This Case Story was submitted to the 2016 CLA Case Competition. The competition was open to individuals and organizations affiliated with USAID and gave participants an opportunity to promote their work and contribute to good practice that advances our understanding of collaborating, learning, and adapting in action.

Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) Collaboration to Deepen Land and Pasture Rehabilitation Results
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Pasture. *Credit: ACDI/VOCA.*

What is the general context in which the story takes place?

Pasture remains one of the key treasures of arid lands, and effort to increase its production will have a direct and positive impact on the resilience of communities and livestock. In 2011, Marsabit County imported 70,000 bales of hay to mitigate the effects of drought. Importing hay is not only more expensive than obtaining it locally, it introduces the risks of highland diseases in the county. The land under pasture has been shrinking and, as a result, land degradation negatively affects animals when drought occurs.

The Feed the Future-funded Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands – Accelerated Growth (REGAL-AG) sought to mobilize and bring about behavior change among communities living in Isiolo and Marsabit counties in Northern Kenya toward investing in pasture rehabilitation. The project developed a concept note and shared it among the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) partners in Marsabit. The note's primary message was, *Rehabilitation of the Pastures and Degraded Lands is OUR Responsibility. Together we Can. "We All Need the Pastures."* The idea was every season just before the rains, partners and county government would organize 1-week campaigns in which communities are mobilized to reseed degraded lands. The purpose of the concept note was to

get PREG partners and the county government to collaborate in procuring seeds, identifying degraded land sites, setting targets of grass production (measured in bales), and, ultimately, sharing responsibilities in supervising the efforts.

What was the main challenge or opportunity you were addressing with this CLA approach or activity?

The main challenge was to address and build resilience in Marsabit and Isiolo counties, which are prone to droughts that affect the livelihood of pastoralists and their animals. USAID/Kenya initiated PREG in 2014 with the objective of coordinating and harmonizing USAID-funded activities in resilience-building among key humanitarian and development actors in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands in Kenya. PREG collaborates with the National Drought Management Authority and devolved county government structures to coordinate resilience and economic growth activities.

The layering, sequencing, and integration is expected to increase adaptive capacity to resist shocks such as droughts, improve the ability to address and reduce risk, and improve social and economic conditions of vulnerable populations. The PREG Steering Committee[1] recommend the following points to guide operationalizing the layering concept:

1. Communication and Information Sharing
   * Develop protocols to facilitate effective internal and external communication
   * Inform group of existing programs, share lessons learned, and identify areas of convergence
   * Meet monthly
   * Have field trips to different project sites at least once a quarter

2. Knowledge Management and Learning Agenda
   * Identify best practices and increase humanitarian and development group members' awareness of these practices in resilience programming
   * Identify monitoring and evaluation indicators that the team can use to measure for impacts of layering programming
   * Share project indicators and identify common indicators that can be mutually beneficial
   * Report quarterly on different projects by county to identify successes and find ways of filling gaps of ongoing projects

3. Joint Planning, Design, and Implementation
   * Recognize and leverage the strengths of different partners in the layering pathway in order to deliver innovations that build resilience among vulnerable groups

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[1] The committee is composed of USAID activity managers; chiefs of party and alternates of REGAL-AG and Resilience and Economic Growth in Arid Lands – Improving Resilience (REGAL-IR); the Millennium Water Alliance; AIDS, Population, and Health Integrated Assistance; the National Drought Management Authority; the United Nations World Food Programme-Kenya; UNCIEF; and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

- Explore and leverage comparative strengths and advantages
- Optimize development of concepts, operational plans, budgets, and implementation strategies
- Develop working relationships within the team, partners, stakeholders, and donors
- Embrace common principles, tools, and approaches for coordinating resilience activities at the national, county, and community levels

4. Adherence to Development and Resilience Principles
   - Respect for community ownership of resilience and development activity
   - Respect for private sector investment approaches
   - Respect for existing livelihood systems
   - Respect for gender-sensitive approaches

In 2014, USAID/Kenya appointed different partners as leaders in each county. In Marsabit County, REGAL-AG was appointed the lead of this partnership until 2015, when REGAL-IR took over following very successful PREG partnership examples that were shared with USAID and partners. REGAL-AG was asked to take over Isiolo County in 2015. The partners hold monthly meetings in each county to discuss how to layer, sequence, and integrate their respective interventions by identifying synergies and areas of complementarity. The meetings also provide opportunities for discussing how to facilitate the progression from relief to development; scaling up impact; improving efficiency in approach and implementation; and facilitating learning and sharing among partners. At one forum, REGAL-AG took the opportunity to share the concept note on how to rejuvenate our range lands with a purpose of getting the partners' buy-in. This intervention required multiple actors, including the county government and other USAID implementing partners, to come together and buy in to the concept and employ collaboration and learning in piloting the reseeding intervention.

Describe the CLA approach or activity, explaining how the activity integrated collaborating, learning, adapting culture, processes, and/or resources as applicable.

REGAL-AG saw an opportunity to collaborate to speed and deepen results to facilitate learning that would inform future interventions. It was also hoped that the county government would learn from the event and allocate resources every rainy season to mitigate the effects of drought through increased biomass. In October 2015, REGAL-AG convened PREG partners and members of county government to organize a first-of-its-kind reseeding campaign. The partners met and identified 457.5 acres of land distributed across Marsabit that was targeted for reseeding. The county government provided seeds, and additional resources were provided by REGAL-IR. REGAL-AG allocated sites and seeds to partners to undertake reseeding. To give the event gravitas, politicians were engaged to officially start the campaign. REGAL-AG pasture expert Paul Parsalaach conducted training in all communities where the event took place. Marsabit central was assigned to REGAL-AG, Laisamis to REGAL-IR, Moyale to the World Food Programme, and Chalbi to the other PREG partners. The target productivity was a total 91,500 bales of hay (see table on the next page).

Sub County	Site	Total Land size (acres)	Seed Required (kilograms)	Target Hay Production
Marsabit central	Jaldesa	100	400	20,000
	Saku	100	400	20,000
Laisamis	Nairibi	20	80	4,000
	Kamatonyi	20	80	4,000
Moyale	28 sites	240	800	40,000
Chalbi	North Horr	5	20	1,000
	Turbi	5	20	1,000
	Maikona	5	20	1,000
	Mt Kulali	2.5	10	500
Total		457.5	1,830	91,500

Note: Hay harvesting after the short rains of March-May is ongoing, and we expect a good harvest from the whole county.

Were there any special considerations during implementation (e.g., necessary resources, implementation challenges or obstacles, and enabling factors)?

Initially, REGAL-AG had tried sharing this with REGAL-IR for funding among other partners with no success. In Marsabit, the PREG partners held monthly meetings to discuss opportunities for layering and integration. At one meeting, REGAL-AG presented this concept and its potential impact to partners. The good working relationship fostered among PREG partners facilitated quick acceptance of the idea. Invitations to the county government to participate in the discussion were sent. Dorcus, an NGO in Moyale, gave 900 kg of seeds and the National Drought Management Authority bought 150 kg of seeds. The county Department of Livestock provided 700kg of seeds, but they were of poor quality and showed challenges with germination. The Catholic diocese and individual pastoralists also became interested in the idea and purchased seeds to participate in the activity.

With your initial challenge/opportunity in mind, what have been the most significant outcomes, results, or impacts of the activity or approach to date?

After reseeding, it takes about two seasons for complete grass regeneration in degraded areas. This is why the June harvest was much better than in March 2016. Based on the results, it is clear that integration of different program efforts harnessed synergies and the impact was much greater than if only one program had been involved. The table below shows the program's goals for each area.

Sub County	Site	Total Land size (acres)	Seed Required (kilograms)	Harvested Hay by End of March 2016	Harvested Hay by June 2016
Marsabit central	Jaldesa	100	400		8,000
	Saku	100	400	8,400	14,500
Laisamis	Nairibi	20	80		1,600
	Kamatonyi	20	80		1,200
Moyale	28 sites	240	800	4,600	23,000
Chalbi	North Horr	5	20		400
	Turbi	5	20		380
	Maikona/Huri hills	5	20	10,000	14,000
	Mt Kulali	2.5	10		180
Total		**457.5**	**1,830**	**23,000**	**55,260**

Note: Hay harvesting after the short rains of March-May is ongoing, and we expect a good harvest from the whole county.

What were the most important lessons learned?

The most important lesson learned was that it is possible to initiate behavior change among pastoralists to invest in improving pasture biomass through collaboration. The results and impact were visible when compared with individual project interventions, which mainly focused on training a

few pastoralists on fodder production. The picture below shows a person who was involved in the campaign and the grass growing her parcel of land.

Currently, partners are organizing a similar effort in November 2016. It is hoped that the impact of the last intervention will appeal to many other actors who will be inspired to get involved. If adopted, the model has potential for positive impact on the resilience of arid lands.