

Annual report 2021



VEGETABLE GROWING IN MWINGI WEST

Background

Kitui Development Centre (KDC) was registered in December 2001 as a local Non-profit making organization under the NGO coordination act of 1990. It's a capacity building organization which empowers vulnerable communities to improve their well-being. KDC is involved in rural development activities which are geared towards poverty reduction and plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of rural communities. Its services target and benefits the most poor and excluded groups in the society.

KDC's dedication towards empowering the poorest and excluded groups has been its driving force since its inception. It has over the past years implemented programs that focus on Food Security and Agri-business, Child Protection, Environmental Conservation, and Climate Change, Community Health and Nutrition, and Community Social-Capital Development.

Water, Environment, and Climate Change focuses on strengthening community resilience to climate change and enhancing access to water resources for rural communities.

Women's social-economic empowerment and child protection targets to improve the livelihoods and protection environment of women and vulnerable children.

Purpose : *To improve the living standards of vulnerable communities through capacity building, empowerment, resources mobilization, sharing of experiences and development of effective and sustainable community led institutions.*"

KDC aims to enhance Food Security, Health and Nutrition; Water Environment and Climate Change; Women Empowerment and Child Protection; and Community Social Capital Development; among the vulnerable communities by increasing incomes from commercialized agricultural and livestock value chains in communities and improve the health and nutrition status of women and children. The social capital development and economic empowerment objectives are to build vulnerable communities' capacity to generate, manage and sustain incomes from alternative livelihood options.

Vision : *KDC envisions a determined, prosperous and self-reliant communities in Kenya*

Methodology/approaches

KDC facilitates the community to identify the pressing needs and set their own priority development objectives. A holistic and participatory approach is used to organize communities to develop appropriate development action plans that are then translated into projects. This empowerment leads the community to participate in their own socioeconomic development.

In the year 2021, KDC embarked on two deferent approaches as a driver to community community own development. In kitui south, miambani and part of kitui east KDC mobilized and formed SHGs and CLAs, introduced table banking as strategy for community resource mobilization. The SHGs meet on weekly basis to save as little as ksh 20 per person per week and borrow from the table. The SHGs deals with individual problems while the CLAs deals with community issues. In mwingi, KDC used the VSLAs model to bring the community together and address the pressing needs .Two groups wendo wa kithambangii and mbathani women groups also joined the VSLA model. They were introduced to weekly savings and borrowing on the table while KDC through support from KCDF issued revolving funds to the groups.

In climate change adaptation strategy, farmers were introduced to tree planting application forms at farm level and government institutions. Three community tree nurseries' were established in kithambangii, kilingile and ikanga. The farmers and institutions signed contract forms to ensure commitment towards a 90% tree survival while the trees were acquired from the community nurseries. KDC supported conservation of water catchment through water pods technology and handwells.

KDC projects

1. [Project name : Developing and Improving the Management of Village Savings and Lending Groups in Kitui County](#)

Project partner: Research Triangle International (RTI)-Kenya Crops and Dairy Markets Systems (KCDMS) project .

Funding period: July 2020- June 2021

Project Name: [Village Savings and Loaning Associations \(VSLAs\) Strengthening.](#)

Introduction: kitui development centre in 2021 focused on building groups cohesion for sustainable development in kitui and mwingi west to be precise. African leafy vegetable production took the better part of the year with the promotion of zypit water harvesting technologies for dry areas.

Project Goal: improve agribusiness opportunities for smallholder farmers, including youth and women through strengthening the capacities of existing and dormant saving and lending groups

Overall objective: implement a sustainable VSLA capacity strengthening model that will enhance investment in agricultural value chains, linkages to markets and financial Institutions and establishment of structures for VSLA service provision to the groups.

Target beneficiaries: 240 VSLAs, (6000 members)

No.	Key Strategies	Brief description
	VSLA Selection and Capacity Needs Assessment	This entailed identifying VSLA groups for participation into the project based on a predefined criterion that mainly considered women/youth participation and opportunity to work in KCDMS value chains. The groups were then subjected comprehensive needs assessments in regards to effectiveness of their procedures, constitutions, leadership, records and portfolio management.
	VSLA Strengthening	This entailed training and mentoring of the groups on VSLA strengthening modules that covers management, record keeping, effectiveness of group constitution, default and risk management.
	Agri-input facilitation	This entailed training of VSLA members on agri-input that covered input access, usage, storage and disposal and linkage to input suppliers. The members are also trained in agri-entrepreneurship to improve their agribusiness investment skills.
	Agri-nutrition	Mainly focused on improving the knowledge of VSLAs families with women in productive age group and children under 5yrs on nutrition. This is done by taking them through nutrition topics using talking books and dialogue cards.
	Market Linkages	This entailed fostering partnership between VSLAs and market actors and was facilitated through linkage forums and engagements.
	VSLA digitization	This mainly involved working with a service provider, Dream Save to facilitate the use of an ICT platform for recording all group transactions to help ease group management.
	Covid-19 Risk Management	This involved analysis of risks to VSLAs as a result of Covid-19 and structuring mitigation measures to ensure the groups remained resilient.

Key achievements:

Planned	Achieved	Comments
VSLA Selection and Needs Assessment- 247 groups	450 profiled	The selected groups had a total membership of 5094 people 93.9% women and 27.8% youth members
VSLA Strengthening	247 VSLAs 5094 members trained on record keeping, defaulter management, leadership, and financial management and governance skills.	There have been good improvements in quality of VSLA records, able to accurately capture key savings and loaning information.
Market Linkages	183 VSLAs (3119 linked to input suppliers , financial institutions and market actors	The VSLAs have managed to initiate levels of relationships with the market actors and acquired a fresh vegetable open marketing place in migwani market – mwingi west.

Agri-input Trainings	183 VSLAs (3119 Members trained on 3 value chains . green gram, poultry and African leafy vegetables	The groups prioritized African leafy vegetable value chain as quick win project and started.
Agri-nutrition trainings	247 VSLAs trained on 14 modules of the agri nutrition dialogue card.	413 children below 2 years have been reached by proxy and are likely to be consuming a diet of minimum diversity and having a minimum of 3 meals a day.
Covid-19 Risk Management	150 VSLAs during Covid-19 trained on crisis management and Covid-19 protection. Provision of smart phones to group leaders.	VSLA management and agrinutrition messages and financial health were shared to group members using the bulk SMS.

Challenges

Due to limited time coupled with Covid-19 crisis, the project did not have adequate time to follow up the activities, formalize the linkages for more structured engagement and service delivery.

2. Project name : KCDF POST COVID- 19 RECOVERY FOR SMALL

Project partner : Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF)

Project goal: Improving food security by enhancing the commitment of subsistence farmers to pay more attention to producing the major basic foods which guarantee full household nutrition needs

Overall objectives:

1. Improving food security by enhancing the commitment of subsistence farmers to pay more attention to producing the major basic foods which guarantee full household nutrition needs
2. Supporting new and emerging value chain channels through revitalizing SHGs, CIGs and FG for smallholder farmers after COVID-19 disruptions

Project period : 7 months.

Project area: kitui county

Target beneficiaries: *300 households and 1800 indirect beneficiaries (24 groups)*

Introduction :

KDC has been working with communities and smallholder farmers to build their capacities and become food secure. It organized the communities and formed Common interest groups (CIGs) of vegetable producers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) doing table banking. These groups were very key to reaching communities for implementation of programmatic interventions. Suddenly, COVID 19 pandemic disrupted their operations. The groups suspended their table banking activities and disrupted their agri-production activities. This made the groups incomes to stagnate, savings suspended, access to credit from the SHGs stopped, levels of production going down and ultimately forced the SHG to stop their businesses. With

support from KCDF through KDC the groups resumed and revived of their table banking and farming activities which guaranteed flow of income and nutrition needs.

Key achievements

Project activity	Target	Achievements
Refresher trainings on group's	24 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To date 28 groups (against 24 groups) with a membership of 458 (Against a target of 300) have been trained on various group dynamics i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group information and establishment • Group operations, • Book keeping and recording, • Loaning and savings, • Group finances and group bylaws. ✓ This was aiming at strengthening group operations. These trainings have led to increased incomes to the groups and members by doing savings and accessing loans. ✓ These trainings have improved their operations by keeping records clean and earning a higher interest from loans and savings within the group.
Revolving Fund Support	24 groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supported 24 groups applied for revolving fund and all awarded with ksh.20, 000 each. ✓ This fund was to help them strengthen their table banking where they save and take loans for purchase of farm inputs. ✓ To date 12 groups have completed their full payment of the revolving fund waiting for the second phase. ✓ After full repayments, the groups have reported an earned interest of between Ksh. 3,000 and 7,000.
Farm input support	24groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 24 groups in their different agricultural activities were supported with farm inputs. ✓ KDC identified an Agro-dealer to supply the inputs as per farmer's needs. Most of the groups requested for ALVs seeds All the groups supported planted and are now harvesting and selling surplus. ✓ Weekly sales of between Ksh. 2,000 and Ksh. 3,500 per person were reported by most of the groups.

Purchased of Raised garden	36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 36 Raised garden construction materials were purchased and Installed. ✓ These were for establishment of Kitchen gardens (Raised gardens) at household level. ✓ The raised gardens have been installed at the demo sites. ✓ All the gardens were planted ALVs and members harvested and are selling the surplus.
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3. PROJECT name : Climate Change adaptation in kitui county through adoption of agroforestry technologies

Project partner : INTERNATIONAL TREE FOUNDATION (ITF)

Project goal: To improve livelihoods of smallholder farmers through enhancing commercialized tree planting or to improve livelihoods of community members and increase their resilience to climate change through adoption of agro forestry techniques

Overall objectives: To increase vulnerable communities' resilience to negative effects of Climate change.

Project period : 2 YEARS

Project area : MIAMBANI, WIKILILYE, IKANGA

Target beneficiaries: 3000 H/H

INTRODUCTION :

To mitigate climate change, KDC initiated the project for quick human intervention through awareness creation, promotion clean energy/ renewable energy sources and expand agro-forestry activities. Sustainable landscape management is likely to better protect biodiversity, and hence offer natural biological resistance to pest and disease invasion as well as better support of ecosystem functions for pollinator survival.

- ✓ A changing climate is leading to more occurrences of extreme events such as droughts and floods, which have a negative impact on crop growth and yields. Plants require an optimum soil, water and air in the root zone to maintain physiological response to growth
- ✓ Rising temperatures also have a deleterious effect on crop production, as heat stress limits the optimum productive capability of our plant species on which the population depends for food security.
- ✓ Climate change is also affecting other aspects of crop production such as increased pests and disease in some situations, changes and even losses in biodiversity in some environments, and major disruptions due to extreme storm events
- ✓ Water is critical to agriculture, and there is concern that there could be increased flooding of agricultural lands in some parts of the world, and increased frequency of droughts in other parts

Key achievements :

Project activity	Target	Achievements
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Training Community Members on Tree planting	90 Members	94 Community Members Trained on Sustainable Tree planting
Establishing Three Community Nurseries	3 Tree Nurseries	3 Community tree nurseries established at Three Project sites (WiKililye 8,850, Ikanga 4,320 Miambani 7560) and 7950 from other nurseries.
Capacity building Community Members on gender integration in natural resource management	30 Members (10 per site)	30 Community members Capacity Built; 10 from each project site.
Planting trees	30,000 Trees planted in year one	28,680 Trees planted as follows: 3,210 public institutions 25,470 farmers

Challenges

Delayed rains in 2021 which affected distribution of seedlings and planting.

4. Project : Rehabilitation of gully's through runoff water harvesting technologies

Partner : participatory ecological land use management (PELUM)

Project period. Period : September 2020 – November 2021

Project objectives

1. Rehabilitation of gully's through harvesting run-off water by Construction of Water Pond.
2. Improving access to clean water and Integrating Youth and Women to vegetable production through construction of Community water hand well.

Project area : wikililye location kitui central

Target beneficiaries : 2 groups (90 h/holds)

PROJECT PARTNER :

- PELUM Kenya
- African development group – charlottestville

Introduction :

Drought is a recurrent hazard in kitui, which is among counties classified as arid and semi-arid. The access to clean water is very low, as the commodity in most surface sources does not last for an entire season. This forces the residents to trek long distances in search for clean water for their daily use. Hand wells are possible solutions to curb the issues of water shortage and this is up scalable to other communities in drought prone areas.

The main aim of these projects was to rehabilitate gulleys through harvesting run-off water and allow communities to often access water for domestic use and farm production using modern farming technologies that encourage use of minimal water like zai-pits, sunken beds and raised gardens in the project area.

Key achievements :

Project activity	Target	Achievements
Construction of Water Pond	1	One Water pond constructed at Kithambangii and being used by group Members.
Revitalization of Groups	2	2 groups formed. Wendo Kithambangii Group and Wendo Mbathani Women group
Agricultural farming methods trainings and adoption	2 Groups with 30 Members	Both Groups with membership of 36, have been trained and adopted modern methods of farming including; Zai-Pit technology, vertical raised gardens, sunken beds and raised beds for planting of ALVs.
Construction of Shallow Hand well	1	Kithambangii reported vegetable weekly sales of ksh. 2,500 and sold tree seedlings (ksh 169,080) Mbathani reported weekly sales of ksh. 2,200 and sold tree seedlings (ksh 36,220)

5. PROJECT NAME : Child focused community development project (CFCDP)

PROJECT PARTNER: kindernothilfe – germany

PROJECT PERIOD- 2016 – 2023

Project goal - To improve the wellbeing of the target 3,876 women in SHGA households in Miambani Division

Objectives

- To build sustainable and strong PIs in Miambani by the end of the project to support children in Miambani division
- Reduction in child right violations in Miambani division
- To enhance community acceptance and functionality of Child Ambassadors Model (CAM).
- PIs implement child focus community initiatives towards improving the well being of children in the community

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES : 228 SHGs (3,876)

PROJECT SUMMARY :

The county has very high poverty index of 63.5% as compared to the national level of 45.4%. The absolute poverty level in the rural is at 62% while rural poor stands at 60.4 %.

The percentage of population with ability to read and write is 77.3% compared to the national level of 71.4%. (Ref Kitui CIDP 2014) Child labour is rampant in the County with a prevalence rate of 69.3% of children above five years involved in laborious engagements.

A need assessment carried out by KDC on 17-19th December 2015 at Miambani location revealed that there are high levels of poverty, which has to a greater extent led to poor provision of children rights. The assessment revealed that children are faced with a number of poverty related challenges ranging from high rate of school dropout, poor nutrition, and early

marriages, abuse especially defilement, drug abuse and poor access to safe drinking water sanitation hence deteriorating health conditions, among others. This is in harmony with the Kitui County CIDP 2014 that states that the nutrition status of the population in the county remains poor as a result of frequent droughts resulting to food insecurity at the household level.

The project is implemented through Peoples Institutions (PIs) by :

SHG – Formed by members between 15 – 20

Cluster – A network of SHGs between 8 – 10 (120 – 200 members)

Federation – A network of Clusters, (formed by at least 8 clusters)

Project Achievements

Specific objectives	Main project activity	Achievements to date
To build sustainable and strong PIs in Miambani by the end of the project to support children in Miambani division	Formation of 228 SHGs, 18 CLAs and 1 federation	KDC has managed to form and strengthen 120 SHG and 12 CLAs
	Capacity building of SHGs, CLA and federation on PIs concepts	All the 120 SHGs and 12 CLAs have received training on SHG and CLA concepts respectively. Trainings are contained in modules. Some of the key capacity building areas include; the concept of SHG and CLA since it is a new concept, communication, leadership, goal setting and assessment, record keeping, linkages and its importance, entrepreneurship, advocacy, work plan development, assessment of PIs, conflict resolution and management etc
	Establishment of beneficial linkages with the PIs	KDC through project officers have facilitated PIs linkages with other key/beneficial linkages for service provision. Such linkages include; Ministry of Agriculture and livestock, min. of health, Agrodalers companies like Osho chemical, alternative solar energy companies, Administration, opinion leaders, police etc.
	Exposure/ exchange visits for PIs	KDC organized for an exposure visit for group representatives and community facilitators to Tisuka federation (old site phased out by KDC). The exposure visit was meant to help members and CFs interact and learn more about the project so that they can strengthen their PIs
	Selection and training of community facilitators (CFs)	KDC facilitated SHG members in every SHG meeting point to select their community Facilitator (contact person) that KDC would work with. There are 12 CFs from twelve SHG meeting point. All the CFs have received trainings on the PIs modules, their roles, monitoring, report writing. The knowledge and skills acquired has facilitated the strengthening of PIs.

	Need based training to SHG reps or CLA	KDC facilitated SHG members identify and prioritize need based trainings that would add value and facilitate development. Such trainings include; good agricultural practices, health and sanitation, mango farming, water harvesting among others.
	Monitoring and evaluation of the work of the PIs	Monitoring of the PIs is done through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reports from CFs - Periodic assessment of the PIs -KDC staff/BOD physical meeting with PIs, CFs, children - Stakeholders Meetings

To build community resilience to safeguards children rights	Training CFs/CLAs and children on Children rights.	12 CFs had their knowledge enhanced through refresher training on children rights. They have continued to create awareness to CLAs and SHG members on the same thus making SHG members remain vigilant on issues regarding children rights.
	Hold child rights forums within the community to discuss on child rights issues affecting.	Project officers have been organizing meetings and forums with CAM children at different meeting points every year. It is in this forums that children are sensitized on children rights as well as importance of being an ambassador. Project officers also get an opportunity to share Christmas gifts with the children before breaking for Christmas.
To enhance community acceptance and functionality of	Training CLAs on CAM	11 CLAs have received training on CAM and as a result the CLA members have also created awareness to SHG members on the same and this has led to acceptance and support of CAM concept by SHG members.
Child Ambassadors Model	Updating Children Ambassador files	KNH requires that each year KDC update and share information of the 215 children Ambassadors. Project officers have been doing this from the year 2018.

PIs implement youth focus community initiatives to improve the well-being of vulnerable youth in the community	Reintegrate children (boys and girls) affected by drug, defilement and early marriage to schools and skills trainings. (Community Based Training in carpentry ,dress making, hairdressing and welding))	The KDC through the PIs has managed to identify and support 62 vulnerable youths acquire diverse apprenticeship skills i.e. Tailoring /dress making, hairdressing and beauty therapy , welding and carpentry. 80% of the youths are earning income through self employed and employment by other people
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6. Project name – UP SCALING COMMUNITY SELF DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.

Project Area -Kitui South (Ikanga –Kyatune)

Project partner (Donor) -KinderNothilfe – Germany

PROJECT PURPOSE: Promoting sustainable Community Self Development for care and support of children and youth through people’s institution among 2040 poor women and their families.

Target beneficiaries -120 SHGs (2040 women)

Overall Project Objective: To promote socio, economic and political empowerment of the poor women to care and support their families in Ikanga division by May 2020.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project promotes sustainable social and economic development of the community through the peoples Institutions (Pis) i.e SHGs, CLAs and the federatiop Self Help Group. the Approach seeks to unite the low earners from the community. A SHG has 15-20 members and are all homogenous in nature and held together by affinity. For sustainability , the federation is formed to take over from KDC

- The SHGs focus on the family issues which ranges from meals, accommodation, health among other family issues with the end goal target being the child

- After 6 months the SHGs are assessed to form a Cluster Level Association.
- The CLA is a representation of all the 8 SHGs which draws 2 members from each group and the focus is to address the community issues which surrounds the SHGs. These issues ranges from infrastructural needs, service needs, social transformation among others.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formed and strengthened 128 SHGs
- Formed and strengthened 13 CLAs
- Lobbied for opening and function ability of 2 health centers.
- Linked the PIs with agro dealers, line ministries both at County and National Government.
- Together with the Administration addressed the menace of illicit brew and selling of Chat.
- Addressed the issue of Child labor and up to 90 % school retention rates of the SHG members children and the community at large.
- Addressed the rehabilitation of access roads which were impassable with the county Governement office of ward administrator

7. PROJECT NAME : Imarika community food store and community resource centre

Implementing organization: Kitui development centre (KDC)

Project period : 18 months

Project area: Kitui central subcounty, kyambiti sub location, Kaumba village

Target beneficiaries – 400 house holds

Project partner: Kenya community development foundation (KCDF)

Kitui experiences low and erratic rainfall with over 60% crop failure and no organized coping mechanism. There are no major cash crops therefore the community sells their staple food when available to meet other basic needs. This leads to increased food prices where by a kilogram of maize in the increased from ksh 20 to ksh 45 per kilo and ksh 85 per kilo of beans. Green grams do well but there is no organized market for it though the county government talks about it repeatedly.

The practice leads to food shortage with high nutritional deficiencies in children and the old citizens during dry seasons. The project is expected to help the participating community to aggregate the food produced in the area and dispose when the prices are good or plough back to the community. The food store will also be used as a resource centre where Information on the food prices and other relevant information will be coordinated and communicated to the community members. The community's savings and loaning (table banking) project will be coordinated from the resource centre.

Key achievements:

Project activity	Target	Achievements
Mobilization of material	Local materials	Completed
Local Finacial resource mobilization	On going	To be completed in 2022
Construction of the resource centre	Complete building	On progress

Stocking of food	Full equipped and stocked	2022
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KDC Partners 2021

- kindernothilfe – Germany (KNH)
- African development group – charlottestville
- Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF)
- Kenya Crops and Dairy Markets Systems (KCDMS) project .
- International tree foundation (ITF)
- PELUM Kenya

Conclusions /recommendation

We thank the lord for keeping us safe and giving us strength.

Though the year was very tough, we thank all our partners who walked with us despite the challenges of COVID – 19 and later drought and famine. We thank the staff and the BOD who worked tirelessly to attain the planned activities.

We appreciate the wonderful communities who believed on us.

May the almighty God bless all