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As we share our third-quarter newsletter, I am filled with deep pride and inspiration. The achievements highlighted here reflect the dedication and resilience of our communities, partners, and team.

In recent months, we have seen significant progress. The expansion of the Miyani and Mnyenzeni dams promises clean water for thousands. Our training sessions have empowered farmers and entrepreneurs with vital skills, local leadership and community structures have been strengthened, reinforcing CHOICE Kenya's commitment to sustainable development and improving lives.

This quarter's success is the result of collaboration with stakeholders from the public sector, businesses, and civil society. The celebration at Muungano Primary School and our leadership meetings have strengthened the belief that working together we can overcome challenges and bring lasting change.

The community's involvement in projects like the Community-Led Total Sanitation training highlights a shared vision for a healthier, more prosperous future.

As you read through these stories of resilience and progress, may they inspire you to support our mission. Whether through volunteering, sharing knowledge, or spreading the word, your involvement is essential in shaping a brighter future for all.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are nurturing dreams and transforming lives.

With gratitude and hope,

Oren Lugogo













Fighting Water Scarcity

Every day, Mr. Nyiro, a farmer from the Mnyenzeni sub-location, watches as his wife leaves their home at dawn. leaving their three-month-old baby in the care of their two young daughters. With each step she takes, she moves further away from her family, trekking up to four times a day just to fetch water. The journey is long and exhausting, but she knows their survival depends on it.

Mnyenzeni, home to 14,937 individuals across 24 villages, is fortunate to have 21 dams serving 2,076 households, 12 schools, 3 hospitals, and 3 trading centers. However, when these dams dry up, survival becomes a daily struggle. The high cost of piped water forces women like Mrs. Nyiro to walk up to 6 kilometers each day to secure this essential resource.

For the Nyiro family, water is the thread that holds their lives together. Mr. Nyiro's daughters dream of attending school, but they are often forced to stay behind to care for the baby while their mother is away. Their education is sacrificed day after day for the sake of water.



Farming is the family's primary source of income, yet without a reliable water source, their crops wither and their livestock suffer. Each drop of water is precious, critical for their survival. The constant struggle to secure water leaves them with less time for farming, less time for the girls to learn, and less time to dream of a better life.

This is the harsh reality for many in Mnyenzeni, where water scarcity forces families like the Nyiro's to make impossible choices. However, this is not a reality that must continue.

Through CHOICE Humanitarian's water and sanitation program, we are working hand in hand with the community to bring about lasting change. Together with the Mnyenzeni Community Development Organization (MCODO) and the County Government of Kwale, we've identified five dams that, once expanded and repaired, will transform the lives of 14,937 individuals.

Of the five dams, the Mnyenzeni and Miyani dams were prioritized for immediate expansion. The County Government of Kwale has provided vehicles and technical expertise to ensure the timely completion of these projects, while CHOICE Kenya has focused on mobilizing the community and supplying fuel to keep progress on track.

With increased access to water, families like the Nyiro's won't have to choose between their children's education and their need for water. They will be able to farm with confidence, knowing their crops and livestock have the resources they need to thrive. Most importantly, they'll have the time to build a better future.

Water touches every aspect of life in Mnyenzeni. It is the foundation for health, ensuring families have clean water for domestic use and reducing the spread of diseases like cholera and typhoid. It is the key to education, allowing children to attend school without the daily burden of water collection.





It is the lifeblood of agriculture, supporting crop growth and livestock, and providing a path out of poverty through improved economic opportunities.

By expanding and maintaining these dams, CHOICE Humanitarian is providing life, hope, and a future for families like the Nyiro's. But our work doesn't end here. We need your help to ensure that every family in Mnyenzeni has access to the water they need. Join us in this mission. Together, we can bring water closer to home, transforming lives and building a brighter future for the entire community.



Muungano Expedition









In July 2024, CHOICE Kenya returned to Muungano Primary School, collaborating closely with the community and 26 dedicated volunteers to create lasting change. Over six days, from the 14th to the 19th, our team focused on improving the lives of students and their families, both within the school and the surrounding villages.

One of our key activities was the completion of a classroom for students transitioning to the **9th** grade. With a classroom they can call their own, these students now have an environment where their education can truly thrive.

To ensure access to clean water, we expanded the school's water pan. In a rural village like Dzugwe, where water shortages are a constant challenge, this improvement significantly helps students focus on their studies without the burden of worrying about necessities.

Moreover, the expanded water pan will serve as a valuable resource for the students' 4K clubs, supporting their agricultural and environmental learning activities.

We also prioritized the students' health by distributing toothbrushes to 208 children. For many, this was their first step toward understanding the i mportance of oral hygiene, which will positively impact their health in the long term.

Beyond the school, we engaged the broader community by planting **50** trees at Muungano Primary School and **30** more at the Mnyenzeni Community Development Organization office, contributing to vital environmental conservation efforts. At Chikuyu B ECDE, we created learning aids for **41** children, providing them with essential tools to grow and learn more effectively.

During the expedition, we also hosted an agribusiness forum that benefited 48 individuals, offering valuable insights into farming techniques and income generation. Perhaps most importantly, we held mentorship sessions at Miyani Primary and Secondary Schools, reaching 346 students. Through these sessions, we emphasized the importance of education and skills development, instilling in them the belief that they can shape their futures.

Each of these efforts represents hope for a brighter future. In a community where resources are scarce, these improvements provide relief and create a sense of possibility, demonstrating that together, we can create lasting change.

Miyani and Mnyenzeni Dam Expansion



The recent expansions of the Miyani and Mnyenzeni dams have brought renewed hope to the communities of Miyani and Mnyenzeni. Through the collaborative efforts of CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya, the Mnyenzeni Community Development Organization (MCODO), and the Kwale County Government, these projects are set to transform the lives of 1,388 individuals.

Miyani Dam Expansion

The Miyani Dam expansion began on August 26 and was completed in just 10 days. This initiative received overwhelming support from the local community, with the county government providing essential vehicles and technical expertise. Meanwhile, CHOICE Kenya mobilized community members and supplied fuel to facilitate swift progress. Community leaders, including the area chief, village administrator, and Member of the County Assembly, actively participated alongside CHOICE Kenya staff and MCODO representatives, underscoring the importance of community involvement. They emphasized that the dam's success hinges on the community's ongoing care and ownership.



Miyani Dam before



Miyani dam inprogress

Mnyenzeni Dam Expansion



Following closely, the Mnyenzeni Dam expansion started on September 4 and took 8 days to complete. The Mnyenzeni community was similarly engaged in the project, working together to ensure that the dam will serve them well for years to come. Both villages, situated near schools, hospitals, churches, and households, stand to gain significantly from these newly expanded water sources.

Impact on the Community



With the expansions now complete, the communities eagerly await the rains to fill the dams. Once full, these water sources will enhance access to clean water, leading to improved overall health by bolstering hygiene and sanitation practices.

With clean water readily available, cases of infectious diseases are expected to decline, while school attendance and punctuality among children should improve as they will spend less time fetching water. Additionally, women will be empowered to focus more on managing

their businesses and engaging in local economic activities, thereby strengthening livelihoods across the villages. The success of these dam expansions highlights the power of partnership, showcasing how the collective efforts of communities, CHOICE Kenya, and the Kwale County Government can create lasting change.

Enhancing Sanitation and Hygiene in Mnyenzeni









From August 28 to 30, 2024, CHOICE Kenya participated in a Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) training in Mnyenzeni, organized by the Mnyenzeni Community Development Organization (MCODO). This three-day training aimed to promote better sanitation and hygiene practices in anticipation of the recently completed Miyani and Mnyenzeni water pans.

The training reached all households in the Mnyenzeni water pan catchment area, which includes the villages of Vikolani, Mnyenzeni, and Vikinduni, collectively home to 2,139 residents across 349 households. With the water pans now complete, it is vital for the community to adopt effective hygiene practices to ensure these water sources remain clean and sustainable.

Throughout the training, participants explored the importance of sanitation and hygiene, learning innovative methods to promote clean living within the community. The participants committed to constructing latrines within two months, demonstrating their readiness to take ownership of their health and environment.

This training underscored the significance of sustainable behavior change and highlighted the community's role in ensuring that the rehabilitated water pan serves everyone effectively while remaining a clean and reliable resource. When communities take ownership of projects, they achieve long-lasting, positive impacts on their lives. CHOICE Kenya is excited to see the Mnyenzeni community embrace healthy living.

Community Efforts to Safeguard Miyani and Mnyenzeni Dams









On August 19, 2024, CHOICE Kenya, in partnership with the Mnyenzeni Community Development Organization and residents, united for conservation efforts around the Miyani and Mnyenzeni dams. With the rehabilitation of both dams now complete, the focus has shifted to ensuring the sustainability and safety of these vital water sources as the community awaits the coming rains.

Together, we erected fencing around the dams to keep animals at bay, ensuring that the water remains clean and safe for use. This fencing also serves as a protective barrier, preventing children from accidentally falling into the dams, particularly since both are located near schools. Additionally, we planted grass and trees, including moringa and baobab, around the dams to create a greener, more sustainable environment.

The moringa tree, renowned for its water purification properties, will help maintain the cleanliness of the dam water, while the baobab tree, capable of storing up to 32,000 gallons of water in its trunk, proves invaluable in arid regions.

The grass will help prevent soil erosion and enhance the effectiveness of the water pans by stabilizing the surrounding area.

While we successfully planted some seedlings and grass, the current dry conditions present a challenge. We eagerly await the rains to continue our planting efforts and ensure the trees and grass take root. Once the water pans are filled, they will provide much-needed relief to the communities of Miyani and Mnyenzeni, offering a reliable source of water.



Turning the Page at Ndohivyo School of the

Mentally Challenged









The students of Ndohivyo Special Needs School have officially relocated to their new facility, marking a significant milestone in their educational journey. The new school is equipped with essential support services, including a school nurse dedicated to caring for the students' health and well-being. Additionally, solar lights have been installed throughout the premises, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment.

CHOICE Kenya played a crucial role in this transition by helping the school source the nurse, facilitating the installation of solar panels, and assisting with the water connection to ensure a reliable supply for the school. Our commitment as an organization is to improve educational experiences for all students, ensuring they have the necessary resources and care to thrive in their new environment.

The relocation of Ndohivyo Special Needs School marks a fresh beginning for the students, providing them with enhanced facilities and support that promote their well-being and learning potential in a more accommodating environment.



Muungano Farmers Capacity Building Initiative





CHOICE Kenya held a two-day training on group dynamics for Muungano farmers on August 13 and 14, 2024, at Shauri Moyo. The session aimed to enhance teamwork as the farmers prepare to implement upcoming projects. Fifty individuals were guided on effective communication,

decision-making, and leadership skills to help unify the group and ensure smooth project execution.

Madam Chari, the Ward Agricultural Officer, also provided valuable insights into the services offered by the County Government's agriculture department in Chengoni Ward. Her contribution helped the farmers better understand the support available to them from the government.

The training focused on empowering the group with the knowledge and skills necessary to work together, make informed decisions, and build strong leadership, ensuring their future success.

Financial Literacy Training in Mwongoloto









On September 16 and 17, 2024, CHOICE Kenya conducted a two-day financial literacy training at the Jua Kali Hall in Mwongoloto. The training brought together representatives from five business groups in the Maji ya Chumvi region: Jaribu, Wederi, Imara, Jua Kali, and MADO. Participation was strong, with 46 attendees on the first day and 47 on the second, all eager to learn more about running successful businesses.

The focus of the training was on the "6 Ps of Business," covering key topics such as product, price, process, and plan. Many participants face challenges in these areas; our findings revealed that only a small percentage of the members have personal businesses, with the majority relying on group projects for their income.

The training sparked lively discussions, with all groups actively participating and gaining valuable insights into how they could grow their ventures.

Felister Koki, from Deri village and a member of the Wederi group, expressed her excitement about the knowledge she gained. As a secretary in two additional groups, Silk and Songa Mbele, she shared her plans to apply what she learned alongside her husband, John Nyira. With this new understanding of business management, they aim to explore new ventures, save for the future, and secure a better education for their two children, who are in third grade, as well as their toddler.

Overall, the training provided essential guidance to help these business groups think critically about their enterprises, preparing them for long-term growth and financial sustainability.



Sewing Machine Project: Tailoring to Self-Reliance

Overview

During the Mwangoloto expedition, a generous donation of a sewing machine was made by one of the expeditioners to help local women develop tailoring skills. This sewing machine is poised to play a key role in skill development and income generation for the Mwangoloto community, with plans underway to ensure its effective use.



Community Engagement

On September 4, 2024, CHOICE Kenya met with the Maji ya Chumvi Development Organization (MADO) to discuss the exciting possibilities surrounding the sewing machine. MADO shared that they had formed an economic development committee consisting of seven members dedicated to managing this initiative for the benefit of the entire community.

A room has been secured to house the sewing machine, which will function as a training center and small business hub. This space will allow community members to develop valuable sewing skills. To maintain sustainability, the committee plans to charge a nominal fee for training sessions, covering maintenance, electricity, and rent. MADO also aims to source materials for sewing projects, generating additional income.



Training and Sustainability

To ensure the project's success, MADO has hired a professional tailor to train community members. The economic committee will also handle marketing efforts to attract participants, helping the initiative grow and become self-sustaining.

MADO aims to finalize preparations by the end of October, ahead of CHOICE delivering the sewing machine. Once operational, this project will equip women with essential skills and provide a vital source of income, promoting long-term economic development in the community. Through collaboration and dedication, MADO and CHOICE Kenya are taking meaningful steps toward empowering the residents of Maji ya Chumvi.

International Youth Day



On August 12, 2024, over 534 young people gathered at Mvindeni Social Hall in Ukunda to celebrate International Youth Day under the theme, "Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development." This event was hosted by CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya in partnership with 16 other organizations.

The event aimed to empower young people with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital landscape. Participants benefited from a diverse panel of professionals who shared insights on utilizing digital tools to advance careers and businesses. Through this event, attendees learned how to leverage digital tools for creating innovative solutions, building successful careers, and contributing to their communities' sustainable development.

The Deputy Governor of Kwale County, who attended the event, pledged his support to organizations working with youth and urged everyone to collaborate for a brighter future for the young people in Kwale County. "Let's all work together for a better future for the youth in Kwale County," he encouraged. His words inspired the audience, motivating them to explore the endless possibilities in the digital world.



Moving forward, the knowledge shared and the connections made during this event will empower these young leaders to become digital innovators, driving sustainable development in their communities. CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya remains committed to supporting the youth through initiatives that encourage continuous learning and innovation for a sustainable future.

Empowering Youth Through Mentorship

At CHOICE Kenya, we believe that every young person needs guidance to navigate life's challenges. Whether from teachers, parents, or community elders, mentorship plays a crucial role in shaping a student's future. Our mentorship program is designed to encourage, engage, and educate youth, helping them build confidence, develop essential skills, and access valuable learning and networking opportunities for personal and professional growth.

CHOICE Kenya conducted a series of mentorship sessions at four schools: Mwarovesa Secondary School on July 30, Bombolulu Primary and Junior Secondary School on July 31, Mwangea Primary on August 17, and Kiwandani Comprehensive School on September 21. These sessions addressed critical challenges such as school dropouts, early marriages, discipline, relationships, menstruation issues, career guidance, community service, and academic struggles. At Bombolulu Primary, CHOICE Kenya partnered with the Rotaract Club of Mombasa to mentor 68 students.









In Mwarovesa, we collaborated with Kenya Keys to reach 147 students and distributed sanitary towels to 32 girls. The Mwangea session brought together 116 students and 25 parents, while in Kiwandani, we partnered with the Rotary Clubs of Mombasa and Kilifi, along with the Interact Club of Light International School of Mombasa, to provide mentorship to 465 individuals. During this event, CHOICE Kenya donated 256 books and 498 pens, contributing to a total of 3,249 stationery items donated at the event.

Throughout these sessions, students actively shared their personal struggles, including managing school expenses and balancing studies with social pressures. The discussions underscored the critical role of guidance in overcoming these challenges and the need for stronger parental involvement to support their children's education. By creating a safe space for students and parents to learn, share, and grow, these mentorship sessions reinforce the importance of support and direction in shaping a brighter future for our youth.

Peace Initiative to Strengthen Community Bonds



Conflict touches every aspect of a community, from the innocent lives of young children to the aspirations of youth and the well-being of adults. When a community is divided, the ripple effects are felt by everyone, stalling development and disrupting the very fabric of daily life.

On August 15, 2024, a collaboration between CHOICE Kenya, YEHU Welfare Association, Kenya Keys, and the National and County Governments of Kwale brought together 31 participants in Kinango and 53 others at the Samburu Social Hall for a peace meeting aimed at fostering unity and coexistence within the community.

The meeting focused on addressing the various challenges affecting security in these communities and exploring ways to engage the youth in these efforts. Among the issues discussed were unemployment, illiteracy, corruption, poor leadership, school dropouts, and theft, all contributing to rising insecurity in both Kinango and Samburu.

Participants made several resolutions to tackle these pressing challenges. They emphasized the importance of increasing public participation in community initiatives, ensuring that reported cases are handled confidentially, and reminding both men and women of their roles as partners in promoting security and stability in their homes. Education was also identified as a priority, with a commitment to enhancing access and support for learners in the community.





Through this peace initiative, CHOICE Kenya aims to reinforce community bonds, encouraging collaboration and dialogue to build a safer and more united Kinango and Samburu.

MWEDO and VIMO Leadership Trainings









CHOICE Kenya recently conducted leadership training sessions for village development committees (VDCs) under the community-based organizations MWEDO and VIMO, aiming to equip local leaders with the skills necessary for sustainable community growth. These sessions were held from August 7 to 8 for MWEDO and from August 20 to 21 for VIMO, emphasizing the importance of clear leadership roles, responsibilities, and effective community service.

MWEDO comprises 8 VDCs representing 10 villages, while VIMO consists of 11 VDCs from 22 villages.

With strong leadership at the grassroots level, communities are better positioned to address challenges and drive positive change.

The training aimed to strengthen leader-ship from the village level to the broader community organization, ensuring better coordination of development efforts. Leaders were encouraged to think critically about their communities' needs and identify projects that would have a lasting impact. One of the key outcomes of the training was the development of a five-year strategic plan to guide future projects. This roadmap will help leaders prioritize initiatives, mobilize resources, and track progress toward community goals.

Beyond the VDCs, key figures such as village elders, chiefs, and administrators also participated in the sessions. Their involvement ensured that everyone was aligned with the community's development objectives. CHOICE Kenya's efforts demonstrate a commitment to empowering local leaders, recognizing that strong leadership is crucial for the long-term success and prosperity of these communities. When we work together, considering the needs of everyone, we create sustainable change that benefits all.

Pictorial







Together lets make significant step towards meaningful, community-led development in the less fortunate regions











Addressing Community Needs with GODO CBO







On September 18 and 19, 2024, CHOICE Kenya held a meeting with the Gora Development Organization (GODO) to identify specific challenges faced by villages in the region and to create a plan that ensures future projects directly reflect the community's needs. This approach ensures that initiatives are not externally driven but rooted in the concerns and aspirations expressed by the residents themselves.

During the discussions, several key challenges were identified, including poor infrastructure, lack of access to clean water, limited agricultural knowledge, and insufficient programs focused on empowering youth and women. These issues have posed significant obstacles to the community's growth and development, and the meeting aimed to address them through a collaborative approach.

As a result of these discussions, GODO developed a comprehensive action plan designed to align future projects with the real needs of the community. This plan will guide the implementation of solutions, ensuring that all efforts are grounded in the priorities expressed by the villages, with a strong focus on sustainability and long-term impact. This collaborative approach marks an important step toward meaningful, community-led development in the region.

Leaders Meeting: Strengthening Ties

On September 12, 2024, CHOICE Kenya attended a leaders' meeting at the Samburu Social Hall, bringing together key stakeholders to introduce the newly appointed Deputy County Commissioner (DCC) of Samburu, Mr. Patrick K. Ngoru, and to launch the Maisha Cards initiative. The Maisha Cards system, a new digital identification platform, aims to streamline personal identification from birth to death, offering a modern approach to managing individual records.

During the meeting, CHOICE Kenya highlighted its ongoing work and longstanding commitment to the Samburu community. As a development partner in the region for several years, CHOICE Kenya has spearheaded various projects aimed at improving education, livelihoods, and community leadership. This platform allowed CHOICE to present its mission and approach to the new DCC while reaffirming its dedication to empowering the community.

Through this event, CHOICE Kenya reinforced its position as a partner in Samburu, collaborating with the local government to drive sustainable development and strengthen relationships between community members and leaders.







Collaboration for Success: **MWEDO CBO Meeting**



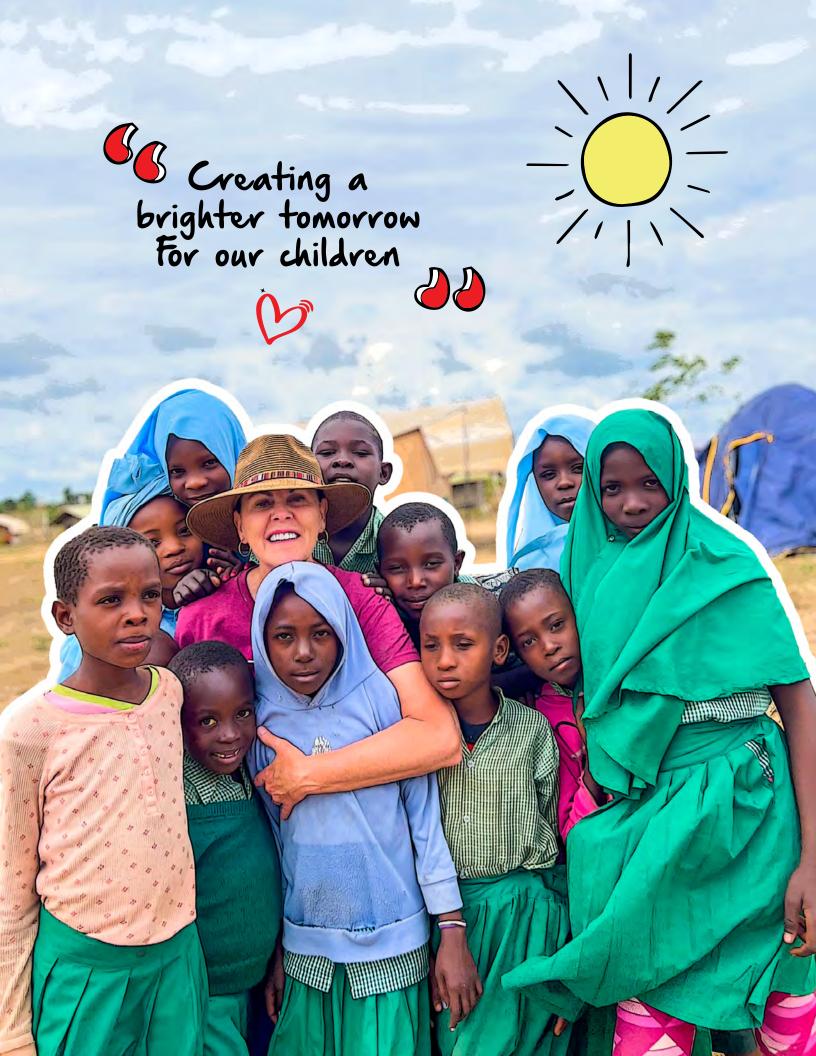
In recent years, CHOICE Kenya, in partnership with the RAFIKI Club, has made significant contributions to the Ngao Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) center. Together, we built two new classrooms, renovated one, and created 20 desks for the students. Initially, the community lacked a community-based organization (CBO) to drive these efforts. However, this changed when our outreach extended to the neighboring Mwembeni community, where we helped form the MWEDO CBO.

On September 2, 2024, CHOICE Kenya held a meeting with MWEDO to discuss various key initiatives. The focus was on the ongoing construction of pit latrines at Ngao ECDE, a project aimed at improving sanitation for the students. We also explored opportunities for youth involvement and skill development.

As an organization, CHOICE Kenya prioritizes collaboration with CBOs to ensure sustainable, community-driven development. During the meeting, we discussed ways to integrate the Ngao project into the broader MWEDO framework.

By collaborating with MWEDO, we can ensure that projects are completed and maintained over the long term. While construction has already begun, CHOICE Kenya is providing additional support to ensure the latrines are properly set up to meet the needs of the students.

This collaboration marks another important step in our shared mission to improve education and foster long-term growth through community leadership.



CEDO Connects with Taru-Egu for Water Line Insights





Chengoni Development Organization (CEDO), visited Taru-Egu Water Users office on 30th August 2024 for a benchmarking session on effective water line management. This visit was necessitated by the success of CEDO CBO which was to be entrusted by the Kwale County government to implement and manage a 10-kilometer water line at a cost of ksh10 million and to benefit 5 villages.

Celebrating Partnerships and Leadership



In this moment of unity, the founding members of Yehu Microfinance stand alongside the Yehu CEO, the CHOICE Kenya Director, and one of Yehu's first employees, Mr. Sudi Mwakilesho, reflecting on their shared vision for sustainable development. Together, we are committed to fostering positive change and empowering communities through innovative financial solutions and community development.

Celebrating Unity and Success at Muungano Primary School









Following the successful Muungano expedition, CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya gathered with teachers, community leaders, and the school board at Muungano Primary School on July 31, 2024, for a celebration. This day of reflection provided an opportunity to honor the collective effort that made the expedition a success.

Throughout the expedition, each community member played a vital role in ensuring the activities were impactful.

The celebration brought everyone together to acknowledge both the triumphs and challenges faced along the way. It was a special moment for the community and CHOICE Kenya to recognize the hard work of every participant and to appreciate the sense of unity that made these achievements possible.

As a token of gratitude, CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya presented appreciation certificates to the teachers and leaders who had been instrumental during the expedition. This gesture served to thank them for their dedication and to highlight the power of collaboration toward common goals.

The celebration at Muungano was a poignant reminder of what can be achieved through teamwork. Coming together to share a meal and reflect on the journey show-cased the remarkable outcomes that arise when we work hand in hand with a shared vision for a better future.

All Hands CHOICE Meeting

On August 16, 2024, CHOICE Humanitarian held an all-hands meeting that united employees from its seven countries of operation and headquarters in Utah. This virtual gathering provided a valuable opportunity for team members to connect, share experiences, and meet the new CEO.

During this inspiring session, the CEO outlined her vision for the organization, fostering a sense of unity and renewed commitment to CHOICE's global mission.

The meeting reinforced the importance of collaboration and collective effort as the organization moves forward in its impactful work.



CHOICE BOARD MEETING

CHOICE Kenya held its board meeting on August 23rd, 2024, to deliberate on the organization's progress during the second quarter. During the meeting, the board reviewed the major activities undertaken, reviewed the strategic goals, and achievements of its focus areas.

The board explored strategies to expand CHOICE Kenya's reach and deepen its impact within the community through leverage, local fundraising and expanded partnerships. Discussions centered on identifying new opportunities to initiate projects that are both meaningful and sustainable, ensuring long-term benefits for local communities. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to maintaining momentum in delivering lasting, positive change, while finding innovative ways to grow and enhance CHOICE Kenya's contributions to community development.





































