Samburu is one of the 47 counties of Kenya with a population of 220,978 beneficiaries (cattle rustling), vulnerability to crisis, environmental degradation & high population growth. As a result, locals: 1. Rely to cope with droughts (stealing livestock from neighbouring communities) 2. Slaughter animals to relieve lactating mothers 3. Resort to charcoal production & selling which leads to environmental degradation 4. Borrow money 5. Adjust nutrition: only 1 meal per day (instead of 2), children eat first & elderly less, reduced consumption of milk, soft ugali (diluted)

The poverty level of 71.4% & demand of vegetables (cereals, vegetables, pulses & root crops) & livestock, water, environment, nutrition)

Sustainable (agro-) pastoral livelihoods

Poverty reduction

Food security

Increased resilience to cope with disasters

Samburu Pastoral Livelihoods Improvement Programme (SAPLIP)

• Project financed by European Union (2.9 Mio €)
• Runs from 2012-2016
• Implemented by World Vision Kenya & partners
• 63,500 indirect beneficiaries + community-driven targeting of groups (farmer, livestock, women, youth) & disaster committees
• Area: agro-pastoral (Malaso and Kirisia) & pastoral (Lorroki)
• Sectors: agriculture, water, sanitation, public health, environment & climate change adaptation

Goals

Project Activities

Supply of sahibul bulls

Supply of water tanks

Supply of green houses

Supply of beehives

Outcomes & Conclusion

Outcomes

SAPLIP

• Project financed by European Union (2.9 Mio €)
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Background

Innovating in the Fight Against Poverty: Evidence from ‘big-push’ interventions in Samburu County, Kenya

Anika Mahla & Andrew Kiplagat
University of Duisburg-Essen & University of Eldoret

Research Approach

• Question: Have the big-push interventions of Samburu Pastoral Livelihoods Improvement Programme (SAPLIP) had any lasting impact on Samburu livelihoods? Is SAPLIP an example of good practice for the reduction of poverty and food insecurity?
• Methods: Focus Group Discussions, Income & Expenditure Ranking, Expert Interviews, Household Questionnaire Survey (n=985)

Samburu County Features

• Samburu is one of the 47 counties of Kenya
• It has a population of 220,978
• Arid/semi-arid climate with erratic rainfalls
• 82% of the population lives in rural areas with main income sources from pastoralism and subsistence farming
• The county is structurally weak (infrastructure, education etc.)
• Poor alphabetization rate of 27%
• Poverty level of 71.4%
• High population growth

Methods:

• Borrowing
• Development of Community Poorest Resistant Trees (PRTR) for the construction of new beehives & water pans/pumps
• Improved livestock breeds & community-based animal health services
• Introduction of enhanced organic farming practices
• Improved food security & reductions of dependency on food aid
• Diversification of incomes & nutrition

Success Factors

• Demand-driven intervention
• Sustainable approach due to the cooperation with already existing groups > trade off: exclusion of non-organized poor
• Widespread involvement of multiple stakeholders at multiple levels (e.g. diverse ministries, county government & chiefs)
• Holistic & cross-sectoral action (agriculture, livestock, water, environment, nutrition)

Way Forward

• Follow-up of the project with improved market linkages for crop & livestock products
• Development of a farmer organization

Effects of the Project Interventions

• Poverty reduction & empowerment
• Improved access to water due to the construction of new beehives & water pans/pumps
• Increased natural resource management (waters, pasture, mulch use trees)
• Introduction of enhanced organic farming practices
• Improved livestock breeds & community-based animal health services
• Communities are more resilient concerning disaster risks
• Improved food security & reductions of dependency on food aid
• Diversification of incomes & nutrition

Outcomes

Plenty of vegetables (and other food commodities) for consumption and sale

Improved areas of SAPLIP participation

Livelihood improvement due to SAPLIP participation

Focus Group Discussions, Income & Expenditure Survey

Interventions

Introduction of greenhouse farming & kitchen gardening
Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) & conservation of local knowledge
Rain water harvesting for domestic use, livestock & crop production
Controlled grazing & promotion for planting of multi-purpose trees (production of fruit & fodder tree seedlings)
Development of Community Disaster Contingency Plans
Peace meetings

Distributions:

• Improved livestock (cattle, poultry & dairy goats)
• Improved seeds (cereals, vegetables, pulses & root crops)
• Farm equipment: e.g. drip kits, hoes & forks
• Bees

Outcome of the Research

Sustainable (agro-) pastoral livelihoods

Poverty reduction

Food security

Increased resilience to cope with disasters

Questions

1. How have the big-push interventions of Samburu Pastoral Livelihoods Improvement Programme (SAPLIP) had any lasting impact on Samburu livelihoods? Is SAPLIP an example of good practice for the reduction of poverty and food insecurity?

2. What are the success factors that contributed to the impact of the SAPLIP programme?

3. In what ways can the lessons learned from the SAPLIP programme be applied to similar contexts and programs?

4. How can the SAPLIP programme be scaled up or replicated to reach a wider audience?

5. What potential challenges might arise in the implementation of similar programmes, and how can these be addressed?

Conclusion

The SAPLIP programme has shown promising results in improving livelihoods, reducing poverty, and enhancing food security in Samburu County, Kenya. The project has successfully introduced sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, improved livestock breeds, and improved water harvesting, which have contributed to increased resilience and reduced dependency on food aid.

However, challenges remain, including poverty, food insecurity, scarcity of water, and insecurity. These factors necessitate continued interventions and partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability and impact. The experience gained from SAPLIP could inform similar programmes in other regions, highlighting the importance of community-driven approaches, sustainable practices, and collaboration among stakeholders.