world. It is against this backdrop that, the office of Isiolo County First Lady Habiba Galgalo initiated a free cancer screening program.

Rukia Waqo, 26, was nervous when she made the decision to go for cervical cancer screening on the fateful day the initiative was launched in mid-July this year.

It was her first time and she did not know what to expect. She was afraid the process would be painful. But when she went for the test, she said the screening took less than 10 minutes and it was smooth and painless.

"Before going through the process, a health worker talked to me and she told me how the testing normally takes place. I remember how cold the tool she used felt," she said.

"The health worker who was a woman was very gentle and even talked to me as she was doing the test. It wasn't painful as I thought."

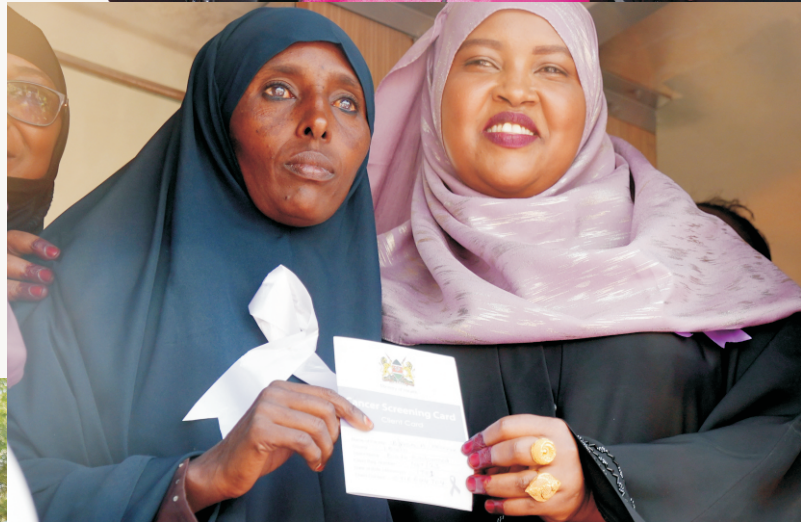
Waqo said she will be notified either through a phone call and SMS when the results will be ready.

Rhoda Mwangi, 21, underwent screening for breast cancer. It was also her first time.

She narrated how the death of her aunt in 2021 pushed her to go for screening.

"I don't want to become a statistic like my aunt and that's why I decided to get early screening to know my status. The pain my aunt went through is not something I wish on someone, even a stranger," she said.

Cancer survivor Nuria Mohamed said she was



diagnosed with cancer at stage 3 in 2021.

She regretted not going for screening earlier even after being taught in school the importance of regular screening.

"I wish I knew what I know now. I would have gone for screening much earlier but now I have started chemotherapy and hopeful for the best," she said.

Mohamed is now counselling women and encouraging them to go for early tests even as she goes through chemotherapy.

"Being here today gives me relief that I can save one woman's life by urging women to take advantage and attend the free cancer screening. It's even a double blessing that the initiative by our very own has been brought on our doorsteps," she said.

The three women spoke during a free breast and cervical screening drive initiated by Isiolo County's First Lady Habiba Galgalo.

The free screening will be implemented in all the Sub-Counties in Isiolo.

The screening took place for two weeks in July of this year at health centers in Bulapesa, Kinna and Garbatula. More than 2,600 women and girls showed up for screening and counselling.

In an interview, H. E. First Lady Habiba said the cancer burden is heavily felt in Isiolo, hence the reason for the screening.

"Most people come for treatment when it is too late and this has necessitated screening and awareness. We have cervical and breast cancer leading in high morbidity and mortality rates, cervical cancer is leading in death," she said.

An average of 30 mothers undergo screening monthly at the Isiolo County Teaching and Referral Hospital against a target of 805.

This reveals that women in Isiolo either do not know the advantage of having cancer screening or they do not know why they should undergo regularly checkups.

"My people should understand why early detection is key because it's curable. Late detection is fatal and expensive to manage. That is why I'm spearheading this exercise today," Habiba said.

Habiba said she chose to spearhead the cancer screening drive because, in Kenya, nine women die daily

of cervical cancer.

The burden of cancer has been rising over the past few decades and it is projected that by 2030, more than 13 million deaths annually will be due to cancer.

Of the deaths, 75 per cent will occur in low- and middle-income countries.

As highlighted in the National Cancer Control Strategy, 2017-2022, cancer is one of the major non-communicable diseases and combined with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, causes over 60 per cent of total global mortality annually.

In Kenya, cancer ranks third as a cause of death after infectious diseases and cardiovascular diseases.

The National Cancer Control Programme this month stated that 42,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in Kenya annually, with 27,000 deaths being reported.

To create awareness, the Ministry of Health is planning to spend Sh2.3 billion on screening programmes.

In Isiolo, Habiba promised to make the screening a regular exercise to reach as many women as possible. Cancer awareness campaigns and county cancer walks and run will be some of the ways Habiba will use to reach out to more women.

"Through my office, I will integrate cervical and breast cancer screening as a routine in comprehensive outreach service with a mobile clinic truck," she said.

"I will also be doing radio talks and hold meetings with the help of local media to reach more women."

This, however, is not the first cancer programme in Isiolo. Habiba said other screening drives were previously spearheaded by non-government organisations but they have exited. For better reach, H.E Habiba will have at least 60 healthcare workers trained in cervical and breast cancer screening in the county.

"We are keen in covering Ngaremara, Daaba, Kina, Garbatulla, Merti, Oldonyiro and Kipsing. The service is integrated as routine services despite poor uptake," she added. Her office is also intending to do partner mapping and resource mobilisation to make the programme a success.

"To me, it's service to humanity and service to humanity is service to God and my office will team up with all stakeholders in undertaking this programme," Habiba said.





CAMEL MILK POWDER

PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY: THE CAMEL MILK REVOLUTION IN ISIOLO COUNTY

In a groundbreaking move that underscores the power of collaboration and innovation in the agricultural sector, the County Government of Isiolo under the leadership of Governor Abdi Guyo earlier this month forged a strategic partnership with the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC) to promote and market the county's prized commodity - camel milk. This strategic alliance not only promises economic growth for Isiolo County but also highlights the potential of camel milk as a globally sought-after product.

Camel milk, known for its exceptional nutritional and medicinal qualities, has been gaining traction in recent years. Its high demand worldwide, including within Kenya, is a testament to the growing awareness of its health benefits. The announcement by Isiolo County Governor Abdi Guyo about this partnership comes as a beacon of hope for both camel herders and consumers alike.

Governor Guyo's enthusiastic endorsement of the partnership reflects the profound impact it is expected to have on the county's socio-economic facet. The newly commissioned Kiganjo factory in Nyeri by Kenya Cooperative Creameries is poised to become a game-changer for Isiolo County and beyond. This bottom-up approach aligns with the vision of President William Ruto and holds the potential to uplift the agricultural sector in the Mt. Kenya region with a spillover effect to Isiolo

County. Governor Guyo's made a special call for additional support, a plea for further investment in this burgeoning sector, specifically coolers to boost camel milk production. By addressing challenges faced by camel herders, such as storage and transportation, the government can catalyze a substantial increase in production.

"With proper infrastructure our county has the potential to produce over 50,000 liters of camel milk daily. This could revolutionize the economic status of our pastoral communities," said Governor Guyo adding that powered camel milk provides a new avenue for camel milk herders to prevent huge post-harvest losses while making more from the value-added product.

The partnership between Isiolo County and KCC is more than just a business arrangement; it is a testament to the transformative power of collaboration. As the camel milk market gains momentum, it paves the way for economic empowerment, improved livelihoods, and enhanced healthcare

outcomes. The integration of camel milk production into larger agricultural establishments demonstrates the far-reaching impact of forward-thinking policies and initiatives.

Therefore, the partnership between Isiolo County and KCC represents a milestone in the journey towards sustainable economic growth, innovation, and improved health espoused and entrenched in Governor Guyo's manifesto.

Camel milk's impressive nutritional profile, which includes high antioxidants, positions it as a formidable player in the fight against chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. These properties make camel milk a sought-after dietary supplement for health-conscious consumers. The newfound market provided by KCC presents an unprecedented opportunity for Isiolo County to harness its abundant camel resources and contribute to the broader economic development of the region.

As camel milk continues to capture the attention of consumers globally Isiolo County stands poised to make its mark

on the world stage, contributing to a healthier, more prosperous future for its residents and beyond. This is a testament to the transformative power of collaboration and the boundless potential that lies within the rich resources of Isiolo's diverse regions.



MOTHER-TO-MOTHER SUPPORT GROUPS MODEL TRANSFORM MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION STATUS IN ISIOLO COUNTY



Isiolo County faces a significant challenge with maternal, infant, and young child nutrition, as recent research reveals that only a small percentage of 11.2% of children below five years and 21.1% of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) meet the minimum dietary requirements.

The situation has been exacerbated by a severe drought and high food prices, leaving households with limited food choices and access. However, a ray of hope shines through as the Isiolo County Government collaborates with Action Against Hunger (ACF) to support 82 mother-to-mother support groups in Oldonyiro Cherab, Kinna and Sericho Ward.

The initiative aims to improve dietary diversity among children and women through nutrition messaging at the household level and the implementation of climate-smart technologies to produce diversified foods at household level.

Community Health Assistants (CHAs) from the County Government, in partnership with ACF officers, play a vital role in training group members on maternal, infant, and young child nutrition.

Patrick Muriuki who is Community Health Assistant in Oldonyiro and who is always enthusiastic in his job said following this program, the number of patients seeking health services in relation to food-related deficiency like anemia is declining since the community embraced the program.

“Through the mother-to-mother support program, we are able to reach a big number of families where we enlighten them on the importance of eating age-specific appropriate diets and seeking health services once they are expectant for

their own health and that of their children” Muriuki said.

Janet Mwema from ACF said they also provide essential farm inputs to help the women groups establish vegetable gardens that rely on minimal water, considering the scarcity of this resource in the county. She emphasizes the importance of equipping the farmers with Village Saving and Loaning (VSLA) skills.

“The VSLA system allows the farmers to save proceeds from vegetable sales, providing women in the targeted villages with easier access to loans” Janet explained.

Charity Lesengei, secretary of Kimanjoi Mother to Mother Support Group, expresses gratitude for the intervention, stating that despite water scarcity in their village, each member has successfully maintained a vegetable garden using grey water from the kitchen.

“Some members even sell the surplus vegetables to nearby hotels, enabling them to afford school fees for their children without depending solely on their husbands” Madam Lesengei stated.

The positive outcomes of the initiative include; improved availability, accessibility, and consumption of dark green leafy vegetables (spinach, kales, amaranths) in households, reduction of the time spent going to markets to buy vegetables and enhanced household income through vegetable sales and savings.

Overall, Isiolo County Government in collaboration with ACF, are making strides in addressing the problem of malnutrition in the region, while empowering women economically and environmentally with climate-smart farming practices.



WATER PROVISION

GOVERNOR ABDI IBRAHIM focuses on providing clean water to address scarcity and food insecurity

Water scarcity is a common occurrence in Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASALs) counties in Kenya. Informed by this reality, Governor Abdi Ibrahim (Guyo) has made the provision of clean and safe water for all residents of Isiolo County top of his development agenda. To realize this, his administration through the Department of Water is fully funding the drilling of 7 boreholes in different parts of the county; Kakili, Kilimani, Alkadeli in Burat Ward, Kiwanja in Ngaremara Ward, and Lakole, Malkagala, and Alango in Cherab ward.

Envisaged to be complete by end of this year, the 7 boreholes will benefit an estimated 1,904 households.

To bolster these efforts, Governor Guyo's administration has also partnered with Cooperation on Peace and Development (COPAD) and Northern Rangelands Trust through the Kenya Ranger Program with funding from the European Union in Kenya to drill a solar-powered 25,000 litres per hour capacity borehole at Attan that will be serviced by a 100,000 litres tank.

Speaking during the official site handing over ceremony, CECWater, Environment and Natural Resources Ali Wario Sarite who was joined by C.O Water and Sanitation Mr. Godana Dida, observed that Governor Guyo is committed to meeting water needs for the great people of Isiolo. He also advised beneficiaries of the Attan Water Irrigation project to protect the investment from would be vandalism.

"Our governor is committed to providing water for every household in this great county. He has instructed me to make sure our people have access to clean, safe and sufficient water," said CEC Sarite.

The entire project which will include piping to a nearby

farm is expected to be completed in the next four months of this year.

It should also be remembered that Governor Guyo also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chairperson of the Water Sector Trust Fund for the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation project (SWASAP) in the ASAL. SWASAP targeted residents of; Iresaboru, Sericho, and Bisan Biliqo in Isiolo County.

SWASAP targeted 780 households for a water supply of 50,000m³, 950 households will benefit from water resource management and 500 households in 45 villages will benefit from sanitation interventions.

The SWASAP project is expected to change the water scarcity narrative that has for decades harrowed communities living in rural Isiolo County.

Governor Guyo's administration has also, through the Department of Water, rehabilitated the 28-year-old Ewaso Water Project system. Initiated and completed in October 1996 by Cassago missionaries, to combat water scarcity in Oldonyiro ward, the system has over the years been dilapidated by harsh weather conditions and vandalism.

However, the County Government recently intervened by carrying out several renovation efforts that primarily focused on several crucial aspects; the desilting of the main intake in Ewaso river to ensure efficient water flow and prevent blockages, reinforcing of open canals using gabions to provide stability and prevent erosion, sleeving of pipes, reinforcing of main streams and renovation of the main water tank.

These renovations were a significant step forward in alleviating water shortages in Oldonyiro ward and ensuring



a sustainable water supply for the community.

Additionally, Governor Guyo has successfully lobbied with the national government to build two dams in the Isiolo: the stalled Crocodile Jaw and the Kubi Qalo dam located between Merti and Bulesa. These dams will have a transformative impact on the county, enabling the county to put over 200,000 acres of land under irrigation and create employment opportunities while addressing the water scarcity issue.

The Crocodile Jaw dam, which was initiated in 2014 but stalled due to lack of funding, will have a capacity of 4.3 million cubic meters of water. The dam will be built on the Ewaso Ngiro River and is expected to serve over 30,000 households in the region. Additionally, the Kubi Qalo dam will be constructed as a spill way for the Ewaso Nyiro river. The dam will have a capacity of 3.6 million cubic meters of water and is expected to benefit over 20,000 households in the region.

These two dams will play a crucial role in addressing the water scarcity issue in Isiolo County. With over 200,000 acres of land set to be put under irrigation, the dams will help boost agricultural production in the county, providing farmers with a reliable source of water for their crops. This, in turn, will lead to increased food security, reduced poverty, and improved livelihoods for the residents of Isiolo.

Governor Guyo said the construction of the dams will also create numerous employment opportunities for the residents of Isiolo, particularly in the construction and maintenance of the dams, as well as in the agricultural sector.

“Construction of these dams will provide job opportunities will not only provide a source of income for the residents but will also stimulate economic growth in our county. Of great importance is that both dams will help us address the water scarcity issue that has been huge challenge to us,” said Governor Guyo adding that Crocodile Jaw and Kubi Qalo dams will provide enough water for irrigation thereby assisting the county government deal with food insecurity.

The resolution to build the Crocodile Jaw and Kubi Qalo dams in Isiolo County marks a significant milestone in the region's journey towards addressing the water scarcity issue. Both dams will provide a reliable source of water for irrigation, improve food security, and create employment opportunities for the residents of Isiolo. The successful implementation of this project will have far-reaching benefits, transforming the region and improving the lives of its residents.

CAMEL MILK

ISILO WOMEN FORM COOPERATIVES, VENTURE INTO MILK TRADE TO IMPROVE THEIR RESILIENCE



Isiolo County boasts of strong women that are known to guide their families in the path of resilience and determination in facing harsh realities of climate change and eventually to prosperity.

Recurring devastating droughts in Northern Kenya mainly due to the climatic change, have resulted to pastoral women in Isiolo coming together to form Camel Milk Cooperative societies to improve their resilience and cope with the challenging situation.

It's a bee of activity at Walqabana Women group in Kulamawe, and Tawakal, Anoloe women groups in Isiolo Central same as Chari Camel milk Cooperative group where women organize themselves to venture into camel milk trade.

With only 53 Members, Walqabana women group which is located in the rural town of Kulamawe can now export milk to Isiolo Town and Nairobi city courtesy of the County Government of Isiolo, the Lay Volunteer International Association LVIA and USAID's Livestock Market Systems.

Engineer Farah Hassan, a project specialist from LVIA which partnered with the County Government of Isiolo in establishing the Walqabana Cooperative, praised the plant as a game changer in value addition. He revealed that modern equipment, including a solar system, two 1,500-liter coolers, a 1,500-liter pasteurizer, a milk filter tank, and a milk analyzer, had already been installed at the facility.

Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Guyo has expressed his commitment to supporting camel milk production, especially among those who have formed viable cooperatives, and addressing challenges that hinder its value chain development.

"These plants will be a game changer in value addition for our camel milk. The County Government, is committed to supporting the groups by providing technical assistance to uplift their livelihoods and increase production." Said the Governor.

He said the six motorbikes would greatly benefit the cooperative and farmers from Kulamawe, Kinna, and

Boji, facilitating the transportation of their products to the camel production plant. Observing this will cushion them from the huge post-harvest losses they have experienced in the past.

Group members lauded the County Government of Isiolo for provided them with 6 motorbikes and a generator. The also called on other partners to chip in to ensure sustainability. Asiha Alia group member expressed gratitude to the county government and partners for the intervention. They promised to put in additional effort to meet the increased demand for camel milk.

"We are happy with the donation of motorbikes and a generator we received from Governor Guyo's government. The motorbikes have helped with the transportation of milk from our members homes and other suppliers. They have also eased transportation of our milk to our market in Isiolo town," Aisha Ali Said adding that the generator has helped prevent losses during power outages.

Walqabana group members, transport approximately 3,500 liters of camel milk per day and distribute it to Isiolo and Nairobi. Recently the group members through the help of a partner took the milk samples to KCC Milk factory to be converted to powder milk.

Another ambitious group of women is the Chari Camel Milk Cooperative. Members of this cooperative hailed the interventions by consortium partners of the Building Drought Resilience in Isiolo County through Sustainable Livelihoods (DRiC) for helping them establish their operations.

The forty-five women of Anolei Camel Milk Cooperative Society have beaten all odds to build the most vibrant and active women led camel milk cooperative in Isiolo. Receiving an estimated 7,000 liters of camel milk every day from producers spread across our expansive county, the women of Anolei export an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 liters of camel milk every morning to Nairobi using a refrigerated track owned by the group.

Support for this prospering cooperative came from the County Government which refurbished its current rented premises, bought some equipment and trained group members. The County government also undertakes routine inspection of the plant. Additional support came from Veterinary San frontiers (VSF) which contributed half of the cost of refrigerated truck, purchased some of the equipment and was involved in capacity building and routine inspection of the facility.

Research done by the Departments of; Economic

Planning, Trade and Investments, Cooperatives and different development partners demonstrates that successes of these cooperatives will have long term benefits to the overall community. Among the benefits identified; employment through recruitment of permanent and casual staff, reduced post-harvest losses due to availability of cold storage facilities, increased incomes to camel keepers, 'bodaboda' operators, reduced malnutrition resulting from increased incomes, Opportunity for development of small businesses around the plants and profitability for cooperatives from value added products.

Efforts to ensure this success is sustainable have made by different stakeholders through putting in place measures to ensure linkage between livestock owners, traders and processing plants. The county government of Isiolo has constructed roads and helped solicit for development of communication network in the producer areas. Similarly, the county government has fully operational and facilitated extension services.

Development partners like VSF, LVIA, LMS and E4Impact have helped farmers to form cooperatives and common interest groups along the value chain, establish market linkages with consumers and wholesale and retail outlets, provided capacity building of actors along the value chain, Linkage to funding, credit and banking services and Establishment of refrigerated transport system.

Camel keeping is an important economic activity in the ASALS and Isiolo County in particular. The county has a growing population of about fifty two thousand camels. Camels have multi-functional roles comprising of production of many products like milk, meat and hides, provision of transport, social and cultural functions and have advantages over other livestock for been able to survive and produce in the changing climate conditions especially in the ASALS. The camel milk is in high demand all over the world due to medicinal values associated with it. Six thousand (6,000) liters to seven thousand (7,000) liters of camel milk is exported daily to Nairobi from Isiolo. The county also produces large quantities of cattle and goats' milk especially during the rainy seasons majority of which is sold and consumed locally for subsistence.





LASTING SOLUTION

Isiolo seeks lasting solution to insecurity with border Counties

Runaway insecurity in Northern Kenya Counties has for a long time claimed hundreds of lives, led to numerous incidences of livestock theft, displaced families and destruction of property.

Competition for water and pasture, land disputes, political intrigues, border disputes and proliferation of illegal firearms, are the main causes of recurring conflicts between Isiolo residents and those of neighboring Samburu, Wajir, Garissa, Meru, Laikipia and Marsabit counties.

However, hope for a lasting solution to this community concern is within a promising horizon. This is after Governor Abdi Guyo and his Wajir counterpart Governor Ahmed Abdullahi November hosted the Interior and Coordination of National Government C.S Prof. Kindiki for a security meeting. The well-planned visit entailed touring various parts of Isiolo and Wajir Counties, to both assess drivers of inter-community conflict characterized by banditry attacks and to also promote inter-border peace.

CS Interior Hon. Kithure Kindiki assured both governors and leaders that had accompanied them of improved security surveillance as well as recruitment of 350 police reservists who were to be deployed at the border of Isiolo and Wajir counties. He also said Police stations will be established in Korbesa, Malkagala, Escort and Eldera and three security roads around Kom durte/ Biliko Marara will be improved.

“We will soon improve security surveillance and recruit more Kenya Police Reservists that will assist in monitoring threats to peace in both Isiolo and Wajir. I want to assure you that the national government will put more resources to ensure no lives are lost and no property is destroyed as a result of inter-communal conflicts,” C.S Kindiki opined.

Governor Abdi Guyo observed that the decades-long conflicts can be addressed by willing leadership. He strongly stated that the senseless loss of lives and livelihoods caused by the insecurity ought not to continue unabated.

“Time has come for us leaders from the North to engage the national government in finding a lasting solution to this problem of insecurity. We ought not continue with the senseless loss of hundreds of lives and destruction of property,” Governor Abdi lamented.

Other leaders that attended were; Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo, Isiolo Women Representative Hon. Mumina Gollo and Member of County Assembly for Cherab Ward. The national police service was represented by Deputy Inspector General Noor Gabow.

Governor Abdi Guyo and his Garissa counterpart Nathif Jama had also held previous discussions on how peace can be restored along the borders of both counties. Both leaders agreed to have community sensitization forums for peacebuilding and social cohesion.

ISIOLO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES SHAPING YOUTHS' FUTURE CAREERS

SHAPING YOUTH FUTURE CAREER



Today's competitive world has limited job opportunities placing a demand on unemployed youth to have both employability skills and acquire skills they can use to employ themselves. Technical and vocational training play key roles in the development of such skills in any society.

They offer youth that either dropped out of school or those didn't get an opportunity to join institutions of higher learning to acquire skills, knowledge and ability that they can use to excel in various industries. Against this backdrop, the county government of Isiolo is working with the relevant partners towards revamping the technical and vocational training at ward levels.

This is in line with Governor Abdi Ibrahim Hassan Manifesto that seeks to empower youth with skills that will shape their future ahead of the national government's blue print plan to make Isiolo a resort city.

The Manifesto clearly spells out the plans and how to equip youths with foundational skills to impact knowledge and to be able to take up future opportunities in the upcoming mega projects.

Already the County government through the department of vocational training has employed institution managers, additional tutors and other staff to jumpstart the process of the expansion of the technical institutions in Isiolo. The County government has deployed 3 more instructors at Oldonyiro, 7 more at Uhuru vocational training

centre. 4 at Merti vocational centre and 4 others at Sericho vocational centre to improve on their skills.

Following this initiative, the vocational and technical training institutions in four wards have seen youth change their attitude and enroll themselves to take up various courses. Enrollment has increased from 230 in the last one year to 620 across the four vocational training centres.

Governor Abdi Ibrahim Guyo said a skilled and competent workforce will attract more investments to Isiolo. He noted investors will be more inclined to establish businesses and projects in Isiolo County, knowing that there is a capable and skilled labor force available.

"My advice to our youth especially those that dropped out of school for various reasons is that they should enroll to vocational and technical training centres in large numbers. Skills they acquire from these institutions can be used to better their lives. It is time to shun handout and look at the future," Governor Guyo said adding that vocational training is a life-changer.

Governor Abdi Ibrahim also said the vocational and technical training will equip youth to take various roles as the County eyes the enviable positions of becoming a hub for the economic development.

He said graduates from our vocational centres will be equipped with skills to take up various roles and positions at the County Aggregation and Industrial Parks, Isiolo Export Abattoir, Horn Africa Gateway



project, Isiolo International Airport, and other LAPSET projects where their skills will be deemed relevant.

It is envisaged TVET and vocational training will boost employment prospects of the youth of Isiolo. They can take up jobs in the construction, hospitality, aviation, and agriculture sectors, which will experience growth due to the mentioned projects.

An entrepreneurial spirit among the youth will also be fostered. Some youth may choose to start their own businesses related to the projects, like setting up small enterprises providing services or products needed for the abattoir, airport, or construction projects.

Benefits will also extend to socio-economic

development of the county, emanating from increased revenue and opportunities for local business. Poverty levels will also drastically decline as the youth will be in a position to uplift themselves and their families out of poverty. This will in turn, reduce the dependence on social welfare programs and contribute to overall community development.

Merti vocational training centre with 70 students offers Masonry, dress making, electrical wire man, ICT/computer packages and beauty while Sericho vocational training centre offers electrical installations, ICT, Dress making and masonry.

Oldonyiro vocational training centre offers food and beverage, masonry and ICT while Uhuru vocational centre offers motor vehicle, masonry, electrical, fashion and design, ICT, welding and fabrication and hair dressing.





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ISIOLO COUNTY SECRETARY HOSTS E.U. AMBASSADOR TO KENYA ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Cases of Isiolo County's youth joining violent extremists' groups have in the worried county residents. Addressing this community concern through meaningful partnerships is a viable strategy that Governor Abdi Ibrahim's government has embraced. It is for this reason that, Isiolo County Secretary Dadhe Boru hosted a delegation from the European Union who were led by the European Union Ambassador to Kenya Her Excellency Henriette Geiger and a team from the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC). Dadhe also attended a handing over ceremony of livelihood equipment and materials for 11 women and youth groups at the Ewaso Ngiro North Development Authority (ENNDA) office in Isiolo.

The 11 women and youth groups from Bulapesa, Wabera, and Burat had been supported with the equipment by NCTC through the Kenya – EU partnership for the implementation of the National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism in Kenya project, a project being implemented by ENNDA.

The project is aimed at transforming the livelihood of community members economically and discouraging them from engaging in terrorism activities, drug abuse, and any other outdated activities.

During the ceremony, Her Excellency Henriette observed that the EU is committed to supporting the devolution adding that more efforts will be put into Arid Counties which had been marginalized for some time by funding most of the projects.

"EU has been supporting devolution and hence there is a dire need of bringing the ASAL counties to the same level as other counties as they have been lagging in terms of development," said Her Excellency Henriette.

She noted that women are the best caretakers of investment and them being brought on board in such a development project is a pointer in the right direction. She also said women were more likely to maximize the equipment they received and the project will help in building resilience in the community through them.

C.S Dadhe pointed out the need for the projects to be extended to other seven wards. This he stated was because cases of some youth joining Al-Shabaab have been reported in the remaining wards.

"It has been reported that several youths in the entire Isiolo county have been engaging in Violent Extremism. There is, therefore, a need for the project to be implemented in the entire county," Dadhe opined.

Additionally, he called upon the EU, NCTC, and ENNDA to support the county government in coming up with the Counter Violent Extremism Bill and support more training for women and youth to empower them economically.



ISIOLO COUNTY COMMEMORATES WORLD FOOD DAY



Food production at substantial amounts in Isiolo County that can drive the food security agenda can best be realized when her farmers are exposed to best agricultural practices. As such, the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development, County Government of Isiolo organized a commemoration event of the World Food Day at Burat Ward.

Isiolo County Deputy Governor Dr. James Lowasa graced the event and was accompanied by County Executive Committee member (CECM) Tourism, Wildlife Management, Trade, Cooperatives and Enterprise Development Dr. Lawrence Mwongela. Speaking during the event, Dr. Mwongela asserted that food security can only be achieved when Isiolo residents through social behavior change embrace diverse food types like fish and chicken.

"It is time that our people embrace diversified dietary behaviors. I believe this is one of the best ways for us, as a county, to achieve our nutritional and food security goals," Dr. Mwongela asserted.

Similarly, Dr. Lowasa said that residents of Isiolo County have proved, if well supported, to be capable of feeding themselves and supplying food to neighboring counties. He also observed that, Governor Abdi Ibrahim's government is focused on reviving of irrigation schemes in the county such as; Malkadaka and

Game Galana.

"I can assure that Governor Abdi is committed to realize substantial food production in our county. He has instructed concerned departments to plan reviving of irrigation schemes in our county as a measure of working towards food security," Dr. Lowasa Said

He promised that Governor Abdi Ibrahim's administration will work closely with them through the department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Development and development partners to ensure Isiolo County becomes food secure.

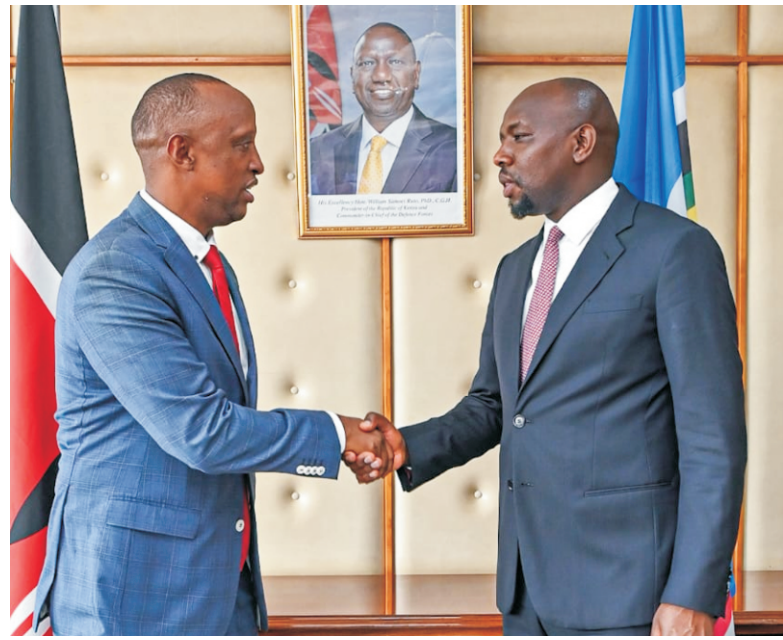
Over 20 varied exhibitors showcased; innovations, climate-smart technologies, products, and services to the public in line with food security.

Organizers were advocating for; 'better production, better nutrition and better environment'. The event was supported by; County Government of Isiolo, WeWorld Onlus, World Food Program Kenya, Action Against Hunger in Kenya (ACF), World Vision, Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) and CESVI

The World Food is commemorated across 150 countries of the world. Its goal is to promote global awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and to highlight the need to ensure healthy diets for all. The theme of the day was "Leave No one Behind".



Collaboration with the National Government



COUNTY BURSARY PROGRAM

GOVERNOR ABDI IBRAHIM PRESIDES OVER THE LAUNCH



Education remains a critical enabler in the fight against abject poverty. This is especially so in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) counties like Isiolo which face immense challenges ranging from insecurity and natural calamities that adversely affect livelihoods. Over the years, these have substantially contributed to a huge number of school dropouts among learners in Isiolo leading to high illiteracy levels.

To address this, Isiolo Governor H.E Abdi Ibrahim Guyo led his government in launching of the Isiolo County Bursary and Scholarship program for the financial year 2022/2023 amounting to Ksh. Thirty-Five million (35,000,000).

Speaking during the event, Isiolo County Assembly Speaker Hon. Mohamed Roba Qoto observed that Members of the assembly are ready to enact legislation that will increase the amount currently allocated for bursary to better amounts. This he said citing that hazards like recurring droughts have for long negatively affected livelihoods of several residents in the process jeopardizing the education of

students.

"As the legislators of this great county, we are ready to work with the County Executive by passing legislation that will increase amount allocated for bursary. We want more of our children to benefit," said Roba.

On his part, Isiolo County Deputy Governor Dr. Lowasa noted that both levels of government should work together to ensure children stay in school. However, he lamented that although the national government is supposed to fund secondary education, the amount disbursed can not meet the high demand. He observed that this has for a long time forced the County Government to draw financial resources meant for ECDE to be allocated as bursary for other levels of government.

He also requested school principals not to send children home for school fees, reminding them that the current high cost of living has affected their parents' revenues.

"I am pleading with all our principals not to send learners that will not benefit from today's bursary home. Let us be considerate, the current high

cost of living has adversely affected the economic status of most parents," Lowasa noted.

Making his remarks, Governor Guyo informed residents that he is committed to see no child misses out on education. He also said that he has recently held talks with H.E President William Ruto on the completion of the Isiolo County International Abattoir promising it will be ready for use in the shortest time possible.

"I am committed to seeing no child is left behind in education. I will work closely with the national government, development partners, and other elected leaders to ensure all our children stay in school," Governor Abdi Stated, adding that his administration is in the process of sourcing an additional Ksh. 65 million for bursary.

More than 15,000 students in the county benefited from bursary funds.

Governor Abdi Guyo's government also partnered with Direct-Aid Africa Muslim Agency to provide 50 young people from Isiolo with full scholarships to pursue studies abroad in courses; medicine, engineering, and other technical fields.





DEPUTY GOVERNOR LOWASA OFFICIALLY OPENS ISIOLO K.M.T.C. STUDENTS' HOSTELS

Human resources for health play a crucial role in the delivery of health care services. Providing quality training for them is therefore essential. It is against this background that, Deputy Governor Dr. James Lowasa in early July this year on behalf of H.E Governor Abdi Guyo hosted a delegation from Kenya Medical Training College (KMTc) led by their Board Chair Ambassador Zachary Muburi Mwita and CEO Dr. Kelly Olouch at the Governor's office.

During their meeting, the successes of past collaborations between the County Government of Isiolo and KMTc were discussed. Importantly, both delegations agreed on working together towards making KMTc Isiolo Campus a centre of academic excellence that will have capacity to serve the larger Northern part of Kenya.

Speaking later at KMTc Isiolo Campus where D.G Lowasa officially opened a 224 capacity students' hostel on behalf of Governor Guyo, the D.G emphasized the need to strengthen collaboration observing it is this that can change the future of the institution's students. The hostel been the first at the institution whose students have been seeking accommodation within the school environs is envisaged to improve students' performance and their security.

He also said Governor Abdi Guyo's government is committed to supporting projects at KMTc Isiolo Campus noting that the academic

institution significantly contributes to the local economy.

"The Governor is committed to supporting programs in this KMTc campus. His administration has in this coming financial year earmarked a budget allocation for the construction of an administration bloc for this institution," D.G Lowasa said adding that this will enable the institution to run more efficiently.

Lowasa also noted that the County Government is in the process of constructing and equipping a modern Casualty, Accident and Emergency Centre at the Isiolo County Referral Hospital that is adjacent to the campus, as well as two level four hospitals in Bulapesa and Ngaremara areas so that students will get adequate experience courtesy of placement at the facilities, to enable them learn from doctors and other medics during their internship. Apart from attachment, Dr. Lowasa added that the move will also provide employment opportunities for the students.

On his part, the National KMTc Board Chairperson Ambassador Zachary Muburi Mwita hailed the leadership of the County Government of Isiolo for the support granted to KMTc Isiolo Campus. He also said that his visit was also informed by the need to establish a more structured working relationship.

"We laud the leadership of the County Government of Isiolo and more so Governor Abdi Ibrahim for the support he has extended to our institution here in Isiolo. I believe that we will achieve more from collaborating rather than working in silos," said Amb. Mwita.

The KMTc Isiolo Campus



Principal Agnes Muthoni lauded the support from the County government in terms of infrastructure, human resource and other supplies that have greatly enhanced performance at the institution. She thanked the devolved government for the support to the institution since its inception in the year 2016, with the first infrastructure in terms of classrooms, also done courtesy of the county government.

D. G Lowasa also presented a bursary cheque worth Kes. 2,568,500 from the County Government of Isiolo to the institution. He also said the County Government will in the near future absorb more KMTc graduands in upcoming recruitments.

Dr. Lowasa asked the Ministry of Health through the cabinet Secretary Dr. Susan Nakhumicha to consider further supporting KMTc through the Universal Healthcare plan, by placing the over 100,000 community health promoters/workers to pursue a course at the various KMTc campuses. He said that the move will equip the health promoters with skills, and ensure that the UHC Plan becomes a major success.

Also present at the launch were; CEC Education Aileen Kajuju, Deputy County Secretary and NGO Coordination Mohamed Boru, Chief Officers Abdirahman Ibrahim Medical Services, Bisharo Hassan Public Health, Rashid Iribo, Executive Office of the Governor and Dr. Zainab Dida Environment and Climate Change.





PARTNERSHIP

ISILO COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARTNERS WITH ACTION AGAINST HUNGER TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES IN REMOTE VILLAGES

Isiolo County like other Northern Kenya Counties has a challenging terrain and harsh climate. The County's 54 health facilities still face bottlenecks to providing adequate health services to a significant portion of the population.

These harsh living conditions, exacerbated by recurring drought conditions force people to migrate in search of water and pasture, making it increasingly difficult for communities to access essential health and nutrition services.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the County Government of Isiolo, under the leadership of Governor H.E Abdi Guyo, has taken measures to address the issue. Collaborating with Action Against Hunger (ACF), Governor Guyo has been conducting continuous mapping exercises to identify hard-to-reach villages and mobilizing resources to ensure these communities receive the vital healthcare they need.

Currently, 81 villages have been identified as hotspots for malnutrition and other life-

threatening illnesses, such as diarrhea and pneumonia.

These villages are situated as far as 20 kilometers away from any static health facility, making access to health services nearly impossible.

Despite the efforts to provide adequate health personnel and medical supplies to the population, the logistical challenges in reaching these remote areas remain significant. The ongoing severe drought has further strained government resources, requiring additional support to save lives and livelihoods.

Action Against Hunger, in collaboration with funding from United States Agency for International Development –Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID-BHA), Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and UNICEF has stepped in to help. Together with the County Government of Isiolo, they are working to improve access to essential health and nutrition services in 31 of the hardest-to-reach villages in the County.

Gerald Mwangi, the ACF Field Coordinator, lauded the partnership, stating that over 12,063 people in these areas, including 2,013 children under five years and 350 pregnant women, have benefitted from timely access to health services between April 2022 and July 2023

“The bi-monthly integrated medical outreach efforts have resulted in immunization coverage and antenatal care attendance exceeding the national target of 80%,” Mwangi stated.

In the same period, he said, more than 500 children under five years old have received treatment for acute malnutrition – both severe and moderate - through these outreach interventions.

The impact of this collaboration is evident in the story of Josphine Lalampa, a 19-year-old mother of three and five months pregnant from Tualle Village in Oldonyiro Ward.

“I had to travel an arduous 49 kilometers to reach the health facility,” said Josephine.

However, her joy was evident as she expressed gratitude for the supplementary feeding program and mosquito net provided to her and her previously malnourished children.

The partnership between the County Government of Isiolo and Action Against Hunger is a vital step in addressing the healthcare challenges faced by these remote communities. By bringing essential health and nutrition services closer to those in need, they are making a significant difference in improving the well-being of vulnerable populations in Isiolo County.





GOVERNOR ABDI GUYO'S ADMINISTRATION PARTNERS WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR ISILO TITLE DEEDS

Land remains a vital factor of production whose proper documentation for proof of ownership is equally important. It is against this background that, Governor Abdi Guyo's administration is partnering with the national government through the Ministry of Lands and National Lands Commission (NLC) to undertake land survey, adjudication, verification exercises and issuance of allotment letters and title deeds.

Residents of Etoro Ltungai adjudication section Ngaremara ward in Isiolo County had a reason to smile as this collaboration bore fruits in mid-July this year. This after, President Dr. William Ruto who had paid a visit to the county, issued them with 1,000 title deeds.

Speaking during the title deeds issuance event, President William Ruto said that his government will continue working with Governor Guyo's administration to ensure county residents have title deeds. The President also promised to see to it that Governor Guyo's request of an additional 7,000 title deeds is met by December this year. He also promised that the national government will

construct more roads within Isiolo town and County Aggregation and Industrial Parks (CAIP) to improve its economic status.

"The relevant ministry in my government will work with your governor to ensure the people of Isiolo town have 7,000 title deeds December of this year," said President Ruto adding that his administration is committed to make Isiolo the investment destination of choice.

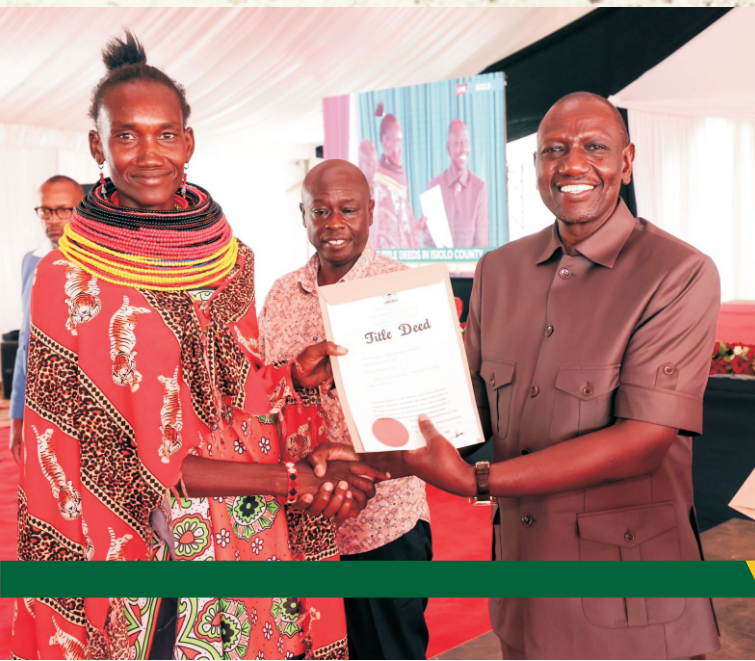
Governor Abdi Guyo thanked the President urging him to fast track the process of community land registration and the issuance of the additional 7,000 title deeds for residents within Isiolo CBD.

"I am very grateful to H.E the President for issuing my people with title deeds. However, I make an appeal to Your Excellence to hasten the process of issuing 7,000 additional title deeds to residents of Isiolo town," said Governor Guyo.

He noted that title deeds within Isiolo CBD will attract private investors, reduce incidences of conflict over land ownership and substantially contribute to reducing poverty levels among residents.



Governor Abdi also made a passionate appeal to the President to consider a waiver on costs related to land documentation as an affirmative action for the financially disadvantaged in the county. To bolster these efforts, the Department of Lands and Physical Planning, County Government of Isiolo in late July also worked with a team from the National Lands Commission (NLC) led by Commissioners Tiya Galgalo and Reginald Okumu to undertake a 3 days verification exercise that will inform issuance of 1,200 allotment letters for six estates within Isiolo Township later in the year. The verification exercise covered; Kambi Bulle, Kulamawe, Kiwanjani A, Kambi Garba, and Tullo Roba A estates. Earlier in the year, 295 Bulapesa landowners were issued with allotment letters. The County Government also paid the requisite standard premium for this group, a testament of Governor Guyo's commitment to address the land ownership issues in the county.





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SKILLS FOR EMPLOYABILITY

EQUIPPING OUR HEALTH FACILITIES

Isiolo County Government equips health facilities with essential drugs and medical supplies

Access to affordable and quality health care is one of the key drivers of any community's socio-economic development. H.E Governor Abdi Guyo strongly believes that this is also true for Isiolo County. It against this backdrop that, Isiolo County Teaching and Referral Hospital (ICTRH) and other health facilities within the County received drugs delivered from KEMSA.

Speaking at ICTRH while receiving the supply from KEMSA Isiolo Deputy Governor Dr. James Lowasa who is also CECm for Health Services said that Governor Guyo is keen on ensuring health facilities within the county don't experience shortage of essential drugs and medical supplies.

"Our administration under the leadership of H.E Governor Abdi Hassan Guyo is committed to ensuring that residents don't lack medicine and medical supplies. That is why we immediately procured this consignment from KEMSA," said Dr. Lowasa adding that the county government is improving procurement systems at health facilities to ensure no delays are experienced when drugs are required.

Lowasa also outlined strict measures that have been put in place to deter any theft of drugs from the County Government's hospitals. He said that Governor Guyo's administration will not condone this type of criminal behavior.

"This government will be working closely with national government agencies to ensure there will be no cases of stealing medicine. In case anyone falls in the trap of attempting to steal, legal action will be instituted as per pharmacy and poison board regulations as this would be treated as a criminal act," Dr. Lowasa asserted.



Among the essential drugs delivered included Pharmaceutical, Non-pharmaceutical, Renal, Theatre, and those for Laboratory use. Lowasa also reiterated Governor Abdi's commitment to ensure residents of Isiolo County have access to first class albeit affordable healthcare.

"I wish to reiterate of H.E Governor Abdi Ibrahim's commitment to ensure that residents of our great County have access to high quality healthcare but that which is also affordable. This government is working tirelessly to ensure all mwananchi living in Isiolo County get the drugs they need and medical attention they deserve," said Lowasa.

Services in health facilities across Isiolo County have improved since the dispatchment of the consignment and subsequent ones. Department of Health Services has also put in place monitoring strategies to ensure no single health facility within Isiolo County lacks essential drugs and medical supplies albeit there have been delays at KEMSA.

TOURISM





REHABILITATION OF BUFFALO AIRSTRIP AND SERENA BRIDGE TO BOOST TOURISM CIRCUIT IN ISIOLO

Tourism is on the rebound in the Isiolo tourism circuit after rehabilitation of Isiolo Buffalo airstrip that saw several aircraft plying the route.

County Rangers who received the guests at the airstrip in early July this year hailed the rehabilitation of the airstrip adding that the tourists are arriving in huge numbers following the peak season.

Mr. Diba Denge, a game ranger said the rehabilitation of Serena Isiolo Bridge was also a worthy investment because the County will charge its fees depending on the number of the occupants.

“Rehabilitation of this airstrip will definitely double up the County revenue base from the three game reserves because visitors are now opting for Isiolo away from Masai Mara and Mombasa,” said Denge.

Isiolo game reserves in the past came second after Masai Mara in revenue collection but continued to lag behind in the recent past due to, inaccessibility, insecurity, lack of marketing and poor management.

Mr. Denge said the region was experiencing relative peace hence instilling confidence in tour operators and tourists visiting the game reserves.

He said the lodges are now experiencing more booking as many more tourists are visiting the lodges daily for holidays following the expansion and repair work at the airstrip by the County Government.

Local hotel managers at Ashnil and Simba lodge reported that almost all the hotels within Samburu and Isiolo County game reserves were fully booked to capacity.

They expressed optimism that the local hotels will continue to experience full booking as results of the expansion and rehabilitation of the airstrip.

“This has been long overdue and the tourism sector in our county was going through a difficult period. We believe now it will prosper if the county government continues to improve on infrastructure. Both our domestic and international tourists will now take 45 minutes to land from Wilson Airport,” said one of the lodges’ managers.

He said traveling by road was hectic and tedious especially for tourists visiting from abroad.

County Executive member for Tourism Lawrence



Mwongela said the tourists can now access the Samburu tourism circuit following rehabilitation of the Samburu Serena bridge by the County government. He also the first flight to Isiolo Buffalo airstrip took place in July when the airstrip first came into service since its closure.

“My department will put in place proper infrastructure development and marketing strategies for the circuit as the preferred destination for tourists,” said Mwongela.

The bridge was destroyed 3 years ago after Ewaso Nyiro river burst its bank and submerging local tourists hotels along the river.

Sarova Shaba, Buffalo game reserves boasts of beautiful scenery, magnificent sites where international films were shot, born free and the owner of the Elsa by George and joy Adamson. The reserves host 25 natural springs and home to iconic special five only found in the Northern Tourism Circuit. The animals roam freely within the Shaba, Buffalo and Samburu ecosystem making it easy and unique for tourist to access the reserves.

The reserves are also known for their landscape where the lady Shaba, tortoise hill and sleeping lion stand out among other adorable features.

The reserve is also home to more than 300 species of bird only found within the tourism circuit, mainly Sand Grouse, Marabou Storks, Doves Black Capped Social Weaver, Black Faced Sand Grouse, Darnaud barbet among other bird species.



ISILO EXPORT ABATTOIR SET TO BE OPERATIONALIZED IN 18 MONTHS



Isiolo International Abattoir which has been under construction for the last 16 years is now nearing its completion and operationalization, a move that is expected to greatly impact on the economic fortunes of Isiolo and the neighboring counties.

Speaking at the Abattoir in late July this year in the company of Trade and Investment Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria, Isiolo Governor Abdi Ibrahim Guyo said that his administration was committed to ensure that the mega project which proved unachievable during the past county government regimes is actualized in line with his pledges prior to his election as Governor.

Governor Guyo said that the abattoir which initially had a capacity to handle 1,000 goats and sheep, 300 cows and 100 camels has now been expanded to a capacity of 10,000 shoats, 500 cows and 300 camels per day, depending on market demand and supply.

"We have worked on improving the capacity of our abattoir and can now comfortably handle 10,000 shoats, 500 cows and 300 camels per day," said Governor Guyo.

Trade and Investment Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria said that the government had invited investors from across the globe to embark on the different value

chains in order to ensure that the people of Isiolo and the Northern Kenya region get the best value from the facility in terms of meat and other animal products for sale to the local and international market.

According to CS Kuria, Kenyan pastoralists lost more than Kshs 30 Billion (in terms of livestock deaths) to the recent prolonged drought period, a situation that would have been averted/mitigated if the export abattoir was up and running.

The abattoir which sits on 500,000 acres has a disease-free zone and a feed lot section where weak animals will be fattened/attend to till they attain the required health and weight for slaughter.

Governor Guyo noted that the Isiolo Export abattoir will be a model facility not only in Kenya but for the African continent, with all byproducts from slaughtered animals also being put to use so that nothing goes to waste.

"The operationalization of our abattoir will open-up opportunities for other industries in our county. Apart from meat processing, we shall have tannery industry and animal feeds operating here," said Guyo.

Animal waste/dung will be used to produce biogas which will in turn provide energy to the facility, while a leather industry will also be established to make leather products from the available hides and skins.

Guyo noted that the catchment area for the abattoir includes Isiolo and the neighboring counties of Samburu, Marsabit, Wajir, Garissa and Mandera, as well as the Southern Part of Ethiopia and Somalia.

CS Kuria said that the government has already secured a proper market for the abattoir's meat and meat products in Europe, China and Middle East countries such as Oman, with the Isiolo International airport set to facilitate the export, to ensure that the meat gets to the international market while fresh.





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ISIOLO HERDERS DIVERSIFY LIVELIHOODS AS RESILIENCE STRATEGY TO HARSH RECURRING DROUGHT.



Recurrent catastrophic drought gripping the Northern part of Kenya has forced affected local communities to innovate and deploy new livelihoods option that will cushion them from adverse impacts of climate variation.

Livestock keeping which is the economic mainstay for the region faces a bleak future as climatic shocks characterized by prolonged severe and recurring droughts has decimated thousands of livestock and forced herders to flee dry patched and empty grazing fields.

Mr. Hassan Jirma, chairperson of Korbasa fodder producers is among hundreds of affected pastoralist families in Isiolo County who diversified to engage in livelihood switch with hope of gaining food security while also contributing to local climate adaptation strategies meant to reverse effect of climate change.

The ex-herder, Mr. Jirma and other drought-stricken families have benefitted from Veterinaires Sans Frontieres (VSF) trainings and support from the County Government of Isiolo, other networks of collaborating and implementing partners.

From chronic drought victims who had lost hundreds of livestock in number of drought cycles, the Korbasa fodder groups engaged in hay farming and storage in order to sell them at affordable prices to livestock farmers in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties.

Mr. Jirma one of the members of these groups is a proud agriprenuer who also supplies the main Merti town with vegetable sourced from their farm which they started after completing training offered to them by VSF.

"I really appreciate the VSF trainings, the study tour on fodder production and construction of a hay storage facility, it was an eye opener for the group," said Jirma.

The changing livelihood vision was brought to fruition by the construction of hay storage facility, provision of farm tools and training of local ex-herders a lifeline through farming and hay harvesting.

Interventions by other development partners -World Food Programme (WFP), Livestock Market Systems (LMS), and County Government of Isiolo have cushioned such herders against the adverse effects of climate change and assisted them meant to diversify their livelihoods.

"We lost over 3,000 herds to previous droughts and livestock keeping was the only available option for us in Isiolo County. But we are now doing mixed farming business where we plant grasses and plant vegetables on our 10-acre farm and the income is more than we use to get from the drought affected livestock keeping," revealed a smiling Jirma.

The ex-herders have also ventured into farming business through which they have formed an advocacy outfit meant to engage other agricultural networks, associations and bodies with aim of getting more farming knowledge, practices and expanding their markets and agricultural outputs.

"We are very grateful to various organizations including the County government, VSF, world Food program, USAID Nawiri and Livestock Market System for putting up concerted efforts to improve our resilience by introducing us into farming methods and techniques, hay cultivation and cash transfer programs," stated the ex-herder turned farmer, Amina.

The 25 members group was formed in 2020 by ex-herders. Members share roles among themselves and also use the fodders to feed their few remaining livestock. They also sell it to herders with large numbers of livestock.

"We normally sell the fodders to herder at ksh 500 per bale but we also get the same for our livestock at ksh 150 as incentive to members during the dry season," said one of the members.

Deefe women farmers associations is also another self-help group that is reaping big after diversifying their livelihood into fish farming. The group's members teamed up to do fish rearing and small scale farming to sustain their families.

The group Secretary Amina Guyo Galgalo said unlike in the past when pastoralists disdained fish farming, they now appreciate it as it is a lucrative business due to growing demand.

"We are working very closely with our development partners to diversify our livelihood and change the culture. Unlike in the past, fish is now served in our local hotels in Merti trading centre," said Amina.

Devastating recurring droughts have also forced a new set of herders to join various farming associations and embark on serious farming ventures. To ensure they don't go bark to food insecurity, the associations plan to increase their farming footprint from the current 800 acres to 1,200.

"We have well laid out plans to increase the acreage under farming because as a people we decided that our families can no longer rely on relief food. Farming is more sustainable for us and our children," revealed Mrs. Galgalo.

These programmes have been supported by the County government through provisions of fish feeds, trainings done by extension officers and market linkages. Successful agri-prenuers supplying fish, water melon, green vegetables, onions, tomatoes and peas to the local markets on daily basis have been emerged from the initiatives.

USAID PARTNERS WITH THE ISIOLO COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO BOOST LIVESTOCK MARKETS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

USAID through the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative is helping communities in the livestock sector increase incomes through strengthened livestock markets, supporting market management, and boosting food availability in the markets.

Increasing market access through new livestock markets

In 2015, USAID and the County Government of Isiolo collaborated to revitalize the Oldonyiro and Isiolo markets, transforming them into vibrant hubs for traders. This initiative also led to the creation of other markets such as Kipsing, Ekenos, and Ngaremara. These markets play a pivotal role in organizing livestock trade, offering a vital source of income and sustenance for many rural residents, drawing traders from distant locations like Nairobi, Kirinyaga, and Laikipia counties.

The infrastructure within the markets includes crucial amenities such as animal watering troughs, livestock holding pens, loading ramps, and the establishment of veterinary and revenue offices right on the market premises. The provision of consistent access to essential resources like clean and safe water has a notable positive influence on market activities, effectively fostering greater participation and engagement.

To improve access to finance for livestock market traders, LMS facilitated the establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) within the market. This way, members obtain easy loans to expand their businesses. Safi Abdi is a trader at the market, treasurer of the livestock marketing association, and a member of the market's SACCO formed through USAID's support. In 2022, she lost all her goats to bandits. She secured a loan which she used to buy more goats for sale.

"USAID through the LMS program supported us to start a SACCO that is helping us get easy loans. The loan helped me to reestablish my business and I am glad that I have almost finished repaying it," Safi said.

The revenue generated from livestock saw a significant increase, rising from \$129 (KES 18,500) in 2017 to \$385 (KES 55,000) in 2023 per market day. This improvement not only signifies financial growth but also underscores the role of these markets as employment hubs. As a result, businesses have grown around the markets and created business opportunities for many people. The key business opportunities include transport services, mobile money transfer services, agrovets, and hotels. Others include cereal, apparel, and electronics.

Improving Market Management

The Feed the Future USAID Kenya Livestock Market Systems (LMS) project implemented by ACIDI/VOCA collaborates closely with the Government of Kenya to enhance the Livestock Marketing Associations (LMAs) operating within these markets. LMS plays a pivotal role in providing training for Livestock Marketing Associations (LMAs) in essential areas such as record-keeping,



Safi Abdi secured a loan from the market's SACCO to purchase more goats for sale.

leadership, marketing, and inclusivity. These efforts have led to noticeable improvements in market management practices. Furthermore, LMS contributes to the revival of inactive markets and the establishment of designated market days to boost the efficiency of trading operations.

The training support has helped traders to acquire skills such as record-keeping and financial literacy. The LMAs have also been facilitated in exposure visits that enabled them to learn how to better manage the market from those that they visited." said Mohamed Wario, an official at the Isiolo Livestock Market.

To ensure that regulations governing the establishment and management of livestock sales yards were up-to-date and comprehensive, the LMS conducted a comprehensive review of the Sales Yard Act from 2016. This collaborative endeavor included partnering with other organizations, all aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of co-management between Livestock Marketing Associations (LMAs) and the county government.

Boosting Food Availability for Vulnerable Households

In Isiolo County, LMS provided economic stimulus support to 994 traders amounting to \$153,200 (KES 21.9M). The support enhanced the vibrancy of the markets by increasing the availability of food commodities for sale. This was especially crucial during the drought, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine, which impacted the livelihoods of smallholder traders. The traders who benefited from the support included livestock buyers, transporters, and food and vegetable suppliers. These traders play vital roles including providing essential food commodities like cereals, vegetables, and pulses, for vulnerable communities. The support varied depending on the value of the stock and the operational level of the trader, ranging from \$80 to \$400 per trader.

Overall in the six activity counties—Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana counties, USAID's initiatives, have helped increase household incomes for 78,617 pastoralists by 40 percent between 2017 and 2022. This positive impact extended to approximately 471,702 individuals, making up around 20 percent of the pastoral population in these areas.

About Feed the Future Kenya Livestock Market Systems Activity (LMS)

This is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded program through the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative that addresses global hunger, food security, and agricultural livelihoods. The objective is to create resilient, competitive, and inclusive livestock systems to reduce the prevalence and depth of poverty, household hunger, and chronic undernutrition in northern Kenya. LMS works in six counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, Wajir, and Turkana. To learn more about our work visit our website: <https://www.acdivoca.org/projects/feed-the-future-kenya-livestock-market-systems-activity/>



Improved activity in markets has benefitted a wide range of market actors such as transporters who support operations while earning livelihoods



GEMS OF DEVOLUTION: THE SUCCESS OF ISIOLO COUNTY YOUTH INNOVATION CENTRE

Unemployment among the youth is estimated to be at 53.6. If this is left unchecked, it can have dire social repercussions. In this regard, the County Government of Isiolo partnered with the Kenya School of Government (KSG) with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in October 2020 to set up a social enterprise facility dubbed the KSG Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre.

Born out of the convergence of purposeful planning by the County Government through the County Integrated Development Programme (CIDP) II, responsive governance anchored within UNDP supported youth round tables and strategic partnership with Kenya School of Government, the KSG Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre has benefitted over 5,000 youths across the County.

Youth of Isiolo have benefited through flagship programmes including basic computer literacy, software development, entrepreneurship, hydroponic farming, CV, and cover letter writing, digital freelancing, film production and photography, arts and painting.

"This centre transformed my life and that of my friends. Our group was trained in hydroponic farming which has assisted us to generate income," said Nur Juma the Nasib Youth Chairperson adding that some youth had no sense of direction before receiving the training.

The importance of equipping youth with basic levels of digital literacy that is missing within the greater ASAL counties has been given keen interest at the innovation centre. Sadia Hassan is one of the 500 youths from disadvantaged households who have accessed digital courses and she says the skills she acquired have assisted her in making an income that supports her education and life.

"I am very grateful to the County Government, KSG and UNDP for setting up the youth innovation centre. It is from this place that I acquired digital skills in graphic design, web design and upgraded my communication skills which I have used to make an income," said Sadia adding that she is no longer the hopeless young lady.

Apart from digital skills, the innovation centre has also produced 5 youth groups that are practicing hydroponic farming, and 30 youths earning through online work, 2 youths and women groups are engaged in beading and 20 Isiolo film makers making a living through their trade. Moses Thurairia's story a youth supported by UNDP with a film production camera is a testament of the success of programs run at the centre. Thurairia won this year's prestigious Tribeka Film makers Award in.

Digital innovation is another buzzing activity at the centre that youth you engage in. Empowered by programs such as software development and digital marketing, the youth are spearheading creative solutions to tackle challenges like market accessibility, all while preserving local narratives. Remarkably, platforms like "Wafugaji Digital" are connecting farmers and agrovets, while "Duriduri" ingeniously transforms cultural stories into contemporary comic and children's tales, seamlessly bridging past and present through digital artistry.

In addition, the centre serves as an Information Nexus and Networking Hub by disseminating essential information to both young individuals and the wider public. Its vibrancy has led to a surge in youths and community members seeking guidance on opportunities, with hundreds benefitting from crucial application support. Pioneering initiatives like "Usawa Baraza" have demystified the budget process, enlightened youths and fostered an informed citizenry.

Other key benefits that youth have derived from the KSG Isiolo youth innovation Centre are having a platform to voice their plight, a safe space to run their Youth Saving and Lending Associations, participation in martial arts and opportunities to monetize their social media pages with the available free wifi. Youth have also engaged in enlightening conversations against harmful cultural practices like FGM and GBV resulting to positive social transformation.

Ownership and support for the Youth Centre began with resource allocation for the 'safe youth spaces' by the County Government. On its part, KSG provided thought leadership and institution linkage to support professional and technical skills roll-out. UNDP has also played a pivotal role in supporting the youth trainings through UNDP's Consolidating Gains and Deepening Devolution in Kenya project (2019-2023).

In essence, the KSG Isiolo Youth Centre stands tall as an agent of change, blazing trails of innovation, knowledge dissemination, cultural preservation, and social empowerment. With unwavering dedication, it continues to mold youth of Isiolo into influential leaders nurturing a harmonious and progressive community. It is a testament that through strategic partnership and ownership, that devolution does provide a path to sustainable youth transformation. The centre fits within the greater Kenya Youth Development Policy (2019) geared towards addressing needs and aspirations of young people, with a focus on their inclusion and participation in national development.



MOTHER-TO-MOTHER SUPPORT



ISILOLO GOVERNMENT COLLABORATES WITH USAID-Nawiri ON MOTHER-TO-MOTHER SUPPORT GROUP MODEL TO TRANSFORM MATERNAL AND CHILD NUTRITION IN ISILOLO COUNTY

Research shows that Isiolo County like many other Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties faces a substantial challenge with Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN). The situation is made worse by recurring devastating droughts and high food prices that both render many families with limited food access and choices.

However, a collaboration between the County Government of Isiolo and USAID-Nawiri to support 91 active mother-to-mother support groups is changing this narrative. Through these groups, pregnant and lactating women under 5 years can discuss how best to promote MIYCN and good health practices.

One such successful group is the Amarit Mother-to-Mother Support Group which consists of 10 women. The group which operates from the village of Etop in Daaba Community unit meets every week to receive training on, maternal nutrition, feeding of infants below 6 months, complementary feeding of children between 6 to 59 months, growth monitoring and promotion, household food and nutrition security, and antenatal care as well as offer each other guidance and support throughout their pregnancies and early motherhood.

Christine Ichokole, the CHV in charge of the group said that before joining the support group, many of the mothers were unaware of the 10 food groups for women and 7 food groups for children recommended for their consumption for good nutrition. She also noted they were unable to



demonstrate, positioning and attachment and hand expression as most of them had not attended the recommended antenatal visits.

“This program has encouraged mothers to modify their nutrition and health practices, resulting in significant improvements for both the mothers and their malnourished children. The program has also had a positive impact on the attitudes of the mothers, who now apply what they have learned in their daily lives,” said Christine adding that

Daaba being a pastoralist zone, the majority of the mothers had little knowledge on and kitchen gardens.

By attending group meetings, many now have friends who accompany

them to their clinic appointments, ensuring that they keep track of their schedules.

Christine Kamade from Nawiri said that the women’s increased unity has sparked the curiosity of their spouses, who have started attending the baby friendly meetings and accompanying their wives to clinic visits. She says Amarit’s success is testament that the true highlight of the community is the strong bond between its women.

“Men are now interested in what their spouses are doing. As result of we have witnessed increased male involvement in meetings such as community mother support group and baby friendly meetings in Daaba community,” said Christine adding that the Amarit group have also encouraged the CHV to form one father-to-father support group so that their spouses can gain knowledge on how to support them.

The Amarit Group has also leveraged their time together to uplift each other economically, particularly during the challenging times of recurring drought. Supported with skills by Nawiri, they have started small kitchen gardens to save on food expenses and generate income, and have pooled their savings using the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) Methodology to create a cash cushion for family emergencies.

“At first the introduction of kitchen gardens to cultivate vegetables was met with hesitation. We were not used to farming vegetables but are now happy that their consumption has made our children and us healthier,” said one of the group members.

At the onset of this collaboration teams from the County Government and Nawiri, noticed that pregnant and lactating women had very little knowledge about the benefits of early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding. In addition, they had observed that there was also a lack of social support for young and first-time mothers who were solely focused on their household responsibilities and caring for their children.



FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Governor Abdi Ibrahim's Government rolls out Relief Food distribution exercise targeting thousands across Isiolo County

Climate change has resulted to recurring devastating droughts that have had adverse effects on hundreds of families in Isiolo County. To this end, more than 32,000 households across 10 drought-stricken wards received relief food courtesy of the County Government of Isiolo under the leadership of H.E. Abdi Ibrahim Hassan.

Governor Abdi Ibrahim flagged off the consignment of relief food at the police mess during which he said the food would cushion thousands of residents who were facing adverse effects of the drought. Governor Abdi also directed Sub County administrators, ward administrators and senior county officials to thoroughly monitor and ensure fairness in distribution of the relief food. Equally, the Governor assured that he would personally supervise and oversee the distribution in most of targeted areas adding that anyone who would be found diverting food will be dealt with accordingly.

"This food which is an initiative of my administration is meant for vulnerable families affected by the current drought. I therefore want to issue an order here and now to ward and sub-county administrators to ensure these food reaches the needy cases we have in our County. Please don't be tempted to divert it as you will face the full force of the law," Governor Abdi Ibrahim Said adding that his administration would ensure all county residents are alleviated from suffering caused by the drought. At least 5,295 households from Cherab, 1115 Chari, 4459 Sericho, 3,662 Garbatula, 2,802 Kinna, 3,352 Wabera, and 2775 Bulapesa households benefited from the distribution exercise.

Each household in Ngaremara, Oldonyiro, and Burat received 8kg of maize flour and 1 litre of cooking oil while in the remaining wards, each household received 5kg of rice and a litre of cooking oil.

Deputy Governor James Lowasa who was present during the launch said that the Governor is passionate and caring adding that his government had done three phases of the



food distribution exercise to cushion the vulnerable within Isiolo.

Governor Abdi said his administration would also provide feed for both livestock and wild animals, noting that the latter had equally suffered from the devastating drought. He reiterated his commitment to ensure that residents embrace agro-pastoralism as an adaptation mechanism to adverse effects of climate change.

The county speaker Mohamed Roba hailed the launch assuring the Governor that the assembly will work very closely to with his administration to ensure no life is lost to hunger.

Present during the launch were, CEC Tourism and Trade Dr. Mwangera, CEC Water and Environment Ali Wario, Members of the County Assembly, chief officers, and other County senior officials.





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MAKING EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE TO ALL: The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project Disburses Ksh 51.7 Million Worth of Bursaries.

In the semi-arid landscape of northern and eastern Kenya, community members' access to formal education is hampered by a combination of geographic, socioeconomic, and political factors. A socioeconomic baseline survey Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) Trading conducted in 2021 in 25 community conservancies in six counties, including Isiolo, Laikipia, Samburu, and Marsabit, revealed, among other factors, that only 1% of the respondents had a university education.

Therefore, to improve access to learning, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP) disbursed Ksh 51,750,500 (USD 383,337) in bursaries to 7,225 needy students across the 14 NRT member community conservancies participating in the Project. The bursaries, distributed in the first half of 2023, have improved student school attendance. They have also provided a respite for struggling pastoralist families, relieving the enormous financial strain they have been under while rebuilding their lives following the historic 2022 drought that decimated their livestock herds, depriving them of their main source of livelihood.

Mohamed Issa Musa, a resident of Nasuulu Community Conservancy, expressed his gratitude for the bursaries, saying, "I am overjoyed that my children have not been sent home from school since they were fortunate enough to be granted bursaries through the Carbon Project. This financial support has provided them with a life-changing opportunity to continue their education without hindrance. It has opened doors to a brighter future for them. I am very grateful."

As the student school attendance rate has been increasing, so has the need for enhanced educational facilities. In response, a portion of the Carbon Community Fund was designated for infrastructure projects, including the construction of classrooms and Early Childhood Education

(ECDE) centers, and the renovation of existing classes to accommodate more students.

In March 2023, three of the 14 NRT member community conservancies involved in the Carbon Project launched Carbon Project-funded education bursaries amounting to Ksh 19 million, benefitting 4,600 students.

Isiolo County Governor, H.E. Abdi Ibrahim Guyo, who presided over the launch event endorsed the bursaries which target conservancies in Isiolo County, including Nasuulu, Biliqo Bulesa, and Oldonyiro's Naapu, Nanapisho, Nannapa, Narupa units. All the 12 community conservancies in Isiolo plans to spend a combined Ksh 38 million on educational bursaries in 2023, in line with decisions made and approved by their respective indigenous communities.

Speaking during the launch of the bursaries in Isiolo County, Dr. James Lowasa, the Isiolo County Deputy Governor, said, "It's crucial to prioritize education as it ultimately benefits the entire community."

Through the NKRCP, Ksh 23 million was disbursed to the County Government in Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Laikipia Counties (in 2022 and 2023) for drought mitigation, benefitting 14,330 households across the four counties. The NKRCP is the world's largest soil carbon removal project which connects rangeland restoration and livestock grazing planning to direct financial benefits for local communities.

NRT's community conservancy model has always been about empowering indigenous communities and accelerating their development through conservation. With every bursary the NKRCP awards, it continues to advance NRT's mission of transforming lives.

ISIOLO PASTORALISTS MAKE LAUDABLE STRIDES IN ADOPTING FISH FARMING



Fish farming has not been a mainstay for the herders of Isiolo County, majority have for decades concentrated on traditional livestock farming. However, extreme recurring droughts emanating from climate change that have in recent years caused enormous livestock deaths. This coupled with pre-existing issues of child malnutrition caused by high food prices and limited access have forced pastoral communities to embrace fish farming.

The County Government of Isiolo has been working in partnership with World Food Programme (WFP), under a program dubbed Sustainable Food Systems Project (SFSP) to entrench a culture of fish farming. Local pastoral communities have, through this project made immense strides in adopting fish farming. In total, 11 farming self help groups and 5 individual farmers from 3 wards in the County have been empowered through the construction of raised and sunken fish ponds.

"Apart from having fishponds constructed for us, we have learnt a lot through this project. Very few of us had any knowledge on how to feed fish and how to deal with its prey especially in sunken ponds. Our culture has always instilled a negative inclination towards fish as food. None of us appreciated its nutritional value," Mrs. Makkai Intalo one of the project's beneficiary said adding that this will have a major positive socio-economic impact in their lives.

In addition, beneficiaries have received 11,500 fingerlings both; Tilapia and Catfish as well as approximately 3 quarters a tonne of start up feeds. To ensure that the project is sustainable, farmers were earlier also taken through a training on feed's formulation. Also, a select group of farmers were also sponsored to attend a comprehensive training in one of the national government's fish farming institute.

Success realized from this initial stage of project activities informed upscaling of the same in other four wards of the County. This resulted to more pastoral communities benefit from 40 fish ponds as well as fingerlings.

"Our goal is to both address issues of malnutrition in our host county as well as sustainable economic empowerment for our target beneficiaries," Mr. Charles Songok Head of Field Office World Food Programme (WFP) said adding that his office is particularly grateful to the County Government of Isiolo for providing a conducive implementation environment and the farmers for embracing a non-traditional farming practice in their area.

Further, the Department of Fisheries also collaborated with WFP and CRS Nawiri to capacity build fisheries common interest groups on Technological, Innovations and Management Practices (TIMPS). Some of the TIMPs that fish farmers in Isiolo have benefited from included Black soldier fry larvae farming as an alternative of fish feeds and establishment of preservation methods like improved fish smoking Kiln and Solar driers.



GOVERNOR GUYO'S ADMINISTRATION WORKS WITH Nawiri TO EMPOWER ISIOLO YOUTH



Youth in Isiolo form a significant part of the population in the County with their projected population (15-29 Years) being 83,988 making up 27% of the total population. With this high population comes challenges related to unemployment and underemployment. Therefore, this segment of the population requires close attention from all sectors of the government, development partners and other stakeholders for the county to contribute to its long-term developmental goals.

To this end, Governor Guyo's administration through its Department of Vocational and Technical Training partnered with USAID Nawiri through its Vocational Training and Apprenticeship program to promote youth empowerment in Isiolo. The partnership sought to enhance youth participation in economic and nutrition interventions, provide a favourable policy environment for the participation of youth in development activities and promote access to employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The program saw 207 youths among them young mothers being supported to train on various skills through the local artisans within the community while 102 youth and young mothers were supported to join vocational training within the County government's Vocational and Technical Training Centres. Among the skills that youth acquired include hairdressing, dressmaking, catering, plumbing, electrical installation, masonry, mobile repair and motorcycle repair and maintenance.

Speaking during a handing over event for the issuance of business grants and start-up kits, Isiolo Deputy Governor Dr James Lowasa said Governor Guyo's agenda for youth employment and empowerment recognizes that the involvement of young men and women in participatory decision-making and development processes is vital to achieving sustainable human development in Isiolo.

"Our Governor recognizes the participation of

youth in development. He therefore fully supports the Youth Empowerment programme and strongly believes that it is through it that we will help disadvantaged young people across the county to develop the skills, knowledge and mindsets needed to become independent, productive, and engaged members of their societies," said Lowasa.

He said the youth of Isiolo have demonstrated that young people can transform their lives and work with the government in development initiatives when provided with opportunities.

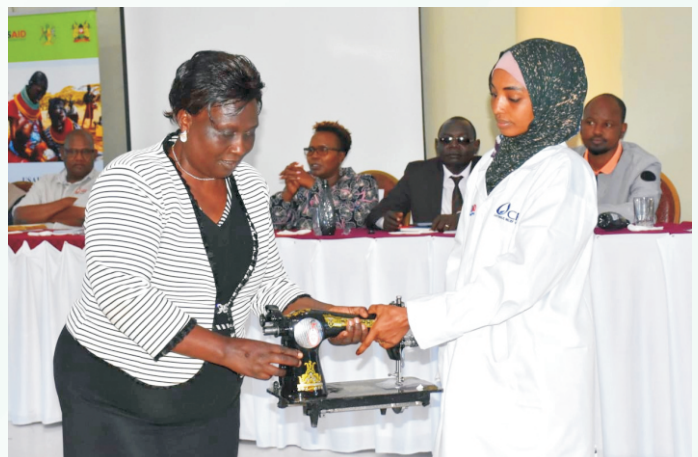
Cecilia Kananu, Nawiri's Youth Engagement Lead said the youth of Isiolo have proved they are intelligent, determined to change their status and resilience in finding solutions to everyday challenges.

"Youth of this great county have challenged many of us and more so the young mothers. Their resilience through the program was exceptional and we believe the business they will start will be successful," said Cecilia.

Overall, 179 youth among them young mothers received business start-up kits and visibility materials while 1510 small businesses set to start in Isiolo were issued with grants. The selected youth were provided with sewing machines, blow driers, motorbike repairs and maintenance, mobile repair and maintenance kits, and electrical repair kits.

"I had lost hope in life but this program gave me a new sense of purpose. I will use the skills I acquired and the motorbike repairs and maintenance I have received today to fend for myself," said one of the Youth.

Through the program, Nawiri in collaboration with the County Government recruited 206 young mothers and men (15-29yrs) and enrolled them in TVETs and apprenticeship programs. The youths were enrolled in the four-county government run VTTCs (Merti, Uhuru, Sericho and Oldonyiro) and the Diocese of Isiolo Bishop Locati Centre.





MY ASPIRATION AND AGENDA FOR ISIOLO COUNTY

1) EDUCATION

Within the First one and a half Year, I will establish GOVERNOR'S SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME up to University for bright and needy students from Public Schools who scored 390 (Boys) and 340 (Girls) in KCPE.

2) WATER AND SANITATION

- * Provide clean drinking water to all
- * Am aware of the Current water crisis in Modogashe, Sericho, Bassa-Cherab, Biliqo-Charri, Ngaremara and Oldonyiro. We shall address all these water problems.

3) HEALTH

- * Promote and improve the status of all health facilities in the County by restructuring the health sector to make services more effective, accessible, and affordable:
- * Develop an affordable Health insurance scheme and offer free NHIF cover to the Elderly and senior citizens.
- * Establish quality and well-equipped health facilities in every ward,

4) LAND

- * Fast tracking Registration of all Community Land pursuant to the provisions of the Community Land Act.
- * All Land within Isiolo Central Municipality will be surveyed, registered and Title Deeds issued to the owners and communities.

5) INSECURITY

- * Ensure our borders are safe and secure; These borders include Isiolo-Wajir, Isiolo-Samburu, Isiolo-Marsabit, Isiolo-Garissa, Isiolo-Meru, and Isiolo-Laikipia.
- * Strengthen traditional institutions and customary mechanisms of conflict resolution.
- * Expansion of the road network and trade, which will increase the economic stakes and create demands that security, be guaranteed.
- * Openness in some areas to innovation and engagement

between the state and communities. For example, some County Security Committees involve elders in their deliberations.

- * Public education on good neighborliness, and eradication of negative cultural activities such as cattle rustling through community policing efforts.
- * Integrate the police into peace-building structures.
- * Training for rangers and security agents to understand the local context and local concerns and use approaches that enhance relationships with communities.

6) YOUTH, WOMEN, AND PWD'S EMPOWERMENT

My administration will provide grants to Youth, Women, and PWDs

- * Creation of Jobs and Wealth by awarding 30% of contracts to Youths, Women, and PWDs
- * Establish Isiolo Youth Service.

The County will allocate shilling 10 million for youth and 10 million for women as an empowerment plan.

An additional sh 5 million will be set aside towards empowerment of persons with disability

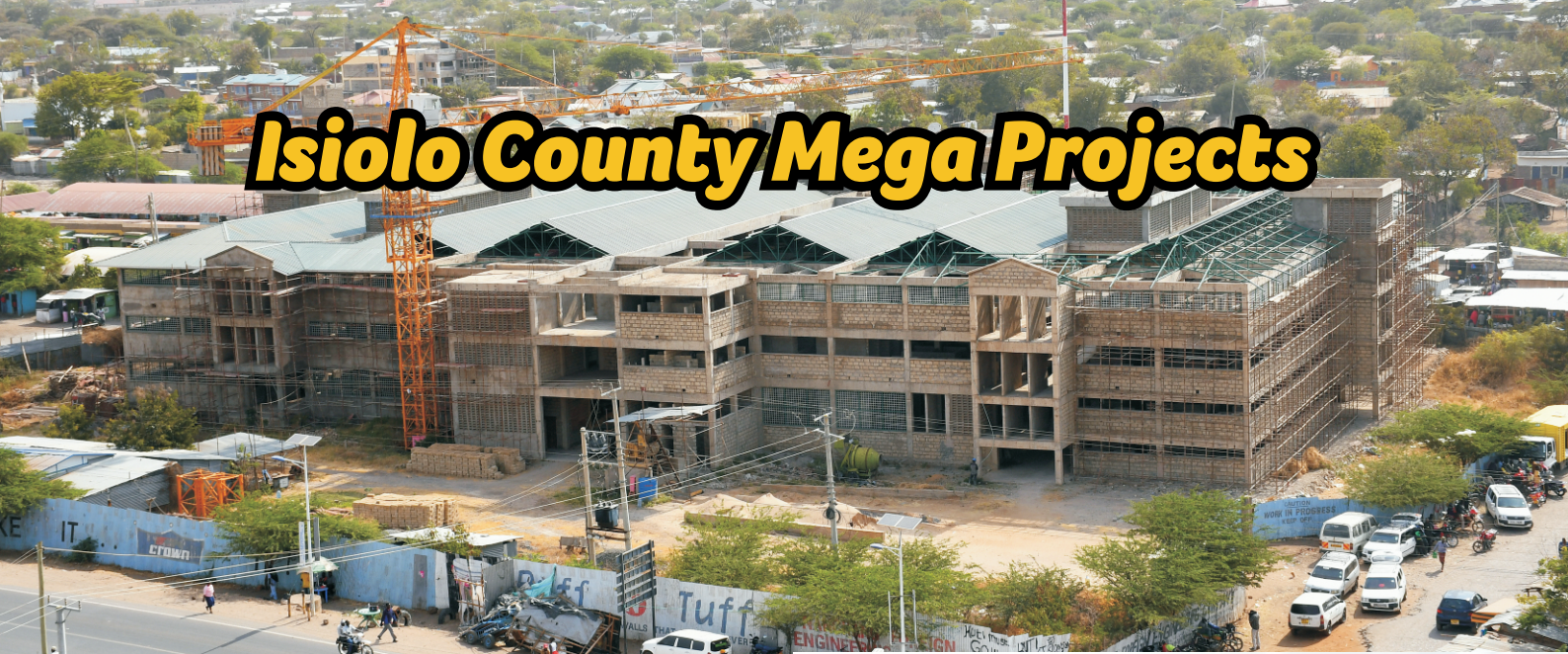
7. AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

- * Operationalise Isiolo Abattoir immediately.
- * Strengthen the old Deetha system through legislation
- * Support farmers and pastoralists through grants, training, and development of Agribusiness.

8. INFRASTRUCTURE

- * All rural access roads in Isiolo County will be graded to weather standards with new bridges constructed to enhance connectivity.
- * Special attention will be given to Isiolo-Merti Road.
- * Establishment of County Aggregation Center at Isiolo Prison Farm.

Isiolo County Mega Projects



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