SYSTEMS CHANGE IN ACTION

RLP FY2025 ANNUAL REVIEW

Stronger Systems. Better Services | More Resilient Livestock Livelihoods

Ethiopia | Kenya | Somalia | January – December 2025 | Annual Booklet

Regional Livestock PROGRAMME



A busy trading day at a livestock market, Jigjiga, Ethiopia/Yosef Tiruneh/2026

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS

Funded by

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

France
AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Implemented by

IGAD

HELVETAS ETHIOPIA

WELT HUNGER HILFE
WHH

cirad
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

prosper global

MERCY CORPS

Beyond the Targets: What Emergent Changes Are We Seeing in the System ?

The Regional Livestock Programme (RLP) works across livestock corridors in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia to strengthen the systems that support pastoralist and livestock-dependent livelihoods. Rather than delivering services directly, RLP works with communities, businesses, government and regional institutions to improve how livestock production, markets and enabling systems function.Funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and implemented by Mercy Corps in partnership with IGAD, Helvetas and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), RLP focuses on three areas: resilient production systems, stronger commercial systems, and the policy and enabling environment.

By FY2025, the focus was increasingly on how these systems perform. Across the corridors, communities, businesses and institutions were taking on stronger roles in managing resources, delivering services, investing in markets and coordinating around shared challenges. The evidence is still emerging, but these shifts provide important signals of a system becoming more locally driven, connected and commercially active.

RLP works towards Three Long Term Goal Areas

01 | Resilient Production Systems : Strengthening community-led rangeland and water management, animal health and feed systems to support more resilient livestock production.

02 | Markets : Strengthening private-sector investment, trade linkages, financial inclusion and business services across livestock markets.

03 | Policy & Enabling Environment : Strengthening institutions, harmonizing frameworks and improving regional and cross-border coordination.

From Foundation to System Performance

Over three years, RLP has moved from establishing foundations to strengthening how communities, businesses and institutions use them. FY2025 brought stronger evidence of this transition: communities taking greater responsibility for shared resources, businesses investing in livestock services and enterprises, and institutions strengthening coordination across borders. The trajectory is not simply about doing more. It is about who is increasingly taking action, investing and sustaining functions within the system.

FY2023 FOUNDATION

- *Established foundations for community-led rangeland management and improved livestock production.*
- *Began strengthening livestock markets, private-sector engagement and cross-border trade.*
- *Established initial partnerships, governance structures and evidence to guide the programme.*

FY2024 SCALING

- *Expanded community institutions and participatory rangeland management across corridors.*
- *Connected producers and businesses to markets, finance, business services and productive inputs.*
- *Strengthened regional and cross-border coordination around livestock trade, animal health and governance.*

FY2025 SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

- *Shifted from establishing structures to strengthening how communities, businesses and institutions use and sustain them.*
- *Increased private-sector investment and commercial delivery of livestock services, feed, finance and market opportunities.*
- *Generated stronger evidence of community ownership, business investment and institutional coordination.*

About This Publication

The RLP FY2025 Annual Review

The RLP FY2025 Annual Review brings together programme evidence, learning and field stories from across the livestock corridors in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. It draws primarily on the FY2025 Annual Report, complemented by programme evidence, field stories and selected milestones from previous years. The review reflects contributions from RLP's implementing partners: Mercy Corps (becoming Prosper Global), IGAD, Helvetas and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

The RLP Programme Leadership

Dr Diba Wako
RLP Program Director, Mercy Corps

Dr Yohannes Girma
IGAD

Meron Wubshet
Helvetas

Beza Tefera
Welthungerhilfe

Content and Editorial

Yosef Tiruneh
Communications & Knowledge Management Manager, RLP
Content development • Editorial direction • Publication coordination

RLP Programme & Corridor Teams
Programme evidence • Technical inputs • Field stories

Technical & Evidence Review

Senbeto Funte
Deputy Director – Technical Lead, RLP
Primary technical reviewer

Ashenafi Tadesse
MRM Lead
Primary evidence reviewer

Aemero Alemayehu
MRM Advisor
Evidence reviewer

Carmen Jacquez
Evidence & Learning Director
Strategic Guidance

Acknowledgements

We thank the RLP teams, partners, communities, businesses, government institutions and market actors whose contributions, experiences and evidence underpin this review.

September 2026

International Year of Rangelands (IYRP) 2026

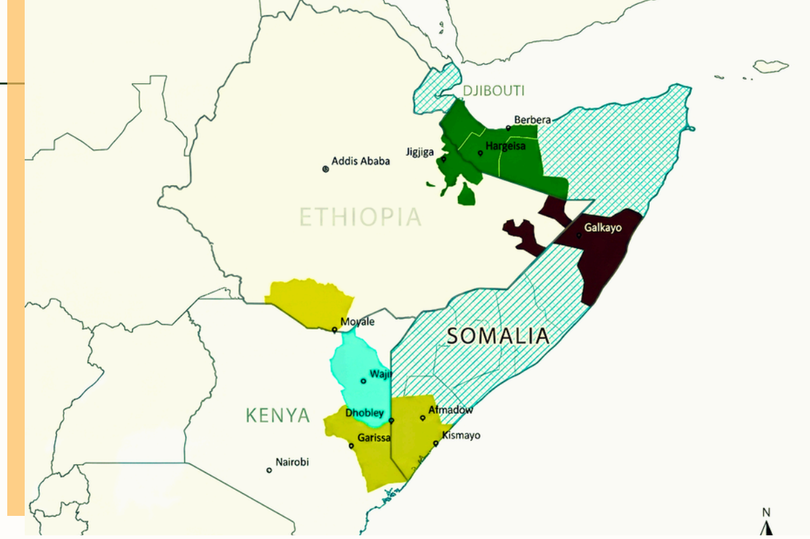
The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 highlights the vital role of healthy rangelands and pastoralist communities in livelihoods, livestock production and resilience.

RLP is joining year-long activities that highlight these priorities and advance its goal of building inclusive livestock markets for lasting opportunity and resilience across the Horn of Africa.

Systems Change Across Five Livestock Corridors

Five Contexts. One Shared Vision.

Each RLP corridor operates within a distinct ecological, economic and institutional context. Across all five, the programme works toward livestock systems that become more resilient, competitive and locally owned over time. Rather than applying a uniform model, RLP adapts its facilitation approach to the constraints and opportunities within each corridor.



SOMALIA

Afmadow

Focus: *Integrated livestock production and disaster preparedness.*

Systems Change: Communities, businesses and government are increasingly coordinating livestock production and risk management through shared planning and stronger market linkages.

- Evidence-based livestock production assessments
- Strengthened veterinary and feed market connections
- Improved disaster preparedness coordination

ETHIOPIA

Moyale

Focus: *Cross-border resilience.*

Systems Change: Communities increasingly use seasonal climate information to guide livestock management rather than responding only after drought impacts occur.

- Participatory Scenario Planning expanded
- Indigenous and scientific forecasting integrated
- Community-led rangeland restoration strengthened

SOMALIA / ETHIOPIA

Tog Wajaale

Focus: *Commercial livestock services.*

Systems Change: Producers increasingly purchase preventive veterinary services through expanding private providers, strengthening commercially viable animal health markets.

- Veterinary networks expanded
- Feed distribution increased
- Last-mile service delivery strengthened

KENYA

Wajir Camel Milk

Focus: *Camel milk economy.*

Systems Change: Commercial fodder enterprises demonstrate that resilience and profitability can reinforce one another through locally led private investment.

- Commercial fodder production expanded
- Breeding system evidence generated
- Market opportunities increased

SOMALIA

Galkayo

Focus: *Building foundations.*

Systems Change: Better evidence and stronger institutional partnerships are creating the conditions for future market investment.

- Baseline established
- Partnerships strengthened
- Investment priorities identified

A Year of Evidence : FY 2025 Key Achievement Numbers

These figures show the scale of RLP's FY2025 reach and activity, while also pointing to changes in how the livestock system functions. Across the corridors, businesses, communities and institutions are increasingly participating in service delivery, investment, resource management and market activity.

These are early signals rather than evidence of change attributable to RLP alone. They provide a snapshot of where system functions are strengthening and where further change is needed.

238,675

Individuals reached by partner businesses and local government with improved access to inputs and services in FY2025

- **108 %** of FY2025 target

US$463,887

Private-sector co-investment stimulated in FY2025

- FY2025 target: US$400,000 | **116%** achieved
- Cumulative since FY2023: US$870,008
- **87%** of the five-year target of **US$1 million**

3,823 HA

Land under improved management

- **96 %** of FY2025 target
- **5,903** hectares cumulatively under improved management
- **59%** of the five-year rangeland restoration target

US$5.05M

Annual sales across animal health, feed/fodder, milk, live animals and meat

- **84.2%** of FY2025 target
- **US$7.65M** cumulative commercial sales facilitated through RLP-supported markets
- **51%** of the five-year commercial trade target

31,275

People reached with water services

- **156 %** against target for FY25
- **52,713** pastoralists reached cumulatively
- **52.7%** of the five-year water access goal

88

Local livestock-sector businesses supported

- **220%** of FY2025 target
- **98** businesses supported cumulatively
- **150%** of the five-year programme target

48,826

Livestock protected through coordinated cross-border vaccination campaigns

- **3** synchronised campaigns facilitated in FY2025
- 150% of FY2025 target, cumulatively representing 150.0% of the 5-year program target)

Building Resilient Production Systems

Healthy Rangelands. Healthy Livestock. Resilient Livelihoods.

Livestock productivity depends on interconnected systems. Healthy rangelands, reliable water, animal health services and access to feed all influence livestock productivity and the ability of pastoralists to manage climate and market shocks. RLP works across these connections rather than addressing each constraint in isolation. It facilitates stronger community institutions, private-sector services and local systems that can continue to function beyond individual programme-supported activities.



RANGELANDS + WATER + ANIMAL HEALTH + FEED → PRODUCTIVITY → RESILIENCE

RANGELANDS

RLP works with communities to strengthen Rangeland Management Committees, develop grazing agreements, protect regenerated pasture and coordinate seasonal livestock movement. Through technical support and facilitation, RLP is helping shift rangeland governance from project-supported restoration toward community-led management and stewardship.

3,823 HA
Rangelands under improved management

41,238
Pastoralists reporting improved access to pasture

WATER

RLP co-invests in water governance systems, rehabilitating and solarizing boreholes while facilitating water management committees, user responsibilities, fee collection and maintenance systems. It also supports cross-border MoUs and local bylaws for shared water points; strengthening accountability and community-led management.

31,275
Pastoralists reached with improved access to water

ANIMAL HEALTH

With RLP co-investment, private veterinary pharmacies expand branch networks and deploy last-mile retail agents in underserved border areas. RLP advocates for private sector led routine livestock vaccination and convenes governments to align vaccination calendars, enabling synchronized cross-border surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

21
Animal health businesses engaged with RLP

104,300
Livestock producers using improved animal-health products and services

FEED & FODDER

RLP co-invests with feedlot and fodder businesses to improve feed production and storage including the introduction of higher-yielding forage as well as livestock holding facilities. When drought hit, RLP activated a crisis modifier to provide feed and veterinary vouchers to vulnerable households, redeemable through local businesses. This protected livestock while keeping local feed markets moving.

7
Feed or fodder businesses engaged

1,669
Tonnes of feed supplied to markets

15,096
Producers reached through feed/fodder systems

SIGNALS OF SYSTEMS CHANGE:

- Communities are taking greater responsibility for managing shared resources
- Preventive animal-health services are increasingly delivered through private providers
- New enterprises are investing in fodder production and market supply

Restoring Rangelands Through Community Governance

The Wagalla Rangeland Management Committee | Wajir County, Kenya

> *"Previously, everyone grazed wherever they could. Now we sit together, agree on how to use the land, and follow those rules. This has reduced conflict and helped our pasture recover."*
>
> Wagalla RMC member

System Challenge

Across the drylands of Wajir, climate variability, recurrent drought and uncoordinated grazing practices place increasing pressure on rangelands. Weakening of traditional governance structures is an underlying constraint to better rangeland management. Without inclusive and transparent governance structures, coordination across large rangelands and recognition by government authorities can be difficult, limiting communities' ability to manage shared resources sustainably.

.

What Changed

Through partnership with RLP, the Wagalla Rangeland Management Committee (RMC) strengthened their role and legitimacy within their community and the local government. RMC members received training in good governance, were supported to conduct community meetings where all voices were heard, and support to review and revise rangeland management plans that identified areas for rehabilitation.

Results

- More reliable access to pasture
- Reduced pressure on overgrazed areas
- Improved coordination around grazing and water
- Early ecological recovery in managed areas
- RMC evolving into a locally embedded governance institution



Governance gap → Stronger RMC leadership and inclusive governance → Revised rangeland management plans → Community agreement and local enforcement →

- Improved coordination and pasture management
- Early signs of ecological recovery and local ownership

Holding on until the rains

Drought response in Somalia | Warabe Dareay village, Lughaya district, Awdal, Somaliland



"This support came when we had nothing. It helped my animals survive the worst period, and it gave me hope that I can rebuild when the rains return."

— Xalimo Ahmed Diriye, Pastoralist & Mother of Seven

THE CHALLENGE

Xalimo Ahmed Diriye, a pastoralist and mother of seven in Warabe Dareay village, faced successive failed rainy seasons that weakened her herd. Feed was scarce, disease risks were rising and access to treatment had become increasingly difficult. Her household faced food shortages and mounting debt as her animals weakened.

WHAT CHANGED

RLP activated a Crisis Modifier in Awdal to protect livestock assets while keeping local market systems functioning.
The response reached 814 households, 52% of them women-headed. Of these, 700 households accessed livestock feed and animal-health services through vouchers, while 114 received multipurpose cash assistance.

Support was delivered through existing private-sector actors, including Daryeel Veterinary Pharmacy, Shefarm Agrovet, Baxnaano Veterinary Pharmacy and Cagaaran Animal Feed Factory, with cross-border sourcing from Barqomaal, Ethiopia. Each household could access up to 300 kg of feed and US$45 in veterinary services.

RESULTS

- 69% of households reported improved livestock body condition
- Reduced Coping Strategy Index fell from 14.9 to 10.4
- Animals received treatment and supplementary feed, with reported improvements in condition within weeks

Response Pathway

Drought & Livestock Crisis → RLP Crisis Modifier Activated → Market-Based Support Delivery → Livestock Assets Protected & Household Resilience Maintained → Local Market Continuity



Livestock traders in action at a livestock market, Jigjiga, Ethiopia, 2026/Yosef Tiruneh for Mercy Corps

Markets That Move Communities

From fragmented transactions to stronger commercial systems

Livestock markets already have entrepreneurial energy. The challenge lies in the systems around them: fragmented value chains, limited business services and finance, and gaps in infrastructure. RLP facilitates market actors to address these constraints so businesses can respond to opportunities, invest and grow.

Livestock Trade

RLP connects producers, traders, exporters and processors through Business-to-Business forums, trader networks and cross-border trading agreements, helping strengthen connections between production areas and end markets.

RLP also supports more inclusive trade associations and stronger formal cross-border trade networks.

US$2.2M

Facilitated in live animal trade value through trade coordination

40 to 84

Increase in membership of the Somali Region Live Animals Traders Association (SORLATA) in Ethiopia, including 32 women, to formalize trade routes.

Private Sector Development

RLP's co-investment model matches programme support with private capital to help agrovets, fodder farms and feedlots expand commercial services into underserved communities.

The model is designed to reduce barriers to investment while enabling businesses to test, expand and sustain new services.

US$463,887

Stimulated in private-sector co-investment

88

Local businesses supported

Financial Inclusion

RLP works with financial institutions and organized trader groups to address lending barriers and improve access to livestock-adapted credit, with particular attention to women.

This has helped unlock financing for livestock-market actors seeking to expand their businesses and move into higher-value activities.

683

Women benefited from loans unlocked through risk-reduction facilitated by RLP and its partners

US$350,000

Amount of loan facilitated

Business Development Services (BDS)

RLP identifies, trains and supports local BDS providers to deliver fee-for-service and embedded coaching to SMEs.

Coaching in business management, bookkeeping and investment readiness strengthens businesses' capacity to plan, invest and grow. BDS providers subsequently coach and mentor livestock-market actors, helping build a more sustainable local business-support market.

18

Local business development services providers trained

322

Livestock market actors coached and mentored by the BDS providers to scale up their operations

Fragmented markets → Stronger market linkages → Private investment → Business growth

When Investment Meets the Missing Middle in Livestock Fattening

""We were working hard, but we did not have the right conditions for proper fattening. We knew there was demand, and we knew we could expand, but the conditions around us did not allow it. Now we can plan properly. The animals are healthier, and the work is easier to manage."

Mamo Warano, cattle-fattening entrepreneur | Miyo Woreda, Borena Zone, Ethiopia

Mamo Warano's story explores about how the right support at the right time can transform a trader's business and strengthen the entire market system.



THE SYSTEM CONSTRAINT

- Cattle fattening was taking place through informal and improvised systems. Limited shade, feed and water infrastructure, and animal-handling facilities made it difficult for enterprises to operate predictable, scalable fattening cycles.
- Demand existed, but the conditions needed for commercial production were limited.

RLP'S ROLE

RLP co-invested with small-scale fattening enterprises in productivity-improving infrastructure and practices. This included:

- Shaded holding areas
- Feed and water troughs
- Feed storage and animal-handling facilities
- Stronger business relationships with feed and veterinary service providers

WHAT CHANGED

- Mamo's holding capacity increased from ~10 to 42 cattle per cycle.
- Fattening shifted toward more planned and predictable production cycles.
- The enterprise established more predictable relationships with feed and veterinary suppliers.
- The business now supports 3 permanent workers, with additional labor during fattening cycles.
- 3+ additional feedlot initiatives emerged locally, suggesting interest in replicating the model.

SYSTEMS CHANGE PATHWAY

Informal Fattening & Weak Infrastructure → RLP Co-Investment → Improved feedlot infrastructure and supplier relationships → More Predictable Commercial Production → Emerging investment by other enterprises

RESULTS SNAPSHOT

10 → 42 Cattle holding capacity per cycle

11 Bulls fattened & sold in first improved cycle

USD $ 12,826 Revenue from first improved cycle

3 Permanent workers supported

3+ Additional feedlot initiatives emerging locally

Policy & Governance Highlights

Building Systems That Enable Change

Livestock challenges often cross institutional and national boundaries. RLP works with government and regional institutions to strengthen the policies, standards, coordination mechanisms and information systems that enable livestock markets and services to function more effectively. Across animal health, trade, rangeland and climate governance, FY2025 showed progress in strengthening the mechanisms through which institutions coordinate and act.

Policy & Institutions

More consistent standards and systems

Harmonised technical standards, traceability, certification and disease-control systems reduce inconsistencies that restrict livestock movement and formal trade.

6 bilateral + 1 multilateral **MoUs**

Regional & Cross-Border Coordination

Stronger mechanisms for joint action

Established coordination mechanisms enable governments to share disease intelligence, align vaccination schedules, coordinate surveillance and strengthen preparedness for cross-border outbreaks.

80,000+ **Households reached through early warning information dissemination**

Resource & Risk Governance

Better information for earlier decisions

Early warning information supports decisions around offtakes, livestock mobility, feed preparation and conflict management, helping communities and institutions prepare before risks escalate.

16 **Laboratory SOPs Harmonised**



Regional Coordination System

Surveillance	Data Sharing	Joint Planning	Early Warning	
Collect and validate animal health and mobility data	Share disease intelligence across borders and sectors	Align vaccination schedules and response plans	Disseminate alerts and recommended actions	→ **Coordinated Response**

Feedback & Learning Loop for Continuous Improvement

From Participation to Market Influence

RLP facilitates conditions for women to participate more effectively in livestock markets by strengthening market actors, improving access to finance and business services, and supporting institutions that create opportunities for women's economic participation. Across the corridors, this includes stronger access to formal finance, greater participation in higher-value market functions, and stronger representation in market institutions.



SORLATA members pose for a photo during AFD visit, Jigjiga, Ethiopia, 2026/Yosef Tiruneh for Mercy Corps

Financial Inclusion

Facilitating pathways to formal finance

RLP works through financial institutions, trader groups and business development service providers to address barriers to women's access to formal financial services. In Afmadow, women's trader groups are strengthening their collective creditworthiness and connections with financial institutions.

87%
of loan recipients were women

683
women accessed loans

USD 350,000
in loans accessed by women

Higher-value market functions

Facilitating women's entry into commercial opportunities

RLP works with market actors and private enterprises to strengthen linkages and opportunities for women in higher-value livestock activities. In Afmadow, women meat retailers are connected to formalized meat value chains, while in Wajir, women-led milk cooperatives are strengthening their commercial functions.

40
women integrated into formal meat markets

2
women-led milk cooperatives strengthened

43,749 L
camel milk processed and marketed through structured cooperative systems

Market Institutions

Strengthening women's voice within market structures

RLP supports women's participation in trader groups, cooperatives and market associations, creating stronger channels for women to engage with other market actors and institutions. In Tog Wajaale, the Somali Region Live Animal Trade Association (SORLATA) grew to 84 members, including 32 women.

32
Women SORLATA members

SYSTEMS-CHANGE PATHWAY

Structural Barriers
Limited finance
- Informal networks
- Restricted market opportunities

→

RLP facilitates Market Actors
Financial institutions
- BDS providers
- Trader groups
- Cooperatives
- Private enterprises

→

Market Conditions Improve
Stronger linkages
- Greater access
- Improved commercial opportunities

→

Women Take Stronger Market Roles
Finance
- Trade
- Processing
- Enterprise
- Market institutions

→

GREATER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN

KEY MESSAGE

RLP does not create parallel systems for women. It works through existing and emerging market actors to make livestock markets more accessible, responsive and commercially viable for women.

Environmental and Social Responsibility

RLP integrates environmental sustainability, climate resilience, social inclusion, conflict sensitivity and gender equity into how it works across the livestock corridors. This means identifying and managing risks while strengthening the environmental and social conditions that support resilient production, inclusive markets and sustainable livelihoods.

The approach combines risk identification and mitigation with practical system-level action, from community-led rangeland restoration and climate-resilient water infrastructure to inclusive livestock markets, social cohesion and stronger environmental and social monitoring. E&S responsibility is therefore positioned not only as a compliance requirement, but as an integral part of building sustainable production systems, resilient livelihoods and stronger institutions.

Natural resource base → Resilient production → Inclusive markets → Socially resilient systems → Resilient livelihoods

Rangeland Restoration

3,823 ha

Restored rangelands

- Rangeland rehabilitation
- Community-led grazing plans
- Water infrastructure and solar systems
- Climate-resilient water delivery

Livelihood Resilience

41,238

People reached through improved access to pasture

- Strengthened livestock production
- Expanded access to veterinary services
- Improved feed-market connections
- Disaster preparedness coordination

Women's Participation

59.6%

Women among programme participants

- Women in cooperative leadership
- Participation in market forums
- Youth enterprise pathways
- Inclusive decision-making

Peace & Governance

906

Participants in peace dialogues

- Peace dialogues addressed resource-related conflict
- Traditional and formal governance connected
- Resource-management issues included in dialogue
- Community participation strengthened

Emerging Priorities

- Strengthen climate-resilient water systems
- Expand women's leadership in livestock markets
- Strengthen Community Accountability Reporting Mechanism and grievance responsiveness

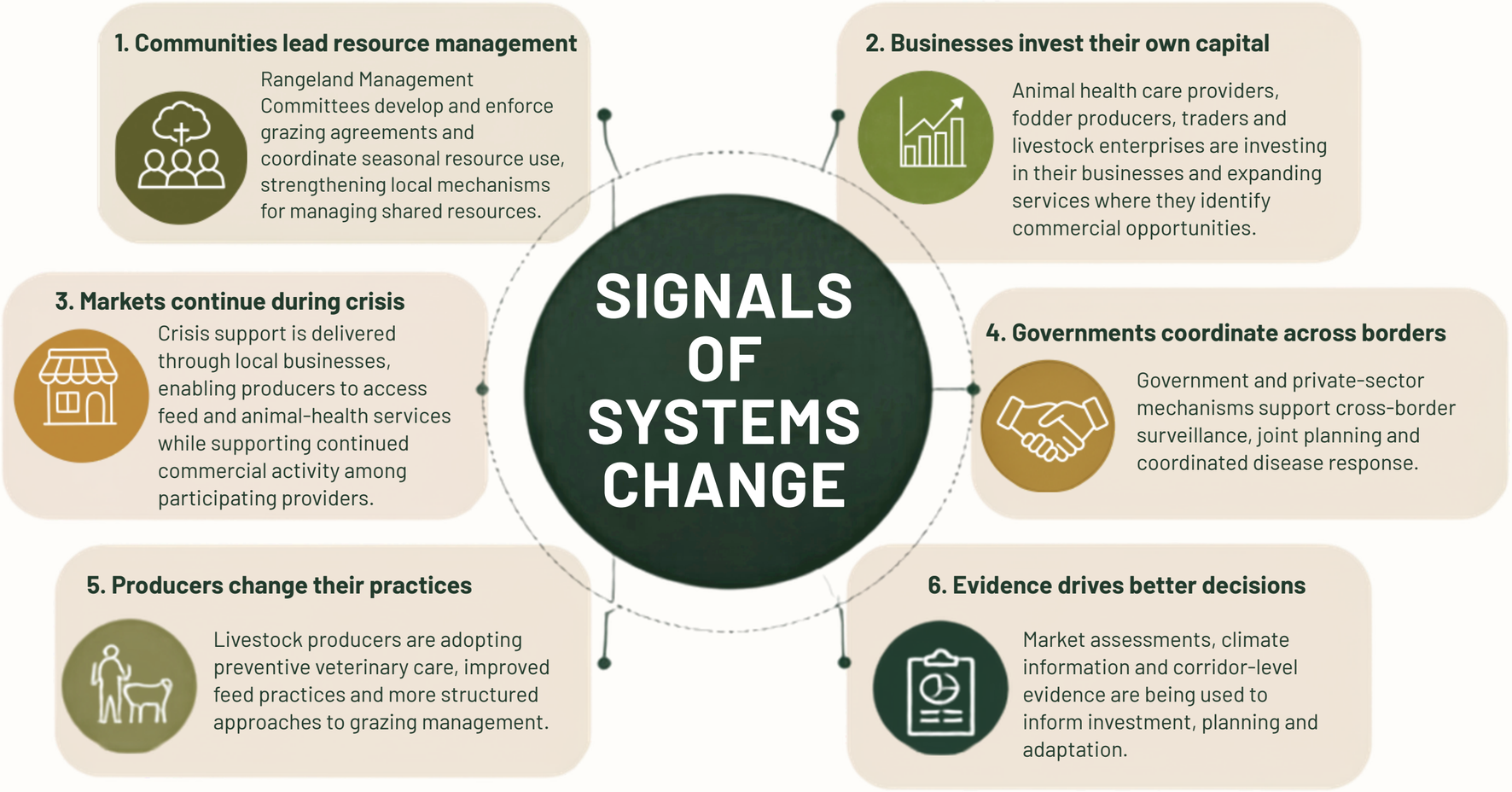
How We Know Systems Are Starting to Change

Annual reporting often asks:

What was delivered?

For RLP, the more useful question is what is changing in how communities, businesses, producers and institutions perform the functions that support livestock livelihoods.

We look for signals such as changes in who takes action, who invests, how decisions are made, and whether functions continue through local systems and relationships.



These signals are assessed as contributions to change, alongside programme evidence, partner experience and contextual factors.
They do not by themselves establish attribution.

What We Learned — and What Still Needs to Change

FY2025 showed that stronger livestock systems are built through changes in relationships, incentives and local capacity, not through individual activities alone. It also showed that some constraints can be addressed through facilitation and investment, while others require longer-term changes in institutions, markets and social norms.

Communities Sustain What They Govern

IInfrastructure is more likely to deliver lasting value when communities have a meaningful role in managing the resources around it. RLP's experience with rangeland and water systems shows the importance of local institutions, shared rules and collective responsibility alongside physical investments.

Private investment needs the right conditions

Businesses are more likely to invest when commercial opportunities are clearer and the conditions for operating are stronger. RLP's co-investment approach has helped businesses expand services and test new commercial opportunities, but sustained investment depends on businesses seeing a viable market beyond programme support.

Markets can deliver during emergencies

Emergency support can protect livestock assets while reinforcing local service markets when it is delivered through existing businesses. RLP's Crisis Modifier experience in Awdal showed how vouchers and cash assistance can connect vulnerable households to local feed and veterinary providers while keeping those businesses part of the response.

Information matters when it informs decisions

Evidence becomes more useful when it is connected to decisions. Climate information, market intelligence, assessments and learning exchanges are helping communities, businesses and institutions plan investments, adapt practices and coordinate responses.

Regional problems require mechanisms for joint action

Livestock systems do not stop at administrative or national borders. Progress therefore depends on practical mechanisms for sharing information, coordinating action and aligning systems across borders. RLP's work on animal-health surveillance, vaccination coordination and regional mechanisms reinforces the importance of sustained collaboration, not just individual agreements.

What Can Change Through Facilitation — and What Takes Longer

Areas where RLP is seeing progress

- Private veterinary markets are expanding
- Livestock-adapted financial products are reaching more market actors
- Producer aggregation and market linkages are strengthening
- Last-mile delivery of livestock services is expanding

Constraints that require longer-term change

- Climate information does not yet consistently translate into accessible finance and investment
- Cross-border trade incentives can favor informal trade over formal channels
- Social norms continue to affect women's access to assets, mobility and economic opportunities

Systems change takes time. FY2025 showed that some enabling conditions can shift through stronger institutions, market incentives and practical facilitation, while deeper constraints will require sustained action beyond a single programme cycle. Recognizing both progress and unfinished work is part of building a more credible learning journey.

Building a Camel Milk Economy

How Women, Businesses and Partnerships Are Strengthening Camel Milk Markets in Wajir

Habiba Aden starts her day at the Bute Dairy Cooperative camel milk ATM. Her cooperative is part of a wider effort to strengthen the camel milk market in Wajir, bringing together women-led cooperatives, fodder producers, animal-health businesses, processors and public institutions. Together, these actors are strengthening different parts of the value chain, from herd health and feed to processing, quality and market access.

"Today, we sell through a more organized system. The milk is handled better, buyers have greater confidence in its quality, and as a cooperative we receive better benefits. We are no longer just selling milk; we are building a business together."

- Habiba Aden, Bute Dairy Cooperative, Wajir

A MARKET BEGINNING TO WORK

Camel milk has long been part of Wajir's local economy, but structured commercial tracking through formalized cooperative channels began only more recently. In FY2025, Bute Dairy and Griftu Kulmiye cooperatives demonstrated growing capacity to organize sales, strengthen product visibility and connect producers to more structured markets.

44,000 litres
of camel milk

USD $58,000
in tracked, transparent commercial sales
- *Sales tracking started in FY 2025.*

- Shalatey Fodder Farm expanded from 1 to 4 hectares, producing 150,000 kg of silage and selling 86,000 kg of hay, silage and planting materials. The enterprise generated US$15,000 in sales and supplied 283 livestock farmers and traders. It also supplied 57,000 Juncao grass cuttings to six additional farmers, creating an early pathway for wider adoption.
- Local agro-vets expanded into underserved areas through two new branches and 77 last-mile agents, reaching more than 26,000 livestock producers. The businesses also recorded 193,000 animal vaccinations and nearly US$181,000 in commercial sales.
- Products from the cooperatives are reaching supermarket shelves, creating new market opportunities and increasing the visibility of camel milk brands. Women-led enterprises from Griftu Kulmiye and Bute Dairy have also showcased branded fresh milk and yoghurt through market-linkage activities.







Women-led enterprises showcasing market-ready products, with members of Griftu Kulmiye and Bute Dairy Cooperatives displaying branded camel milk yoghurt and fresh milk during an RLP-supported learning exchange and market linkage event in Naioboi.

THE MARKET ECOSYSTEM

WOMEN-LED COOPERATIVES
↕
FODDER
↕
ANIMAL HEALTH
↕
PROCESSING & QUALITY
↕
MARKET LINKAGES

- Different market functions are becoming stronger and more connected, creating conditions for a more organized camel milk economy. RLP facilitates connections, investment and learning across these market functions.

LOOKING AHEAD

FY2025 showed where stronger systems are beginning to emerge: communities are taking greater responsibility for shared resources, businesses are investing in livestock services and enterprises, and institutions are strengthening coordination.

In FY2026, RLP will build on these foundations by deepening the performance and sustainability of systems already taking shape, while addressing the constraints that continue to limit resilience, inclusion and market growth.

WHAT 2025 SHOWED

COMMUNITIES
Greater responsibility for shared resources

BUSINESSES
Growing investment in services and enterprises

INSTITUTIONS
Stronger coordination

FY2026 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Expand Private Sector Investment
Scale commercially viable business models that expand livestock services, strengthen local supply and attract further private investment.

Strengthen Community Institutions
Deepen the capacity, accountability and sustainability of local institutions managing rangelands, water and other shared resources.

Expand Competitive Markets
Strengthen connections between producers, businesses and end markets while expanding inclusive commercial opportunities across livestock value chains.

Deepen Cross-Border Collaboration
Strengthen regional coordination on animal-health surveillance, trade facilitation, policy harmonization and livestock mobility.

Increase Climate Resilience
Strengthen anticipatory action by connecting climate information, preparedness and market-based responses to decisions before shocks escalate.

Generate and Share Learning
Capture evidence from implementation, document what is working and what is not, and share learning to inform future investment and adaptation across the programme.

FY2026 is about deepening what is already taking shape: stronger local institutions, greater private investment, more connected markets, better regional coordination and stronger capacity to anticipate and respond to shocks.

STRONGER SYSTEMS.
STRONGER LIVELIHOODS.

Building inclusive livestock markets for lasting opportunity and resilience.



REGIONAL LIVESTOCK PROGRAMME
FY2025 Annual Review
Ethiopia • Kenya • Somalia

Asil Mohammed, Wajir, Kenya, 2026/J.Jemba for Mercy Corps

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

France
AFD
AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

IGAD

HELVETAS
ETHIOPIA

WELT HUNGER HILFE
WHH

cirad
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

prosper global

MERCY CORPS