



Laikipia Wildlife Forum

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

# Holistic Management (HM) Planned Grazing in Laikipia

**Presented by**

**Matthew Chana  
LWF RANGELANDS OUTREACH TEAM LEADER**

# Biography and Theme Introduction

- **Biographical information:** **Matthew Chana**, LWF Rangelands Specialist, is an Anthony King Conservation Leadership Trust Award winner and has been working on rangeland rehabilitation practices using HM in Laikipia for 6 years. He is a Rendille elder, pastoralist and community leader from Arsim, Northern Kenya, who has dedicated his life to improving the lives of others using livestock as a land treatment tool. Matthew is fluent in Maa, Rendille, Kiswahili and English.
- **Session:** He shares about the history of Holistic Management in Laikipia since its start in 2010. It will describe the approach used, the tools, the preliminary results and the challenges that remain. The session shares the experience from Northern Kenya Conservancies and speaks of opportunities, lessons learned from the practice of Holistic Management in Laikipia and other Conservancies.



# History of HM at LWF

- Started in 2007
- Enjoyed a two-year experimental phase supported by USAID
- Included travel and training at Alan Savory Academy in Zimbabwe
- Included Alan Savory visits to Laikipia
- 2009 – First contract awarded to Obufield/Richard Hatfield







# The Premise



Livestock are a solution for  
rehabilitating degraded land

People need to manage the livestock

As a result, we can increase land  
cover, store carbon, capture water,  
increase food security, and improve  
nutrition





The most notable success

Over-grazed land with minimal ground cover on Makurian and Il Ngwesi Group Ranches

May 2012





*After extensive bunch grazing on both Borana and community ranches. Achievement made visible.*

*Oct. 2012*





# Additional Tools

## Women learn bunch herding



## Community Grazing Planning



# What is the strategy?

- **Respect grass below ground as well as above: Remember that even after the leaves above ground appear to have recovered, the **roots still need time to re-grow****
- **Gather the animals together for animal impact, easier grazing management, easier herding, and more even grazing**
- **Graze here today, leave here today, and don't come back here till the roots and leaves are fully recovered. (2-9 months or more depending on local conditions)**
- **Plan for and manage wet and dry season grazing – be adaptable.**
- **Never lose sight that the success of this approach is dependent on people. They are the cause and the solution to the problem!**



**Complete, healthy food from arid lands depend on only a few hours of grazing as you move.**

**The cows plough, plant, mulch , fertilise and harvest as they pass.**

**They also manufacture a directly edible, nutritious Food as they pass through The landscape.**

**Food security depends on forage**

**Forage depends on healthy soil.**

**Soil fertility is based on effective water and mineral cycles.**





# Our Guidelines



- **Pastoralists and commercial ranchers need to be placed at the heart of restoring the landscape**
- **Meet the people where they are and develop their capacity to manage their own resources**
- **If they own the solution, the solution will be sustainable**





The rehabilitation of land and the respect for grass must remain the focus. This attitude must go across boundaries. This is the only way to deal with conflicts over natural resources. REMEMBER! GRASS IS PEACE!



# The Results 7 years on

- LWF started HM practices first with the assistance of USAID and then with the added support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN).
- The baseline study for holistic management was conducted early in 2013, some 5 years after HM was started in Laikipia.
- The follow up to the baseline was conducted 2.5 years later (August 2015) to see changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices.

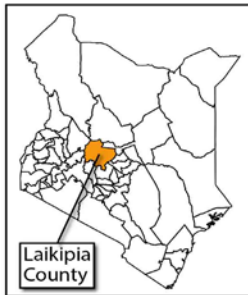


# LAIKIPIA County Land Types

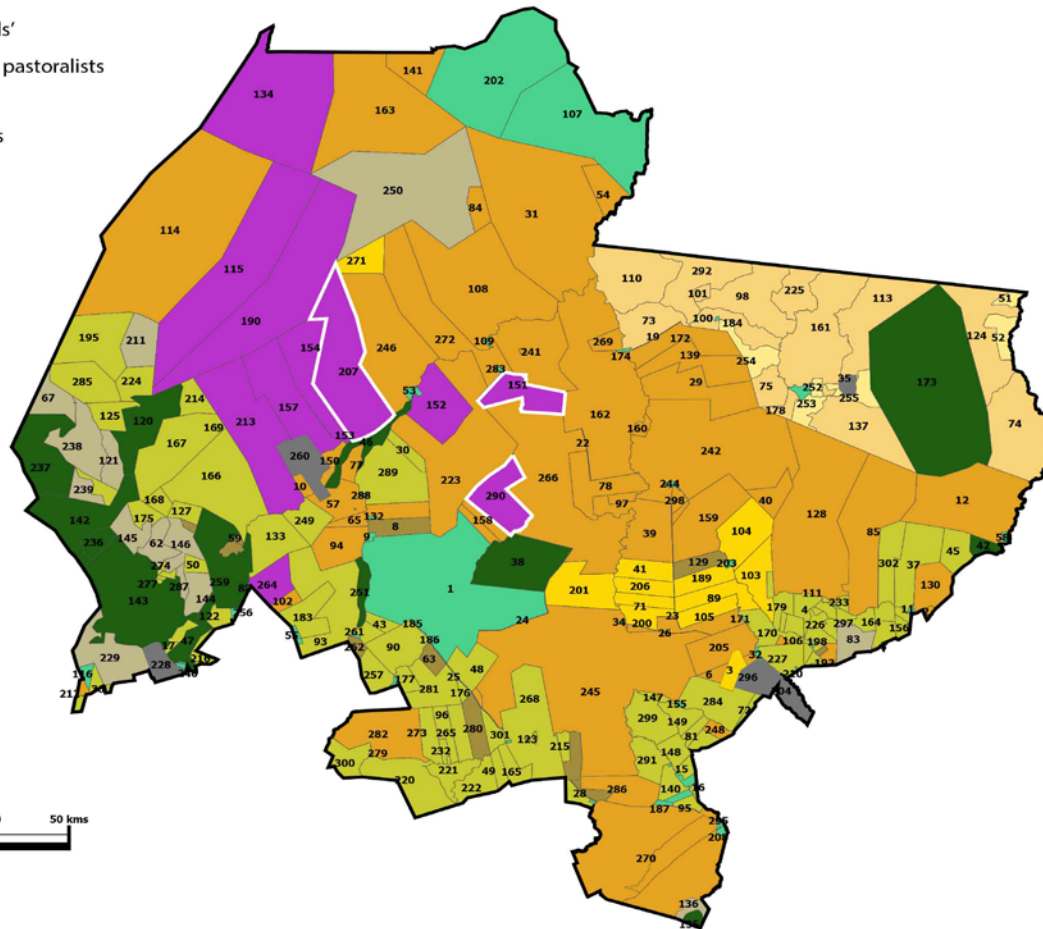
## LEGEND

- Designated 'Abandoned lands'
- Sub-divided farms grazed by pastoralists
- Protected areas and swamps
- Government land & outspans
- Large farms
- Large scale ranches
- Mukogodo group ranches
- Mukogodo private farms
- Settlement schemes
- Sub-divided cultivated farms
- Towns

Data sources: Laikipia Wildlife Forum,  
Nanyuki, Kenya



## SCALE





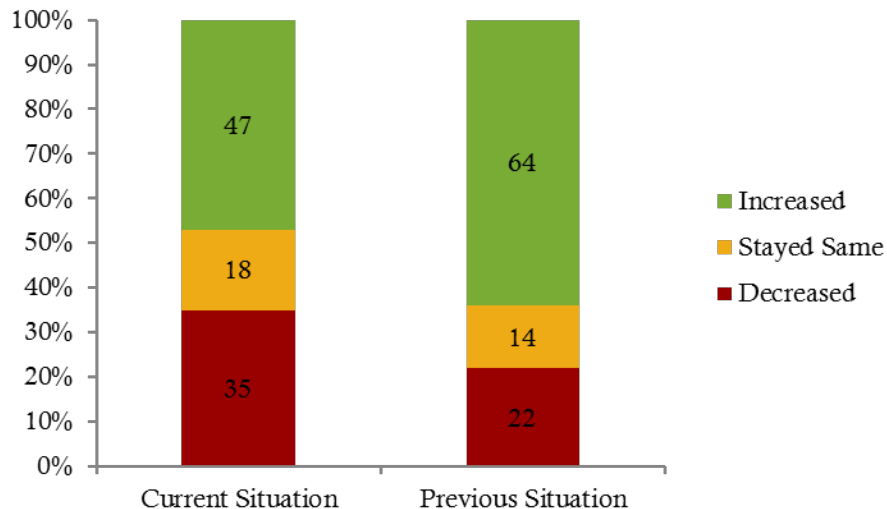
# Background to the study

- The respondents were drawn from four (4) group ranches (Il Ngwesi, Makurian, Il Motiok and Il Polei).
- A total of 110 respondents were interviewed, 78% males and 22% females.
- 30% of the respondents were aged between (26-35) years, 25 % (46-49), 22% (26-35) , 22% (above 60 years) and 1 % (18-25).
- Majority of the household interviewed had an average of 7 members.



# Household Income Status

Household income status in the last 5 years



- 64 % of the respondents in 2013 stated that their income had increased as compared to 47% in 2015. Income status has declined from 64% to 47%.
- Income status in the low range increased from 22% to 35%.
- Stayed same : Increased from 14% to 18%.



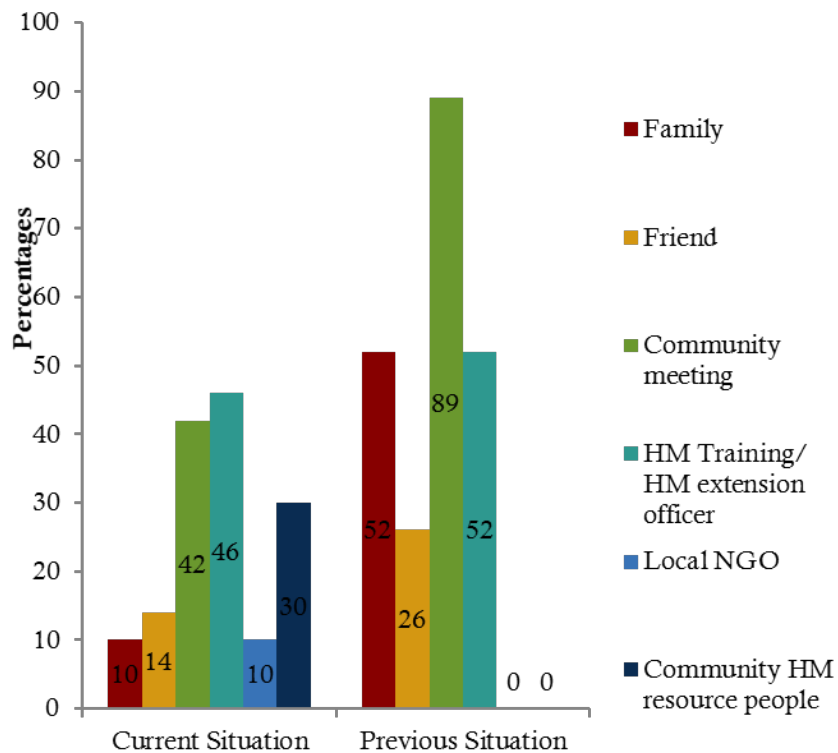
# Community Challenges

- Drought is the major challenge that was recorded in both 2013 and 2015.
- Other challenges that were common in 2013 and 2015 include: Poor Leadership, Illiteracy, Poverty and Insecurity.
- Additional challenges experienced in 2015 include: Livestock diseases, Human-wildlife conflict and unemployment.



# HM Information Sources

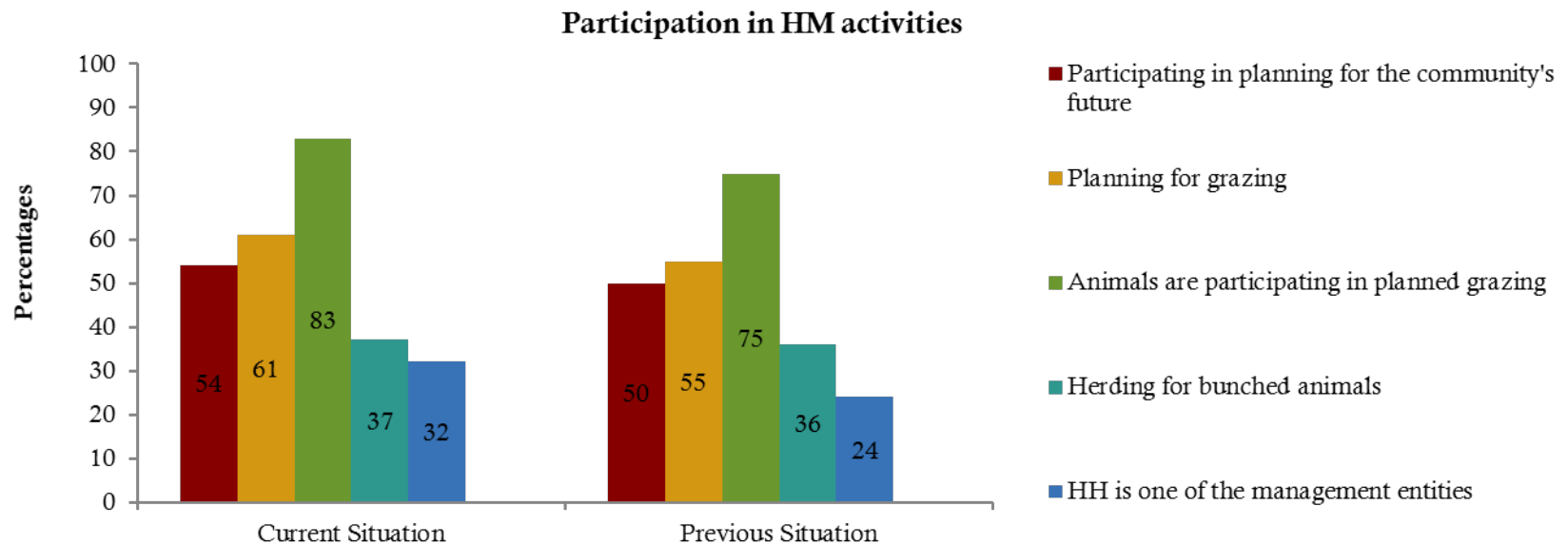
HM INFORMATION SOURCES



■ HM information is coming from a more balanced set of sources:

- Community meetings
- HM training/HM extension officers
- Grazing supervisors
- Grazing committees

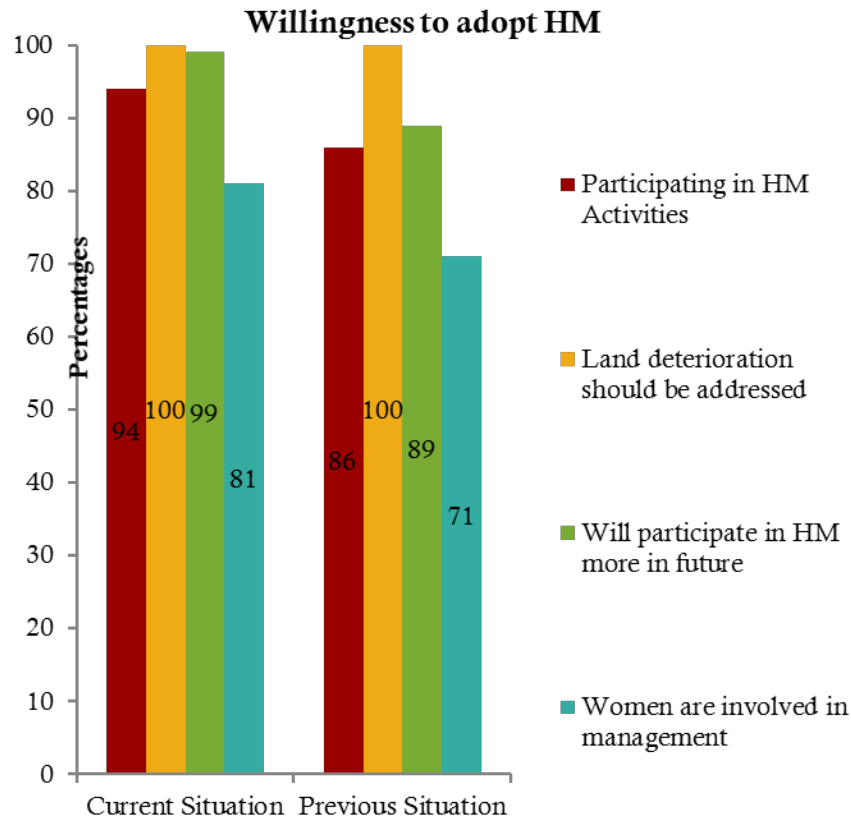
# Participation in HM Activities



- As compared to 2013, 2015 indicated an increase in herding of bunched animals, animals participating in planned grazing, planning for grazing, participating in planning for the community's future, and households ( HH) is one of the community management entities.

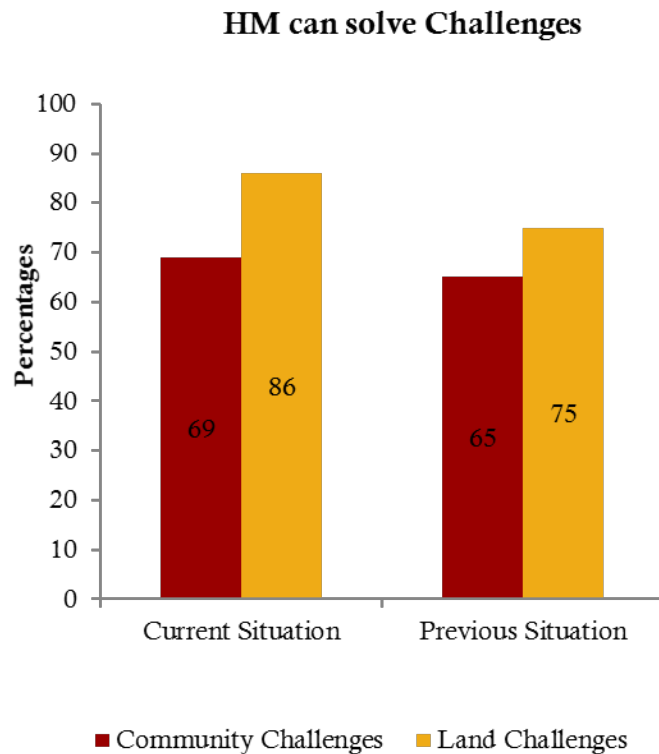


# Adoption of HM



- The respondents interviewed mention that they were aware and interested in learning more and practicing HM approach in conserving rangeland.
- Willingness to adopt HM has increased.
- Women involvement in rangeland management has also increased by 10%.

# HH Attitudes towards HM

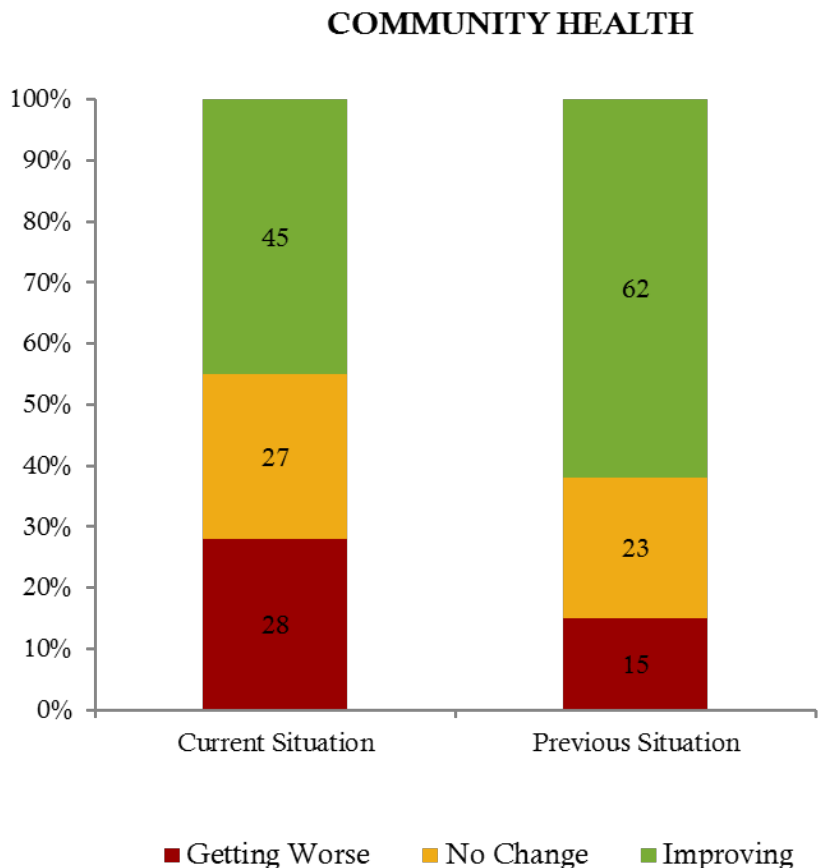


- Majority of the respondents both in 2013 and 2015 believe HM is the solution to most of their community and Land challenges.
- Comparing 2013 and 2015 results an increase in HM is the solution to both land and community challenges.

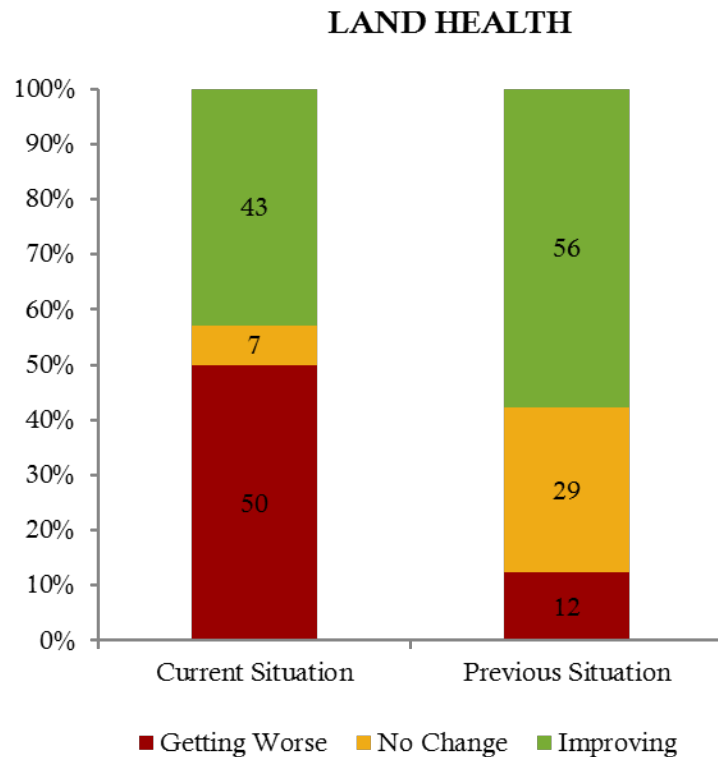


# Community Health

- Community health means the social well-being of the community.
- This includes physical health, mental, relational health.
- Improving of the community health has decreased from 62% to 45%.
- Getting worse has increased from 15% to 28%.



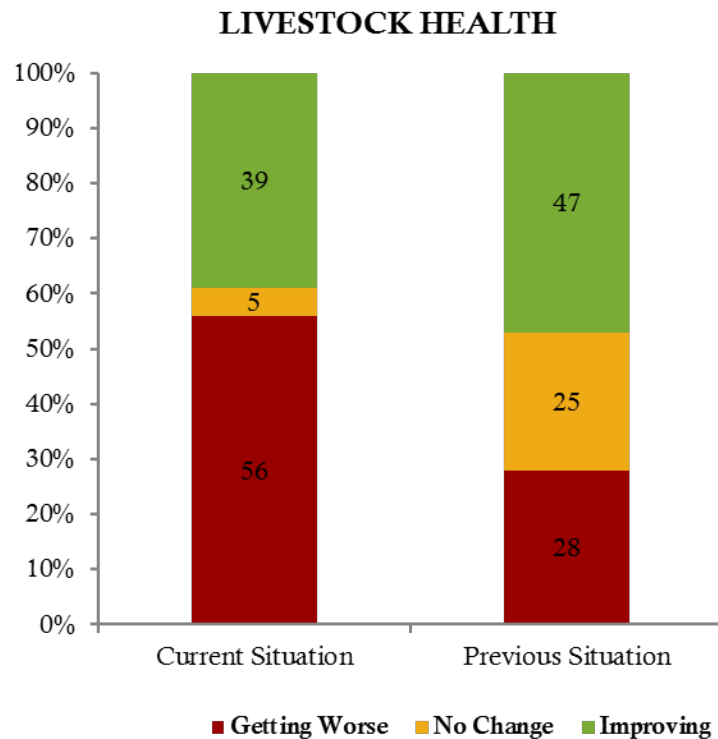
# Land Health



- Land health is the resilience of ecosystem services.
- Perception of communities towards land health improvement has decreased from 56% to 43%.
- No changes has decreased from 29% to 7%.
- Perception that land health is getting worse increased from 12% to 50%

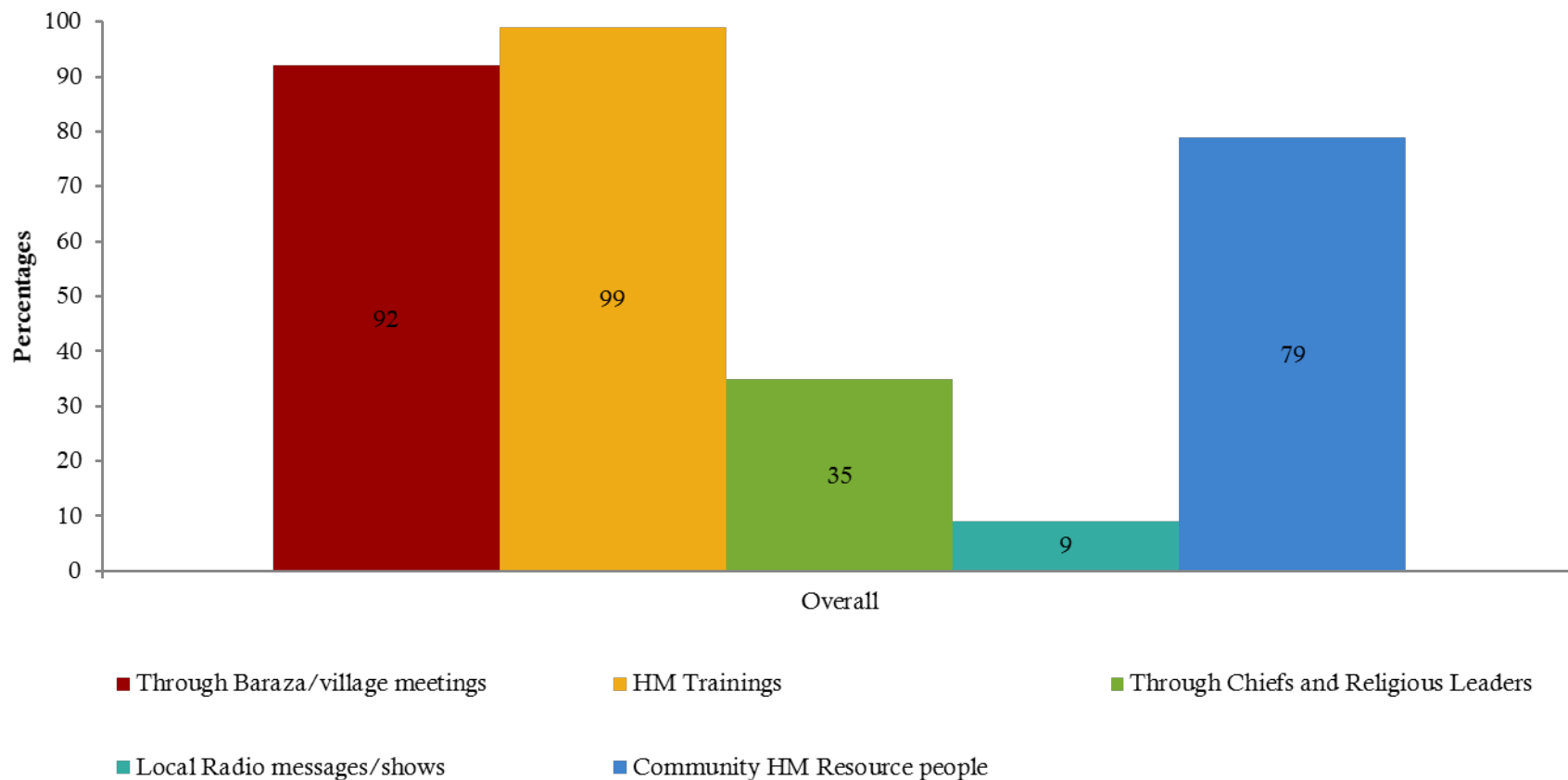


# Livestock Health



- Livestock health is getting worse from 56% up from 28% in the baseline (2013)
- The percentage increase on Livestock health getting worse due to the increase in livestock diseases
- The livestock diseases increase is due to the influx of livestock from neighboring communities.

# Strategies to Enhance HM





Thank You, Asante Sana,  
Ashe Oleng'

