



CHOICE HUMANITARIAN

KENYA

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2023



NEWSLETTER



Establishing Fields of Excellence





Dear Reader,

Welcome to the latest edition of the CHOICE Kenya Quarterly Report! This report proudly showcases the incredible progress and achievements made in our development projects focused on education, agriculture, and capacity building from July to September 2023.

Education, being the cornerstone of empowerment and growth, has been a critical focus area for CHOICE Kenya. Through various initiatives, we have worked tirelessly to improve access to quality education, enhance teaching support, and empower students and teachers through training, mentorship, provision of learning material, and school infrastructure developments. Our report highlights the success stories and impact of these educational projects, showcasing how they have transformed the lives of individuals and communities.

In addition to education, agriculture plays a vital role in the economic development of Kenya. We have witnessed remarkable agricultural productivity and food security progress through innovative farming techniques, sustainable practices, and community engagement introduced through the Farmers Field School program and investment in an irrigation project. Our report sheds light on the transformative journey of the over one thousand farmers and community members who have embraced these initiatives and how it has uplifted their lives and created thriving agricultural economies.

Capacity building is another crucial aspect of our work at CHOICE Kenya. By empowering individuals with knowledge, skills, and resources, we aim to foster self-reliance and create sustainable change. This report highlights the successful capacity-building projects that have equipped individuals and communities with the tools to overcome challenges and profit from opportunities to build a better future.

As you delve into the pages of this quarterly report, you will discover inspiring stories of resilience, innovation, and collaboration. We aim to share our accomplishments, inspire others, and encourage collective action towards sustainable development. We are immensely proud of the strides made in education, agriculture, and capacity building. We hope this report will serve as a testament to the power of CHOICE and its transformative impact on individuals and the communities we serve.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated partners, supporters, and beneficiaries who have been instrumental in making these projects successful. Through their unwavering commitment and belief in our mission, we continue to make a difference. Thank you for joining us on this journey towards positive change. Together, let us celebrate the incredible achievements in education, agriculture, and capacity building and strive for an even brighter future.

With warm regards,
CHOICE Kenya Team

**At the heart of our success lies the spirit
of Collaboration and Transparency**

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MWANGOLOTO EXPEDITION

Development through Intercultural Exchange

CHOICE Humanitarian conducted a six day expedition at Mwangoloto Primary School in July 2023 that was hosted by the Maji ya chumvi Development Organization (MADO), a CBO that was formed by the community with training and support from CHOICE Kenya.

The expedition serves as an opportunity for intercultural exchange between international visitors and the community. During the expedition, the Maji ya Chumvi community worked shoulder to shoulder with the visitors to undertake several community development projects.

These projects included construction of a Maji ya Chumvi secondary school classroom which will benefit **25** students, development of Early Child Development Learning Aids which will benefit **92** pupils, conducting mentorship programs for eighty one students and **128** community members. We also conducted a Multidimensional Poverty Index survey in fifteen households.

The construction of the Maji ya Chumvi secondary school classroom, the first secondary school in Maji ya Chumvi Sub Location is a game changer. The school will improve the transition rate of students from primary to secondary school and boost the number of graduates in the area as students will not be forced to walk between **9** to **14** kilometers to get an education.

The overall goal is to empower the Mwangoloto community with valuable resource and knowledge, and strengthen their capacity for sustainable development.

The Mwangoloto expedition was also special as CHOICE Humanitarian was excited to invite the Broadwaters and their daughters back to Kenya after 24 years. Together with the community, MADO CBO and Mwangoloto primary school,

CHOICE Kenya was honored to welcome the expanded family, the daughters together with their spouses and children, to once again participate in development activities that enriched their lives and inspired them to return back to a rural village in Kenya to pass on the same zeal of service to the next generation.



CHOICE Humanitarian's CEO, Dr. Steve Pierce's visit and laying of the foundation stone for Maji ya Chumvi Secondary school on 9th June 2023.





Making of learning Aid materials



KANYUMBUNI EXPEDITION: Transforming an ECD into



to a Primary School



From 17th to 22nd July 2023, CHOICE Humanitarian conducted an expedition at Kanyumbuni Primary School to bring about positive change.

Kanyumbuni school was established in 2006 as an Early Childhood Development Center (ECD). Because of the distance to the nearest primary school, residents of Kanyumbuni community started a primary school to serve their students. The school is yet to be registered by the government due to lack of adequate infrastructure. That is what CHOICE proposed to address during the expedition. By constructing classrooms and an office for the school, CHOICE Humanitarian fulfilled the community's request for the official registration of the school.

“TOGETHER WE MAKE IT HAPPEN!”
Kanyumbuni groundbreaking ceremony
-Mwambire (Mike Larsen)

Further, during the expedition, the community and the expeditioners engaged in other activities including mentorship programs, cultural exchanges, trench digging, ECD Material Development, Mentorship for Boys and Girls, conducted a Multi-dimensional Poverty Index Survey, local fencing of the school compound, and tree planting. These efforts created a conducive learning environment and empowered the residents of Kanyumbuni village, marking a significant step towards positive change in their community and development.



Kanyumbuni 2023 expeditioners





Days for Girls - Women Edition Session



Eye screening during Kanyumbuni expedition



Students with their Days for Girls kits



Making of early childhood learning aids



Expeditioners giving donations to Kanyumbuni school



Tree planting session at Kanyumbuni Primary School

FARMERS FIELD SCHOOL:

ESTABLISHING FIELDS OF EXCELLENCE

CHOICE humanitarian in partnership with Pwani University and the local government implemented a Farmers Field School (FFS) Program. The FFS program's success can be attributed to the comprehensive training provided to farmers, which included theoretical and practical lessons.

Farmers underwent training in farm setup, planting, care, harvest and post-harvest activities. The farmers were able to replicate the lessons in their own farms and posted higher yields showing tremendous impact on the farmers and the community.

The farmers's Field Day and Graduation ceremonies served as a platform for knowledge exchange, learning, and collaboration within the farming community. These events recognized and celebrated the achievements of farmers who had successfully completed the program and acquired modern farming techniques that they could replicate on their farms and share the knowledge with the neighbors and the community at large.





Sudi Mwakilesho, CHOICE Field Officer being awarded an FFS certificate at Mbele Primary school



Baraka farmers discussing lessons learnt during their session



Muungano Farmers and guests of honor during a group photo session



Silaloni Farmers and guests of honor during a group photo session



Muungano farmers celebrating their graduation day



Fatuma Hamisi - 1 of the 1,144 direct beneficiaries of the FFS trainings



SAMBURU DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SDC)

A COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE



CHOICE Kenya conducted a one day workshop with fourteen Community Based Organizations (CBOs) at Samburu Social Hall, Kwale County on 15th August, 2023. The aim of the workshop was to map key development stakeholders in the respective CBOs catchment areas and deliberate on their priority development focus areas. Further, during the workshop the CBOs discussed strategies for mobilizing local community resources, undertaking meaningful development projects, and how to ensure their projects have the desired impact. Each CBO was tasked with the responsibility to go and consult their members and community and draft an action plan that should guide them as they work in their communities.



SDC discussing CBOs area of focus



2023 EXPEDITIONERS' RETURN TO VISIT KANJAOCHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHOICE Humanitarian accompanied volunteers from 2022 as they returned to interact and check the progress of projects they initiated and supported during their previous visit a year ago. The return of expeditioners on 19th July 2023 was a time to reflect and celebrate the achievements at Kanjaocha Primary School. In their previous expedition, held in July 2022, the volunteers had supported the construction of 4 classrooms, a Ferro-cement water tank, 80 desks, conducted trainings, and built a fence using locally available materials. These projects have had a significant impact on both the school and the community. These initiatives have ignited a positive ripple effect that continues to transform the lives of the 268 direct beneficiaries and touching the lives of 800 community members indirectly.



Expeditioners visiting Kanjaocha's project



FARMERS FIELD DAY: For Sustainable Agriculture and Improved Livelihoods

CHOICE Humanitarian conducted a Farmers Field Day Ceremony on August 2nd, 2023, at Muungano farmers field school. The event was attended by **112** local farmers, as well as representatives from CHOICE Humanitarian, Pwani University, esteemed County, and National Government officials. The event facilitated the **exchange of sustainable agricultural knowledge and skills**, provided hands-on experience acquired through the farmers' field school, and ignited a collective passion for sustainable farming to contribute to the agricultural sector's efforts to enhance food security in Kwale County.





Muongano FFS demonstration farm



Guests taken through the Muungano FFS project



Kwale County Chief Officer Hon. Jabu being taken through the demonstration farm by graduates at Muungano primary school



VISION

We envision a world in which people everywhere have the choice and the means to live in peace, prosperity and freedom.

MISSION

CHOICE Humanitarian supports the efforts of people around the world to reduce global poverty and build self-reliant, resilient communities.



Part of CHOICE Humanitarian staff. Standing from left: Oreu Lugogo (CHOICE Kenya Director), Bago Ali, Lawrence Makalo, Eunice Mwahanje, Sudi Mwakilesho, Bevington Jumaa, Juma Kitenje

Sitting from left: Binti Chamboga, Dr. Steve Pierce (Former CHOICE Humanitarian CEO), Fatuma Kassim, Hamisi Mzungu, Pauline Awour



*“Through Mentorship Program, we can promote individual growth, gender equality and social advancement.”
-Fatuma Shehe, Kanyumbuni Leader-*







Turudi Shuleni, Tupate Ujuzi

CHOICE Kenya has initiated a transformative program designed to empower communities by equipping them with proper knowledge and skills to unlock opportunities for them in the society. This inclusive program caters to a diverse group, including students who have been out of school for over a year due to lack of financial resources and adults who missed out on schooling in their youth and wish to acquire marketable skills through vocational training or mentorship programs. Through the Adult Continuous Learning program, CHOICE Kenya is opening doors to avenues through which people can continue to pursue skill development and adults can confidently pursue their dreams and contribute to the welfare of their families and the community's prosperity.



BUILDING DREAMS: ONE CLASSROOM AT A TIME

Ngao Early Child Development Education (ECDE) Center was founded in the year 2000 in Mgamani A village, Matope Sub-Location, Samburu Location, within Kwale County. The school was established by the Mgamani community to address the challenge of students having to traverse long distances to access education. This distance posed difficulties as students had to walk for upto 6 km to get to the nearest school. To alleviate these challenges, the community took the initiative to build one classroom but it still wasn't enough.

In 2018, the Kwale County government stepped in and helped enhance the school's facilities by constructing two classrooms, an office, toilets, and a kitchen.

CHOICE Humanitarian also played a pivotal role in the growth and transformation of Ngao ECDE by constructing two more classrooms and an office through the support of Rafiki Club. This expansion improved the learning environment and paved the way for the school to be registered as a primary school by the Department of Education.



CHOICE KENYA BOARD MEETING



CHOICE Kenya during a board meeting on August 25th, 2023, Bahari Beach Hotel

*From left standing: Mr. Oreu Lugogo (CHOICE Kenya Director), Madam Margaret Belewa, and Mr. Adet Kachi
From left sitting: Hon. Hemed Mwabudzo, Dr. Rita Lugogo (Board Chair)*



SECURING THE FUTURE

CHOICE Humanitarian conducted meetings with the Mwongoloto quarry members on the 1st and 8th of August, 2023, at the Jua Kali Centre in Mwongoloto. The purpose of these meetings was to identify the challenges faced by quarry workers, map all the quarries around Maji ya Chumvi, and devise a way forward to address challenges affecting the members and the sector.

During these meetings, a group was formed with the name "Sauti ya Timbo Advocacy Group." The group elected officials: Mwaramba Njemo as the Chairperson, Hassan Mungumi as the Assistant Chairperson, Musa Mwanzia as the Secretary, Nicolus Chaka as the Assistant Secretary, and Richard Dzombo as the Treasurer. This formation creates a platform for members to share information, insights, and best practices, foster collaboration, and drive positive changes within the quarrying industry. Through this collaborative effort, improvements can be made in environmental practices, operational efficiency, and overall industry growth and profitability.



Maji ya Chumvi quarry



UNITY OF PURPOSE WITH PWANI UNIVERSITY

In the heart of Kwale County, an innovative collaboration between CHOICE Humanitarian and agricultural experts from Pwani University has been quietly revolutionizing farming techniques and empowering local farmers. CHOICE Humanitarian conducted a consultative meeting with Pwani University's agricultural experts to discuss the successes and challenges of the Farmer Field School (FFS) program. The Farmer Field School has effectively empowered farmers, transformed livelihoods, and paved the way for food security.

Various discussions were held to plan and implement the farmers education day and graduation day for all those who had successfully undergone training. Also discussed was "What is next?" It was agreed that some of the graduates will be given further training to make them Community Agricultural Extension Volunteers who will serve as trainers and contact persons for the Kwale County Agriculture Extension Officers to improve farming productivity in their villages. This is all in an effort to inculcate sustainability of the program and empower the community to foster food security and agribusiness.

A VISIT TO NDOHIVYO

On August 31st, 2023, representatives from CHOICE Humanitarian, the County government, and the Ndohivyo School for the Mentally Challenge Board of Management (BOM) held a board meeting at the School to address and discuss possible areas of collaboration and support that CHOICE Kenya can provide. Many issues were discussed in particular the need for a school nurse to look after the children with special needs that often require special care and attention. By combining our resources and collective commitment from other stakeholders, CHOICE Kenya hopes to pave the way for a brighter future for students by providing them with access to quality education and improve their learning environment.







ADDING VALUE IN THE COMMUNITY

On August 31st, 2023, CHOICE Humanitarian held a consultative meeting at Samburu Empire Resort Hall, in Kwale County to initiate the establishment of Matope Community-Based Organization as requested by the community and its leaders. The meeting brought together a total of 76 community leaders from Matope Sub-location, representing 19 diverse villages within the sub-location. These villages included Chirahu, Kabenderani, Birikani, Shikarako, Marondo, Nyongoni, Kibaoni, Mafufuni, Batani, Chigombero, Luwanga, Ng'onzini, Shanga, Mgamani A & B, Mwembeni, and Muyugeni. During the gathering, participants engaged in discussions that shed light on the why the need for a Community-Based Organization and its expected function. Some matters raised included fostering grassroots development, local resource mobilization and project planning for community development initiatives. CHOICE Humanitarian is actively working with the community to assist them to actualize this initiative to uplift and transform their community.



ONGOING PROJECTS SEP 2023

- **Kanyumbuni, Ngao ECDE and Mwangoloto classroom construction**
- **Alignment of CBOs focus areas with CHOICE Humanitarian**
- **Farmers Field Schools**
- **Community empowerment programs**
- **Community Mentorship**



CHOICEHUMANITARIAN

YEHU-EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

CHOICE Humanitarian held a meeting with Yehu Microfinance at their Nyali office on August 3rd, 2023 to explore areas of possible collaboration on shared goals especially on environment and social issues. The strategy would be guided by environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals.

Yehu Microfinance and CHOICE Humanitarian are joining forces for sustainable change by leveraging common development objects and different strengths to positively impact the communities they serve . Together, we can bring change to our communities by offering concrete opportunities for a brighter future.



OUR STORIES

6,742

During our two expeditions in 2023, we have worked with and directly impacted **6,742** community members in our projects

735

735 ECD students at Kanyumbuni Primary School received Material Development Kits

336

136 community members benefited from reading glasses and **200** children received dental talks and tooth brushes

164

164 parents benefited from sessions on family, finance and health during an expedition

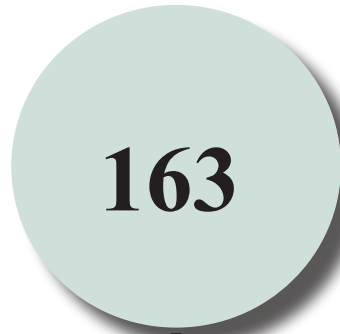
S IN NUMBERS

from Mwangoloto and
ary School benefited from
ment during CHOICE's expedition



CHOICE Humanitarian conducted
Days for Girls training for both women
and girls from Mwangoloto and
Kanyumbuni and it impacted **141** people

ted from discussion on themes
, and delayed gratification
on in Mwangoloto Primary school



163 students from Kanyumbuni Primary
School will benefit from the two newly
built classrooms

CHOICE INTERNS OPEN LETTER

Dear Charlotte and David,

CHOICE Humanitarian expresses its deepest gratitude and high regards for the exceptional contributions you have made to the organization during your time as interns in Kenya. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment to our mission has left a lasting impact in our community and with the teams that you worked with.

CHOICE Kenya acknowledges the invaluable knowledge and cultural insight you brought to the table as we prepared for the expeditions and created social media content. By sharing your experiences and introducing American culture to us, you enriched the learning experiences of everyone involved. These interactions have undoubtedly broadened our perspectives and strengthened the bond between the international volunteers, the community and our team. Throughout your tenure at CHOICE Kenya, you demonstrated professionalism and enthusiasm for your assigned tasks and the community.

David and Charlotte, we consider you to be a part of our little Kenya family and your presence will always be warmly welcomed.

We wish you both continued success and fulfillment in all your future endeavors.

Yours sincerely,
CHOICE Kenya Team



CULTIVATING CHANGE: Drip Irrigation



We embark on a remarkable journey at the heart of Silaloni, where hope is being rekindled, and lives are being transformed. CHOICE Humanitarian with sponsorship from LDS Charities worked to bring a sustainable year around agriculture to an arid and semi-arid desert land. The project aims to create a sustainable pathway towards improved food and income security.

The Baraka farmers are undergoing comprehensive training on horticultural production through Pwani University expertise. This training equips the farmers with the necessary skills to maximize agricultural productivity, and enjoy maximum benefit from the solar powered irrigation system installed at their farm.



Through innovation, collaboration, and unwavering dedication, Baraka Self Help Farmers Group working with CHOICE Humanitarian installed a drip irrigation system that is enriching the lives of forty seven (47) Baraka Self-help group members and also supporting nine hundred and fifteen (915) community members. The project will enhance agricultural skills and knowledge among the farmers to improve yields, productivity, and income for the group. Through the use of solar-powered drip irrigation and comprehensive training by Pwani University, the project holds the promise of transforming the lives of people in Silaloni.



THREE YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Dr. Steve Pierce has resigned from his position as Chief Executive Officer of CHOICE Humanitarian after three years of passionate service. His expertise and leadership has significantly advanced CHOICE's ability to understand multidimensional poverty, address it systematically, and accurately measure the impact of those efforts. We are very appreciative of Dr. Steve and wish him the absolute best in his future endeavors.

Thank you for your continued and future support. Our global team works with dedication every day to fulfill this organization's noble mission. We are confident that 2023 and beyond will be inspiring for CHOICE.

His expertise and leadership has significantly advanced CHOICE's ability to understand multidimensional poverty



FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS

Visit to Kwale County Offices

CHOICE Humanitarian, a change agent, held consultative meetings with the Directors of Education and Agriculture in Kwale County. During the meeting, CHOICE Humanitarian **shed light on the impact of their development activities and fostered a deeper understanding of their mission.**

CHOICE Kenya attended Kwale agricultural stakeholders forum, officiated by the Kwale Deputy Governor, to foster collaboration and improve the impact of agricultural programs in the county. CHOICE Kenya had the opportunity to make meaningful connections to leverage its expertise, technical abilities, resources and activities in the field to the benefit of community members.



“CHOICE can leverage a dollar exponential impact by matching it with other contributions from the government and local organizations.”

Emily Evangelista, Expedition leader 2023

