State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries

Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-economic Development (KEMFSED)

Improving management of priority fisheries and livelihoods for coastal communities
Background

Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) project is implemented by the Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries with support from the World Bank. The project aims at supporting the country in its efforts to leverage emerging opportunities in the Blue Economy.

Context

Kenya is endowed with marine and fresh water fisheries resources which support the livelihood of coastal communities. Kenya’s marine production is mainly from small-scale fisheries which provide opportunities for employment and wealth creation along the value chain, and contribute to food and nutrition security. Additionally, marine fisheries are also important for the preservation of culture and national heritage, including related industries such as tourism and for recreational proposes.

In 2021, the fisheries sector supported 1.2 million people directly and indirectly across the value chain. The value of marine artisanal fisheries was 5.49 billion from 25,380 metric tonnes. Kenya aims at increasing this contribution while ensuring that the fishing industry is sustainable. The Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-economic Development (KEMFSED) aims to contribute to this effort.

Data point: Sh5.49 billion Value of artisanal marine fisheries in 2021

Project Development Objective

To improve management of priority fisheries and mariculture and increase access to complementary livelihood activities in coastal communities.

Coverage

The project focuses on marine fisheries and covers the coastal counties that border the Indian Ocean: Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River and Lamu.

Beneficiaries

The project will target poor households in the five coastal counties, including vulnerable groups such as the Tswaka, Watha, Aweer and Sanye. The primary target group are the fishers and poor fisheries-dependent households, and rural communities with direct or indirect links to fishing activities.

Priority fisheries

KEMFSED aims to strengthen the management of fisheries that are a priority to coastal livelihoods.

- Snapper fisheries in the North Kenya Banks
- Small-scale purse seine (ringnet)
- Small-scale line-caught tuna
- Shallow water prawn
- Octopus
- In-shore basket trap

Weak governance has led to overfishing of these fisheries at the nearshore, reducing the catch per fisher and contributing to high poverty levels. The project aims to secure stocks at sustainable levels of harvesting.
Guiding Principles

Catalyzing economic development: The project is expected to result in sustainable management of the priority fisheries and make a substantial contribution to Kenya’s blue economy. This is in recognition of the important contribution of fisheries to job creation, income generation and food and nutrition security.

National and county government partnership: The project is designed in a manner consistent with the principles of devolution at both levels of government. This will strengthen fisheries management in the context of a devolved sector.

Technical and financial support: The project provides technical and financial incentives for complementary livelihoods and diversification of income sources, as well as capacity building and support to enhance the value of artisanal fisheries production. This will help to lessen the threat of overfishing to vulnerable species and enable fishers to reduce fishing and access alternative livelihoods.

Project Components

Three integrated components contribute to the Project Development Objective.

Component 1: Strengthen Capacity in Governance and Management of Marine Fisheries

This component focuses on strengthening governance and management of Kenya’s renewable marine resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of fish stocks.

Component 2: Coastal Community Empowerment and Livelihoods

The activities in this sub-component are implemented through three categories of small grants or sub-projects. Communities are supported to develop Community Integrated Development Plans (CIDP) to guide prioritisation of interventions and competitive selection of the sub-projects submitted through common interest groups.

i. Livelihood productive grants targeting about 20,000 households will be targeted across the project 98 Wards in five counties.

Sub-components:

• Enhanced Governance of Marine Fisheries and Blue Economy: Strengthening policies and regulations; preparation of an Integrated Marine Spatial Plan; building management capacity; improving data quality and use for decision-making; monitoring, control and surveillance; and training.

• Improved Management of Nearshore Fisheries: Strengthening co-management structures such as Beach Management Units (BMUs) and networks; implementation of Joint Co-Management Areas (JCMA); conducting social and ecological surveys; and establishment of bad weather SMS alert system for fishers.

• Infrastructure Development for Fisheries Management at national and county levels: Construction of Uvuvi House and establishment a national fisheries sector hub; upgrading of county fisheries offices; establishment of a marine hatchery and National Mariculture Resource and Training Centre (NAMARET); and upgrading of fisheries infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses and ensure compliance to regulations.
ii. Social welfare grants to improve social facilities
iii. Environmental and natural capital grants to promote environmental management projects.

The selection criteria ensure inclusion of sub-projects led by youth and women. Other interventions in this component include:

- Training, capacity building and mentorship for communities and staff from government institutions implementing the project.
- Scholarships for students in high school, vocational training and internships to increase the local skills pool.

Strategic partners: KEMFSED has formed strategic partnerships with four commercial enterprises implementing aquaculture or contract farming schemes to provide technical assistance to smallholder producers improve their access to markets.

Component 3: Project Management

The National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) finances and supports project management at the national and county levels to ensure effective and timely execution of project activities. A satellite NPCU office has been established in Mombasa.

Key Outcomes

- Enhanced capacity in governance and management at national and county levels
- Increased access to sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities
- Improved management of priority fisheries and mariculture
- Better protection and harnessing of marine resources
- Increased competitiveness of marine sectors
- Job creation in the coastal economy
- Improved food and nutrition security.

Management Structure

National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU)

The NPCU is based in Nairobi with a satellite unit in Mombasa. The NPCU is led by the National Project Coordinator working with a team of operational staff, consultants and technical officers from the State Department, Kenya Fisheries Service and Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute.

Other management and implementation structures include the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) and the Project Technical Advisory Committee, County Project Implementing Units (CPIUs) and County Project Steering Committees (CPSC).

Grievance Redress Mechanism

KEMFSED has set up a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) for handling complaints related to the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project. Through this mechanism anyone including community members, staff, stakeholders participating or affected by the project file complaints or submit other issues related to the project so that they can be addressed in a timely manner. Grievances can be submitted through the project contact address, email and telephone number or delivered in person to any of the project offices, or through community committees and other additional channels that may be set up.

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