About the Project

What was the issue?
Persistent drought and high temperatures in Isiolo and Marsabit counties of northern Kenya repeatedly devastate livestock herds particularly cattle making the pastoralists less resilient, more vulnerable to climate change and poor.

What did we do?
Trainers were trained and facilitated to train 240 peri-urban Somali camel producers in Isiolo and Marsabit on breeding, health, other management aspects and marketing. The project team conducted an impact study where positive stories of change were recorded from producers who had adopted the improved Somali camel management technologies.

What did we learn?
That Somali camel pastoralists require capacity building in most of management aspects, the key ones being breeding and health in order to optimize performance of the genetically high potential camel. The need for training is higher in Marsabit County where commercial rearing of Somali camel is in the formative stage.

Stories of change?
The stories confirmed that producers who hitherto made zero money from their camels had started making a net profit of up to KES. 42,000 a month from sale of 20 liters of milk daily from only 5 milking camels; producers had adopted a new grazing management strategy that ensured daily access of the camel milk market and conservation of grazing areas around settlements; motor bikes had been adopted as means of hauling milk from the interior to collection centers thus creating jobs for the youth.

A Policy Brief on Adopting the Somali Camel for Enhanced Profitability and Pastoral Resilience in northern Kenya

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The project sought to improve livestock productivity through promotion of adoption of Somali camel breed and capacity building on improved management of the same.

Policy issue
The county governments of Isiolo and Marsabit need to appreciate the huge business potential in Somali camel rearing and agree to allocate more funds in support of livestock production extension services. Further, the two governments should have a policy to ensure regular and reliable availability of quality Somali camel breeding bulls to producers in order to improve productivity and positively transform the economic fortunes of their people.