

The image features two women in the foreground, smiling broadly. They are wearing traditional, intricately beaded headbands and necklaces. The headbands are decorated with colorful stripes and geometric patterns, topped with white beaded ornaments. The necklaces are multi-layered, featuring white beads with colorful accents and hanging tassels. The background is a lush, green, out-of-focus natural setting. A vertical line with a downward-pointing triangle is positioned at the top center of the page. The text 'MashinaniWORKS' is in yellow, 'ANNUAL REPORT' is in white, and '» 2023' is in yellow, all centered over a semi-transparent circular graphic.

MashinaniWORKS
ANNUAL
REPORT
»
2023

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Cover Photo: BeadWORKS Star beaders Joyce Lelukai (Left) and Nabiki Lesuper (Right) from Kalama Conservancy celebrate the 2023 Women in Business and Conservation Conference held in El Boran Hotel, Isiolo.

Who We Are

MashinaniWORKS

Business at the Grassroots



MashinaniWORKS empowers historically marginalized youth and women in Kenya's arid and semi arid lands to improve their livelihoods through trade and commerce



We deliver lasting impact because we address important needs:

- Skills that translate immediately into increased enterprise and incomes
- Supply chains that are environmentally sustainable and leverage local resources
- Markets that connect supply and demand
- Financial tools that are accessible, reliable, and in demand
- Empowerment that gives women and youth the means to create their own futures

We are different because our programs and services are:

- Developed in partnership with communities and reflect local realities
- Are the result of a decade of innovation and field testing
- Are repeatable and scalable but not one-size-fits-all

The Solution



Repeatable, scalable services that generate earned income and economic empowerment for women, youth and communities through skills, trade, and entrepreneurship



Earned income builds confidence, improves lives and changes mindsets:

- Builds economic resilience and empowerment
- Diversifies livelihoods by creating income from sources beyond livestock
- Funds climate-resilient technologies and practices
- Funds education
- Improves social and health outcomes, including gender inclusion

Economic resilience comes through effective participation in the market



From limited participation in the economy

- Harsh environment prone to climate disasters, and conflict over resources
- Informal, local markets
- Short-term, scarcity-based mindset
- Traditional (rather than commercial) skills
- Poor information and low market power
- Limited access to money and savings



To empowered people engaged in production and trade

- Consistent players in larger markets
- Commercial, sustainable orientation
- Talent trained in commerce and in-demand skills
- Sustainable, commercial orientation
- Empowered market players
- Access to capital and savings

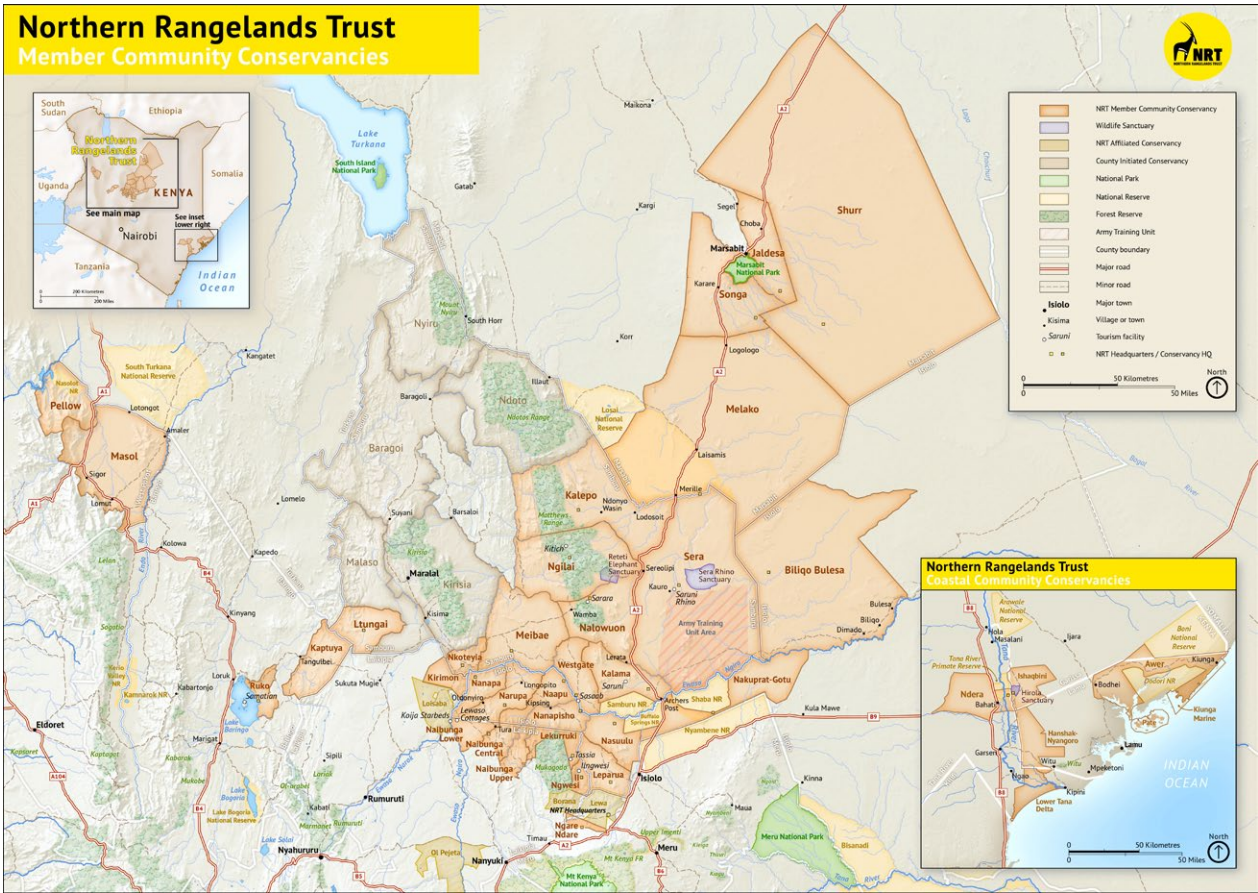


NRT Trading is Transforming and Rebranding to **MashinaniWORKS**

To be better able to position ourselves to accomplish our mission, the Boards of Directors of the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) and Northern Rangelands Trading Limited (NRT Trading), approved the formation of MashinaniWORKS as a non-profit company limited by guarantee. The new company and branding will drive clarity of focus and clearer communications to communities, government and partners. We will maintain our close working relationship with NRT and continue to serve the community conservancies, and counties of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya.



Where We Work



Our Impact in 2023 at a Glance

1,376

community members trained in business plan development and improvement.

1,200

women empowered by BeadWORKS in artisanal production increasing their skillset and earning potential.

6,007

Rangelands Sacco active members, with 365 new members joining.

Ksh 35.5 million

(USD 262,962) generated by BeadWORKS in sales of beaded products.

334

New businesses benefitted from Rangelands Sacco funding.

Ksh 44.3 million

(USD 328,148) accrued by Rangelands Sacco members in savings and shares.

188

new jobs resulted from our vocational and entrepreneurship trainings, the trainees launching and scaling start-ups, and NRT member conservancies operating tourism bandas.

276

herders trained in rangelands management through the Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program.

Ksh 195.7 million

(USD 1.4 million) disbursed in Rangelands Sacco loans to 5,385 members, supporting the development and expansion of their businesses.

Community conservancy entrepreneurs injected approximately

Ksh 752 million

(USD 5.5 million) into the local economy through their income-generating activities.

Ksh 10 million

(USD 74,074) micro-enterprise fund established for women in Pate and Kiunga Community Conservancies.

Ksh 13.6 million

(USD 100,740) disbursed in business loans to finance 334 new businesses.

210

youth and women graduated from Ujuzi Manyatani Program with marketable vocational skills.

Ksh 14.6 million

(USD 108,752) generated by community bandas (self-catering accommodation facilities) in tourism income.

For this report: Ksh 135 = US\$ 1

The Kenya shilling to dollar exchange rate fluctuated throughout 2023, ranging from a low of 127 to a high of 155.

Message from the **Chairman**



As I reflect on the strides we made in our mission to empower women and youth in Kenya's Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs) in 2023, I am filled with gratitude and pride.

2023 was marked by resilience, collaboration, and growth.

One of the cornerstones of our success was the expansion of our skills and trade programs. I was privileged to witness the effect of transformative change at a remote village in Kiunga Community Conservancy, where with our partners' support, we graduated 17 women and 13 men, after three months of intensive skills training in tailoring and dressmaking, and marine vessel repair and maintenance, respectively.

To further promote livelihood improvement along the coast, we launched a Ksh 10 million women's micro-enterprise fund for Kiunga and Pate Community Conservancies.

Our efforts brought together county and national governments, and like-minded partner organizations to increase our reach and impact. Together, we worked towards creating an environment where everyone, regardless of their circumstances, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.

Our commitment to empower marginalized communities in ASALs has never been stronger, and the results we have produced speak volumes about the dedication of our team, the generosity of our donors and partners, and the enduring spirit of the communities we serve.

Looking ahead, we are inspired and motivated to build on the momentum of our successes. Our vision of a future where every woman and young person in Kenya's ASALs can realize their full potential is within reach, and we are ready to do the work.

I now take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire MashinaniWORKS family, to say a heartfelt thank you to all who supported us in 2023 and believed in our mission.

May 2024 bring even greater opportunities for collaboration and positive change.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Desai', written over a light yellow circular graphic element.

Dr. Kevit Desai,
Chairman

“

Buying ready-made school uniforms from Mombasa or Lamu Counties has always been challenging because of transport issues. Ujuzi Manyattani has provided us with training in tailoring and dressmaking which has helped us make the clothes people in the community need. I hope more training is done so other youth in the area can benefit.

Tima Abdulrahaman Sharif,

Ujuzi Manyattani Program Tailoring and Dressmaking Graduate, from Kiunga Community Conservancy



From the CEO's Desk



2023 was a year of contrasts. January found us reeling from a devastating drought. November left us trying our best to stay afloat, as unrelenting El Niño rains hit the northern Kenya landscape, causing widespread flooding.

These climatic shocks plunged vulnerable families in arid and semi-arid lands deeper into poverty.

I am increasingly convinced that the strategies we have been implementing to create sustainable, eco-friendly grassroots economies, and our ceaseless efforts to increase communities' business acumen, make market systems work, and expand and connect local producers to buyers, are the right, long-term interventions to help indigenous communities adapt to climate change. We need to scale our work faster to prepare them for the future.

This notwithstanding, as I reflect on an incredible 2023, I am deeply encouraged by the remarkable milestones we achieved in empowering historically marginalized youth and women in arid and semi-arid areas, to improve their livelihoods through trade and commerce.

Impactful Programs

We continued to serve communities in the remotest parts of our nation, conducting Ujuzi Manyattani trainings and hosting graduations in numerous places, including Kiunga Community Conservancy (at the Kenya-Somalia border), and Shurr (at the border with Ethiopia).

Our livestock farmer field school is changing mindsets in manyattas, improving herders' lives, and our micro-finance and entrepreneurship development programs are creating the employers and service providers desperately needed in villages.

I am immensely proud of the BeadWORKS team, for securing the enterprise's certification by the World Fair Trade Organization, and for flying our flag high, as our eCommerce website continued to garner awards and sales!

On the other hand, the tourism team made great progress in transforming the community bandas at Ole Gaboli, Koiya, Tassia, and Nkoteiya into dream travel destinations in the Big North. When planning your next adventure, consider a stay in these bandas for the ultimate holiday experience.

Collectively, our programs impacted the lives of 83,300 women and youth from 21 community communities and provided essential training and resources, while promoting sustainability and self-reliance.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Cognisant of the need for collaboration to accelerate the development of the indigenous communities we serve and their adaptation to climate change and its far-reaching effects, we continued to cultivate relationships with all stakeholders in the community and forged government partnerships, hosting meetings with several national government bodies including Vision 2030, the Ushanga Kenya Initiative, and the National Industrial Training Authority.

Further, we extended an invitation to county government officials to our public meetings with the communities, and initiated the inaugural 'ASALs Development Dialogue,' with more than 20 leaders from various organizations attending and participating.

Empowered Talent

I am thrilled to see MashinaniWORKS become a breeding ground for future leaders. We have nurtured and empowered our staff to take on more advanced roles and bigger responsibilities, making our team dynamic and increasing the agility of the organisation.

Transparency and Accountability

Our commitment to transparency and accountability has earned us the trust and respect of our stakeholders, donors and program beneficiaries. We will continue to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct in our operations.

Looking to the Future

As we celebrate the achievements we made in 2023, we must also acknowledge that the task is far from over. Much more remains to be done, and I have every confidence that working hand in hand with our partners, and with unfailing supporters like you by your side, we will continue to make a real difference.



I now take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to our donors: the United States Agency for International Development, The Nature Conservancy, the Royal Danish Embassy, the Swedish Embassy, ICEP, and Agence Française de Développement, for their confidence in us as we strive to increase communities' climate resilience.

I would also like to thank my phenomenal team. You are the heart and soul of our organization, and without your commitment and passion, none of this would be possible. Let us approach the new year with renewed vigor, remembering that our work is a calling, a mission, and a responsibility to make the world a better place.

It is now my greatest pleasure to invite you all to read about the milestones we achieved together in 2023 and the numerous ways we positively impacted communities across Kenya.



Vishal Shah,
CEO



Our Programs



Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program

Strengthening livestock value chains to improve herders' household income

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani (UBM), a Program implemented by MashinaniWORKS' Livestock Department and funded by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Local Works Program, provides practical skill training to select pastoralist groups in 10 NRT member community conservancies, increasing herders' livestock production capacity.

2023 began on an encouraging note for UBM as northern Kenya experienced rains during the first quarter of the year, following a catastrophic drought. The rains facilitated grass growth, improved livestock health conditions, and reduced the time pastoralists spent away from home searching for quality pasture. Herders, therefore, were able to actively participate in and benefit from UBM trainings and activities.

Midterm Training Assessment

A training survey was conducted among UBM beneficiaries who had undergone modules 1 and 2 of the Program.

80% of the beneficiaries participated in the survey, which was performed by the monitoring and evaluation team, in collaboration with the livestock technical team. During the survey, data was collected on herders' knowledge retention, access to quality inputs, pasture production, and conservation activities.

The feedback revealed that the majority of the beneficiaries reported better access to quality livestock inputs and feed supplements, and 60% of UBM beneficiaries were actively involved in pasture production and conservation.



on livestock
 1) Foot and mouth disease
 - Lkhalap
 2) Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
 - Lkishi-guud
 3) Epithelium fever-lakooor
 4) Plant poisoning-Candho-
 5) Anthrax - Inda
 6) Rinderpest
 7) Abscess
 8) Bloat
 9) Sheep and goat
 10) Nematodes
 11) Coccidiosis
 12) Ewe lung
 13) Tetanus
 14) Abscess
 15) Orf
 16) Anthrax
 17) Anthrax
 18) Anthrax
 19) Anthrax
 20) Anthrax

Rangelands Management and Leadership Trainings

The UBM team conducted trainings of pastoralist herders in rangelands management (UBM module 3) and leadership (UBM module 4).

The community embraced the trainings, which gave pastoralist herders a better understanding of rangeland management best practices and the effects of climate change, improved livestock production, and promoted peaceful coexistence with neighboring communities.

Module 4 focused on governance, and improved pastoralists' decision-making skills while underscoring the need for gender inclusion, among other emerging issues. Resultantly, the pastoralist communities prioritized gender and social inclusion in every aspect of development, with

community groups registering increased participation and leadership of women.

Additionally, as a result of UBM trainings:

- In Songa Community Conservancy, pastoralist groups collaborated with the Conservancy's grazing management committees and planted grass on a 12-acre piece of land. This garnered the attention of stakeholders in the locality, including USAID's Nawiri Program and Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance, who supported the pastoralists' efforts by providing balers and harvesting equipment.
- Pastoralists in Westgate and Naibunga Lower Community Conservancies voluntarily constructed semi-circular bunds to restore degraded rangelands.



Community Conservancy Livestock Marketing Agents Tour the KALRO Beef Research Institute

30 livestock marketing agents from each of the 10 beneficiary community conservancies went on a learning tour of the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) Beef Research Institute in Lanet, Nakuru. The tour facilitated knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices, encouraging the agents to engage in pasture production.

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani: Transforming Lives, Improving Pastoralist Livelihoods through Training

46-year-old Grace Metiaki from Naibunga Lower Community Conservancy spent most of her life herding using traditional livestock-keeping techniques. Often, she experienced cataclysmic failures, and her livestock would bear the brunt of the ineffective practices she employed.

In 2021, an opportunity emerged for her to undergo animal husbandry training through MashinaniWORKS' Ufugaji Bora Mashinani (UBM) Program, which supported by USAID, aims at increasing the livestock production capacity of 300 herders from 10 NRT member community conservancies.

As part of her UBM training in 2023, Grace undertook module 3 sessions on climate change and rangelands governance, and went on an educational exposure tour at KALRO Beef Research Institute with 30 other livestock market agents. The experience broadened her horizons and elevated her to new heights of pasture production and management.

"The learning tour provided a platform to engage with experts, pose questions, and observe real-world application of the concepts taught in class," she explains.

Fuelled by a determination to succeed and apply her newfound expertise, Grace invested in pasture development and put an isolated piece of land she

owned to good use, transforming grass into her most valuable asset.

The heavy rains recently experienced across northern Kenya favoured Grace as they led to the growth of the *Cenchrus Ciliaris* grass she had planted, encouraging other herders in the area to emulate her.

"I was eager to practice pasture production and management as I had been losing hundreds of livestock to drought," she adds.

Grace began to manufacture her own animal feed blocks, ensuring they were well-balanced by adding vital nutrients such as animal salts, feeds, and molasses.

As her training progressed, Grace learnt about hay preservation and the benefits of acacia pods. Harvesting and conserving acacia pods, she discovered, not only facilitated rangeland restoration, soil erosion control, and carbon sequestration, but also opened a world of endless possibilities while keeping her herd fed throughout harsh drought seasons.

Deeply encouraged by the success of her initial efforts, Grace is preparing another piece of property to increase her pasture output. She is also exploring water harvesting techniques to ensure she has a consistent fodder supply once the rainy season ends.



“ “ Ufugaji Bora Mashinani has made me a better herder. I am imparting the knowledge I have gained to other group members in the livestock value chain so they can safeguard their livestock during drought.

Grace Metiaki,

Ufugaji Bora Mashinani beneficiary from Naibunga Lower Community Conservancy



Ufugaji Bora Mashinani Program Newsbytes

In 2023:

- All NRT member community conservancies in Marsabit County were recognized by the Horn of Africa De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement (DRIVE) Project, and their representatives were recruited as livestock insurance agents to sell DRIVE's pastoralist insurance and savings products to community livestock owners.
- Sera and Kalama Community Conservancies' livestock groups were supported by Samburu County's Emergency Locust Program, which provided them with animal health inputs.
- Westgate Community Conservancy's pastoralist groups benefitted from a partnership with Coopers Kenya Limited's DigiCow Program, which trained them on and provided them with animal health products, including dewormers.
- The UBM Program sought to nurture collaboration with stakeholders across the NRT landscape. The Program convened meet-

ings with the Livestock Departments of Laikipia, Samburu, and Marsabit Counties, during which UBM was introduced to newly elected County officials, and the Program's priorities were aligned with the Counties'. As a result, Marsabit and Samburu Counties' Departments of Veterinary Services partnered with UBM in implementing a rabies control program in which mass spaying and neutering of stray dogs in Loiyangalani was performed and livestock in Westgate were treated.

- UBM was featured by the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation in a televised interview on the role of Digital Climate Smart Agriculture, alongside Mercy Corporation AgriFin, and Strathmore University.

Monitoring and evaluation reports of the UBM Program indicate that the Program and its trainings have shifted the mindsets of pastoralists and accelerated their recovery from the 2022 drought by improving livestock production, which has increased household income.



Arid and Semi-arid Lands Development Dialogue

MashinaniWORKS organised the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs) Development Dialogue, its inaugural business roundtable discussion, fostering constructive conversations on the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in ASALs, idea exchange, sharing of expertise, and establishment of meaningful partnerships.

Private sector stakeholders and development partners, including USAID, USAID Kuza, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, GIZ, the North Eastern Development Initiative, Pastoralist Parliamentary Group, Boston Consulting Group, Strathmore Business School, Maliasili, and Wild-Landscapes International participated in the Dialogue, which increased their understanding of the immense potential for livestock production growth in ASALs, and underscored the importance of establishing a robust Livestock Marketing Board.

Local Works Program Evaluated in Mid-term Review

MashinaniWORKS conducted a mid-term review of the USAID-funded Local Works Program, at a meeting attended by various partners including representatives of NRT member community conservancies, USAID-Kenya, Toyota-Kenya, county and national government officials, technical and vocational education and training institutions, and project beneficiaries.

Local Works seeks to diversify livelihoods, strengthen livestock value chains, and support environmentally friendly, culturally sensitive, community-owned tourism businesses. The Program is implemented collaboratively by MashinaniWORKS in 21 NRT member community conservancies across eight counties.

The evaluation of Local Works revealed several positive outcomes, including a 3% growth in household income during the period under review, the creation of 188 new jobs, the mobilisation of new funding amounting to Ksh 166,050 (USD 1,230), and increased impact as a result of scaling program activities to other locations such as NRT Coast.



BeadWORKS Program



Building Brighter Futures, Empowering Women, Conserving Nature

BeadWORKS is a handicraft business that harnesses the rich beading tradition of the women of northern Kenya, creating opportunities for pastoralist women in northern Kenya to translate their traditional skills into much-needed income.

Using beads, the immensely talented women in northern Kenya create stunning jewelry and meticulously-stitched, bags, belts, and other accessories, for sale to customers in Kenya, Europe, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, as well as on the BeadWORKS e-commerce website.

BeadWORKS, in collaboration with its women beadworkers, continues to prioritize the development of high-quality products that meet market demands. The Program is committed to conserving natural resources and wildlife through self-governed, community-owned conservancies and sustainable, social, and ethical enterprise.



BeadWORKS Program Newsbytes

In 2023:

- BeadWORKS generated **Ksh 35.5 million (USD 262,962)** in product sales.
- Our women beadmakers earned **Ksh 12.8 million (USD 94,814)** in income from the production of **89,013** items.
- BeadWORKS contributed **Ksh 1.7 million (USD 12,592)** in conservation fees to community conservancies.
- Star beadmakers' rewards amounted to **Ksh 611,669 (USD 4,530)**.
- Quarterly review meetings were held in eight community conservancies to address challenges faced by beadmakers, evaluate program performance, and devise strategies for cutting production costs and increasing order volume.
- A group consisting of **110** assistant star beadmakers was created to facilitate the growth and development of more women leaders.
- The BeadWORKS B2C e-commerce website generated **Ksh 805,545 (USD 5,967)** in sales.
- A product development review session was held at Naibunga Lower and Central, Kalama, Sera, and Leparua Community Conservancies, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. **101** star beadmakers and assistant star beadmakers from the five conservancies attended the session, during which BeadWORKS' production process and product pricing and costing were evaluated. The session also served as a refresher training for the beadmakers, promoting continuous improvement in product development and fostering innovation.



BeadWORKS Wins Prestigious International/Export E-commerce Website Gold Award

In yet another remarkable feat, BeadWORKS was declared the winner of the Best International/Export E-commerce Website Gold Award at the 2023 Kenya eCommerce Awards!

The announcement of this momentous victory was made at a ceremony held at Movenpick Hotel in Nairobi, on the 30th of June.

This coveted award recognised the efforts of the women beaders across northern Kenya and is a testament to BeadWORKS' unwavering commitment to empowering women, amplifying their voices, and transforming lives through sustainable, social, and ethical enterprise.

In 2022, BeadWORKS took home the Kenya E-commerce Gold Award for Best Sustainability Initiative of the Year. These ground-breaking milestones present exciting opportunities for expansion on both the local and international fronts, increasing BeadWORKS' benefits to indigenous communities.



BeadWORKS Beaders Contribute Ksh 1.8 Million for Community Conservation

Northern Kenya's pastoralist communities face significant environmental challenges.

Climate change poses an existential threat, disrupting the region's once-stable livestock economy. Faced with limited livelihood options, some community members have resorted to unsustainable and unlawful income-generation practices such as tree-cutting and charcoal production, which destroy precious natural resources and endanger wildlife.

Thanks to BeadWORKS, many no longer have to. The Program has created income-generating opportunities for women, expanded their horizons, and instilled in them a deep appreciation for environmental stewardship.

BeadWORKS women play a significant role in the overall development of their community conservancies by giving 5% of their total annual sales in conservation fees to their respective conservancies.

In 2023, BeadWORKS set a new record by contributing Ksh 1.8 million (USD 13,333) in conservation fees to eight community conservancies (Kalama, Sera, Westgate, Melako, Naibunga (Lower and Central), Lekurruki, Il Ngwesi, and Leparua), supporting their community conservation and climate adaptation efforts.

This contribution by BeadWORKS women financed crucial conservation initiatives that preserve natural resources, benefitting entire communities.



Looking for a unique gift for a loved one?

Take a moment to browse through BeadWORKS' website for the newest products. Each item on the site is exquisitely made with love from northern Kenya. With every purchase you make, you not only support BeadWORKS' incredibly talented bead makers and their families, but also bolster wildlife protection efforts and community-led conservation.

To view the BeadWORKS catalogue, please [click here](#).

BeadWORKS Kenya Secures WFTO Certification and Membership

The World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) audited BeadWORKS in October and November of 2022 to evaluate its credibility and determine its suitability for formal recognition as a fair trade enterprise.

Following the rigorous evaluation, in 2023, WFTO certified BeadWORKS as a fair-trade compliant entity that prioritises people and the planet in all its operations, and awarded it membership.

With this certification, customers who purchase from BeadWORKS can rest assured they are supporting an authentic enterprise that positively impacts women artisans and indigenous communities.

The WFTO is the global community and verifier of social enterprises that fully practice fair trade. Spread across 76 countries, WFTO members all exist to serve marginalized communities.



150 Women Converge for BeadWORKS' Women in Business and Conservation Conference

BeadWORKS hosted a two-day Women in Business and Conservation Conference on the 2nd and 3rd of May, bringing together 150 women leaders, star bead makers, and entrepreneurs from 10 NRT member community conservancies in Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia, and Marsabit Counties.

This was not just a conference, it was a symphony of voices echoing the aspirations and challenges faced by these women as they strive to build resilient, sustainable businesses that contribute to climate action and foster gender equality.

The event not only attracted local leaders, but also drew key donors, partners, and government officials, and sparked conversations on broader societal issues women and girls face at the community and household levels.

The Conference's 100% attendance rate underscored the necessity of the gathering, which provided the women with a powerful platform from which they could share their perspectives, experiences, and best practices, and present proposals for empowering women to take the lead in climate action and development.

Through the Conference, BeadWORKS catalysed the formation of a robust community of empowered women and charted a path to a brighter future where women lead, businesses thrive, and communities flourish.



BeadWORKS: Transforming Lives, One Bead at a Time

Meet Saranto Lekoloi

In the heart of Kalama, a small village in Archers Post in northern Kenya, where women face countless challenges, Saranto Lekoloi, a mother of seven, is a beacon of hope.

Saranto joined the BeadWORKS Program over a decade ago and has mastered the art of beading, she is able to complete pieces in just a few hours.

Saranto's life was not always this easy.

In the past, she relied solely on her husband for financial support. They struggled to survive, and due to unpredictable weather patterns and prolonged droughts, their livelihoods were put further at risk. To supplement their income, Saranto resorted to making and selling illicit brews.

“Joining BeadWORKS improved my life. I now earn an income in a lawful way to complement my husband's efforts,” says Saranto. Through the Program, she gained financial freedom and a renewed sense of self-worth and purpose.

But perhaps Saranto's newfound confidence is the most significant change. She used to be shy and reserved, but now she is a remarkable public speaker who trains other women in beading techniques. Additionally, she has used her skills in peacekeeping efforts, demonstrating the transformative power of economic empowerment.

Kalama Community Conservancy, where Saranto lives, receives 5% of the total sales from BeadWORKS and uses it to finance community projects such as the provision of school fees, bursaries, and scholarships. Saranto's son, who recently graduated from university, was among the beneficiaries of the school bursaries. With the bursary covering his tuition, using her BeadWORKS earnings, Saranto paid for his living expenses while he attended university.

Saranto's story epitomises the fact that empowering women is not just the right thing to do, it is the smart action to take as it breaks the cycle of poverty, transforming entire communities. And through BeadWORKS, Saranto and countless other women like her are doing just that.





Tourism

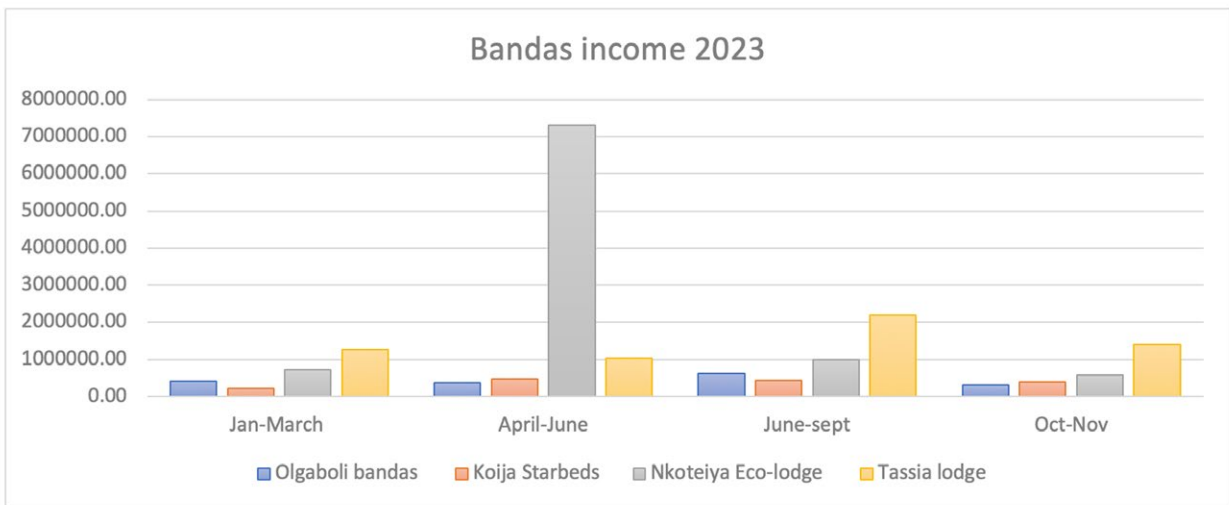
Driving Sustainability and Improving Livelihoods through Tourism Businesses

In NRT member community conservancies, tourism activities promote livelihood diversification, creating alternative employment options, while tourism revenue funds essential operations (such as conservancy scout salaries, vehicle maintenance, and infrastructure development—including education, health, and water facilities), benefitting the most vulnerable members of the community.

From January to November 2023, NRT member conservancies’ tourism revenue amounted to Ksh 128.8 million (USD 954,074) million, while the four community bandas generated Ksh 14.6 million (USD 108,148) in revenue.

Across the community conservancies, tourism operations improved, and this was attributed to consistent marketing, high-quality service delivery as a result of extensive staff training, and enhanced tourism management following conservancy leadership development.

Income Generated by Community Conservancy Bandas in 2023



Tourism and BeadWORKS Teams Participate in the 2023 Joint East Africa Regional Tourism Expo and Magical Kenya Travel Expo

Our Tourism and BeadWORKS teams participated in the 3rd East African Regional Tourism Expo and the 2023 Magical Kenya Travel Expo, whose theme was “Tourism for Green Growth.”

At the Expos, held at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre from the 20th to the 23rd of November, the teams delivered presentations on BeadWORKS and ‘The Big North’ (community-owned lodges in NRT member conservancies), and cultivated relationships with tour operators and potential investors.

The Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Alfred Mutua, visited our booth at the Expos and commended our efforts to improve livelihoods in northern Kenya through enterprise.



Experience the Vacation of a Lifetime!

Looking for your next adventure? Strap on your boots and explore the Big North! From rhino tracking safaris, game drives, private pools, rock climbing, nature walks, to stunning views, the Big North has it all!

For more information, visit www.thebignorth.travel



Wilderness First Aid Training

47 community members (37 men and 10 women) from Lekurruki, Nkoteiya, Naibunga Lower, Sera, Westgate, Nasuulu, Il Ngwesi, and Meibae Community Conservancies, were successfully trained in providing wilderness first aid, gaining an understanding of pathology, physiology, and the fundamentals of wilderness rescue.

The knowledge and skills they acquired during the training enabled them to respond to unique medical incidents affecting guests or community members in the conservancies and stabilise patients before they received expert treatment, saving lives.



Lodge and Banda Staff Training

MashinaniWORKS partnered with Peaks Hotel in Nanyuki to provide 13 youth (6 males and 7 females) from NRT member community conservancies with three months of on-the-job training in housekeeping and food and beverage service, building their capacity in hospitality management, and ensuring conservancy bandas have a suitable talent pool from which to hire during peak seasons.

In 2023:

- 96 youth and conservancy board members underwent training in tourism management, enhancing their hospitality management skills and facilitating the profitable operation of community bandas.
- 36 conservancy board members (28 male and 8 female) from Ruko and Nasuulu Community Conservancies, and two wardens from the Kenya Wildlife Service and Baringo County, underwent tourism awareness training. The training enhanced the board members' capacity to optimize existing tourism opportunities to generate sustainable income for the two Conservancies.
- 18 board members from Nasuulu Community Conservancy in Isiolo County attended MashinaniWORKS' tourism enterprise training. Resultantly, the Conservancy allocated Ksh 15 million (USD 111,111) of its revenue from the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCPC) to banda construction.



New Banda Launched in Nasuulu Community Conservancy

In April, Nasuulu Community Conservancy made a giant leap in its efforts to optimize tourism opportunities by officially launching its tourism banda at an event presided over by Hon. Peninah Malonza, then Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife, and Heritage.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by the Principal Secretary for the State Department for Wildlife, Silvia Museiya, the Tourism and Wildlife Chief Administrative Secretary, Hon. Reheema Jaldesa, and officials from the Isiolo, Samburu, and Laikipia County Governments, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute among other distinguished guests.

The new banda is strategically located along the Ewaso Nyiro River at a game-rich spot facing

Samburu National Reserve. It was constructed with NKRCP funds, following the Conservancy Board's allocation of Ksh 15.5 million (USD 114,814) towards the initiative. To ensure the banda was well-managed, and enhance its service quality, seven of the Conservancy's board members went on an exposure tour of Tassia, Nkoteiya, Koija Star Beds, and Olgaboli bandas.

Revenue from the banda will support development projects of the community's choice.



Olgaboli Women's Group Assumes Management of Olgaboli Banda

MashinaniWORKS inked a memorandum of understanding with Olgaboli Women Group through which the responsibility of managing the Olgaboli banda in Naibunga Lower Community Conservancy was transferred to the Group, promoting community ownership of the project.



Nkoteiya Eco-lodge Leased

Nkoteiya Eco Lodge, a 6-room facility in Nkoteiya Community Conservancy in Samburu County, struggled to attract guests since its official opening in September 2021, due to its distance from major highways and security concerns. With MashinaniWORKS' support, the Conservancy's Board leased the facility for one year, and the Eco-Lodge's income soared to Ksh 10 million (USD 74,074) in 2023, up from Ksh 442,300 (USD 3,276) in 2022.

Additionally, in 2023:

- Nkoteiya Eco-lodge employed three staff from the Conservancy. (The new tenant will assume responsibility for future operational costs and maintenance).
- Nkoteiya Community Conservancy hosted the 2023 Rhino Charge event, an off-road motorsport competition organized by the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust to raise

funds for conservation efforts in Kenya. His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, President of Kenya, presided over the Rhino Charge's closing ceremony and visited NRT's booth.

The event increased the Conservancy's visibility and generated Ksh 7 million (USD 51,851) for its tourism operations through partnerships and support from event organizers.



Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy Hosts Laikipia Maasai Cultural Day

Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy sought to construct a banda that would provide tourists with a cultural immersion experience. With MashinaniWORKS' support, the Conservancy organised a benchmarking trip to Maji Moto Maasai Cultural Camp in Maasai Mara for thirteen of its board members.

After the trip, the Conservancy hosted a captivating Laikipia Maasai Cultural Day at Murua Ekiya to promote its Laikipia Maasai culture and use it to generate conservancy income. The event received wide support from investors and local leaders, including chiefs and the area Member of the County Assembly, Hon. Nicholas Lempaira, who commended the initiative, highlighting its timeliness, and its boosting of tourism and peacebuilding efforts in the region.



Additional Tourism Newsbytes

In 2023:

- Four tour operators were taken on a familiarization trip to each of the community-owned bandas (Olgaboli, Nkoteiya, Kojja, and Tassia Lodge) to boost tourism product sales. Two reservations were made and confirmed at Olgaboli and Tassia Lodge as a result of this trip.
- A six-month advertising campaign was conducted in Xpatlink e-magazine to increase expatriates' awareness of NRT member community conservancies' tourism offerings and drive traffic to the Big North website, which recorded 341,537 clicks during the campaign period.
- [Tassia Lodge's website](#) was successfully developed, linked with The Big North, and launched, with MashinaniWORKS' support, making it easier for travellers to make direct bookings. The lodge's manager was also trained on website management, and digital customer communication, to increase website sales and facilitate the Big North's listing on Booking.com and TripAdvisor.
- Lekurruki Community Conservancy's lodge was renovated and expanded, increasing its bed capacity from 12 to 18. Improved service delivery at the lodge resulted in enhanced guest experience and an increase in return customers.

Transforming Lives in Community Conservancies through Tourism Revenue

Lekurruki Community Conservancy

Tourism revenue from Lekurruki Community Conservancy's Tassia Lodge in Laikipia County supported the following development projects in 2023:

- **111** students in secondary and tertiary institutions received education bursaries amounting to **Ksh 1 million (USD 7,407)**.
- **350** students from Sieku Primary School in Lekurruki benefitted from the Conservancy's School Feeding Program.
- Borana, a private conservancy, complemented MashinaniWORKS' efforts in upgrading Tassia Lodge and donated **Ksh 2 million (USD 14,814)** in repairs and soft furnishings.

Naibung'a Lower Community Conservancy

Naibung'a Lower Community Conservancy is home to Koija Starbeds and Olgaboli bandas.

In 2023, **107** students in the Conservancy benefitted from bursaries amounting to **Ksh 550,000 (USD 4,074)**. The bursaries were disbursed to increase access to education and lessen parents' financial strain while the drought season persisted.





Biashara Mashinani Program

Biashara Mashinani is a structured graduation-based program that encompasses training, business development, business mentorship, the provision of financial literacy tools, such as savings and loan facilities and mobile banking, and access to a Savings and Credit Cooperative Organization (SACCO).

The Program inculcates skills in individuals and groups in community conservancies, enabling them to start and manage enterprises, diversifying community members' livelihoods, and increasing their resilience against climate change.

In 2023:

- The Biashara Mashinani team held consultative sessions with entrepreneurs in the community and other key stakeholders in select conservancies to improve service delivery. Resultantly, the Tujipange Initiative, a holistic, village-based, financial inclusion and economic empowerment model, was conceived that catalysed the development of community-led solutions for mitigating climatic shocks and ideas for livelihood diversification.
- An impact survey conducted in 10 community conservancies revealed that a Biashara Mashinani entrepreneur earns an average of Ksh 16,646 (USD 123) monthly. Survey data also showed that MashinaniWORKS supports over 5,300 enterprises across the NRT landscape, and these contribute approximately Ksh 752 million (USD 5,570,370) to the local economy every year. The survey further disclosed that 55% of respondents had savings in saccos and other financial institutions, while 91% of entrepreneurs continued to operate their businesses during the prolonged drought. These findings attest to Biashara Mashinani's effectiveness in breaking poverty cycles.
- Biashara Mashinani conducted a three-day training to increase its team's proficiency in SACCO credit management. Topics covered during the training included the credit lifecycle and process, loan appraisal, credit risks, loan recovery strategies, portfolio management, and pre-delinquency management. The knowledge gained from the training was imparted to village-based enterprise teams that vet loan applicants at the grassroots level. As a result of the credit management training, loans recovered increased from Ksh 4.5 million (USD 33,333) in the first half of 2023 to Ksh 11.8 million (USD 87,407) in the last quarter of the year.
- 584 entrepreneurs from 11 community conservancies (Naibunga Lower, Biliqo Bulesa, Meibae, Ruko, Masol, Ishaqbini, Shurr, Jaldesa, Songa, Pate and Oldonyiro) underwent a Business Plan Development and Improvement training, gaining knowledge and skills in costing and pricing, value proposition development, business planning, branding, customer service, record-keeping, business financing, risk management, and business analysis. The training enabled the entrepreneurs to navigate business challenges and leverage emerging economic opportunities.



Supported by MashinaniWORKS, community conservancy entrepreneurs contribute approximately

Ksh 752 million

to the local economy every year through their ventures.

Biashara Mashinani Entrepreneurship Trainings Conducted in 2023

County	Conservancy	No. of People Trained
Samburu	Ltungai	58
	Meibae	58
	Ngilai	36
Laikipia	Naibunga Lower	63
	Naibunga Central	30
Garissa	Ishaqbini	70
West Pokot	Masol	71
Isiolo	Oldonyiro	50
	Biliqo Bulesa	69
	Cherab	150
	Garba Tulla	140
	Leparua	50
Lamu	Pate	40
	Kiunga	30
Marsabit	Shurr	130
	Songa	66
	Jaldesa	144
Baringo	Ruko	91
	Kaptuya	30
Total		1,376



The Rangelands Sacco

Established in 2016, the Rangelands Sacco is an independent, community-owned, and membership-driven financial organization that receives oversight, critical technical support, and training from MashinaniWORKS.

The Sacco derives its membership from community conservancies in northern and coastal Kenya, and has become a powerful vehicle for promoting financial inclusion, mobilizing local resources for economic development, and providing marginalised groups with access to tailor-made financial services, including savings and loan facilities, business coaching, and investment opportunities.

In 2023:

- Rangelands Sacco membership stood at **6,007** active members.
- **70%** of the Sacco's members were women.
- **365** new members joined the Sacco.
- **Ksh 13.6 million (USD 100,740)** was used to finance 334 new youth and women-run businesses.
- Rangelands Sacco has disbursed loans worth **Ksh 197.5 million (USD 1.4 million)** to date.
- **Ksh 44.3 million (USD 328,148)** was accrued by members in savings and shares.
- Borrowers' loan repayment stood at **Ksh 17.2 million (USD 127,407)**.



Rangelands Sacco Members Receive 2022 Dividends

The Rangelands Sacco held its annual delegates meeting on the 26th of April 2023 in Kalama Community Conservancy. The meeting was attended by 50 delegates from NRT member community conservancies from nine counties.

The delegates deliberated on the Sacco's progress, reviewed its 2023 financial plans and report, and approved resolutions regarding investments and name change.

The Sacco also disbursed Ksh 1.65 million (USD 11,851) to its members as dividends for 2022.



Rangelands Sacco Partners with the BOMA Project to Improve Community Livelihoods

Rangelands Sacco hosted a session for 150 female beneficiaries of the BOMA Project in Ngaremara and Leparua Community Conservancies in Isiolo County and trained them on savings, loans and investments.

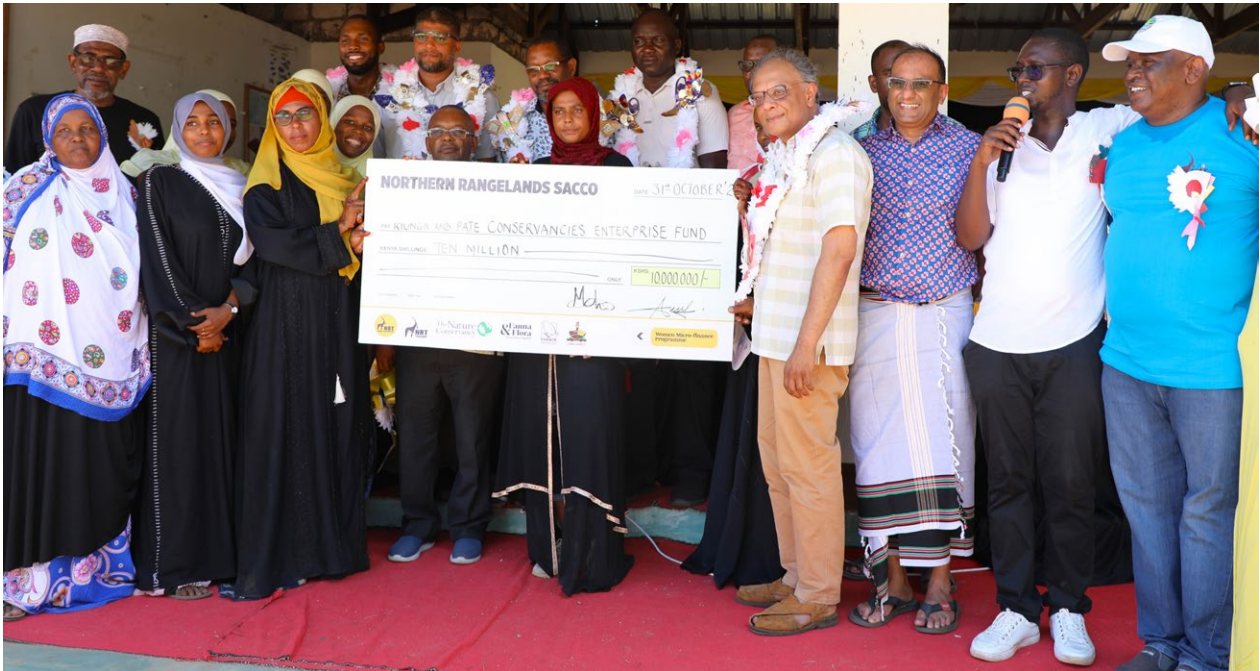
Discussions have been underway between Rangelands Sacco, Mercy Corps, and the Merti Integrated Development Program to support the beneficiaries of their Livestock Market Systems Program by granting them access to Rangelands Sacco's facilities and Ujuzi Manyattani trainings.



Million-shilling Women's Micro-enterprise Fund Created for Marine Community Conservancies

NRT Coast launched a Ksh 10 million (USD 74,074) women's micro-enterprise fund to support women's enterprises in Pate and Kiunga Community Conservancies.

The fund, established with support from The Nature Conservancy, Fauna and Flora, the Darwin Initiative, and NRT, will pave the way for women entrepreneurs to access capital to start and expand their businesses.



Community Engagement: Rangelands Sacco Convenes Members' Meetings

Rangelands Sacco conducted members' meetings in community conservancies from Isiolo, Laikipia, Marsabit, Samburu, Garissa, Tana River, and Lamu Counties.

During these engagement meetings, the milestones the Sacco had achieved and the challenges it had encountered were discussed, and members were invited to provide feedback on how the Sacco could improve its service delivery.

A Village Enterprise Team (VET) was established in select villages in each conservancy to speed up the delivery of sacco services. Each VET comprises the area chief, a conservancy board member, and three sacco members with good credit scores.

The VETs will oversee the Sacco's recruitment of new members, determine eligible borrowers, and identify economic opportunities that members and the community can optimize through enterprise to improve their livelihoods and attain self-reliance.

Biashara Mashinani: One Teacher's Journey from the Classroom to Successful Entrepreneur

When curtains closed on 2019 on New Year's Eve, and spectacular fireworks filled the skies with bursts of colour, few on the planet realized they had just bid business as usual goodbye.

Fewer still knew that as the clock struck midnight, the world would be ushering in a character-defining year, and a terrifying virus that would upend life as the human species had come to know it.

Farhiya Choya, 42, from Karare in Songa Community Conservancy in Marsabit County, found herself in a predicament many across the globe faced in 2020. Being a widow with two children, monthly salary delays had left her in a bind. As her unpaid bills mounted, depending solely on income from her job became untenable.

She was employed as an Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) teacher at Karare Primary School, but pandemic-related school closures had disrupted learning.

Confined to her home, like many across the world, she experienced varying degrees of cabin fever. What she found more distressing, however, was the uncertainty of not knowing when her next paycheck would arrive.

Necessity became the mother of invention for Farhiya, and the daily struggle to survive fathered her evolution. She elected to convert the one resource she had in abundance—free time—into income.

With the Ksh 15,000 (USD 111) she had in savings, Farhiya rented a retail shop at Karare Market Center, and stocked it with fast-moving groceries, to generate additional income to support herself and her two children.

In 2021, she discovered MashinaniWORKS' Biashara Mashinani Program through the Conservancy's management, and attended the Program's intensive three-day training, gaining skills in entrepreneurship, finance management, and business planning. These she applied while running her retail shop, whose profits grew gradually, enabling her to save a little each month.

Farhiya became inspired to open a savings account with Rangelands Sacco, an independent, community-owned, and membership-driven organisation, which receives oversight, technical support, and training from MashinaniWORKS. The Sacco partners with NRT member community conservancies to provide access to bespoke financial services, including savings facilities, affordable loans, business coaching, and investment opportunities.

After consistently saving with Rangelands Sacco, Farhiya became eligible for her first loan of Ksh 25,000 (USD 185), whose issuance was approved at a critical time, when a biting drought had decimated the livestock herds of northern Kenya's communities, adversely impacting their main source of livelihood.



“Using the loan, I stocked my shop with various foods and cereals,” Farhiya explains as she cheerfully attends to a customer at her shop, whose revenue sustains her family. Income from her business ranges between Ksh 500 (USD 3) on bad days and Ksh 3,000 (USD 22) on good days.

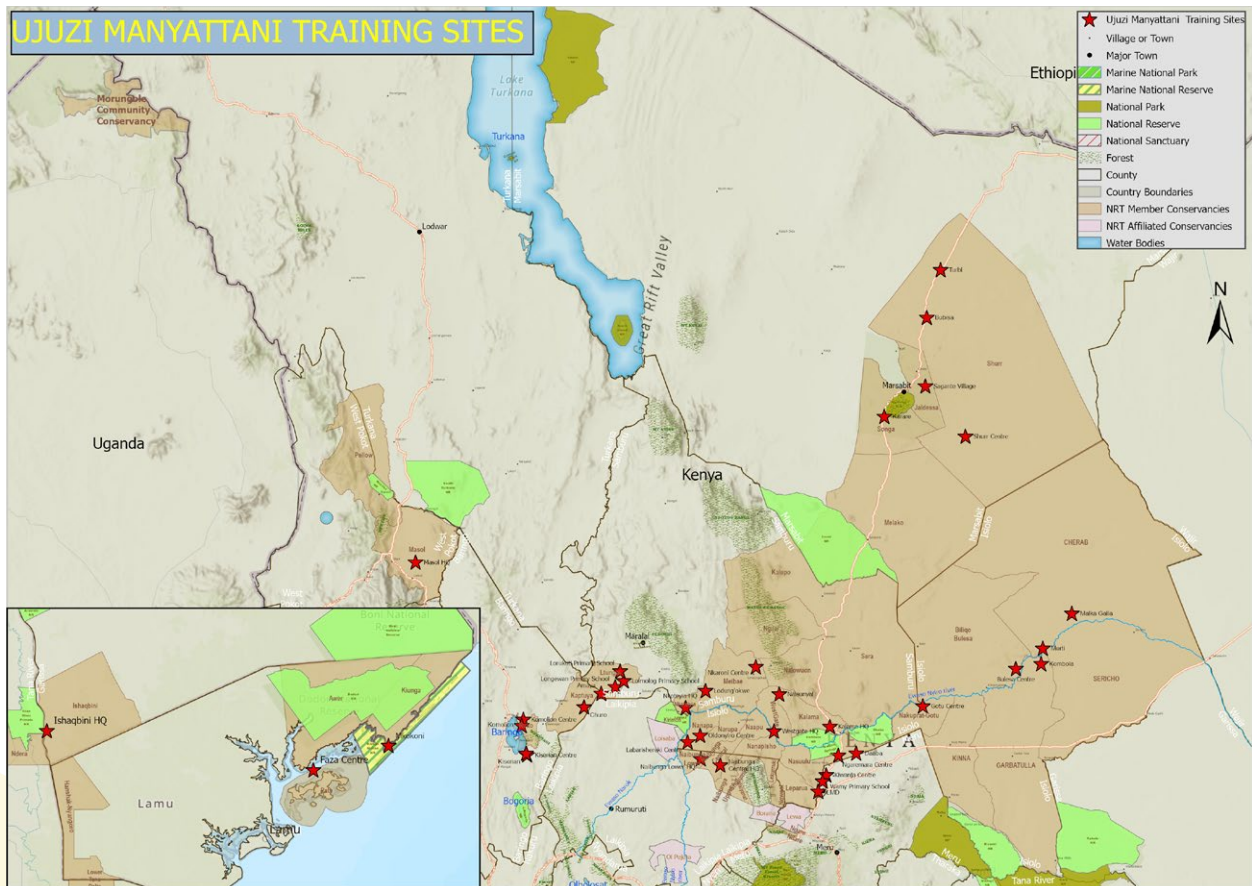
Farhiya plans to use future Rangelands Sacco loans to expand her business. She is one of 3,594 women who have benefited from the Sacco, which has disbursed more than Ksh 180 million (USD 1.3 Million) in loans to its members over the last six years.

Farhiya has retained her teaching job. When school is on, her cousin manages the shop. After classes end, Farhiya takes over.

Purposely designed to operate at the grassroots level and uplift the indigenous communities we serve, Biashara Mashinani and Rangelands Sacco continue to empower thousands like Farhiya, enabling them to diversify their sources of income and increase their resilience.

Ujuzi Manyattani Program

Since its inception in 2019, Ujuzi Manyattani Program has been offering mobile vocational training to youth and women from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds who have not been able to obtain formal education. The Program operates in eight counties across the country: Marsabit, Samburu, Isiolo, Laikipia, Baringo, West Pokot, Garissa, and Lamu.



Vocational courses provided in the Program include motorcycle repair and maintenance, mobile phone repair and maintenance, vessel repair and maintenance, welding, plumbing, masonry, electrical and solar installation, tailoring and dressmaking, catering, hair-dressing, and beauty therapy.

The training and marketable skills Ujuzi Manyattani inculcates in program beneficiaries empower them to leverage opportunities arising from Vision 2030 projects and devolution to drive their economic growth.

Ujuzi Manyattani's success can be attributed to community involvement, flexible training methodologies, enthusiastic trainees, swift adoption of lessons learned, the commitment of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVET) trainers and institutions, government recognition, and ongoing support from program donors and partners.

This comprehensive, multifaceted approach has improved community livelihoods and addressed broader socio-economic challenges in arid and semi-arid lands.

Ujuzi Manyattani Program Review

MashinaniWORKS implements Ujuzi Manyattani in partnership with the Ministry of Education's Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority, the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), Kiirua Technical Training Institute, and Laikipia North Technical and Vocational College.

Trainings are delivered using NITA curricula, and trainees are assessed through NITA's Trade Test before gaining NITA certification.

To enhance the quality of vocational training delivered, stay abreast of industry changes, align with the evolving needs of Ujuzi Manyattani

trainees, and leverage emerging opportunities, a program review meeting was convened that was attended by all the implementing partners.

During the two-day meeting, the partners evaluated the Program's status, discussed solutions for emerging challenges, reviewed existing curricula, devised impact-based training strategies, rationalized the Program's training models, designs, tools, and materials, and developed new curricula for marine-based conservancies.

Among the key recommendations made during the meeting included the tracking and tracing of program graduates and conducting refresher courses for trainers and trainees.

Ujuzi Manyattani Extends its Reach into Kenya's Coast

In 2023, Ujuzi Manyattani scaled up and expanded its footprint into Kiunga Community Conservancy in Lamu County.

To address the needs of trainees in Kiunga Community Conservancy where marine-based economic opportunities abound, a vessel repair and maintenance course was developed (attracting 13 male trainees) and



added to the curriculum, as well as a tailoring and dressmaking course, which drew 17 young female trainees.

After three months, the group of 30 trainees completed their training and upon graduation, were issued with certificates and toolkits containing the tools of trade they needed to start their businesses.

Apart from Kiunga Community Conservancy, the Ujuzi Manyattani Program was launched in five other community conservancies in 2023: Naibunga Central, Kaptuya, Leparua, Garbatulla, and Cherab.



Empowering Local Communities, Increasing Participation through Devolution

Conservancy-Based Graduations

In 2023, five Ujuzi Manyattani graduation ceremonies were held at the conservancy level, with a total of 210 youth (141 female, and 69 male) from Ishaqbini, Shurr, Songa, Naibunga Central, Kaptuya, and Kiunga Community Conservancies, graduating.

These conservancy-based graduation ceremonies fostered community ownership of the Program at the grassroots and were attended by various stakeholders including national and county government officials, donors, partners, local leaders, and community members.

After rigorous vocational training, the trainees graduated with skills in tailoring and dressmaking, catering, vessel repair and maintenance, hairdressing and beauty therapy, electrical and solar installation, and motorcycle repair. They were awarded certificates and equipped with start-up toolkits to enable them to immediately launch their businesses.



The graduates received further training in entrepreneurship, life skills, and financial literacy, to ensure the success of their startup businesses.

In 2023, for the first time since Ujuzi Manyattani’s inception, the number of young women graduating from the Program surpassed that of young men. Of the 210 people who graduated, 67% were young women, a noteworthy accomplishment in our efforts to address the economic marginalization of women in pastoralist communities.

“ The vocational skills trainings MashinaniWORKS provides have not only promoted peaceful coexistence among the communities, but also created alternative sources of income. This is very important as drought has adversely affected 70% of the livestock in northern Kenya.

Marsabit County Deputy Governor, **H.E. Solomon Gubo Riwe**, speaking at Songa and Shurr Community Conservancies’ joint Ujuzi Manyattani graduation ceremony.

2023 Ujuzi Manyattani Graduates

County	Conservancy	No. of Graduates
Marsabit	Shurr	60
	Songa	30
Laikipia	Naibunga Central	30
Baringo	Kaptuya	30
Lamu	Kiunga	30
Garissa	Ishaqbini	30
Total		210



Rising Above Terrorism Scars: Mumina's Extraordinary Journey from Tragedy to Triumph

Kenya's northern and coastal regions have long been plagued with insecurity, upending the lives of community members, such as Mumina Omar.

In 2017, en route to Kiunga Primary School in Lamu County from Marani Village, Mumina, then in seventh grade, and other pupils with her experienced a tragedy that no child should ever have to suffer.

While travelling along the Mararani-Kiunga Road which passes through the dense and extensive Boni Forest, the vehicle transporting them drove over an improvised explosive device that had been planted by terrorists. A deafening explosion and a fiery inferno ensued, engulfing the vehicle.

The remote location of the incident hampered rescue efforts, and regrettably four of Mumina's schoolmates succumbed to their injuries during the lengthy wait for help that continued late into the night. The impact of the explosion had flung Mumina far from her peers, making it hard to trace her. She spent the harrowing night alone in the forest, writhing in pain and consumed by fear, before eventually drifting into a state of unconsciousness.

It was not until 11 a.m. the following day that Mumina was found during a renewed search mission prompted by her distraught family's reporting of

her disappearance. She was rushed to Aga Khan Hospital in Mombasa for treatment but showed no signs of improvement. After a fortnight, she was transferred to Kijabe Mission Hospital in Kijabe.

Her extensive injuries necessitated the amputation of one of her legs three months later to save her life. This profound loss not only impacted her education, dreams, and self-esteem but also strained her family's resources.

Despite the prevailing circumstances, Mumina's indomitable spirit shone through the darkness. With the help of a prosthetic leg that was purchased by a good samaritan, she resumed formal learning in 2019, persevering through bouts of excruciating pain to complete her primary and secondary school education.

Mumina aspired to attain higher levels of education, but the pain searing through her body confined her to the walls of their family home, where she dutifully assisted her parents with light tasks. As destiny would have it, in 2023, Mumina heard about MashinaniWORKS' Ujuzi Manyattani Program, which provides vocational training in high-demand skills to young men and women in marginalized communities.



The Regional Ujuzi Manyattani Coordinator encouraged Mumina to enroll in the Program, where she underwent three months of training in tailoring and dressmaking.

Despite her fears and doubts, through sheer determination and the unwavering support of her parents, trainer, and fellow trainees, Mumina learned to sew a wide array of garments and mastered the art of operating a sewing machine with one leg.

During her graduation from Ujuzi Manyattani, Mumina's face lit up with a radiant smile. "Terrorists may have robbed me of one leg, but not my destiny," she said defiantly. Upon graduating, Mumina and 30 other graduates from Kiunga Community Conservancy were issued with startup toolkits, enabling them to launch their businesses.

Ujuzi Manyattani remains a beacon of hope for communities in NRT member conservancies and is supported by USAID through Local Works, the Scaling Sustainability and Resilience for Community Conservancies Program, the Royal Danish Embassy

through the Danish International Development Agency, the French Development Agency, the Embassy of Sweden through the Integrated Management of Natural Resources for Resilience in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands Program, The Nature Conservancy, ICEP and IUCN Save our Species through the European Union-funded Beisa Oryx Protection Project.

In January 2023, MashinaniWORKS conducted a survey that revealed Ujuzi Manyattani graduates earn an average of Ksh 8,840 (USD 65) monthly from their businesses and contribute Ksh 97 million (USD 718,518) to the local economy, every year, through their income generating activities. Survey findings also showed that 96% of the Program's graduates were self-employed and had started their own businesses, while the rest were apprentices or formally employed.

To date, 962 young women and men have graduated from the Program with training in vocational skills and startup toolkits, securing their livelihoods and expanding their horizons.

MashinaniWORKS in the Media

1. KBC Digital: [More than 30 youth and women have received vocational training from the Ujuzi Manyattani Program](#)
2. KBC Digital: [Local communities to earn a decent living through employment and self-employment](#)
3. KBC Channel 1: [Breaking Barriers: Drought in Marsabit forces women and girls to shift to artisan work](#)
4. Citizen Digital: [I lost a leg: Mumina was only a kid when she survived an IED explosion in Lamu](#)
5. Citizen TV: [Juhudi za kutoa mafunzo kwa vijana katika kaunti ya Isiolo zapongezwa](#)
6. Citizen TV: [Wateja kutoka Somalia watafuta huduma huko Lamu](#)
7. Kenya News Agency: [30 students graduate under the Ujuzi Manyattani initiative in Garissa](#)
8. Kenya News Agency: [Northern Rangelands Trust unveils empowerment program for herders](#)
9. NTV: Garissa: [Wanafunzi 30 wahitimu kati ka kozi za uamali na ufundi](#)
10. Nation: [Sacco powering women in 9 pastoral counties to financial freedom](#)
11. Nation: [Celebration in Laikipia as morans who dropped out of school graduate](#)
12. The Standard: [Provide youths in ASALs with education, skills to end banditry](#)

13. The Standard: [Savings group helps women to fight for their place in society](#)
14. Tuko: Ujuzi Manyattani: [Skills development, craft, and income solution to ending banditry](#)
15. Tukio News: [NRT sacco releases dividends to shareholders](#)
16. Inooro TV: [Ayuthi kwamũkĩra mathomo ma kothi cia moko, Isiolo](#)
17. The Star: [Ujuzi Manyattani program set to boost pastoralists' livelihoods in Marsabit](#)
18. The Star: [30 students graduate under Ujuzi Manyattani plan in Garissa](#)
19. The Star: [USAID to train pastoralists to boost livestock yields](#)
20. KTN News: [Wanawake Marsabit waingilia juakali](#)
21. KTN News: [Vijana kadhaa wahitimu mafunzo ya kurekebisha injini za maboti na mafunzo pia ya kushona](#)
22. Muthingi TV: [Githomo kuri ariithi a Laikipia](#)



Looking Ahead

In the coming months, we will continue to empower youth and women living in historically marginalized arid and semi-arid lands, through our transformative programs and business and entrepreneurship trainings.

Improving the lives of vulnerable groups and promoting livelihood diversification through trade and commerce will remain our top priority, as well as building vibrant, self-sustaining communities that promote peace, social justice, and economic development.

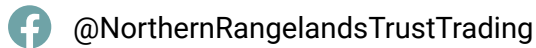
We will strive to scale up our vocational training and livelihood programs and initiate steps to establish a research facility that focusses on livestock management, to improve pastoralist livelihoods. We will also optimize the opportunities that emerge from nature-based tourism, for the benefit of the community and wildlife.

Asanteni Sana

MashinaniWORKS (Northern Rangelands Trading) would like to thank the following principal donors and partners, for their invaluable support.

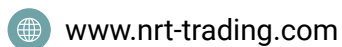


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