



# REAP FOR NUTRITION

As a part of a USAID funded consortium led by Mercy Corps, BOMA has designed a version of REAP to address acute malnutrition in children under five years old. The REAP for Nutrition approach prioritizes targeting and enrollment of women with children under five years old and households that are currently or have previously experienced child malnutrition.

Other adaptations include engagement of households, including men and children, in formation of a nutrition-oriented household plan alongside the REAP business plan. Both plans will create a basis for mentorship and monitoring throughout the program.

REAP for Nutrition also involves measuring and maximizing the potential for REAP to be a source of nutrition resilience for the wider community. To this effect, REAP for Nutrition cohorts will involve intentional layering with and investments in key food and sanitation value chains (i.e. milk and fresh vegetables), and REAP businesses will have the opportunity to act as an important distribution network for these products at the last mile. REAP businesses that engage in nutrition-related income generating activities may apply for additional innovation grants and training opportunities.

## KEY IMPACTS



### Decrease **Malnutrition**

60% of participants have shifted away from extractive livelihoods and into sustainable green enterprises (ex. tree nurseries, aloe and honey production)



### Household **Engagement**

60% of participants have joined their local community conservation group are taking the lead in forest management and restoration



### Community **Resilience**

Deforestation has reduced dramatically and more than 30,000 tree seedlings have been planted.

REAP for Nutrition is leveraging the power of women and communities to break the cycle of extreme poverty and deprivation. The steps of this approach include:



#### LISTEN

To community priorities & nutrition science



#### LAUNCH

Initiatives with start-up capital



#### TRAIN

Communities in business skills & nutrition science



#### MENTOR

Entrepreneurs & conservation groups



#### SAVE

Profits and access credit



#### CONNECT

Communities to green markets and value chains

# THE PROBLEM

Acute malnutrition has persisted at emergency levels in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands, even when a households' access to food and quality healthcare increases. With nearly 75 percent of the population living in poverty, less than 70% of households have acceptable food security scores and only 25% or less of children aged 6-23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet. Children, adolescent girls, and women of reproductive age suffer from preventable and treatable diseases, which compound their vulnerability. Acute malnutrition, particularly in women of reproductive age and adolescents, reinforces inter-generational cycles of extreme poverty. USAID Nawiri, a five-year Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) funded by USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), aims to go beyond humanitarian assistance to sustainably reduce levels of Persistent Acute Malnutrition (PAM) in Samburu and Turkana counties. Through a consortium led by Mercy Corps and composed of Save the Children, Research Triangle Institute (RTI), BOMA, African Population & Health Research Center (APHRC), and Caritas Lodwar, BOMA has undertaken research to inform an evidence-based implementation strategy.

Within this wider effort, BOMA is tasked with adapting its Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) approach to contribute to nutrition resilience. REAP utilizes the graduation approach, a sequenced, layered set of interventions, aiming to meet the multidimensional needs of ultra-poor households.



## PROGRAM IMPACTS

**29%** increase in household income

**1400%** increase in savings

**80%** of businesses operational five years later

**21%** increase in girls going to school

**361,890** total women, youth, and refugees (and their dependents) impacted since 2009

**19,964** businesses launched since 2009

**3,900+** Savings Groups established since 2009

## OUR APPROACH

The BOMA Project's Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) is one of the most successful, sustainable, and cost-effective poverty graduation approaches in the world. It was designed for and has been tested and refined in the uniquely challenging context of the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of northern Kenya.

REAP entails 16 to 24 months of sequenced interventions with a clear exit strategy and rigorous criteria for success. Communities nominate their poorest, most vulnerable members, who then form small business groups, learn how to draft a business plan, and receive a cash grant to immediately start a small business. New entrepreneurs receive financial and life skills training and are mentored for two years to manage and grow their business. They also contribute to a savings pool, which they can access as needed to cope with shocks or to invest in expanding their business.

Participants have "graduated" from poverty when they meet their benchmarks for food security, sustainable livelihoods, shock preparedness, and human and social capital.

## BOMA'S MISSION

BOMA is working to lift 3 million people out of extreme poverty — defined as living on less than \$1.90 per day — by 2027. Our mission is to provide the people and governments of Africa's drylands with economic inclusion programs that increase resilience to multiple crises.

## Contact Us

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