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Kalumu Nzuki at her orchard in Wikililye, Kitui County. Photo credit: Mwangi Kirubi/USAID

KENYA

SOUTHEASTERN KENYA COORDINATION MECHANISM

USAID is focused on building resilience in communities within the Southeastern Kenya (SEK) counties of Kitui, Makueni, and Taita Taveta to avert a return to dependence on humanitarian assistance. Efforts aim to enhance coordination between USAID projects and local actors - including the private sector, public sector, and civil society at the county and national level - to foster sustainability.

The SEK mechanism, established in 2019, is convened and co-chaired by USAID Feed the Future and the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance in Kitui, Makueni, and Taita-Taveta. Participants in SEK include all USAID Implementing Partners operating in the three counties as well as local actors at the county and national levels.

OUR WORK

The SEK membership provides the coordination platform to leverage USAID investments across donors, local service providers, and in concert with local and national governments for the following objectives:

- Information sharing among actors within SEK around ongoing USAID development initiatives; fostering external collaboration; and leveraging opportunities between USAID, county investments, and other donor initiatives.
- Enhancing mutual accountability and coordination both across USAID technical offices as well as among partners.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Evidence-based targeting:** SEK facilitated evidence-based targeting for partners and county governments using GIS and other socio-economic data to identify the most vulnerable populations and geographic locations for convergence of services and interventions.
- **Joint Work Planning:** In 2020 and 2021, the mechanism facilitated a series of joint work planning workshops and co-creation processes as a way of elevating collaboration and reducing duplication among USAID Implementing Partners and SEK county officials.
- **County Coordination:** SEK mechanism has established a county-based coordination structure in each county to strengthen the coordination. The coordination structure includes a County Lead, Deputy County Lead, and the representatives of county government for the relevant sectors. The county structure has improved and strengthened coordination and collaboration during program implementation.
- **Social Behavioral Change:** Working with the National Drought Management Agency, International Red Cross, and county governments, SEK designed a radio program that disseminates early warning and drought mitigation information to communities across the SEK region to inform decision making for resilience.

DURATION: 2020-2025

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Accelerated Institutional and Food Systems Development (AIFSD)
- Advancing Nutrition
- Kenya Crops & Dairy Market Systems (KCDMS)
- Kenya Investment Mechanism (KIM)
- Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS)
- USAID 4 Better Health
- Cooperatives Leadership Engagement Advocacy and Research (CLEAR)
- Kenya Small Business Development Centre (KSBDC)
- Resilience Learning Activity
- Stawisha Pwani

KEY PARTNERS

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Water and Irrigation (Water Trust Fund and Water Resource Management Authority)
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health (Public Health Department)
- National Drought Management Authority
- State Department of Children Services
- State Department of Social Protection
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)
- County Governments
- Kitui, Makueni and Taita Taveta

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