

# Chengoni integrated food security project

## Geographical coverage

Samburu-Chengoni Ward, Samburu Division of Kinango Sub county in Kwale County, Kenya.



## Gender

The project committee comprises both men and women and is co -chaired by a woman, allowing for consideration of concerns of women.

## Target group

Approx. **1,179** persons spread across 4 villages, 4 primary schools with about 1,480 pupils, health centre and a shopping centre.



## PROJECT COST KSh 16,144,800

NDMA/EU - Ksh **12,264,800**

Kwale County Government -Ksh 2 million

Community contribution - Ksh 1.88 million

*The County Drought Coordinator Mr Roman Sherah gestures in an okra farm next to the water pan. The vegetables are grown under drip irrigation as part of the County Government contribution.*

## Problem Statement

The project area is one of the driest parts of Kwale County, with highly erratic and poorly distributed rainfall.

Nearly all food security assessments classify the area under phase 3 (crisis) of the Integrated Phase Classification even when other parts of the county perform better. Additionally, the drought early warning system sentinel site within the area persistently posted high percentages of children at risk of malnutrition, necessitating rapid nutritional screening from time to time.

Communities had to trek long distances in search of water, committing time which would otherwise be effectively used in socio-economic activities. Moreover, the area has to be put under water trucking during dry spells.

The community traditionally relied on rain-fed agriculture, which more often than not ended up either in total crop failure or meagre harvests that wouldn't last more than a month. Most households were under the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) programme jointly funded by the Kenya Government and World Food Programme to cushion them against severe food insecurity.

Through the PRRO project, the community excavated a 6,000m<sup>3</sup> water pan strategically located along livestock migration routes, serving livestock from the neighbouring locations of Taru, Samburu and Mwavumbo of Kinango sub-county, and Mitangani and Tsangatsini Locations of Kilifi County during dry spells. However, the water hardly lasted for two months due to high demand, low reservoir capacity, competition between livestock and humans and evaporation losses.

It was on this basis that the community prioritised this project during a participatory disaster risk assessment (PDRA) exercise conducted by the NDMA in 2013. The project sought to ease the pressure on the already strained water resource by excavating a 20,000m<sup>3</sup> water pan on the downstream side of the old pan. The water pan would provide water for domestic use and irrigation, as well as livestock within the sub-location during severe droughts.



**Top:** Chengoni Water pan in Kwale County.  
**Below:** A signpost, pump house and water kiosk at the water pan.

## Implementation

The intervention included the following;

- Excavation of a 20,000m<sup>3</sup> capacity water pan equipped with a solar pump.
- Auxilliary facilities including a water storage tank, livestock trough, two toilets and bathrooms.
- Training of beneficiaries on hygiene and sanitation, water resource management and sustainability.
- Installation of drip irrigation infrastructure on two acres of land accompanied by training of beneficiaries on irrigated agriculture and agronomic practices.
- Establishment of a tree nursery and planting of 3,000 tree seedlings as well as training of beneficiaries on environmental conservation and management of tree nurseries.

## Impact

The project has recorded the following outcomes;

- 1. Improved access to clean and safe water for domestic and livestock use**
  - a) Additional water source created, which has improved water availability for the community throughout the year.
  - b) Access to clean drinking water for people and animals. i.e.
    - o Chanzou community - 197 households spread across 4 villages. The water component also benefits nearby villages around Silaloni, Maji ya Chumvi and Chengoni sub-locations with estimated 15,315 people during dry months.
    - o The area is estimated to host about 9,013 cattle, 3,945 sheep and 9,567 goats from the local community and estimated to serve livestock from the neighbouring locations of Taru, Samburu and Mwavumbo of Kinango Sub-county and Mitangani and Tsangatsini locations of neighbouring Kilifi County.
    - o Institutions - Chengoni, Chanzou, Mwaruphesa and Maziani primary schools with a combined enrolment of 1,480 pupils as at February 2019, and Chanzou dispensary.
    - o Chanzou shopping centre.
- 2. Increased crop production and promotion of sustainable agriculture through irrigation**

20 beneficiaries have been planting various high value crops for household consumption and income generation on a 2-acre plot through irrigation. These include tomatoes, onions, okra, brinjals, kales and spinach.
- 3. Increased awareness on environmental conservation**

3,000 seedlings were raised and planted in schools and the project catchment area.