



CHOICE HUMANITARIAN **KENYA** OCT-DEC, 2024





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-Sakina Mwambeyu, a spirite***



**“CHOICE Humanitarian has presented to us to sharpen
with other, today, I feel included and valued.”
13-year-old from Chikumani village,-**

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Dear Reader

As 2024 draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for the progress CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya has made in fostering sustainable development, empowering people, and uplifting communities. This fourth-quarter newsletter showcases the collective efforts of our team, partners, and the communities we serve. Together, we have continued developing communities, inspiring hope, and creating lasting change.

In this edition, we highlight key milestones that define our work. CHOICE Kenya is nurturing the next generation and empowering youth through sports, academic clinics, mentorship programs, skills development, and providing a platform for open dialogue. In the next pages, you will also read inspiring stories of tangible results, such as the Baraka Farmers' success with climate-smart agriculture and the launch of the Maji ya Chumvi Sewing Project. These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to building healthier, more resilient, and prosperous communities.

CHOICE Kenya actively participated in and commemorated several national and international events that drive our mission, encourage stakeholder collaboration, and promote advocacy and community engagement. These events remind us of the power of partnership in building resilient and cohesive communities.



Capacity building remains a cornerstone of our work. CHOICE Kenya equips community leaders with the skills and knowledge to drive change from within, as demonstrated by programs like the Samburu Development Council Meetings, Kwale Men's Engagement Forum, and Transformative Leadership Training for Samburu Chiefs. These programs cement the idea that sustainable development can only be achieved when local leadership is strong and well-equipped.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our board, partners, donors, and the incredible communities we serve. Your unwavering support and collaboration are the driving forces behind our success. Let us continue to unite, innovate, and inspire as we work towards our shared vision of sustainable development.

**Warm regards,
Oreu Lugogo
Director - Kenya
CHOICE Humanitarian**





Arsenal

Arsenal

MIKASA
PKC55-BR
JAPAN
MADE IN PAKISTAN

Youth Football Tournament: Empowering Skills, Building Community



Sakina Mwambeyu, a spirited 13-year-old from Chikumani village, couldn't have been happier to participate in a recent football tournament organized by CHOICE Kenya in partnership with Vinyunduni Maendeleo Organization (VIMO). Representing her home team, Turkey FC, Sakina proudly played as a goalkeeper—a position she's mastered as part of her school's 'Ocean Star' team at Busho Junior Secondary.

The tournament offered Sakina a unique opportunity to connect with friends, family, and new faces, all while refining her sports skills and fostering self-discipline. "I am grateful for the opportunity that CHOICE Humanitarian has presented to us to sharpen our skills and connect with each other," she shared, adding, "Today, I feel included and valued."

The three-day tournament was designed to engage youth from the VIMO CBO villages in a fun, competitive environment that also encouraged personal growth.

The event kicked off with three boys' matches, which set the tone for an exciting few days. Sakina and her fellow female participants were thrilled when it was their turn on the field, and they played with great energy and pride. By the end of the tournament, Turkey FC emerged victorious in both the girls' and boys' categories, making the win especially memorable for Sakina, her team, and the entire Chikumani Village.

This tournament was more than just a competition—it was an opportunity for young participants like Sakina to develop their potential, learn the value of teamwork, and build mutual respect.

Prior to the girls' games, a mentorship session reached **159** young individuals, offering valuable guidance on skill development, confidence-building, and self-discipline—values that are central to CHOICE Kenya's youth programs.

Over the three days, the tournament showcased excellent sportsmanship, with teams demonstrating respect and resilience on and off the field. Despite a few minor injuries, the event's first-aid team ensured the safety and well-being of all players. Community support was evident, with the area chief, assistant chief, and representatives from VIMO CBO present to cheer on the youth.

For Sakina, this experience was particularly meaningful, as it allowed her to represent her village and deepen her love for sports. She dreams of becoming a doctor one day, and she believes that events like this help her develop the skills and mindset she'll need for the future.

CHOICE Kenya is proud to see the youth from the VIMO CBO villages embracing opportunities like these—opportunities that go beyond sports to empower and unite communities. Looking ahead, CHOICE aims to continue with the program by connecting skilled, passionate youth with sports clubs, allowing them to nurture their talents and further their ambitions. We look forward to continuing this journey, nurturing young talent, and creating inclusive spaces where both boys and girls can shine.



Celebrating International Day of the Girl Child: Empowering Girls for a Better Future

On 11th October 2024, CHOICE Kenya, in collaboration with 25 partner organizations, joined the global community in celebrating International Day of the Girl Child at Bwiti Market Center in Kwale. This year's theme, "Girls' Vision for the Future," underscored the importance of investing in girls and amplifying their voices as agents of change.

In many parts of Africa, including Kenya, girls have historically been marginalized and denied the same opportunities as boys. For years, families prioritized boys, leaving girls with fewer opportunities for education and personal development. However, there has been a significant shift, and today, girls are increasingly recognized, valued, protected, and empowered to achieve their potential.



When we invest in the girl child, we invest in a better, more inclusive future.



The event brought together 632 attendees, including students, teachers, parents, and local leaders. Both girls and boys participated in mentorship sessions, where they openly discussed the challenges, they face and the opportunities available to them. These sessions, facilitated by CHOICE Kenya, focused on key issues such as education and menstrual hygiene, empowering students to understand their rights and believe in their ability to shape their futures.

The guest of honor, Madam Mwanaasha Gaserego, Executive Director of Tuwajali Wajane Kwale County, delivered a powerful speech. 'When we support our girls, we uplift entire communities. Ensuring that they have access to quality education, health care, and a life of dignity is our responsibility. Together, we must work to break down the barriers that hold them back and empower them to reach their full potential.' Her words resonated deeply, inspiring attendees to take action toward gender equality.

The mentorship sessions reached 250 students, leaving them with a renewed sense of empowerment and determination to pursue their dreams.

In addition to the mentorship sessions, CHOICE Kenya and its partners provided essential supplies, refreshments, and educational materials to 350 students, teachers, and parents. Additionally, 250 students received dignity kits, and T-shirts were distributed, ensuring that everyone involved felt supported and valued.

This celebration reaffirmed a powerful truth: when we invest in the girl child, we invest in a better, more inclusive future. Empowered girls are the future, and by equipping them with the tools, knowledge, and opportunities they need, we enable them to contribute to a brighter, more equitable society for all.

Celebrating Jamhuri Day in Samburu: A Day of Unity, Freedom, and Progress



Jamhuri Day, celebrated on December 12th each year, marks Kenya's journey to self-rule and provides an opportunity to reflect on the nation's progress. This year's celebrations, held at the Deputy County Commissioner's (DCC) office in Samburu, focused on unity and development.

As a trusted development partner in the region, CHOICE Kenya was recognized for its significant contributions to local growth and development. One of CHOICE Kenya's staff members, Mr. Hamisi Mzungu, was invited to address the youth in attendance where he highlighted the privileges of community service. In his speech, Mr. Mzungu emphasized the importance of youth empowerment programs led by CHOICE Kenya. He passionately discussed initiatives to enhance young people's lives, including education, skills training, and mentorship. He also addressed critical challenges, urging the youth to avoid negative influences such as drug and other harmful activities.

CHOICE Humanitarian was honored to participate in the event alongside other leaders from the National and County Government of Kwale. The ceremony brought together elected leaders such as the Deputy Governor Hon. Chimera, MP Hon. Gonzi Rai, MCA Chengoni Hon. John Shede, and MCA Mackinon Hon. Mwangawari Lenox.

Jamhuri Day served as a powerful reminder of the role each of us plays in shaping Kenya's future. For CHOICE Kenya, it reaffirmed our commitment to collaborating with communities and leaders to empower individuals and foster sustainable development.



CHOICEHUMANITARIAN

A Step Toward a Sustainable Future for People with Disabilities

The theme for this year's International Day of Disability, "Amplifying the Leadership in People with Disabilities for a Sustainable Future," highlighted the importance of inclusion and empowerment. CHOICE Kenya was honored to join community leaders, friends, and the public at Ndohivyo Special Needs School in Kwale County to mark this significant occasion.

The event provided a vital platform to raise awareness and advocate for greater inclusion of people with disabilities in education, leadership, and economic opportunities. It called for a shift away from outdated practices, such as isolating people with disabilities, and emphasized their potential to contribute meaningfully to society.

Organized by the Department of Social Services in Kwale County, the forum was graced by the Kwale County Governor Fatuma Achani, whose participation underscored the importance of building an inclusive community.

CHOICE Kenya remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting initiatives that promote the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities. We believe that every individual, regardless of ability, should have the chance to thrive and lead, helping to create a more inclusive and sustainable future for all. CHOICE Kenya has implemented several projects in the school to support people with disabilities in a conducive environment. We have implemented a solar project to light up critical areas, recruited and facilitated the school nurse, and invested in the school's infrastructure.

Short Takes

We believe that every individual, regardless of ability, should have the chance to thrive and lead, helping to create a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

-CHOICE Kenya-

Photograph: Pauline Awour



CHOICE Kenya staff and representatives of the Rotaract Club of Youthzone Mombasa in a photo at Samburu with a beneficiary of mobility aid



Distrupt Global Poverty

Engaging Men for Social and Economic Change in Kwale County

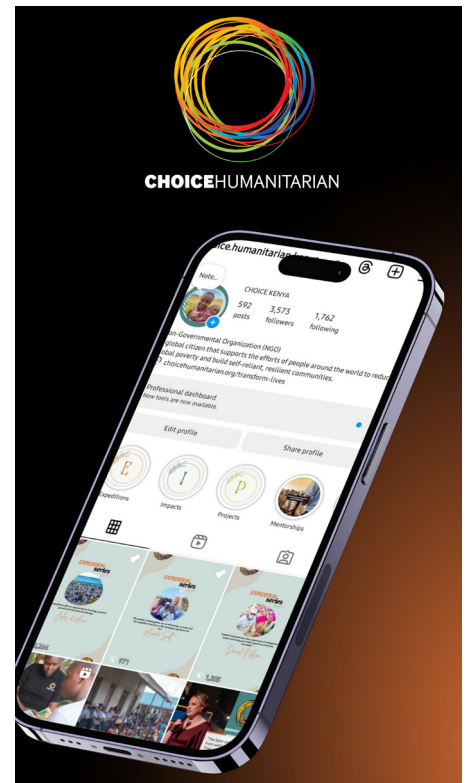


CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya, in collaboration with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and local leaders, is creating meaningful platforms for men to address the social and economic challenges they face. These forums are designed to foster open discussions on the issues that impact men, their families, and their communities.

It's important to recognize that many of the challenges men face are deeply rooted in culture—whether shaped by religion, tradition, or societal expectations. Some cultural practices can hinder progress, particularly those that limit women's freedoms and opportunities. Addressing these challenges requires the active involvement of men themselves. When men are empowered to challenge harmful traditions and adopt new attitudes, they can play a crucial role in supporting women's empowerment, strengthening families, and promoting sustainable development.

On October 17th, **63** men from Miguneni, Kasemeni ward, gathered for a program organized by Mnyenzi Development Organization (MCODO CBO) in partnership with CHOICE Kenya. The event, attended by the Member of the County Assembly, provided a platform for men to share their experiences, discuss the barriers to social and economic growth, and explore ways to overcome these challenges in their community.

Through these discussions, CHOICE Kenya is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and empowered society, one where both men and women can thrive equally. By involving men in the process of social change, we can build stronger, more resilient communities, where mutual respect and collaboration are at the forefront of development efforts.



CHOICE HUMANITARIAN KENYA

Samburu Development Council Meeting: Advancing Community Development

CHOICE Kenya recently convened a productive meeting with **34** members of the Samburu Development Council (SDC). The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of key Community-Based Organization (CBO) projects and laying the groundwork for future development efforts.

Key updates were shared on the status of ongoing CBO initiatives, which aim to uplift the community in various ways. One of the key highlights was the review of the Community-Based Education Trust Fund (COBETF), a vital resource supporting educational initiatives in the region.



During the meeting, CHOICE Kenya introduced new guidelines for COBETF, announcing that support will now be extended only to CBOs that contribute at least 50% towards the program. This policy is designed to encourage shared responsibility, ensure the long-term sustainability of educational projects, and empower communities to take a more active role in their educational initiatives.

The meeting also included discussions on plans for an upcoming End-of-Year Leaders' Forum, an initiative aimed at fostering unity and collaboration among local leaders and CBO members. The forum will connect CBOs with potential partners and stakeholders, creating opportunities for networking, resource sharing, and partnership building. This forum is expected to help position CBOs to achieve their development goals more effectively by forging valuable partnerships that can support future projects.

Through this forum, CHOICE Kenya and the Samburu Development Council aim to strengthen the capacity of local CBOs, align their efforts with external resources, and open doors to joint initiatives that can enhance community development and sustainability.

Together, CHOICE Kenya and the Samburu Development Council continue to build a solid foundation for a prosperous and empowered community, paving the way for long-term positive change.



770

**CHOICE Kenya
facilitated 10
transformative
Capacity-building
training sessions
that directly
empowering 770
community leaders
in 2024**

Leaders Movement: A Transformative Leadership Training for Samburu Chiefs



The leaders also discussed their commitment to fairness in their roles, emphasizing the importance of listening to all sides before making decisions. This collective reflection underscored the value of empathy and accountability in leadership.

A key takeaway from this gathering was the relief many leaders felt after sharing their personal stories. It was clear that this kind of open, honest dialogue is not only therapeutic but essential for effective leadership. The session fostered a sense of comradeship, as the leaders found strength in one another's experiences and challenges.

As a result, the group collectively agreed on the importance of having regular sessions like this to stay grounded, offer mutual support, and continue growing as accountable, high-performing leaders within their communities.

CHOICE Kenya recently facilitated a powerful leadership training session for 23 local chiefs and assistant chiefs from Samburu Sub-County, offering them a unique opportunity to reflect on their personal journeys and share their experiences openly. This session was designed not just to focus on leadership protocols, but to create a space for authentic dialogue, fostering trust and connection among the leaders.

Rather than following the usual formalities of leadership training, the session encouraged participants to discuss their upbringings, family dynamics, educational backgrounds, and the diverse paths that led them to their current roles. This openness allowed the leaders to offer an honest look into their lives, and it created a supportive environment where they could learn from one another's unique experiences.

As the session progressed, a sense of trust and camaraderie developed. The leaders began to share some of the personal challenges they face, including debt, anger, corruption, marital struggles, and personal temptations. These admissions humanized the leaders, demonstrating that despite their official positions, they too face struggles and vulnerabilities. This moment of transparency highlighted an important lesson: everyone, regardless of their position, has challenges. Judging others only detracts from the mission of serving the community, and acknowledging our shared humanity is a critical aspect of leadership.



Mckinon Road CBO: Building a Path to Sustainable Growth

On December 17, 2024, the Mckinon Road Community-Based Organization (CBO) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), gathering key stakeholders to reflect on its progress and chart the course for its future. The meeting was attended by the area chief, representatives from CHOICE Kenya, and Wildlife Works, Simba Project and other partner CBOs.

Wildlife Works has been a crucial partner, providing funding for initiatives focused on education and infrastructure development within the community. Their support has significantly contributed to the CBO's work in enhancing local facilities and services and scholarship for the community. CHOICE Kenya, on the other hand, has made impactful contributions through the distribution of dignity kits, tree planting activities, capacity-building programs, modern agricultural training for farmers, and substantial support for the Community-Based Education Trust Fund (COBETF), which benefits local children's education.

At the AGM, the CBO's chairperson presented a detailed report, providing updates on current projects, achievements, and future goals. Notably, the organization celebrated the inclusion of three new independent members and seven new groups, reflecting both growth in membership and increased community involvement.

Looking ahead, the CBO outlined its plans for the coming year, including a major initiative to register a company under its name. This will open doors for the organization to bid for county contracts and submit proposals for funding, significantly enhancing its ability to finance income-generating projects and ensure its sustainability. Among the key projects slated for 2025 are the establishment of a posho mill, the creation of garbage collection services, the construction of boreholes, and the launch of a bakery business.

These ventures are designed to meet immediate community needs while creating sustainable economic opportunities for members.

The Mckinon Road CBO's commitment to improving the lives of its members and the wider community is clear. By expanding its membership, seeking new sources of funding, and leveraging partnerships with CHOICE Kenya and Wildlife Works, the CBO is setting a solid foundation for long-term growth and sustainability. With a focus on economic empowerment, infrastructure development, and environmental stewardship, Mckinon Road CBO is dedicated to building a brighter, more prosperous future for the entire community.



Community Collaboration: Reflecting, Connecting, and Celebrating Progress

CHOICE Kenya joined representatives from the **13** Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) at Muungano Academy on 21st November 2024 for a special celebration. The day was a chance to reflect on our collective work in 2024, the progress made, experiences earned, and to chart a path toward sustainable development in 2025 and beyond. During the forum, the community members and invited leaders got to network, strengthen friendships, discuss potential partnerships, celebrate and recognize each other.

The gathering brought people together in a spirit of unity, gratitude and purpose. It focused on connection and celebration. Attendees shared a meal, reflected on milestones, and explored ways to enhance collaboration. It was a refreshing and uplifting experience that reinforced our shared commitment to empowering communities and building a brighter future together.

The celebration was attended by **52** people representing **13** villages from Mackinnon Road CBO, VIMO CBO, MADO CBO, KADO CBO, Muungano CBO, CHANDO CBO, UNDUGU CBO, Testimony CBO, MWEDO CBO, MCODO CBO, CEDO CBO, MUMO CBO and GODO CBO.

Fostering Collaboration for Sustainable Development

The National Government recently organized a Public Participation Forum in Samburu sub-county to ensure its development goals are aligned with community development aspirations. The forum brought together members of the local community and various stakeholders to address key issues around access to education, electricity, water, and matters of human-wildlife conflicts, food security, and land disputes. It was a platform for open dialogue, understanding, and sharing ideas to enhance development.

Several development plans were discussed during the forum, reflecting the diverse needs and priorities of the community. Updates included plans to improve access to electricity and water, resolve land disputes, address human-wildlife conflicts, and tackle food security challenges through sustainable agricultural practices. There was also a mention of the elevation of NGAO ECD to a primary school, which will bring much-needed resources such as qualified teachers, learning materials, and better infrastructure. A school that CHOICE Kenya in partnership with Rafiki Club have established a relationship including building two permanent classrooms and providing students with furniture and learning materials.

These discussions demonstrated a collective commitment to addressing pressing concerns while laying the groundwork for long-term growth. Participants shared insights and proposed practical solutions, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and shared responsibility.

The forum brought together voices from different sectors, fostering partnerships and actionable solutions that reflect the community's aspirations.





CHOICE Humanitarian works with local partners to develop strategies and programs that help isolated, rural communities participate in the global economy by using technology more creatively.
-CHOICE CoreValue-

Leaders Meeting: Strengthening Collaboration for community Development

On December 9th, 2024, a key leaders' meeting was held in Samburu Sub-County, convened by the National Government to strengthen collaboration and drive community development. The event brought together leaders from the grassroots to elected together, including Kwale County Deputy Governor Hon. Chirema, the Kinango Constituency Member of Parliament, Deputy County Commissioner, and the Director of CHOICE Kenya, amongst others to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in the community.

Chaired by the Kinango Member of Parliament, the meeting provided a platform for leaders from various sectors—including education, business, security, religious communities, political and CBOs—to share updates on ongoing initiatives. This exchange emphasized the collective efforts being made to improve living conditions and tackle local challenges.

The Member of Parliament encouraged the community to harness available opportunities and work together to effectively manage resources, implement a common vision, and adopt strategies for sustainable growth. The meeting fostered stronger partnerships, knowledge-sharing, and a renewed sense of unity and purpose. Updates on progress in education, business, and community projects encouraged participants to take concrete steps toward achieving their development goals.







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Baraka Farmers' Success with Climate-Smart Agriculture

The Baraka Farmers from Silaloni are transforming their lives through climate-smart agriculture, thanks to the Farmers Field School training conducted by Pwani University in collaboration with CHOICE Kenya. This group of dedicated farmers has embraced sustainable farming practices, each managing their own individual plot, and the results have been nothing short of remarkable.

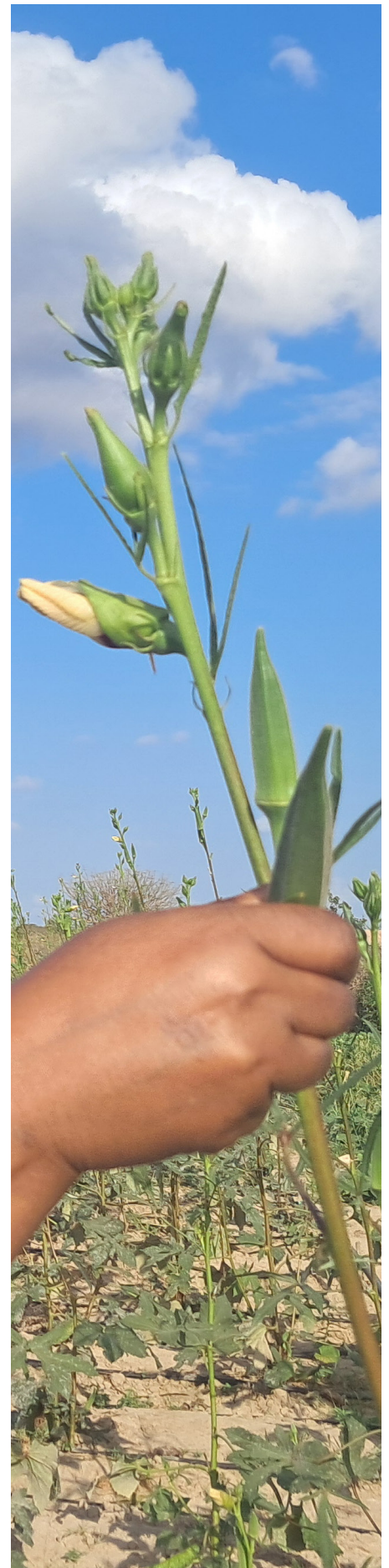
Before adopting climate-smart agriculture, many farmers in Silaloni relied on cutting down trees for charcoal production as their primary source of income. Now, they are generating steady income from their farm produce—an income that has not only improved their own lives but also positively impacted the entire community. The demand for their produce has grown so much that it rarely leaves their village, benefiting neighbors and fostering a sense of local economic growth.

The Baraka Farmers have experienced improved nutrition, better health, and enhanced living standards.

Kadzo Kahindi, a widow and mother of eight, is one such success story. From selling vegetables, she now earns between **Ksh 300 and 400** daily. “I am happy that I no longer have to engage in strenuous work to make a living. My health has improved, and I have more time for my family,” Kadzo shared, reflecting the profound changes in her life. For many other farmers, their monthly earnings range between **Ksh 7,000 and 9,000** from their plots—a substantial improvement from their previous livelihoods.

The impact of this initiative goes beyond just income generation. The Baraka Farmers have experienced improved nutrition, better health, and enhanced living standards, proving that sustainable agriculture can be a catalyst for lasting change in communities.

The project’s success is also gaining wider attention. The County Government of Kwale has joined as a supporting partner, and this model of sustainable farming is inspiring other local groups and potential partners to join in, amplifying the reach of climate-smart practices. With the County's support, the farmers are embarking on an exciting new project: the installation of a half-acre drip irrigation system.



They have already received irrigation equipment and are preparing the land, eagerly awaiting solar panels and water tanks that will complete the project and ensure a consistent water supply for their crops.

CHOICE Kenya is proud to see the Baraka Farmers setting an example for sustainable development in their community. Their success demonstrates that with the right training and support, even smallholder farmers can achieve remarkable results, benefiting not just themselves but the wider community as well.

Benchmarking in Fulugani: A Model for Sustainable Growth

CHOICE Kenya visited Fulugani to explore the success of a thriving poultry farming project in the area. Funded by Compassion, the **KES 2.7 million** initiative began as a small-scale effort by parents of Fulugani Primary School students to improve household income. Over time, it has grown into a community-supported venture benefiting **388** active participants.

The project provides a sustainable source of income, enabling families to improve their livelihoods and contribute to the local economy. Its success has transformed lives and strengthened the community's economic resilience, making it a model for sustainable development. Stakeholders, including CHOICE Kenya, gathered to learn from the initiative and explore how it could inspire similar efforts across Samburu and beyond.

Representatives from Kwale County Government, Farm Care, Emali Kuku Care, and Fulugani Primary School joined CHOICE Kenya to learning from the project, exchange ideas and witness its impact on improved nutrition and enhanced quality of life. This aligns with CHOICE Kenya's mission to support community-led projects that promote self-reliance and collaborative learning. The organization aims to replicate and scale such initiatives within its network of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), empowering communities across the region with sustainable development models.



Stitching a Brighter Future: Maji ya Chumvi Sewing Project Launches

On October 29, 2024, Maji ya Chumvi Development Organization (MADO) celebrated the arrival of a sewing machine donated by CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya—a significant milestone in their community development efforts. This new addition marks the beginning of an exciting venture that promises to empower residents and promote sustainable income in the Mwangoloto community. With a total of 37 members benefiting from this initiative, the project has the potential to make a meaningful impact on many lives.

To ensure the success of the project, the CBO has created a dedicated workspace for the sewing machine, hired a skilled tailor to train community members, and sourced high-quality materials for the business. With these key preparations in place, the project is poised to enhance skills and offer opportunities for economic independence.

CHOICE Kenya has also contributed to the initiative's long-term sustainability by providing the CBO with a signed commitment form, formalizing the collaboration and ensuring that both parties remain invested in the success of the project. Speaking at the event, CHOICE Kenya's Economic Development Officer, Madam Fatma, emphasized, "True economic development creates opportunities that empower individuals, strengthen communities, and lay the foundation for sustainable prosperity. This sewing project is just one example of how we can build that future together."

This sewing project has the potential to transform the lives of those in the Mwangoloto community by fostering skill development, promoting self-sufficiency, and creating new avenues for income generation. CHOICE Kenya is excited to support this growing initiative and looks forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on the community's future.



Empowering Young Women through Skill Development

A soap-making workshop in Kilifi brought together CHOICE Kenya, the Rotaract Club of Kilifi, and the New Beginning Pregnancy Crisis Centre to teach young women and school-going girls a valuable skill. Many of these participants face challenges like early pregnancies and limited opportunities, but this initiative gave them hope and practical knowledge and skills to earn an income.

During the session, the girls learned how to mix oils and scents to create soaps. The training was simple but meaningful, showing young vulnerable girls how to earn an income and support themselves. One participant said, "This skill makes me feel capable of building a better future for myself and my child."

With this skill, these young women have the potential to shape their futures, supporting their families and achieving financial independence. Our hope is that this workshop becomes a steppingstone to stronger confidence, unlocks opportunities, and empowers them to pursue their aspirations.



Empowering Women Entrepreneurs: A Path to Economic Independence

CHOICE Kenya recently convened a meeting with six dynamic women's business groups at the Mnyenzi Community Development Organization (MCODO) Office. The gathering brought together 21 representatives from Tuishimiane, Tupendane, Tumeamua, Bahati, Neema Silk, and Mazingira Self-Help Groups, each working tirelessly to drive their small businesses forward. Together, these six groups empower a total of 108 women, who are using their entrepreneurial skills to uplift not only their own households but also the wider community.

Women are the backbone of our communities, playing a vital role in driving sustainable change and fostering growth across all aspects of life. Through their entrepreneurial efforts, these women are not only supporting their families but also contributing to the local economy and building stronger, more resilient communities.

The businesses represented at the meeting span a variety of sectors, including petrol sales, groceries, firewood, clothing, and poultry farming. While these businesses are crucial in meeting household needs, many women face challenges in growing their ventures due to limited resources and external factors. The income generated often falls short of fully supporting their families, prompting the need for business skills and strategic guidance to improve profitability and economic stability.

During the meeting, the participants shared the challenges they face, which include limited access to capital, inconsistent customer demand, drought, inflation, and lack of proper business training. While some members expressed hopes for financial assistance, CHOICE Kenya emphasized its commitment to empowering women through training and capacity building rather than direct financial support. The goal is to help the women enhance their business skills and connect them with financial institutions that can offer sustainable support.

CHOICE Kenya is focused on equipping these women with the tools, knowledge, and confidence needed to manage and expand their businesses successfully. By strengthening their business acumen, these women will be better positioned to navigate the challenges they face, build resilience, and ultimately improve their economic stability.

Looking ahead, the women of Mnyenzi are more determined than ever to overcome obstacles and thrive in their entrepreneurial journeys. With CHOICE Kenya's support and their own dedication, they are poised to achieve greater success and contribute to the long-term prosperity of their families and communities.



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-CHOICE Kenya-



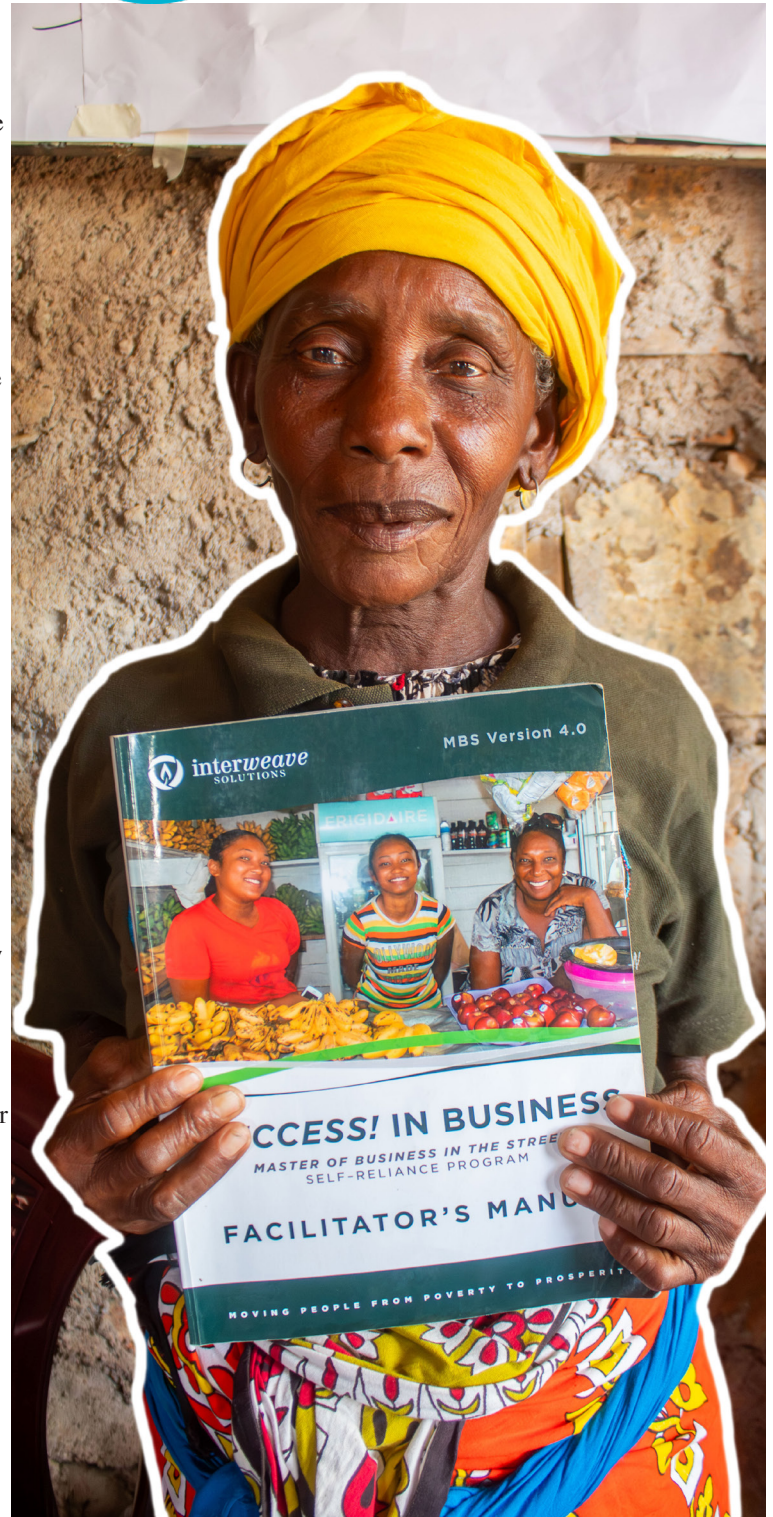
Financial Literacy Training: Empowering Farmers for Financial Success

Baraka Farmers from Silaloni are overcoming the common challenges faced by small businesses and achieving remarkable success in their economic journey. Baraka Farmers from Silaloni are working to overcome these obstacles, making impressive strides on their economic journey. The group participated in CHOICE Kenya's Farmers Field School (FFS) training during the last long rains in partnership with Pwani University, and they have embraced and are practicing the lessons wholeheartedly. The results of their hard work are a demonstration of transformative success: each member of the Baraka Farmers is now earning between **7,000** and **9,000 Ksh** per month, a significant increase from their previous earnings of **Ksh 3000-5000** per month

CHOICE Kenya recognized the potential within the Baraka Farmers and saw a need to further support their progress with focused training on business management. This training was based on the "Four Ps". The Four Ps are Price, Promotion, Paperwork, and Product. Each principle was tailored to help farmers understand and tackle different aspects of business management. Given the literacy level of the members of the farmers group, CHOICE Kenya conducted the training in the adult learning format using practicles, props, and in the local dialect.

The three-day workshop with the farmers aimed to instill them with practical financial skills and agribusiness know-how to improve productivity, boost profitability, and ensure the long-term sustainability of their businesses.

As the Baraka Farmers continue to build on these newly acquired financial skills, their success will not only benefit their own businesses but also contribute to the economic empowerment of their entire community. CHOICE Kenya remains dedicated to supporting these farmers as they work towards a prosperous and sustainable future.



Pictorial



**We change cycles of poverty
into paths of possibility.
DISRUPT WITH US.**



SCAN ME

HUMANITY

Academic Clinic



“Society can be cruel towards failures; recognition often comes only to those who stand out. Yet, within you lies everything needed to succeed. Trust in yourself.”

- Madam ACC Samburu sub-County.

These words resonated with every individual at the Community Based Education Trust Fund (COBETF) Grand Academic Day at the Empire Hotel in Samburu. Hosted by CHOICE Kenya, the event brought together students, parents, teachers, and community members to review performance, celebrate academic achievements, offer mentorship and encouragement to the students and all the stakeholders

The presence of COBETF stakeholders—community-based Organizations (CBOs), the County Government of Kwale, Yehu Microfinance, and the National Government—made the event a success. Their dedication to supporting education and youth development is vital to the continued sustainable development of the community.

Speaker after speaker reminded the students of their essential role in creating a brighter tomorrow for themselves, their families and their community, while parents were urged to recognize the critical influence, they have in their children’s lives in making the best of the opportunities ahead of them.

During his address, the Director of Education Kwale County likened the gathering of parents, leaders, and students to the three stones of a cooking stove. Mr. Salim stated that “the stove cannot stand on its own without the three stones. The children need support from families and the community to excel,” he said. “Today, we celebrate that collective effort.”

CCHOICE Kenya also took the opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievements of students. The awarded students, based on their performance and dedication, should serve as an inspiration to others in the program that did not get the recognition. All present we urged to consider the impact that education and community support can have on academic success and progress of the community.

This event reaffirmed a shared vision of empowering Kwale’s youth through education. It was a memorable day that underscored the community’s united goal: to build a stronger future through investment in learning, mentorship, and offering sustainable positive opportunities for all.



“My mother once wanted to marry me off, and sometimes, I am forced to spend the night away from home because she has reached her breaking point, these are just some of the challenges i face.” Mwanajuma Kadzo during our academic clinic in Kanjaocha.

Building Resilience and Hope for the future Generation

What began as a focus on academic goals gradually transformed into something much deeper. As conversations unfolded, **12** scholarship beneficiaries in attendance opened up about personal struggles that extend far beyond school. Many face difficulties that affect their education goals and weigh heavily on their confidence, focus, and academic performance. During discussions with the mentors from CHOICE Kenya and the Community, it became clear that the scholarship beneficiaries and their guardians require support to ensure that the students achieve the required grades and join university. The students express a need to find supportive spaces where they can feel seen and valued.

Each story revealed resilience waiting to be nurtured. Small gestures - kind words, a listening ear, sparked hope and offered encouragement, helping them find the strength and support to carry on with renewed determination and direction.



Mwanajuma Kadzo with her friend during Academic clinic

Through CHOICE Kenya’s presence, students like Bendera Kazungu were reminded that they are not alone, that their dreams matter, and that they have the strength to overcome obstacles in their way. This sense of connection and support can be transformative, empowering them to pursue their goals with confidence, knowing CHOICE Kenya and the community is alongside them every step of the way.



Mentorship for Empowerment: Building a Safer Future for Women and Girls in Chanzou

In Chanzou, a powerful mentorship initiative is lighting the path for a brighter, safer future for young girls and women. CHOICE Kenya recently mentored **215** girls and **37** women, through a collaborative session organized by the CHANDO CBO. The goal was to address the unique challenges faced by girls during the long holiday and to provide a platform for open dialogue, guidance, and the development of strategies to protect women and girls. This effort emphasized the shared responsibility of the community in creating a nurturing environment for all.

One of the most pressing issues discussed was the alarming trend of parents evading their responsibilities. This lack of parental involvement has far-reaching consequences, especially for girls, who often find themselves without the necessary guidance and support at home. As a result, many girls turn to external influences for help, with boda-boda riders becoming an unfortunate source of support. This has contributed to a worrying rise in early pregnancies, school dropouts, and an increase in indiscipline among students.

The discussion also explored the broader role of societal dynamics in perpetuating these challenges. Participants highlighted that while mentorship for girls is crucial, these issues cannot be fully addressed without including men and boys in the conversation. It became clear that men have a vital role to play in shaping a safer, more supportive environment for women and girls. To address this, the group collectively agreed that future mentorship sessions will include both men and boys. This inclusive approach aims to foster mutual understanding, shared responsibility, and collaboration to tackle the root causes of these issues.

As we work towards a future where women and girls can thrive, we must remember that real change begins when every individual, regardless of gender, takes responsibility for shaping a safer, more equitable society.

Engaging Youth for Skill Development and Talent Nurturing

How can we build a thriving and prosperous society? One answer lies in empowering youth through the Triple-E approach: Encourage, Engage, & Educate!

On October 20th, 2024, CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya partnered with Vinyunduni Maendeleo Organization (VIMO) to engage young people from **22** villages across the VIMO catchment area in a unique skills-building and mentorship initiative through sports. This event had a far-reaching impact, benefiting a total of **10,768** individuals.

At a roundtable meeting, youth from six villages, alongside community development stakeholders and leaders of all levels, gathered to plan an exciting football tournament that took place from October 24th to 26th, 2024. Teams from the Vinyunduni, Jeza, Ndugunishakwa, Chilumani, Vidziweni C, and Vidziweni B villages competed in a round-robin format, ensuring that every participant had the opportunity to play, showcase their talents, and engage with community leaders and stakeholders.

The tournament offered youth a range of valuable skills, from sportsmanship and discipline to leadership and strategic thinking. Participants learned how to collaborate effectively, both on and off the field, building teamwork skills that are essential for personal and community development. The event also nurtured a sense of purpose and belonging, strengthening ties within and across communities.

Building on the momentum of this successful event, CHOICE Kenya plans to expand the program by connecting youth who are passionate about sports with local clubs to help them further develop their talents. Additionally, the program will broaden its focus beyond football, creating platforms for youth with diverse talents to come together and showcase their skills. These expanded opportunities will allow young people to explore their full potential while contributing to the vibrancy and resilience of their communities.

CHOICE Kenya remains committed to nurturing local talent and believes that this tournament is just the beginning of many more initiatives aimed at empowering youth and strengthening our communities. We look forward to watching the youth shine—both on and off the field.

Shaurimoyo Pit Latrine Project

In Shaurimoyo, uncovered pit latrines holes posed a safety risk to children and animals. To address this, CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya, the school management committee, Kazamoyo Development Organization (KADO), and the village development council collaborated on a solution.

CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya provided construction materials, while the local groups managed the project implementation. The community prioritized covering the pit closest to the village, transforming it into a safer space. With the slab now complete, the risk has been eliminated.

This project highlights the community's commitment and the leverage of locally available resources to address challenges and improve safety and ensure a healthier environment for all.



A Gift of Clean Water for Ngao ECD



Clean water is essential for creating a healthy, thriving learning environment. On 29th November, the Interact Club of Mombasa, in partnership with CHOICE Kenya and the Rotaract Club of Mombasa Youth Zone, donated a water tank to Ngao Early Childhood Development Centre. This gift will provide 64 students with consistent access to clean water, improving hygiene and fostering a better learning environment. The community, through the MWEDO CBO installed gutters to capture rainwater that will be fed into the new



With the water tank in place, students can now focus on their studies without the distractions of water scarcity. This collaboration highlights the power of teamwork in addressing community needs and making a lasting impact and inculcating the spirit of community service in young minds.



Handover of New Classroom at Muungano Primary School

CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya recently handed over a newly constructed classroom to Muungano Primary School. Built during the July 2024 expedition, this classroom will provide much-needed space for incoming 9th-grade students, creating a supportive environment for academic growth and focused study.

The handover ceremony was attended by 32 parents, who gathered to celebrate this milestone and reflect on their collective efforts to improve the school's infrastructure. Their active participation and contributions have been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. The new classroom is a direct result of the community's ongoing commitment to advancing education at Muungano Primary.

During the event, parents were reminded of their continued support for the Community-Based Education Trust Fund (COBETF), which they have been actively contributing to in order to expand educational opportunities for their children. Many parents expressed a desire for COBETF to extend its support from Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) through to junior secondary, ensuring that their children receive a strong educational foundation and continuity in their academic journey.

Madam Eunice Mwahanje, CHOICE Kenya's Education Officer, addressed the gathering, encouraging students to make the most of this opportunity. 'This classroom is a pathway to your future. We have built this space to support your learning, and now it's up to you to work hard and pursue your dreams,' she said, inspiring students to recognize the value of their education.



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The addition of this classroom, along with two others previously built by CHOICE Kenya, has had a noticeable impact on both enrollment and academic performance at Muungano Primary. Improved facilities have encouraged more parents to enroll their children, resulting in a steady increase in the student population. Additionally, with fewer overcrowded spaces, students now benefit from an environment more conducive to focused learning, which has positively influenced academic outcomes.

As a token of appreciation, Muungano Primary's Headteacher, Mr. Mwachiti, presented a goat to CHOICE Kenya's Director, symbolizing the community's deep gratitude for the organization's unwavering support and dedication to transforming the school. This gesture represents the strength of the partnership and the mutual respect between CHOICE Kenya and the community.

The collaboration between CHOICE Kenya, the local community, and Muungano Primary School is laying a solid foundation for future educational growth. The new classroom will provide students with the tools and space they need to thrive academically, contributing to a brighter future for the entire community.

GROWTH

CHOICE Kenya Board Meeting

On November 15th, 2024, CHOICE Humanitarian Kenya held its quarterly board meeting to review the progress and impact of activities carried out in the third quarter. The meeting provided an opportunity to evaluate achievements, address challenges, and chart a clear path for the organization in 2025.

The management team presented detailed updates on CHOICE Kenya's work across key program areas in education, health, economic development, and food security. Board members engaged in thoughtful discussions, reflecting on the positive changes observed in the communities served and identifying opportunities for further growth.

Looking ahead to 2025, several exciting initiatives were outlined. A new computer lab in a local school, providing community members with access to digital resources and skills training. Additionally, each local community-based organization (CBO) will receive a laptop, enabling them to enhance their technology capabilities and support youth development. In education, CHOICE Kenya's scholarship program students will have the opportunity to participate in benchmarking visits to universities across Kenya, gaining exposure and valuable insights to help prepare for their future and the continued investment in the capacity of community leaders and establishment of Community Based Organizations to drive sustainable development from the village level was prioritized.

With a clear vision and innovative strategies, CHOICE Kenya is well-positioned to continue empowering communities and creating lasting opportunities for growth in the year ahead.

CHOICE GALA 2024

CHOICE Humanitarian's Annual Fundraising Gala in 2024 celebrated the power of unity and the sustainable achievements made possible through collaboration. The theme, "Woven in Strength," captured the spirit of resilience and innovation that propels the organization's mission to Disrupt Global Poverty and uplift communities in need.

The evening was filled with inspiring moments, heartfelt speeches, stunning performances, and remarkable generosity from supporters. Together, attendees raised funds to empower lives, transform livelihoods, and create lasting change in communities around the world.

A particularly special moment of the night was the presentation of the prestigious James B. Mayfield Award to Dr. Timothy S. Evans, CHOICE Humanitarian's co-founder. Dr. Evans was honored for his unwavering dedication to empowering communities and promoting sustainable development for over 40 years, perfectly embodying the values of the award.

CHOICE Humanitarian extends its heartfelt gratitude to all donors, volunteers, and supporters whose contributions made the event a resounding success. Their commitment ensures the continued progress of initiatives that create lasting impact and bring hope to communities globally.

CHUSWA Annual Meeting: Empowering Staff Through Economic Growth

CHOICE Humanitarian Staff Welfare Association (CHUSWA) held its Annual General Meeting on December 8, 2024. CHUSWA supports staff by providing affordable loans to help them establish income-generating ventures and improve their families' livelihoods.

During the meeting, Chairperson Eunice Mwahanje shared a progress report on CHUSWA's achievements in 2024 and highlighted growth opportunities for 2025. She also introduced an exciting partnership with Port Sacco, offering members access to larger, low-interest loans, furthering their financial independence and personal growth.

The meeting underscored CHUSWA's ongoing commitment to economic empowerment and sustainability for its members.



**Thank
you!**



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