



CHICKEN PROJECT: PROJECT ASSESSMENT AT 18 MONTHS

Introduction

The program response strategy in regard to the implementation of the indigenous chicken project sought to:

1. Support the single mums' with seed capital such as indigenous chicken
2. Improve nutrition and food security among single mums' households
3. Empower single mums' families by building their capacities on livelihood initiatives

In thus, 14 single mums were supported with 6 chickens and 1 cockerel as seed capital to kick start the project. Several challenges have been encountered along the way including theft of chickens and disease incidents. However, the benefits of the project outweigh any demerits as reported by the single mums.

Key indicators:

- The chickens serve to diversify the single mums' sources of income through sale of eggs, pullets, roosters and or stewing hens
- As the poultry stock grew throughout the implementation, the chickens or their products were bartered with other things eg stationery for school going children when such need arose
- Improved nutrition and food security through consumption of eggs and or chicken
- Improved family livelihoods

Case Study:

Highlighted herein are outcomes for each single mum under their different focus groups.

FOCUS GROUP 1: UMOJA

No.	Member's Name	Current No. of Chicken Reared	No. of Children in the household	No of eggs collected (In the last one month)
1.	Jacinta Njoki	18	1	80
2.	Mary Wairimu	18	2	40
3.	Gladys Wangu	4	1	12
4.	Joyce Njoki	22	0	127
	Total	62	4	259

1. Jacinta Njoki Mwaura-52yrs



Pictured above is Jacinta at home with her grandchild alongside some of her chickens

Jacinta rears 18 chickens; 9hens, 1 rooster, 3-3 months old poults, 5-1 ½ months old poults. Her poultry is likely to grow soon as 3 of the 9 hens brood with 2 already incubating eggs.

Jacinta has collected 80 eggs in the last one month. She sold 2 trays of eggs earning Ksh 900, and consumed the rest. Sale of eggs has supplemented her income.

She feeds the chicken with kitchen remains, maize grains and sometimes puts them on free range management.

There is only one child in Jacinta's household.

2. Mary Wairimu Mukunga-48yrs



Mary and her youngest son feed her chicken

Mary has a flock of 18 chickens; 8 chickens, 4 roosters, 6-2 weeks old poults. She collected 40 eggs from 4 of her hens that are actively laying eggs.

Of the total number of chicken Mary rears, 6 are borne from the original flock of chickens she received. She feeds the flock with kitchen remains and commercial feeds. Mary targets to rear 50 chickens. She has been selling eggs to supplement her income.

There are 2 children in Mary's household aged 17 and 9 years.

3. Gladys Wangu Kariuki-59yrs



Gladys in the company of her friend threshing maize; she has 4 chickens. Captured also is her grandson

Gladys has a grandchild under her care. The son to her daughter will be joining grade 1.

Gladys has 4 chickens; 3 hens and 1 rooster, remaining with her after she sold off 4 others. 2 of her hens are layers at the moment. She has lost a few chickens to predation and only manages the remaining ones under free range management when she is around her

homestead. “The last one was attacked when it was about to hatch 12 chicks after a fortnight in incubation,” reported Gladys. She still targets to rear 30 layers.

She sold each of the 4 pullets at Ksh 400 earning Ksh 1600. She reportedly used the money to pay fees for her grandchild earlier in the year. The pullets were 8 months old at the time of sale.

Gladys has collected 12 eggs in the last one month.

She has been selling eggs to supplement her income. The chickens are managed through free range practice.

Gladys’ daughter lost her job during the Covid-19 disease time. She has been an economic pillar to the family. Gladys hence counts on the chickens to supplement her income alongside other farming activities.

4. Joyce Njoki Mwaniki-75yrs



There are no children in Joyce’s homestead; she spends most of her time alone

There are no children in Njoki’s household. Her extended family moved elsewhere leaving her alone in the homestead.

She has 22 chickens in her flock; 8 hens, 2 roosters and 12-3 weeks old poults. 5 of the 8 hens are layers. She has collected 127 eggs in the last one month. She feeds her chicken with maize grains and mainly manages them under free range practice. She heavily counts on the chicken for her income especially in the prevailing dry season.

Joyce confirmed that the breed of chicken received is better compared to the local breeds. “These are disease-resistant, and have better hatching ability,” she reported during an interview.

The 12 poults borne belong to one of the chickens she received under the program. She has sold other pullets in the past which fetched a better price in comparison to the local breeds.

FOCUS GROUP 2: WENDANI

No.	Member’s Name	Current No. of Chicken Reared	No. of Children in the household	No of eggs collected (In the last one month)
1.	Jane Wanjiru	13	1	40
2.	Monica Wairimu	15	2	10
3.	Faith Njeri	7	3	30
4.	Virginiah Wanjiku	21	0	80
	Total	56	6	160

1. Jane Wanjiru-64yrs



Jane acquired a lighting gadget for her home through her chicken enterprise

Jane rears 13 chickens; 8 hens, 2 roosters and 3-4months old poults. 4 of the hens are layers. She collected 40 eggs in the last one month.

As earlier reported, Jane has been sourcing funds from her chicken enterprise to fund her house lighting under M-KOPA plan. M-KOPA payment plan allows one to acquire items for which their payment is done in several months' instalments while n use by the buyer. She finalized her payment in January 2022.

Jane has also been selling eggs to supplement her income. She also has been consuming some to supplement her nutritional requirements.

There is only one child in her household aged 12years old. The rest of the dependants moved in with other relatives upon completion of their secondary education. She feeds the chicken with kitchen remains, maize grains and manages them under free range practice.

2. Monicah Wairimu-43years



Monicah rears 15 chicken at the time. She had no chickens at the beginning of the project

Monicah is a mother of two daughters aged 15years and 9years. She now rears 15 chickens; 13 hens and 2 roosters. It is important to note that Monicah had no chicken apart from which she received from the program, thus 8 of the total chickens are borne from the 7 chickens she received.

3 of the 13 hens are layers. She collected 10 eggs in the last one month. Most of her chickens are pullets. She is hopeful to collect many eggs in the coming days as she continues to feed her chicken with commercial feeds and maize grains.

Previously, Monicah used to sell eggs which enabled her to pay for her health insurance (NHIF) which cost her Ksh 500. She has had to sell some chickens to cater for the fund.

3. Faith Njeri-65years



Faith rears her chickens while still engaging in other farming activities

Faith rears 7 chickens; 6 hens and 1 rooster. 3 of the hens are layers. She collected 30 eggs in the last one month. Faith actively engages in farming even at her old age.

She feeds her chickens with maize grains and green matter. She has been selling eggs to supplement her income

There are 3 grandchildren in Faith's grandchildren all who are under the age of 18 years.

4. Virginiah Wanjiku Kariuki-72years



Virginiah poses for a photo while feeding her chickens; in the company of her granddaughter who had visited her

Virginiah rears 21 chickens; 3 roosters, 6 hens, 4-2 months old poults, 4-3 months old poults and 8-3weeks old poults. Predation has been the main challenge Virginiah has encountered. She has been able to overcome through regular administration of antibiotics and other drugs.

4 of her hens are layers. She collected 80 eggs in the last 1month.

Virginiah terms the project as beneficial as she has been selling eggs to supplement her income while consuming some to supplement her basic nutritional requirements.

She feeds her chicken with maize grains and mainly manages them under free range practice.

FOCUS GROUP 3: MWIYETHERI

No.	Member's Name	Current No. of Chicken Reared	No. of Children in the household	No of eggs collected (In the last one month)
1.	Mary Wanjiru	4	1	40
2.	Pauline Murugi	15	5	30
3.	Rebecca Kinya	7	3	90
	Total	26	9	160

1. Mary Wanjiru-61years



Mary and her new dependant

Mary has 4 hens now. Her chickens have never hatched any chicks. She collected 40 eggs from the 4 chickens in the last one month. She lost most of her chickens to theft.

She has been selling eggs to supplement her income, while consuming some for her nutritional requirements. She zero-grazes her hens feeding them with commercial feeds (layers mash) and maize grains.

There is 1 child in Mary's household. The girl is aged 7years and in grade 1. She joined her in the year 2021. Her elderly mother was



Pauline with some of her grandchildren who live in her homestead

Pauline rears 15 chickens; 4 hens, 2 roosters, 5-4 months poults, 4- 2 weeks poults. She manages her poultry under free range practice. She feeds them with kitchen remains and commercial feeds.

Pauline reports to have been selling 20 eggs in every 2 weeks for the last couple of months earning Ksh 600 every month. Sale of eggs supplements her income.

She collected 30eggs in the last one month.

Pauline has 5 grandchildren in her household aged between 3 months and 8 years.

3. Rebecca Kinya-44years



Kinya recently opened a retail shop where she sells some eggs as in the first picture. Captured too are Kinya's sons at home Kinya is a mother of 3 boys aged 17 years, 11 years and 3 years. Her eldest son is in form 3 in a school based in Meru County. As hardworking as she is, Kinya has been able to put up a retail shop in her home area.

Kinya rears 7 hens; 1 is incubating some eggs while the rest are all layers. She zero-grazes the hens and feeds them on maize grains, commercial feeds and green leafy vegetables.

She collected 90 eggs in the last one month. She sells some at her shop alongside other items. She lost some chickens to theft.

FOCUS GROUP 4: VICTORY

No.	Member's Name	Current No. of Chicken Reared	No. of Children in the household	No of eggs collected (In the last one month)
1.	Salome Wanjugu	29	1	280
2.	Veronica Njoroge	10	0	0
3.	Rebecca Wanjiru	12	3	15
	Total	51	4	295

1. Salome Wanjugu-57years



The photo shows Salome attending to and feeding her chickens

Poultry keeping is not a routine for Salome but a self-sustaining business. She collects 8-12 eggs from her chicken on a daily basis. She has a flock of 29 chickens; 20 hens, 5 roosters and 4-3 weeks old poults.

She had 11 more cockerels borne from the flock she received but sold them off to attend to an emergency. Each fetched a price not exceeding Ksh 1000 in the local market.

Salome sells her eggs from home. She sells a minimum of 60 eggs (2 trays) per week, earning Ksh 450 from each tray. Rebecca Kinya (a beneficiary as well) is a regular customer. She reportedly zero-grazes the poultry and sets them to free range every evening.

Diseases which posed a major challenge at the beginning of the project have been managed through vaccination of hatched poults, administration of antibiotics and any other drugs recommended by the local veterinary.

There is only one child in Salome's household.

2. Veronica Njoroge-55years



R-L Veronica feeding her chickens, Veronica during a group meeting in which she serves as the secretary

On several occasions, Veronica has had her chickens stolen either from their coop or when out to free range. She has not given up on the enterprise and remains with 10 chickens; 1 rooster, 2 hens and 7-6weeks poults.

There are no children in Veronica's household. She also has not collected any eggs in the last one month. She is hopeful to raise 30 chickens in the coming days.

She has lost a number of chickens to predation and theft.

3. Rebecca Wanjiru-35years



Rebecca attending her chicken at home

Rebecca rears 12 chicken; 1 rooster, 4 hens and 7-2months old poults.

Rebecca had no chickens in the beginning of the project. She remains with 12 chickens of the 2nd generation of the chickens she received.

She sold 5 pullets @ Ksh 500 and 2 cockerels @ Ksh 1000 earning Ksh 4500. She used the money to pay her son's school fees who is in form 3 in a local secondary school. She collected 15 eggs in the last one month.

She lets the chickens free range and at times zero grazes them. She feeds them with maize grains and commercial feeds. Rebecca is a mother of 3 boys all who are under the age of 18years.

Conclusion

This reports gives an account of what an intentional project spread to 18 months duration yielded in the hands of the beneficiaries (single moms).

It is successful in that it has mainly served to diversify the single mums' incomes helping them to further engage in Voluntary Saving & Lending using proceeds earned from the project, leading to an overall improvement of livelihoods.

It has also served to help them mitigate their myriad of challenges they previously encountered in their households. This includes providing the basic necessities as requested by their dependants.

Today, the single mums celebrate and appreciate the milestone!