**Sotik Poultry Champions**

1. **Introduction**

Hand in Hand Eastern Africa (HIH EA) has been at the fore front of socially and economically empowering the society with sustainable jobs and enterprises, for the last 9 years. Our first level of intervention, encourages growth of enterprises through training on the 4 step model, which integrates: Social mobilization, Business training, Access to credit and linking entrepreneurs to markets. The experience in the implementation of various projects has enriched learnings and informed the thinking of the secondary level of intervention as the second step towards supporting small holder farmers towards enterprise sustainability.

The Government has been promoting farmers to participate in value chains in the country. Much emphasis has been placed on farmers operating in apex organizations like Cooperatives. According to a report by the UN food and agricultural organization (FAO) 2012, a Cooperative is a business enterprise that seeks to strike a balance between pursuing profit and meeting the needs and interests of members and their communities. Cooperatives not only provide members with economic opportunities, but also offer them a wide range of services and opportunities[[1]](#footnote-1). Cooperatives provide 100 million jobs worldwide and count more than 1 billion members.

The project therefore aims, to provide a secondary level intervention through the formation and support of a Cooperative by 220 small holder farmers in Bomet, Kenya by providing improved knowledge on good agricultural practices for increase productivity, climate resilience and access to markets in the Poultry value chain.

1. **Project Rationale**

HiH EA in its first level intervention targets the creation of enterprises and jobs. The beneficiaries are able to move from vulnerability to generating income through small enterprises. Progressively however, the enterprises need support to grow and expand. The secondary level intervention is designed to offer specialized support by HiH EA in value chains to ensure sustainability of the enterprises and job creation through facilitating the formation of Cooperatives, which are farmer driven and offer organic solutions towards addressing challenges inherent in the value chains. HiH EA provides technical support and mentorship in establishing vibrant Cooperatives which provide social and economic support to its members and are sustainable even after HiH EA exits.

In the implementation of her projects HiH EA identified the need for a secondary level intervention, several end term evaluations have informed the design the secondary level intervention to support the farmers in forming apex organizations to further the sustainability of our members’ enterprises.

It is through the cooperative that HiH EA will support the farmers in aligning with the Governments’ development agenda in agriculture through formation of apex organizations. The government is encouraging the formation of farmer led organizations for standardization of quality of products and improvement of value chains

The project will leverage on the enterprise training provided at first level intervention to be the driving force in growing and supporting the farmers’ enterprises. The second level of intervention will be hinged on the successful establishment of the cooperative as the vehicle to drive the development agenda in the poultry value chain the success of which will ensure replication of the model to other value chains.

**3. Project Description**

The project will work with 220 of the members in Sotik area, Bomet County, where the predominant livestock is local poultry. In the first phase of the project the members had been trained on how to start and run enterprises .The poultry project will focus on strengthening the farmers’ resilience socially, economically and environmentally through creating an apex organization for sustainability of the learnings in the project. The beneficiaries will form a Cooperative to drive the agenda of value chain development. The value chain will bring together poultry farmers and others who will provide support services.

The Cooperative will not only provide members with economic opportunities, but also offer them a wide range of services and opportunities. HiH EA will empower the members in the following key aspects to sustain the Cooperative.

**Governance**: This is where the small holder farmers will be empowered in decision making. They will elect their officials and committees from among themselves and drive the agenda of their organization. They will be empowered to formulate a constitution which encompasses the duties, rights, nature and purpose of the organization. The cooperatives will also integrate marginalized communities like youth and women since they operate on the premise of one man one vote.

**Advocacy:** The small holder farmers will be empowered on the proper channels to address their issues**. The** Cooperative will help them voice their petitions to relevant offices that can assist them. They will be trained on how they can fundraise for initiatives they want to participate in. They will facilitate smallholder farmers’ participation in decision-making at all levels, support them in securing land-use rights, and negotiate better terms for engagement in contract farming and lower prices for agricultural inputs such as poultry feeds, chicks.

**Savings Scheme:** HiH EA will empower its members by training on the operation of a savings scheme .The cooperative will be the organization at the apex that will mobilize savings from the member within the groups and consolidate for the members benefit. The savings scheme will also enable the farmers enterprises grow by giving farm inputs on credit. Through this support, smallholder farmers can secure their livelihoods and play a greater role in meeting the growing demand for food on local, national and international markets, thus contributing to poverty alleviation, food security and the eradication of hunger.

**Knowledge sharing:** Cooperative will provide a platform for information, communication and knowledge sharing .HiH EA will empower the cooperatives in creating information and knowledge sharing platforms on best practices in their enterprises.

The project will assume a wholesome delivery model to achieve the project goal. It will focus on 3 key objectives.

* **Increased poultry production capacity by small holder farmers by up to 30%**.: The project will aim to use a practical approach of training in good poultry practices to increase production. It will also look at setting up indigenous vegetable gardens to support the poultry production .By forming a sustainable eco system where the poultry will feed on the vegetables grown and in turn produce manure for the vegetables. The families will also benefit from diversified and improved diets. Increasing production will have a ripple effect to increasing incomes and on job creation and diversification. Bearing in mind the challenges inherent in the value chain. The project will have a bottom up approach to addressing the issues .The farmers in clusters will learn about poultry production, feed formulation, and disease control and water management.
* **Increased access to poultry markets by smallholder farmers as a result of improved competitiveness**: The aspect of marketing has been identified as one of the major challenges in poultry farming the farmers will address the market challenges by a cooperative to give them a stronger voice as producers in determining the market prices The provision of incubator machines will ensure that the farmers have continuous supply of indigenous chicks which have very high market and they can sell to their members at subsidized prices and outsiders at market rates.
* **Improved ability to withstand shocks as a result of climate resilience training**: The project will deliver this through inculcating good poultry handling practices. The changing weather patterns in the country have in the past affected the farmers thereby leading to death of livestock. The poultry manure will encourage organic farming especially of the vegetables and also by having indigenous poultry which are resistant to diseases will ensure little or no medication is used on the poultry.

**3.1 Expected Outcomes**

* Up to 30% increase in the productivity yield, incomes and jobs
* Increased access to market opportunities for the farmers.
* Improved ability to withstand shocks as a result of climate change.
	1. **Sustainability**

The project will ensure financial, institutional and environmental sustainability of the small holder farmers’ enterprises. To ensure long term impact and sustainability the following strategies are in place.

* The formation of Cooperatives will attain sustainability by having an organic organization run and owed by the small holder farmers to support their enterprises. The success of this, will ensure replication of the same to other value chains.
* The project will encourage the growth of leadership in the community through providing a platform for leadership growth. It will grow participation and democracy since the farmers will be involved in decision making and running of the cooperative.
* The project will encourage the replication of good agricultural practices through the establishment of demonstration farms and also the farmer exchange visits. Through this the Cooperative will have learnings which they replicate to other value chains and earn incomes.
1. **Project Budget**

The project implementation cost will be $6000. This will include the implementation and sustainability .Attached is a summary budget in both Kenya shilling (KSH) and The dollar (USD).



1. (FAO, 2012) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)