



**CHOICE HUMANITARIAN**  
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NEWSLETTER





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A triumph of unity



## WELCOME,

As we reflect on the past three months, CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya is thrilled to share the latest edition of our Quarterly Newsletter, highlighting the incredible strides we've made in our mission to uplift communities. Within these pages, you'll discover inspiring cultivating stories that highlight our endeavors in education, health, economic development, and food security.

**Education:** Explore how we're fostering knowledge and empowering individuals through innovative educational initiatives. Witness the transformative impact education has on shaping brighter futures.

**Health:** Delve into the realm of healthcare interventions as we strive to enhance well-being. From healthcare access to community health programs, our journey unfolds through stories of resilience and hope.

**Economic Development:** Join us in celebrating the economic milestones achieved by the communities we serve. Discover how sustainable economic development initiatives pave the way for self-reliance and prosperity.

**Food Security:** Experience the narrative of communities overcoming challenges to achieve food security. Learn about our sustainable agriculture projects and the ripple effect they create in ensuring a stable and nourished future.

Each story is a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and the communities themselves. Together, we are creating positive lasting change and building a foundation for sustainable growth.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. Your support fuels our commitment to making a positive impact, one story at a time.

With warm regards,  
**CHOICE Kenya Team**





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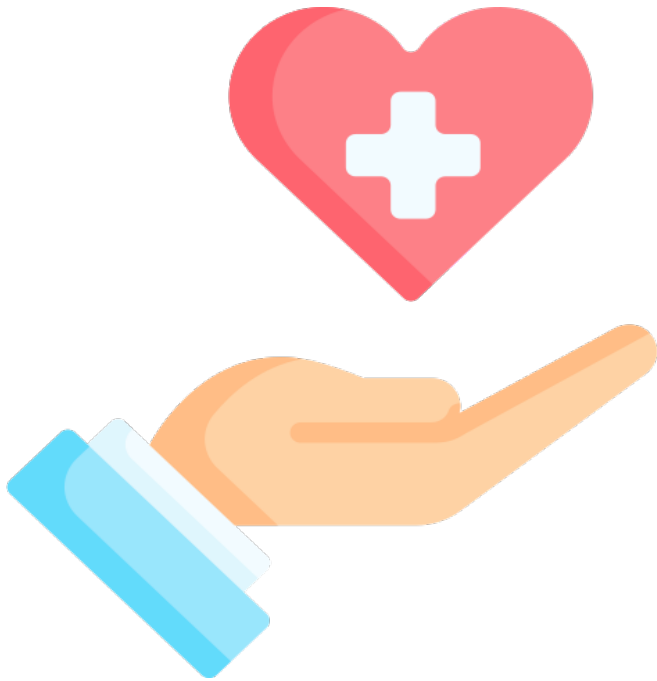


*We are committed to our vision that people everywhere deserve to have a choice and a path out of poverty.*





# A HEARTWARMING JOURNEY OF HOPE: Expeditioners Extend Healing Touch in Samburu, Kenya



In the vast landscapes of Samburu, Kenya, a recent collaboration between expeditioners and CHOICE Humanitarian left an indelible monument on what can be accomplished with diligent collaboration and resource leverage. The community, CHOICE Kenya, and expedition team, driven by a shared commitment to make a positive and meaningful impact, embarked on a transformative development journey that touched the lives of 19864 individuals.

Expeditioners interested in healthcare visited the Samburu Sub County Hospital for a familiarization tour. The volunteers immersed themselves in various aspects of the hospital, from the bustling triage area to the critical theatre and the essential Maternal and Child Health (MCH) unit. The team encountered a poignant story that would become a beacon of hope during their time at the hospital. In the MCH unit, the volunteers met a resilient 7-month-old baby whose fragile health demanded urgent attention.

As they delved deeper into the circumstances, they learned that the parents of the child had reached out to the Ministry of Health, desperately seeking for assistance for their ailing child. The Ministry, recognizing the gravity of the situation, contacted the expeditioners, acknowledging their commitment to healthcare initiatives. Determined to make a difference, the expeditioners rallied to facilitate the transfer of the young soul to a hospital in Mombasa County, where specialized treatment awaited.

The journey from Samburu to Mombasa was not just a physical transition; it symbolized a collective effort to bridge the gaps in healthcare access. As the baby received the care he so rightfully deserved, the expeditioners found fulfillment in knowing their actions had contributed to a life-changing outcome.



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In Mombasa County, the infant underwent a comprehensive treatment plan supported by medical expertise and the unwavering unifying spirit that had set this journey in motion. The success of this collaborative effort highlighted the profound impact that a united community, driven by compassion and purpose, can have on transforming individual lives.

This heartwarming saga serves as a reminder that even small gestures, when multiplied by the collective goodwill of a dedicated team, can create ripples of change. The expeditioners, CHOICE Kenya, and the healthcare professionals involved have become catalysts for hope, proving that the power to heal extends beyond medical treatments – it lies in the hands of those who choose to make a difference. As the expeditioners reflect on their time in Samburu, the echoes of laughter from the MCH unit and the resilience of the little one they helped will forever resonate in their hearts. This journey exemplifies the profound impact that emerges when a community unites to extend a healing touch to those who need it most.



# MACKINNON CBO AGM:

## Uniting Hearts, Empowering Community Growth

In a powerful display of community solidarity, the Mackinnon Community-Based Organization (CBO) recently held its Annual General Meeting, drawing an impressive attendance of 55 dedicated members. Among the distinguished guests were pillars of the community, including the Mackinnon Village Administrator, the Area Chief, Assistant Chief of Mackinnon, Assistant Chief of Chilibasi, the esteemed Madam Rebecca from Wildlife Works and staff from CHOICE Kenya. This diverse assembly reflected the shared commitment to community development, bringing together leaders from various spheres to contribute their insights and support.

The Mackinnon CBO AGM is a platform for fostering unity, discussing community development opportunities, and envisioning a collective path forward. The presence of administrative figures and other stakeholders underscored the importance of collaboration between local leadership and organizations dedicated to sustainable development practices. The stakeholders emphasized the significance of development and conservation for community growth. The exchange of ideas and expertise during the AGM laid the groundwork for initiatives that would benefit Mackinnon and promote harmony between the community and its development stakeholders. The shared vision of progress and the collaboration of the community and stakeholders set the stage for a transformative journey toward a more resilient and empowered Mackinnon Road community. The Mackinnon CBO AGM demonstrated that true progress is a collective endeavor where community voices, administrative leaders, and dedicated organizations leverage their resources to create sustainable, meaningful, and positive change. The unity witnessed at this meeting is a testament to the CBO's strength and determination to build a future that honors its roots while embracing impactful growth.

The echoes of this gathering will undoubtedly resonate through the village, fueling the flame of progress for generations to come.





# PARTNERING WITH KEN-AGRO: Cultivating knowledge and growth



In a collective effort to nurture agricultural expertise, CHOICE Kenya mobilized farmers for Ken Agro to conduct training sessions in Silaloni, Muungano and Mackinnon communities on 4th, 8th and 11th of October 2023 respectively for the beneficiaries of the CHOICE Kenya Farmer Field Schools. The education and empowerment of the community farmers is an ongoing effort by CHOICE Kenya to foster economic development for rural farmers.

Ken Agro sensitized farmers and made available farm input products with a focus on pest identification and control measures that benefited **15** farmers from Tumaini, **25** from Muungano, and **42** from Silaloni. The farmers got to learn, grow as farmers, and practice sustainable agriculture.



The attendance numbers spoke volumes about the collective thirst for knowledge and the farmers' commitment to improving agricultural practices. In Silaloni and Tumaini, participants were gifted with Bami F1, two sachets of okra, Emeron pesticide, and a sachet of kale seeds. Meanwhile, Muungano's community received Emeron pesticide to bolster their pest control efforts. The generosity of Ken Agro not only equipped participants with tangible tools but also an investment in the agricultural potential of these groups. Bami F1, known for its resilience and high yield, is a metaphor for the robust growth achieved through knowledge and collaboration, including Pwani University for the farmers. Participants gained insights into pest identification and control and built valuable connections that will serve as a support system for their future agricultural endeavors.

CHOICE Kenya has planted in Silaloni, Tumaini, and Muungano the seeds of knowledge that are bound to produce a harvest of sustainable agricultural practices, empowered farmers, and thriving communities. Baraka, Tumaini, and Muungano are poised to embark on a journey of agricultural success, armed with relevant knowledge, connections, and a shared vision for a greener and more bountiful future.





# TRANSFORMING DREAMS

## KADO CBO's Pioneering Steps Towards Prosperity



The potential for economic growth was recognized as a significant goal through their efforts in education and agribusiness. Given their favorable geographic location, they saw farming as a potential catalyst for change. Not stopping there, they focused on becoming honey suppliers, and nurturing a prosperous future.

Education was highlighted as a crucial pillar. The community fund for vulnerable learners. However, obstacles were acknowledged, such as market accessibility, and record-keeping. Training in these areas was essential.

As Kazamoyo takes these dreams and turns them into actions, they move closer to their vision, embracing a better tomorrow. With each step, they inch closer to their vision, embracing a better tomorrow.





# IS INTO REALITY:

## Steps Towards

In the heart of Kazamoyo, a critical dialogue took place. CHOICE Kenya joined hands with KADO CBO, a community-based organization consisting of dynamic individuals from youth to spiritual leaders. Their mission? To construct a roadmap for combating poverty within their community. They zeroed in on three pivotal areas: education, agriculture, and economic development.

significant opportunity that could be harnessed through focused geographic location, the community members identified poultry as they envisioned branching into apiculture, becoming promi-

's dedication is evident in their active contributions to a trust wledged – a lack of poultry rearing and agribusiness expertise, eas was proposed as a solution.

it stands on the precipice of a brighter, more prosperous embodying the spirit of unity, resilience, and hope.







## MATOPE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

In a significant step towards community-driven development, CHOICE Kenya organized a leadership training program from October 11th to 13th, 2023. The event brought together seventy-six representatives from 22 villages around Matope and Samburu, including Myugeni, Marondo, and Shikarako villages.

The training was designed to empower these community leaders with essential skills and knowledge, focusing on leadership, effective communication, and decision-making. The goal was to equip them with the tools to chart their path to progress and inspire them by sharing success stories from other community initiatives and groups.

One of the highlights of the event was the presentation by Madam Jemimah Mwalimo about the 'Simba' project from Chirahu village. This initiative is a powerful response to gender-based violence and child trafficking, where group members contribute to a collective fund every week.

They emphasized the need for financial literacy training from CHOICE Humanitarian to help them manage their businesses more effectively and make a more significant impact. Another inspiring story came from Mr. Mwadule Mwero, the Chairperson of the Ufunguo group from Mafufuni village. His group is committed to environmental conservation through tree planting initiatives and organizes weekly table banking meetings at the Samburu Chief's office to strengthen their community ties.

To ensure ongoing collaboration and communication between the various villages and stakeholders, the village Chairpersons agreed to form Village Development Council (VDC) committees. Each committee will comprise seven members and drive community development initiatives in their villages.





The Matope Community Leadership Training at Empire Resort marked a key milestone in community-driven development. As the leaders return to their villages with their newfound knowledge and skills, they hope to initiate transformative changes that will lead to a brighter future for their communities. They also look forward to closer collaboration with CHOICE Humanitarian and other development organizations and to transforming the Village Development Committees into a Community-Based Organization that can encompass all their aspirations and leverage more resources to implement bigger and more meaningful development projects.



# HARMONY IN ACTION: MADO CBO's Triumph in Community Collaboration

In the vibrant community of Mwangoloto, a significant meeting took place at the MADO CBO Office on October 19th, 2023. CHOICE Humanitarian collaborated with MADO CBO members to align their organizational goals and identify key performance indicators, preventing duplication of efforts within the community.

Four focus areas were established - Education, Agriculture, Economic Development, and Health and Nutrition. Each area saw partnerships form with both local and national organizations. In Education, collaborations included National and County governments, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Base Titanium, and Equity. Agriculture saw partnerships with the Red Cross, NARIGP, County Government, and KEMFSED. Alliances with YEHU Microfinance, SEP-Solution, Jirani Smart, and BOMA Microfinance bolstered Economic Development. Health and Nutrition, fundamental to community well-being, partnered with Afya Pwani, National and County governments, and AMREF Organization.

These collaborations proved fruitful, providing the Maji Ya Chumvi community with much support. This ranged from farming inputs and school infrastructure development to scholarships, capacity building, micro-credit loans, and essential food donations.

The CBO members also identified students across primary schools, colleges/TVTs, and universities and included a category for school dropouts. This initiative aimed to inspire the community to unite, leverage resources, and invest collectively in development to uplift their most vulnerable members.

The meeting is a testament to the power of collaboration and community spirit, a triumph in community-led development, setting an inspiring precedent for future endeavors





# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES:

## Muongano Community Education Trust fund



[WWW.CHOICEHUMANITARIAN.ORG](http://WWW.CHOICEHUMANITARIAN.ORG)

On October 18, 2023, a significant meeting occurred at Muungano Primary School in Kinango Sub County, Kwale County. The session, involving parents, CHOICE Humanitarian staff, and school teachers, was convened to assess the progress of the Community-Based Education Trust Fund (COBETF); a scholarship initiative started in 2015 with support from the Marriott Daughters Foundation and strategize for the future.

Muongano Primary School, supported by the COBETF initiative, has made substantial strides in advancing school transition in education levels within the region. As of the meeting date, the school catered to a 541 student population, spanning nursery to standard eight levels. Several students have even progressed to university and tertiary colleges, underscoring the impact of the school's efforts and the COBETF program.

However, challenges persist. Out of the 172 parents associated with the school, only 60 are registered with COBETF. Additionally, in 2022, only 11 out of the 43 student beneficiaries of COBETF fulfilled their financial commitments.

In response to this, parents pledged to contribute a total of KES 200,000 by January 2024.

The school's infrastructure comprises seven classrooms and eight teachers, with a volunteer stepping in to substitute for a lost teacher. The Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Foundation is constructing two 6000-cubic-liter Ferro-cement water tanks and two toilets to bolster infrastructural facilities. Parents were also urged to contribute towards the construction of an additional classroom.

While Muungano Primary School faces ongoing challenges, the commitment from parents, teachers, and CHOICE Humanitarian staff drives its success. Through continued collaboration and support from initiatives like COBETF, the school remains steadfast in its mission to shape a brighter future for its students.



# COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY:

## Bringing together MADO CBO, Expeditioners, Mwangoloto primary school, Rotary and Rotaracts

In a captivating tale of community spirit and determination, the Kanyumbuni Desk-Making Initiative unfolded as a testament to unity and dedication to get the job done despite unexpected challenges.

CHOICE Kenya partnered with Rotaract club of Youth Zone, Rotary Club of Mombasa Downtown, Yehu Members Welfare Association, and with the unwavering support of friends and the community, dedicated November 11, 2023 to be the day to build desks for **240** students. Originally destined for Kanyumbuni Primary School, the plan took an unexpected turn due to heavy rains that made the road impassable, leading the team to pivot and conduct the desk construction at Mwangoloto Primary School. Despite this twist of fate, **53** committed individuals eagerly rolled up their sleeves for a purpose-filled day.



The desk-making venture unfolded like a symphony, with different stations participating in different activities: constructing, painting, sanding, drilling, mounting and installation—this collective effort culminated in assembly of **120** desks, each with a unique purpose. One hundred desks, branded ‘DONATED BY CHOICE HUMANITARIAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY,’ were designated for Kanyumbuni Primary School.



The remaining **20**, labeled ‘DONATED BY RAFIKI CLUB IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHOICE HUMANITARIAN AND THE COMMUNITY,’ found a home at NGAO Primary School. Collectively **240** students will no longer seat on the floor during their lessons.

The rain also curtailed our plans to plant trees at Kanyumbuni Primary School. The activity had to be postponed. Other postponed activities included community engagement, student interactions, ceremonial desk handovers, mentorship sessions, and a community celebration of the construction of two classrooms and a staff room.







*CHOICE Kenya partnered with Rotaract club of Youth Zone, Rotary Club of Mombasa Downtown, Yehu Members Welfare Association, and with the unwavering support of friends and the community built 240 desks students.*



Yet, gratitude echoed for the unwavering support from CHOICE Kenya's staff and partners, who stood firm in the face of adversity. Looking ahead, CHOICE Kenya envisions a future visit to Kanyumbuni Primary School, accomplishing the postponed activities. This upcoming event promises not only the official presentation of desks and classrooms but also serves as a reaffirmation of CHOICE Kenya's commitment to reducing rural poverty and enhancing educational facilities through community collaboration and stakeholder partnerships.

As the anticipation builds for the future visit to Kanyumbuni Primary School, the unrealized activities linger like promises waiting to be fulfilled. The perfectly assembled desks transcend mere furniture; they stand as empowerment tokens and symbolize a community's unwavering dedication to education and togetherness.

*Be the change you want to see in the world.*



# A TRIUMPH OF UNITY: THE CHOICE HUMANITARIAN GALA 2023



In the heart of Salt Lake City, Utah, the Grand America Hotel was ablaze with hope and unity as it hosted the CHOICE Humanitarian's 2023 gala. This event embodied a significant stride towards alleviating global poverty, bringing together a diverse group of individuals committed to making a difference.

The theme of the gala, "You Are Here," resonated across the hall, echoing the collective commitment of attendees to not just be spectators but active participants in the fight against poverty. The gala served as a platform for compelling speakers like Kristin Andrus and Jeremy Andrus, who shared their experiences from a Nepal expedition with CHOICE. Their stories painted a vivid picture of the challenges faced by underprivileged communities, but also of the resilience and determination that these communities embody.

The stage was further graced by influential figures such as Emily Franson Evangelista and Jordan Menzel, who lent their voices to the cause. Their presence underscored the seriousness of our collective responsibility towards less fortunate populations and the transformative power of concerted efforts.

One of the most poignant moments of the evening was the honoring of Chris Johnson with the James B. Mayfield Humanitarian Award. Johnson, a devoted CHOICE member for over two decades, has dedicated his life to serving others. His unwavering commitment serves as a beacon of hope and an inspiration for all.

The gala was not only an evening of recognition but also of action. Filled with heartening speeches, generous donations, and vibrant performances, the event successfully raised substantial funds to further CHOICE's mission. These resources will go a long way in empowering impoverished communities, providing them with opportunities to break free from the cycle of poverty.

*The gala was not only an evening of recognition but also of action*

As we reflect on the gala's success, CHOICE Humanitarian extends its deepest gratitude to all sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Their generosity and dedication played a pivotal role in making this event an unforgettable success. It is a testament to the power of unity and the change that can be brought about when we come together for a common cause.

The 2023 gala signifies not just a triumph of a single night, but the promise of many victories to come in our fight against global poverty. As we move forward, we carry with us the hope and determination ignited at the gala, reminding us that we are here, we are involved, and we are committed to creating a world free from poverty.











CHOICE Kenya recently embarked on an ambitious mission to bolster grassroots initiatives by comprehensively evaluating **12** Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The objective was clear yet profound: to catalyze sustainable development in areas vital to local communities, namely education, economic development, health, and food security.

The journey commenced with the CHOICE Kenya team engaging in substantive dialogues with community partners. These sessions were not just conversations; they were dynamic exchanges designed to unpack each area's unique challenges and opportunities.

Throughout these interactions, CHOICE Kenya delved deep into the core of each community, identifying key individuals and groups already making significant strides toward positive change. These local partners became invaluable allies in the community and CHOICE's mission to instigate sustainable development programs.





# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: CHOICE Kenya's Groundbreaking Approach to Sustainable Development



A distinguishing feature of this evaluation was CHOICE Kenya's unwavering commitment to inclusivity, assisting the leaders in empowering their communities to chart their courses guided by their unique needs and aspirations.

The fruits of this evaluation became palpable as each CBO, now armed with a clearer understanding of CHOICE's focus areas, chose projects aligned with their community's priorities. Guided by specific goals and performance indicators, these organizations could track progress and collect data, ensuring transparency, efficacy, and resources for implementing meaningful projects. The synergy between CHOICE Kenya and the CBOs promised development and sustainable progress grounded in the collective vision of the people.



In the final analysis, this process transcends an evaluation; it stands as a testament to the resilience and potential of communities uniting for a brighter tomorrow. As CHOICE Kenya and the CBOs strive in solidarity, their journey towards sustainable development continues.

At the heart of the evaluation process to build efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery is aligning ongoing and potential community-initiated projects with CHOICE's core focus areas. Education emerged as a priority for many communities. Economic development was not far behind prompting CHOICE to explore innovative strategies to equip locals with sustainable essential skills, carving out avenues for financial autonomy and self-motivated development structures and practices. Concurrently, the emphasis on food security sought to guarantee that no family would be deprived of a wholesome diet, thereby eliminating hunger within these communities.

***CHOICE Kenya is excited about strengthening collaboration with our community partners through the CBOs!***



# OUR QUARTERS









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