



To Our Readers.....

The Kenya Water Security and Climate Resilience Project (KWSCR) provides this newsletter as a forum for the project team drawn from the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Project Implementing Units (PIUs) for both KWSCR 1 & 2, to share successes, challenges, lesson learned and the impact our efforts, have on the project beneficiaries.

The KWSCR 1 covers the Lower Nzoia Project (LNP), Water Sector Reforms, Nzoia FFEWS, and Investment Planning while KWSCR 2 covers irrigation, livelihood, sanitation and water infrastructure, and the Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam project in Kwale County, which are government flagship projects.

The newsletter is produced quarterly and shared online. We will be glad to receive your feedback.

Thousands to Benefit from the Mwache Multipurpose Dam Project



H.E President Dr William Samoei Ruto and the Cabinet Secretary of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation Hon. Alice Wahome during the groundbreaking of Mwache Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kwale County in April 2023. On completion, the project will provide approximately 186 million litres of bulk per day to Mombasa and Kwale Counties by 2027.



Members of the public including project affected persons during the groundbreaking ceremony

Lower Nzoia Project Updates

Beneficiaries Sensitized on Project's Future Footprint

The Lower Nzoia project beneficiaries and other stakeholders have been sensitized on the project's future footprint after the closure on 30th September 2023. Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) from blocks 1 to 14 and along the Southern and Northern dykes attended the meetings.

The meetings were convened to inform the beneficiaries about the project changes, footprint, and the implications as well as address their

expectations. The targeted stakeholders included the Project-Affected Persons (PAPs), farmer groups, Irrigation Water Users Association (IWUA), administration chiefs, and Busia and Siaya Counties representatives.

The meetings were facilitated by the National Lands Commission (NLC), National Irrigation Authority (NIA), and the Project Management Unit (PMU). To ensure clarity, the key messages were interpreted in local dialects (*Luo and Kinyala*).



NLC Commissioner Eng. Reginald Okumu (right) responds to a PAPs question during a sensitization meeting at the dykes

Beneficiaries celebrate irrigation canal test-run

The Lower Nzoia Project recently conducted a successful test run for the irrigation canal water flow in blocks 1-4. By the closure in September 2023, farmers in blocks 1-4 will have access to irrigation services and the main canal will be completed up to block 5 including secondary canals in blocks 8-10. However, the World Bank is in discussion with the Government of Kenya for an additional extension of 15 months after September 2023 finances to complete the project's phase 1. On completion, the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) and the National Water Harvesting and Storage Authority (NWHSA) will implement the irrigation and flood protection services respectively. Link to test run video <https://youtu.be/Ma7GxTligjs>



Water flows to the main canal from the intake

Some farmers witness the first flow of the water at tertiary canal
1.2

Voices of the Beneficiaries

How the reinforcement of the dykes has reduced floods and increased livelihoods

Gladys Alunga and her neighbours distinctly remember that dark Sunday night when they lost all their livelihoods to floods. They were evacuated to the higher grounds on the dykes where they would spend the next three months.

“Floods were a common occurrence every year before the dykes were reinforced by the Lower Nzoia Irrigation Project. On this Sunday, everything looked normal until four o’clock in the morning when I woke up to find everything in the house soaked in water. The water levels were rising and some neighbours who had boats started rescuing people to the top of the dykes. I could not rescue anything from the house except my children and a few items. Everything happened so fast, the floods destroyed our houses and household items, crops, and some livestock were swept away. The whole village had moved to the top of the dyke which was weak and narrow. The next three months were dreadful. We did not have proper shelter and, no food, no sanitation facilities for the



Some of the households submerged during the floods.

tens of families. Although floods are a perennial occurrence here, we had never experienced such devastating floods as in 2020. We depended on Kenya Red Cross and well-wishers for survival. Food was scarce and a family received two kilograms of maize for a week. The sick could not access medical services because the facilities were submerged.

We also witnessed gender-based violence and early teenage pregnancies incidents. Out of frustration, some men turned to alcohol and families were slowly breaking. It was a terrible experience. We hope the dykes will give us a permanent solution,” says Gladys.



Affected households camping on the dykes



Gladys at the foot of the dyke near her farm

Lower Nzoia Project Updates

Life at the camp

For Angelina Odur, a 75-year-old widow, living in the camp for three months was the hardest experience in her entire life.

“I am the sole caretaker of my six orphaned grandchildren. We lost everything to the floods including our houses. We camped in a nearby school which was on higher grounds. Despite the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020, several families had to share the small available space. The women, young children, and girls slept in one room while the men and boys slept in the next room. There was no masking, it was survival. We depended on well-wishers for food and clothing.

On a typical day, the women woke up to look for wood to light the fire to warm the family or prepare porridge which could be on some days the only meal. Each household received small portions of flour and cooking oil. The families that managed to rescue some livestock also brought them along. Families with cows shared some milk. When it was time for us to go back home, I did not know what to feel as I had lost all my livestock and the houses destroyed. I had six young, orphaned grandchildren to look after with no food or shelter. We depended on relatives who lived in areas not affected by the floods. With the help of well-wishers, we repaired some houses and moved back. However, things have improved since the dykes were reinforced. My family has built semi-permanent houses and we are farming on the land that that was before swampy and idle. Today we are grateful for the Lower Nzoia



Angelina and her grandchildren outside their house

Project because since the dykes were reinforced and expanded, we have not experienced floods again. The project has reinforced the dykes and planted grass on the slopes to control soil erosion. However, Busia County needs to collaborate closely with the established community grievance redress committees to stop heavy sand tracks from driving on the dykes as this will weaken them and we will suffer again,” says Angelina. The reinforcement of the 34 km dykes has been completed. This will protect over 66,000 people annually affected by floods.

How the project cushioned vulnerable beneficiaries

Teresia Apiyo, a widow, is one of the 735 widows affected by the project. After compensation, like other beneficiaries living with a disability, the project supported her to resettle in a new house.

“Although the resettlement reduced our farmland size, my family is eagerly waiting for the irrigation services. We will increase our farming area and our yields. We are anticipating a better life, she said.



Lower Nzoia Project Updates

Boost for Agricultural Support and Value Chain Income

Young farmers dropping town jobs to assume farming

It is early in the morning in the sleepy village of Nyaraha Nyandorera sub-location, Siaya County Kenya. Ochieng Nyarotcho is already walking towards his farm armed with Jembe. This was never the case before as today is not the rainy season here. Usually, the farmers would be engaged in other activities besides agriculture as they fully depended on rain for farming. However, this is no longer the case for Nyarotcho and other farms that have been trained and are benefiting from the Lower Nzoia Irrigation project in Western Kenya. Although Ochieng and other farmers expect to start using the irrigation water by September 2023, this has not stopped him from farming. He is one of the 9,000 farmers who have been trained by the project in horticulture high-value crops good agricultural practices.

Before starting farming, Ochieng was employed as a marketing officer in Nairobi. The salary was never enough to feed and care for his family.

“A visit to my village one Christmas holiday changed my life when I saw the profits that my neighbors who had been trained by the project were making. I quit my job in Nairobi and joined Nyaraha produce and marketing group. After attending good agricultural practices training sessions organized by the project, I applied the techniques that I learned and saw immediate results. I planted other 1,500 stems of tomatoes. I harvest six months before



Ochieng at his farm

reseeding. I have diversified the cropping to include kale, capsicum, and spices and sell vegetables throughout the year. Currently, I am making a net income of Ksh 220,000 per season. The project provides clean planting materials and has linked farmers to local traders who purchase the vegetables from our farms. This reduces the cost of transportation, gives us more time to work on the farms, and increases our profit margins. My livelihood has improved, I have built a family home and can pay for my children's education. I also bought a solar pump and expanded the farming land from a quarter to half an acre. I will lease another five acres to farm when the irrigation water gets here. I employ casual laborers on the farm mostly young men and women. I am a training of trainers, and my farm has become a center of excellence where I train other farmers. I have so far trained ten farmers who have transferred the skills to their farms. Despite the delays in the completion of the project to provide the farmers with irrigation services, I am grateful life is no longer a struggle,” says Ochieng.

One hundred and forty-eight (148) farmer producer and marketing groups have been formed and operationalized.



A farmer prepares to transport tomatoes for the market

Lower Nzoia Project Updates

Boost for Agricultural Support and Value Chain Income

In May 2023, the ISC conducted on-farm training for 137 farmers (67 males and 68 females) from Nyasi, Pie Riko, and Ulawe farmer production and marketing groups in block 1. The farmers were trained in nursery preparations, sowing, management, and transplanting. The farmers are currently using water from river Nzoia as they await the irrigation services. The training practically engages farmers with a view of improving their knowledge, and skills and enhancing a cheerful outlook towards farming.



Pie Riko farmers group prepares the nurseries



Ongoing transplanting by Ulawe Farmers Group

*Nyasi Farmers Group
preparing nursery beds*



In Busia and Siaya Counties, the poverty level is at 64.2% and 47.56% respectively compared to a national level of 45.9%. In both Counties, poor agricultural practices are a key contributing factor to poverty.

The Lower Nzoia Irrigation Project objective is to revitalize agricultural development in the project area by providing support to agricultural production and the establishment of market linkages through a value chain management approach, thereby enhancing nutrition and the standards of living of the local communities in Siaya and Busia Counties. The project targets to provide irrigation water for a cumulative 4,034 hectares and transit 12,600 farmers from current rain-fed subsistence agriculture to commercial irrigated horticulture farming. This will increase food production and security, thereby enhancing nutrition and the standards of living of the local communities. By the end of September 2023, the farmers on 824 hectares (20.4%) will start irrigating their farms. The value of the project's agricultural products marketed to date is 7.1M US\$ (80% rice and 20% horticulture high-value crops).

Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam Project Updates

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Capacity Building Workshop held for the Mwache Dam Project Community Liaison Committee

Following the issuance of an Order to Commence construction works issued in March 2022, it was expected that the contractor, Sinohydro Corporation Ltd will gradually and increasingly mobilize for the works, including recruitment of the required labor force. The project stakeholders identified the need for linkage between the project and the local community to foster the development of mutually supportive positive relationships and to maintain regular and transparent communication. This led to the establishment of a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in April 2022.

The Community Liaison Committee is thus expected to support the contractor meet this obligation of ensuring that members of the community get priority in filling the semi-skilled and unskilled labour. The main purpose of the workshop was to take the committee members through the Labour Management Plan which guides the Constructor's recruitment process and explain their role in the process. The Plan indicates that seventy percent of semi-skilled and unskilled labour will be sourced from the local area and larger Kwale County. In addition, while recruiting, the contractor is expected to observe a two-third gender rule to ensure that female workers make up at least thirty percent of the total workforce and selection will be done without gender or other forms of discrimination. Vulnerable groups (including women, and persons with



Left: Madam Josephine Mwengi, Samburu Deputy County Commissioner addresses the workshop. Also in attendance is Kasemni area Senior Chief (foreground) with other CLC members during the workshop

disabilities) will be given priority where possible (light duties). The committee is expected to among other things help publicize and popularize adverts for semi and unskilled labour requirements by the Contractor. The Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) noted that around 30 percent of the total labour force aged between (15-64years) in Kwale County is either unemployed or underemployed, with the youth adversely affected. The RAP, therefore, recommended that the project will require proactive requirement of contractors to engage local labor unless the needed skills are not locally available.

The Liaison Committee is made up of 14 members representing: the Kwale County governor, office of the Member of Parliament, Kinango Constituency, Mwavumbo and Kasemi wards Members of County Assembly offices, the Mwache Dam Committee, local national government -area chiefs, two community members drawn from Mwavumba and Kasemni, one woman to represent women interests, one youth, and one member representing persons living with disability. The workshop was organized by the KWSCR project team and attended by staff from the supervising Engineer-Nippon Koei and Synohydro Ltd.

Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam Project Updates

Updating Community on the Project Progress



Community Members during monthly baraza in Chingomeni and Kasemeni respectively

In an endeavor to keep the project-affected community and other stakeholders around the Mwache Dam project area informed, the Mwache Dam project implementing team have this year held three public barazas. These meetings give the community and stakeholders an opportunity to receive updates on the project implementation status as well as provide a forum for them to air and communicate whatever issues and grievances they may have. The issue of employment by the Contractor has been of key concern and the community has expressed its expectations that semi-skilled and unskilled labour will largely be sourced from the project area. Other updates touch on the Contractor's activities (including addressing environmental, health and safety related concerns), community livelihood restoration, land compensation issues especially for Priority 3 area whose PAPs are in the process of being compensated by the National Land Commission.

Priority 3 covers PAPS from Chigato, Bofu, Mwavumbo and Mnyenzi. The meetings are attended by the various project implementing teams composed of the: Frontman Ltd, the RAP implementing Consultant; Akide Lawyers and Advocate dealing with succession and conveyance issues; WOMANKIND Kenya (WOKIKE) concerned with gender-based violence, sexual abuse and harassment; land surveying team, Geomatic Ltd, Nippon Koei the supervising engineer and Sinohydro Ltd the dam construction company. Their presence in the barazas is always critical as they are able to directly address and respond to the concerns raised by the community. The barazas are scheduled to take place every month. This is in addition to other stakeholders engagement forum organized by the project.

Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam Project Updates

The National Land Commission Inspects Land in Priority Area 3

After a Kenya gazette notice of 11th November 2022 indicating the intention to acquire 704 parcels under Priority Area 3, the National Land Commission moved to the ground and began an inspection of the land. Priority 3 covers PAPS from Chigato, Bofu, Mwavumbo, and Mnyenzi. In preparation for this, four sensitization meetings for PAPS were held on 6th and 7th of December 2022 at Mwavumbo ward, Chigato, Bofu and Mnyenzi sub-locations. The PAPS collected copies of the gazette notice and was informed of the requirements for inspection and the date of commencement of the exercise. The inspection started in Mwavumbo ward on 8th December 2022 by the NLC team assisted by Frontman Ltd, the Mwache Dam project RAP Implementation Consultant.



Officials from NLC during Inspection on Land and Development for Project-Affected Persons

GBV Service Provider Engagement with Consultant/Contractor Agencies



Sensitization of staff and workers on GBV/SEAH



WomanKind Kenya (WOKIKE) has been interacting with the Consultants and Contractor agencies making sure they are made aware of their expected type of behavior while working in MWACHE project, relationships with colleagues, other project workers, and the community. The workers most of whom work in the civil works are first made aware on the risks that are likely to emanate from GBV(Gender Based Violence) specifically Sexual Exploitation and Abuse(SEA) or Sexual Harassment(SH). To ensure there is ownership the project workers are asked to give suggestions on the type of behaviour they would like to see in MWACHE multipurpose dam project. Some of the suggestions they have given include: that management ensures fairness in treating staffs; respect for diversity(culture and religion); professionalism at work place; appreciating personal space; assurance to protect whistle blowers among others. The ultimate goal is to ensure and promote a safe, healthy and ethical work environment for all.

Mwache Multi-Purpose Dam Project Updates

Strengthening Stakeholders Collaborations



Coast Project Coordinator Eng. Simon Kibachio explains the dam design to the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation Hon. Alice Wahome (center), and other government officials during a visit to the project.



World Bank team led by the Team Leader, Pieter Waalewijn pays a courtesy call to the Kwale County Governor Hon. Fatuma Achani, at her office in Kwale.



Coast Region Commissioner and Senior Kwale County National Government Officials during a consultative meeting with the Project Management Unit staff led by the Coast Project Coordinator at the project's offices at Coast Water, Mazeras, Kwale County

Do you want to share project impact stories, challenges, or feedback?

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