FACT SHEET

RAFFS PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Building resilient, data-driven, and investment-ready feed and fodder systems in Africa

By AU IBAR

Overview

Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems (RAFFS) Project is an African Union–led initiative implemented by AU-IBAR with support from the Gates Foundation and the African Union Commission. It was established as an emergency but strategic response to worsening feed and fodder shortages driven by the combined effects of COVID-19, climate change, and conflict, and to the resulting pressure on livestock productivity, food and nutrition security, and livelihoods across Africa.

RAFFS is designed not only to respond to shortages in the short term, but also to help countries build stronger systems for evidence-based planning, business development, women's participation, and policy and institutional reform.

Why it matters

Feed and fodder shortages are no longer isolated technical problems. They are now a major constraint to livestock sector growth, resilience, business continuity, and the production of livestock-sourced foods. The project was conceived in response to the recognition that many African feed and fodder systems remain under-structured, weakly visible in policy and planning, and highly vulnerable to external shocks.

RAFFS addresses this challenge by helping countries move from fragmented, crisis-driven responses to more coordinated, data-backed, and investment-oriented feed and fodder systems.

Where RAFFS works

RAFFS is implemented in **six core African countries**: **Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe**

These countries were selected because of the importance of livestock to livelihoods and the economy, and because they offer opportunities for coordinated action and scalable learning that can inform wider continental and regional reform.

What RAFFS does

RAFFS works through **four main result areas**:

1. Knowledge and analytical ecosystem

Strengthening evidence, assessments, indicators, data systems, and analytical tools for feed and fodder decision-making.

2. Business models, partnerships, and investment

Supporting viable business and financing models, multi-stakeholder coordination, and catalytic action to attract greater investment into feed and fodder systems.

3. Women's participation and empowerment

Promoting women's inclusion and more beneficial participation in feed, fodder, and livestock-sourced food value chains through platforms such as AWARFA-N.



Figure 1: RAFFS' four main result areas

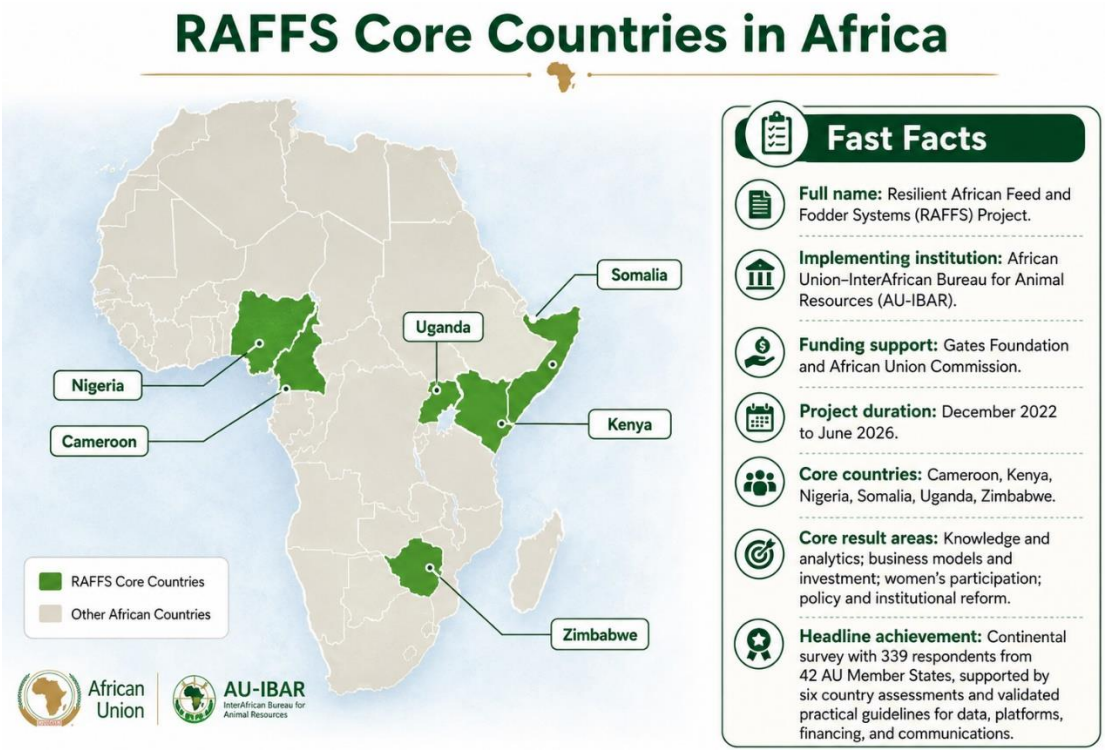
4. Policy, regulatory, and institutional reform

Helping countries strengthen the enabling environment for a more sustainable, resilient, and investable feed and fodder sector.

Key achievements so far

RAFFS has already generated a strong foundation for continental and country-level action.

i) It conducted a continental survey with 339 respondents from 42 of 55 AU Member States, providing one of the broadest recent snapshots of feed and fodder system challenges across Africa.
ii) It completed or supported six country assessments across the core countries, generating technical evidence on feed availability, vulnerabilities, data gaps, and institutional capacity constraints.
iii) It helped articulate and prioritize feed and fodder indicators, tools, and data management needs, laying the groundwork for stronger national data ecosystems.
iv) It developed and validated four practical guidelines covering:
    a) feed and fodder data management and integration plans,
    b) multi-stakeholder platforms,
    c) fodder contracting and financing investments, and
    d) communications and visibility.
v) It supported the design of country-specific data management integration plans and identified major gaps in IT infrastructure and harmonized feed data systems across the six countries.
vi) It profiled viable business and financing models and strengthened engagement with private actors, financial institutions, and value-chain stakeholders to attract investment into the sector.
vii) It advanced women's inclusion by deliberately integrating AWARFA-N and women business networks into assessment, financing, and value-chain discussions.



Why the project is strategic.

RAFFS matters because it helps reposition feed and fodder from a neglected sub-sector into a strategic economic, policy, and resilience issue. The project is showing that feed and fodder shortages are not only about drought response; they are also about data, markets, financing, governance, and institutional coordination.

Its strategic value lies in four areas:

1. **Resilience:** helping countries respond better to future shocks through stronger systems and better preparedness.
2. **Decision-making:** building data, indicators, and management frameworks that support planning and action.
3. **Investment:** creating pathways for commercial models, partnerships, and financing.
4. **Policy reform:** supporting the visibility and institutional recognition of feed and fodder as a sector requiring deliberate development.

Looking ahead

As the project moves toward completion, attention is shifting to exit strategy, sustainability, and institutionalization. The emphasis is increasingly on consolidating gains in data systems, feed inventories and balances, business models, women's platforms, and policy pathways so that countries can continue building stronger feed and fodder systems beyond the life of the project.