



# HABARI ZA KEMFSED

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A newsletter of the Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project

## President Ruto launches grants for coastal community projects

### 142 groups awarded over Sh320 million in the first round of funding

**H**is Excellency President William Ruto on February 24th 2023 handed over a cheque for Sh320 million for local groups to governors of five counties, marking the release of KEMFSED's grants for coastal community projects.

The President presented the cheque to the governors Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir of Mombasa, Kwale's Fatuma Achani, Gideon Mung'aro of Kilifi, Dhadho Gaddae Godhana and Lamu's Issa Timamy during a ceremony held at Liwatoni, Mombasa.

President Ruto was accompanied by Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua and Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs Cabinet Secretary Salim Mvurya, among other leaders.

The governors received the cheque jointly with representatives of beneficiary groups from their counties.

Blue Economy and Fisheries Principal Secretary Betsy Muthoni was among the officials who witnessed the launch. The KEMFSED team was led by National Project Coordinator Patrick Kiara and included community representatives and stakeholders from the five counties.

The grants money transferred to the counties will be disbursed to the 142 grassroots common interest groups across the counties for community projects approved for funding in the first round of KEMFSED funding.

Over 20,000 people are expected to benefit from the community projects that include activities to improve livelihoods by generating incomes for households as well as environmental conservation and social welfare initiatives.

Later, the President presented the cheque directly to the beneficiaries' representatives in Lamu during a visit to the



H.E. President William Ruto presents a cheque for Ksh320 million for community grants to governors of the five counties participating in the KEMFSED project.

county on February 26th. A total of Ksh48.7 million has been awarded to 28 groups in Lamu.

The Sh320 million KEMFSED grants are distributed as follows: Kilifi Ksh98.9 million for 35 groups, Mombasa Ksh39.3 million for 22 groups, Kwale 100 million to benefit 43 groups, Lamu Ksh48.7 million for 28 groups and Tana River 33.1 million for 14 groups.

The beneficiaries are common interest groups spread across 98 focus Wards in 19 sub-counties hosting the highest number of households that are largely dependent on fisheries. The targeted sub-counties include six each in Kilifi and Mombasa, four in Kwale, two in Lamu and one in Tana River. ■

INSIDE



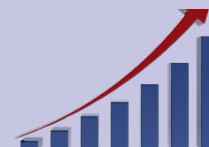
300 benefit from bursaries for fisher communities.

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Blue Economy and Fisheries PS Betsy Njagi on KEMFSED familiarization tour.

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**RESTORING NATURE:** Tunusuru Conservation Women's Group in Msabweni, Kwale County, will receive a KEMFSED grant for their environmental conservation activities. The group has a nursery with 400,000 seedlings but wants to increase the number to enable them replant large areas of degraded mangrove forest. This will help protect the coastline and restore habitats that serve as nurseries for fish and other marine life. Most of the women are fish traders. The women say the fish catch has declined in recent years due to overfishing and destruction of the marine environment.

## FEATURE

### For Salim and his group, getting funding means more money from ecotourism and better lives for members

As a young man growing up on the Kenyan coast, Mwangome Salim, now 52, made good money selling sea shells to tourists on Diani beach in Ukunda, Kwale County. Life was good. Salim made enough money to settle down and start a family.

But life changed drastically in the late 1990s. The authorities banned the collection of shells along the beaches. This was after it was found that the collection of shells damages the marine environment by hastening erosion and robbing tiny creatures of their homes.

Better informed about the damage their trade in shells was doing, Salim and his friends changed to ecotourism. They came together to guide tourists, offer boat rides, and conserve the environment. Today, their group is known as Diani Turtle Conservation Self-Help Group, a name that reflects their efforts to rescue the endangered sea animal.

Ecotourism is a viable option for fishing communities. It can reduce pressure on the overfished areas in the near-shore. The earnings from ecotourism can be very good, especially on the Kenya coast, a popular destination for local and international visitors. But for Salim and his group, the reality



Diani Turtle Conservation Group members Mwangome Salim, Athman Mlola and Fatuma Kassim.

has been different. The money they get from the group's venture is often meagre and fluctuates with the seasons.

Says Salim: "We don't have our own boat and hire from others. Most of the money we get goes into paying the boat owners. After paying for the boat, the profit is too little to share among the (25) members. If we have our own boat, we will make more money and have more time to carry out conservation work."

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Luckily, the group successfully applied for KEMFSED's grants for community sub-projects to enable them to buy their own boat.

Diani Conservation Self-Help Group is one of 142 common interest groups (CIGs) that will benefit from a total of Ksh320 million approved for community projects in the first round of KEMFSED funding. Some US\$41.1 million has been set aside for common interest groups over the project lifetime (2020-2025).

KEMFSED grants are implemented under the Enhanced Livelihoods for Coastal Communities initiative, which is part of Component 2 of the project. The grants are given to groups to which the project has provided technical support to implement local projects that benefit individuals, households and communities. These projects include income-generating (livelihood) activities, environmental conservation and social projects as well as scholarships for students from low-income households.

**Pre-award process:** The award of grants followed a rigorous Participatory Integrated Community Development (PICD) process involving a team that includes the national government, county governments, community representatives and other stakeholders.

The county-led teams worked with the communities in each of the 98 targeted Wards to develop Community Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) that outline local priorities and interventions that could be funded to address them.

Meetings of the whole community discussed and ratified the CIDPs. These inclusive forums brought together people from across the community including local leaders, women, youth, people living with disability, the elderly, religious groups and vulnerable and marginalized groups.

**Selection process:** Groups in the communities were invited to submit simple concept notes for projects in the priority areas identified in the CIDPs. The technical teams helped the interested groups to prepare and submit sub-project proposals.

A multi-agency, county-led team involving community representatives screened and appraised all the proposals received and visited the groups to verify their eligibility for funding. The proposals that met all requirements were approved for funding. The community groups whose applications were unsuccessful in Round One will be helped to develop feasible proposals to be considered in the next round of funding on a rolling basis.

**Managing sub-projects:** To ensure effective use of grants for the best results, group leaders have been trained in leadership and financial management. Local Project Management Committees have been formed and trained to oversee implementation of community project activities.

They will help to ensure accountability, including proper use of finances, transparency in all dealings and inclusion in implementation of activities. Grievance Redress Committees have also been formed and empowered to ensure any concerns community members raise are addressed.

## SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME



Diani Turtle Conservation Group members Mwangome Salim, Athman Mlola and Fatuma Kassim.

### "I want to start a business and help my community"

**J**oseph Yaa Kahindi is the firstborn in a family of five. He is the son of a widower, a fisherman in Mtwapa, Kilifi County.

Joseph says his father is hardworking, but he can no longer make enough money from fishing to provide for the family. He struggles to keep the children in school and meet their basic needs.

From an early age, Joseph sought odd jobs to earn money to supplement what his father brought home.

After Joseph completed primary school, his father enrolled him at a local technical college for a motor vehicle mechanics course. The young man was the family's hope. The father invested all he had in his education. But it was never enough and he still lacked fees.

"It was not easy paying fees. I had to look for casual jobs to try and pay on my own because my father could not afford to pay," says Joseph. "I often missed classes so that I could work double shifts. This affected my performance since I didn't have enough time to study and attend classes."

But the situation changed after Joseph got a scholarship from the Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development Project (KEMFSED).

"The scholarship has changed my life ... This is the first time in my life that I have been able to concentrate on my studies without thinking about doing casual jobs. This scholarship will enable me to chase my dreams and achieve my goals. I hope to finish my studies, start my own business and help my family and my community."

Joseph is among 150 beneficiaries from five counties who have received scholarships worth a total of over six million shillings from the KEMFSED project over the past year. The scholarship scheme is administered through the counties. It is part of the project's efforts to build local capacities to improve the people's livelihoods in Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, and Lamu.

# Blue Economy and Fisheries PS visits KEMFSED sites



PS Betsy Njagi visits seaweed farmers in Kwale County.

**B**lue Economy and Fisheries Principal Secretary Betsy Njagi made a familiarization tour to various sites of activities that the KEMFSED project supports in Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties at the end of January 2023.

During the tour, the PS held talks with Governors Gideon Maittha Mung'aro of Kilifi and Fatuma Mohamed Achani of Kwale. She also paid courtesy calls on the respective County Commissioners.

In Mombasa, the PS was debriefed on offshore patrols undertaken as part of KEMFSED's support for monitoring, surveillance and control (MCS) activities to improve fisheries management. MCS is undertaken by a multi-agency team that includes the Kenya Coast Guard Service.

The PS also visited fisheries designated sites for infrastructure projects, including Shimoni in Kwale where the project is supporting the establishment of the National Mariculture Resource and Training (NAMARET) Centre. Mariculture is the farming of fish, plants and other animals in salt water for human consumption. It has a huge potential to diversify and increase livelihood options for fisher communities.

At Kibuyuni village in Kwale, the PS interacted with community members when she visited a women's group that grows seaweed. She got a first-hand account of their priorities and how the project benefits them. Seaweed farming is another additional source of income for communities that can help reduce over-reliance on fishing. Through its small grants initiative, the KEMFSED project is training and funding local groups to implement projects that promote mariculture.

## Key achievements – as at March 2023

- Supported review and development of key policies and plans in progress. These include Blue Economy Strategy and National Fisheries and Ocean Policy.
- Developed National Plan of Action for Sharks, Sea Birds and Turtle; and initiated review of the Aquaculture Policy.
- Supported training of 35 coxswain from local communities on tuna fisheries.
- Supported a Special Session of the FAO's Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Technical Committee on Allocation Criteria.
- Established a Secretariat to coordinate Kenya's Marine Spatial Plan process. Key committees have been set up and a draft MSP framework developed.
- Supported 2022 Frame Survey, a census of fishers, fishing vessels and gear, critical for decision-making.
- Strengthened monitoring, surveillance and control (MCS), including offshore patrols to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- The first batch of sub-projects proposals approved and grants awarded to grassroots groups for community projects.
- Operationalized a scholarship and internship scheme for local communities.
- Engaged four private sector strategic partners who have contracted local communities to grow high-value crops (bird's eye chilly, tea tree, Moringa) and crab farming.
- Promoted seaweed farming by establishing seed banks at four sites Kibuyuni, Mwazaro, Mkwiro and Nyumba Sita.
- Hosted two World Bank support missions in June and November, 2022
- Held sensitization meetings with governors and county executive committee (CEC) members.
- Set up a project website and other channels for public information.

## DATA SNAPSHOT

- Sh320 million awarded for community projects in Round 1 of KEMFSED Grants
- 142 groups in 93 wards in 19 sub-counties benefitting from community grants
- 25,680 individuals from 4,280 households benefitting from community projects
- 150 scholarships worth Sh6.6 million awarded in 2022.
- 10 interns recruited
- 35 coxswains from local communities trained on deep sea fishing
- 92 environmental and social safeguards plans developed
- 50,103 beneficiaries have benefitted from the project.
- 45,498 beneficiaries have been trained.

## About KEMFSED

Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socio-Economic Development (KEMFSED) project is implemented by Government of Kenya, through the State Department for Blue Economy and Fisheries with support from the World Bank. The supports the country in its efforts to leverage emerging opportunities in the Blue Economy. The project duration is 2020-2025 with funding worth KSH10 billion. The Project Development Objective is to improve management of priority fisheries and mariculture and increase access to complementary livelihood activities in coastal communities. Visit website: <http://www.kemfsed.org>

Contacts: National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU), Maktaba Kuu House, Ngong Road | P. O. Box 58187-00200 Nairobi, Kenya  
Email: [info@kemfsed.org](mailto:info@kemfsed.org) | Complaints/feedback: [complaints@kemfsed.org](mailto:complaints@kemfsed.org) | Hotline: 020-7860430 | Website: <http://www.kemfsed.org>

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