

Report on Progress: Climate Resilience in Kenya's Indigenous herding

Your generous support during the Green Match Fund 2024 has already sparked meaningful change in Tana River, one of Kenya's most climate-stressed regions. While the project is still in its early stages, the foundations are now firmly in place, and that's because of you.

This new project will focus on supporting women traders, herders, and people with disabilities to strengthen their incomes and adapt to an increasingly unpredictable climate. By helping to build more sustainable and secure livelihoods, your support is enabling people to thrive in Kenya's arid lands.

Background



Tana River County, in eastern Kenya, is one of the country's driest and most vulnerable. Here, indigenous Somali communities have long relied on traditional camel husbandry, a way of life passed down through generations.

But despite their knowledge and strength, these communities face huge challenges. Poverty levels are stark, with up to 65% of people living below the poverty line — nearly double the national average. Malnutrition affects one in four children under five.

Camel milk is a vital of both income and nutrition. In the driest months, it can provide up to half of a household's nutritional intake. Women are at the heart of this trade — walking long distances to fetch water or sell milk, often without the tools, or support they need. For many women and people with disabilities, this exclusion from services and opportunities pushes them even further to the margins.

But we are proud that we are working, and there is hope — because the people here know how to adapt, if given the chance. This project is about unlocking that potential: building on local strengths and knowledge to help 1,880 people grow their businesses, strengthen their food security, and protect their way of life

Who You're Supporting

Category	Number of People	Notes
Direct Beneficiaries	1,880	Milk value chain actors and their households
- Traders	810	Includes 450 secondary and 360 primary traders
- Herders	550	
- Camel Owners	380	
- Transporters	55	
- Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)	85	Included across categories above
Estimated Beneficiary Households	830 households	Based on average household size of 5.5
Estimated Beneficiary Households	4,565 people	(830 households × 5.5 people)

What Change Will Look Like

This project is ultimately about giving people the tools to build stronger, more secure lives.

Many of the women involved are running a business for the very first time. With training, tools, and support, they're gaining the confidence to grow their income and support their families. People with disabilities are being actively included across every stage of the project.

Thanks to your support, we expect to see real and lasting change across the region:

Healthier animals, better milk: Herders trained in animal care and linked to veterinary services will see fewer camel deaths and more consistent milk production, helping keep incomes and nutrition steady even in dry seasons.

Stronger resilience to climate shocks: Once key water points are restored, people and animals will have more reliable access to clean water year-round. This is crucial during droughts, when every drop counts.

More inclusive local leadership: At least 453 women and people with disabilities will take active roles across the camel milk value chain.

Better Nutrition & Food Security: As incomes become more reliable, families can access more varied, nutritious food. In fact, we expect 70% of households to consume a more diverse diet and a 30% drop in malnutrition rates for young children in the areas we're working in.

Meet Rahma Yusuf, a 48-year-old mother from Bula Mzuri village in Garissa Town. Rahma joined our previous project as a camel milk trader at the local market, buying milk in bulk and selling it to other traders and customers.

Since joining, Rahma has learned new skills that have helped her improve the quality of her milk and how she sells it. This has made a big difference to her business. Today, she sells much more milk than when she started, and she no longer loses milk to spoilage. She has been able to hire helpers to collect and deliver the milk. She even saved enough to buy a tuk-tuk to make deliveries easier



What's Happening on the Ground

Training sessions have begun, community meetings are underway, and preparations for major infrastructure work are in full swing.

Local leaders — including many women and young people — are stepping forward to help guide this work. Water committees are being re-formed. Animal health workers are being identified and trained. And in the markets, the first signs of change are starting to show: conversations about hygiene, savings groups, and the value of working together.

You Made This Possible

None of this would be possible without you. By standing with these communities from the very beginning, you've helped set in motion a project with the power to grow and last. Your support didn't just double through the Green Match Fund, it created a ripple effect far beyond the campaign.

Because you gave at a critical early stage, we were able to move quickly, lay the groundwork, and inspire others to join in. Since the campaign ended, we've already secured over £290,000 in additional funding from trusts and foundations.

Thank you once again for your generosity and belief in these communities. We can't wait to share more stories of hope and resilience with you as this project grows.