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Big Lift for Thousands of Livestock Farmers in New Credit, Water and Sanitation Program

- *KCB Foundation Joins 20 Other Partners in Major Thrust on Water and Sanitation in Five Counties in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Region*

Thousands of livestock farmers in five counties in Kenya's arid and semi-arid region will benefit from improved water and sanitation facilities in a new program that will also give them access to training and credit facilities.

The KCB Foundation and Millennium Water Alliance (MWA) signed an agreement on Monday in Nairobi to work together in the Kenya Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development Program (Kenya RAPID) with major funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC).

The KCB Foundation (the KCB Group social investment arm) through its *Mifugo Ni Mali* program will work with MWA to stimulate enterprises that will support livestock value chain improvement in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) as part of Kenya RAPID's work to improve access to safely-managed drinking water, sanitation and hygiene over the next four years.

The partners said that this transformative partnership is expected to impact the lives of citizens in the five counties of Isiolo, Turkana, Garissa, Wajir and Marsabit.

KCB Foundation Executive Director Jane Mwangi said: "Through this strategic partnership, we foresee productive and sustainable commercialised livestock and water sectors in the targeted counties. There is a great untapped potential in the counties. We believe this will contribute to an enhanced economic status for the households and the counties as a whole."



Rafael Callejas of MWA and Jane Mwangi of KCB Foundation sign new partnership agreement in Nairobi.

MWA Executive Director Mr. Rafael Callejas echoed the importance of private sector involvement in driving sustainable economic activity. "We are looking at changing livelihoods through innovative business models. The small-scale entrepreneurs will also have more opportunity for training on getting and managing credit," Callejas said.

The KCB Foundation will conduct financial literacy training of 100 SMEs in the livestock and water value chains, support pasture production, and prepare water service providers and livestock keepers for commercial loans of up to USD\$1 million in addition to sharing technologies and approaches in sustainable service delivery.

Other private-sector partners include Aqua for All, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation, SweetSense, Acacia Water, IBM, Davis & Shirliff, and Vitol Foundation.

Kenya RAPID

Kenya RAPID, which targets to reach over 450,000 Kenyans, began in 2015, and brings together the county governments of Isiolo, Turkana, Garissa, Wajir, and Marsabit to increase the average water coverage in the ASALs, including rebuilding of healthy rangeland-management and providing water access to livestock. Kenya RAPID is a USD\$35.5 million joint investment of USD\$12.5 million from USAID, USD\$7.5 million from SDC, USD\$12.5 million from private-sector partners, and USD\$3 million from MWA, a US-based consortium of 15 non-government organisations.

Mifugo Ni Mali

The KCB Foundation's *Mifugo Ni Mali* program has been in the forefront of driving economic expansion in the ASALs. Launched in 2014, *Mifugo Ni Mali* (Livestock is Wealth) collaborates with livestock producers in the ASALs to accelerate commercialisation of the livestock sector, ensuring livestock keepers retain a higher proportion of the final sale price of the livestock. Using market organisations through cooperatives/group ranches, livestock value chain enterprises are helped to address productivity, nutrition and husbandry challenges, as well as gain access to discounted loans.

To date, the program has invested more than USD\$3 million, of which about USD\$1 million has been loaned out to livestock producer organisations at discounted rate of zero (0%) interest. More than 1,000 livestock keepers from the five counties have been trained on how to grow and feed livestock on hydroponic fodder. This innovative technology will help address the drought situation in ASAL counties since the fodder requires little water to grow and is ready as livestock feed within seven days.

The KCB Foundation has invested an estimated 1 Billion Kenya shillings in community programs in Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi. As a good corporate citizen, the KCB Bank Group is committed to sustainable development, prosperity and poverty reduction to address the hardship, high poverty levels and interconnected challenges that affect communities in Eastern Africa.

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Kenya RAPID Partners

