

MICROLINKS | AGRILINKS



Improving markets to protect food access: an intervention in informal dairy markets in Kenya

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Milk – *the white gold*

Highly nutritious:

- Macro/micro nutrients
- High bioavailability
- improve anthropometric indices
- reduce nutritional deficiencies among undernourished children

Compared to other ASF:

- Very suitable for children
- More available
- More affordable



Raw milk

Most available and **affordable** form of dairy in many low income countries

In rural areas in LIC fresh raw milk is easily available (incl. self-production)

In urban areas co-exists with pasteurized milk:

- ☐ Wide distribution channels (incl. door to door)
- ☐ Cheaper
- ☐ Taste preference
- ☐ Cultural values



Raw milk and public health



Concerns over the safety of raw milk

- ❖ Is it a health risk in Kenya?
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PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN KENYA

- Based on increased regulation and penalization of raw milk VC actors (unsuccessful)
- Promoting selling of boiled milk
- Ban raw milk VC and promote pasteurization

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- Poor infrastructure, lack of cold chain, informal agreement mechanisms between actors, often unlicensed, poorly regulated (government and self-regulation)
- But... Informal dairy markets have an essential role in at least three main aspects:
 - ❑ **Food security** (especially diet and nutrition needs of children)
 - ❑ Source of **livelihoods** for the population (higher prices for producers, gives jobs to a good amount of people)
 - ❑ Support **women and youth**

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 - livelihoods of many people
 - access to nutritious food
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While in the long term markets will formalize, in the short and medium terms interventions that seek to suppress informal markets can be **ineffective, anti-poor and gender-inequitable**

So do win-win options
exist that will protect
nutrition and
livelihoods provided by
these markets and still
protect public health?

Upscaling the informal market

Training and certification

Milk quality/ milk hygiene
business skills / value addition
Sustainable/self-sustained



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FINDINGS:

- Improved milk safety
- Happy traders/ customers
- Limited government buy-in
- Successful in other contexts



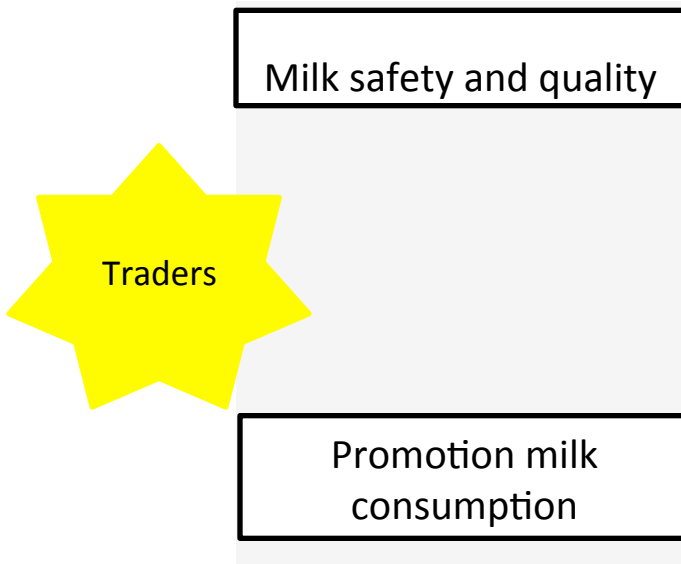
Giving T&C another chance!

“MoreMilk: making the most of milk” project (2016-2021)

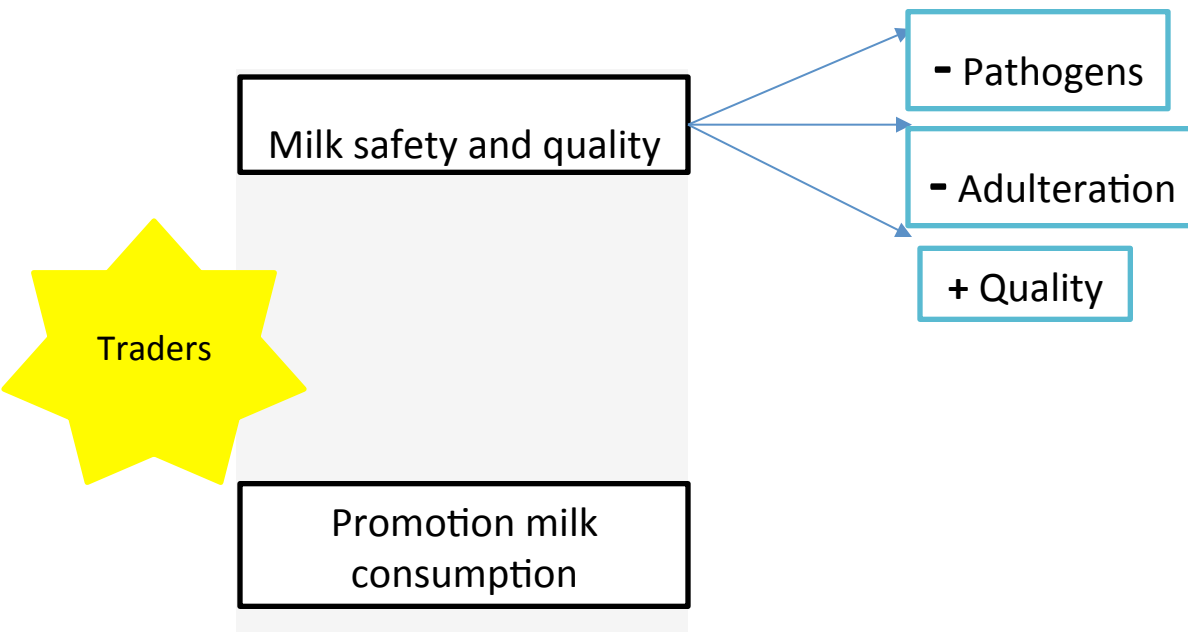
TCM scheme to improve *milk safety* and *health & nutrition outcomes* in children in peri-urban Nairobi

- **Training:** milk quality, safety and hygiene
- **Certification:** “quality mark”
- **Marketing:** milk consumption messages to mothers/consumers

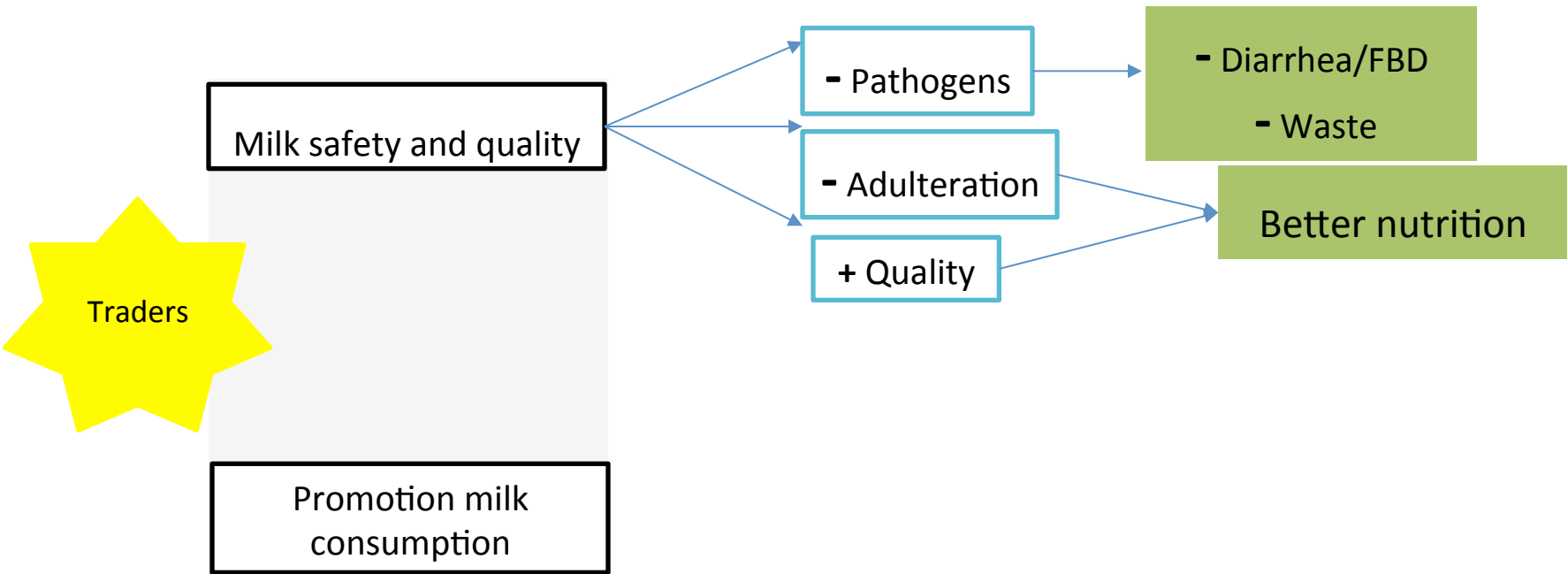
MoreMilk for better health and nutrition



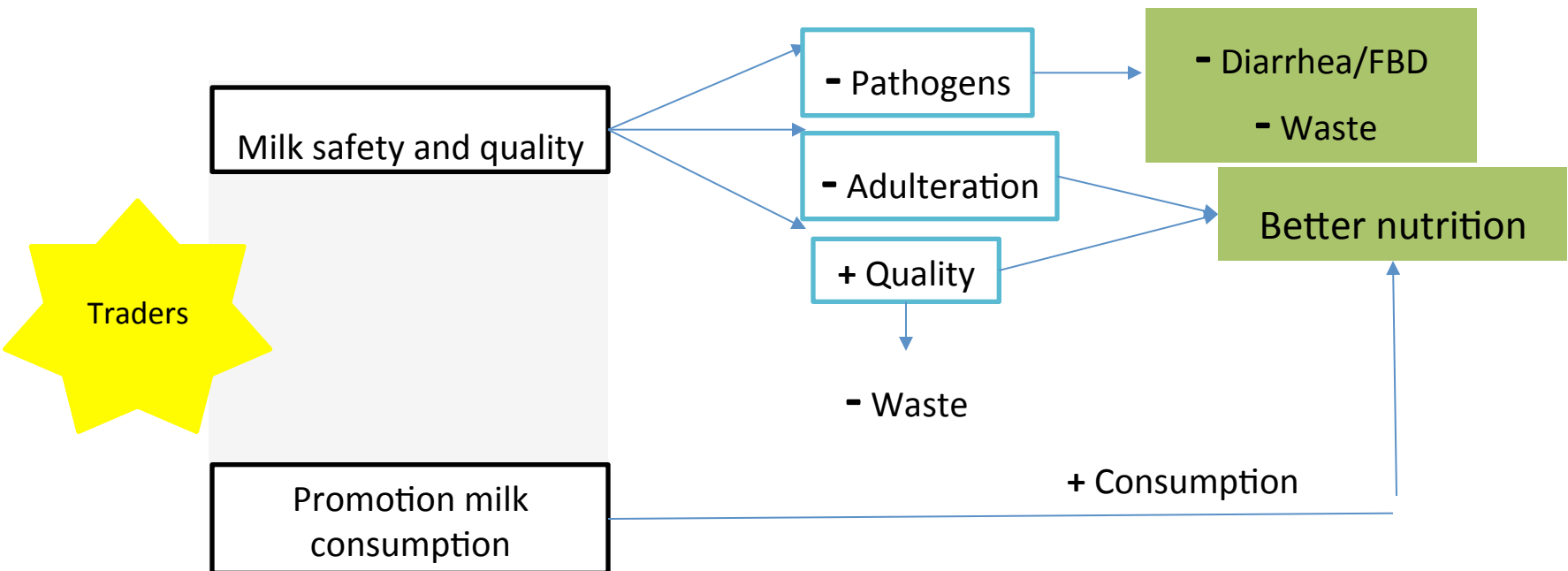
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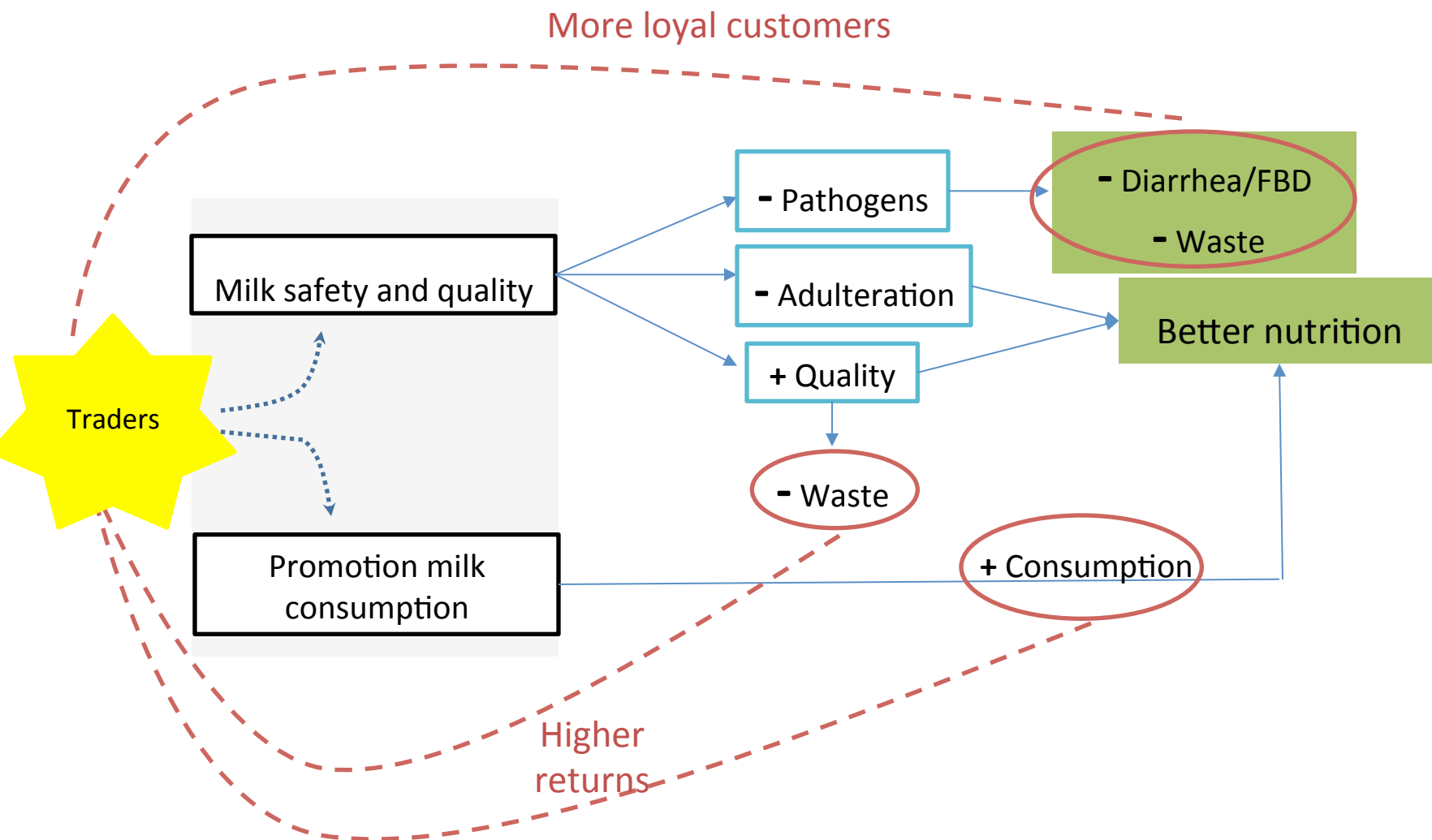
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MoreMilk for better health and nutrition



Take home messages

- Raw milk and raw milk markets – essential roles in many countries (nutrition, health, livelihoods)
- Can't look at food safety in isolation
- Food safety interventions: **one size DOES NOT always fit all.** Interventions that penalize informal actors can do more harm than good.
- Take holistic look at problem and find **innovative approaches**
- **Light-touch interventions** in informal markets can improve food safety, and contribute to improved health and nutrition outcomes.