Sote HUB
TURNING IDEAS INTO BUSINESS

SOTE HUB
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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GO
BLUE PROJECT

The “Go Blue” Initiative was part of the broader European Union “**Coastal Economic Development in Kenya**” Action. This initiative was a collaborative effort between the EU and the Government of Kenya to advance the Blue Economy Agenda through inclusive, integrated, participatory, and sustainable coastal economic development. Specifically, GIZ’s role focused on strengthening inclusive and sustainable blue economy value chains by providing skills development and matching, supporting value chain development, and assisting Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). The project was jointly funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), with implementation entrusted to GIZ.

The geographical scope of the Go Blue project covered the Coastal Counties Economic Block, encompassing Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, and Tana River. The project’s thematic focus lay in job creation, entrepreneurship, enterprise development, and fostering a conducive business environment within prioritized blue economy value chains, including aquaculture and maritime-related activities. Sote Hub was the implementing partner of the MSMEs support component. Within the project, Sote Hub supported 50 MSMEs, of which 70% were female-owned, in pre-selected blue economy sectors in Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, Mombasa, Taita Taveta, and Tana River to grow and enhance their business capacity by providing market linkages. Additionally, Sote Hub enhanced capacities for an additional 50 MSMEs in green and greening industries, with at least 70% women and 35% youth.

PROJECT INCEPTION

Expected Impact as discussed in the Inception Meeting

Through the pursuit of these objectives within the specified geographical scope, the project anticipated a multifaceted impact. This included not only fostering economic growth and sustainability for the selected businesses but also contributing to the overall development of the blue economy in the coastal counties.

By promoting market linkages and empowering MSMEs with upskilling initiatives, the project aimed to create a ripple effect that positively influences employment, innovation, and environmental stewardship within the targeted regions.

SME EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The call for applications for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) was officially initiated on March 14th, 2023, resulting in an overwhelming response with 224 SMEs expressing interest against a target of 200. This initiative was made possible through collaborative support from key partners, including the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBs), the Women Enterprise Fund, and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI), among others. To ensure a thorough and fair evaluation process, a panel of experts was enlisted to assess the SMEs based on specific criteria. The criteria encompassed various aspects crucial for the success and sustainability of the businesses.

MSME Selection

Out of the 224 applications received, a total of 112 SMEs were selected, surpassing the initial target of 100. The additional 12 selected MSMEs served as a contingency to account for any potential dropouts. Notably, the predominant value chains among the selected enterprises were Conservation, Hospitality & Tourism, and Fishing & Fish Handling. As part of the comprehensive support system, 53 of these enterprises were engaged in on-site Business Mentorship sessions, while the remaining 52 underwent specialized Environment Sustainability (greening) training. The mentorship and training activities aimed to equip the enterprises with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive in their respective sectors while contributing to environmental sustainability

Criteria for Selection

Value Chain: Businesses were required to operatewithin the prescribed blue economy value chains.
Registration: Eligible businesses had to be registered or in the process of registration and actively operating within any of the six coastal counties.
Turnover: A minimum monthly turnover of KES 100,000 was set as a criterion for eligibility.
Potential for Expansion: Applicants were evaluated based on their ability to demonstrate potential for expansion, indicating the capability to access broader markets.
Sector Focus: Preference was given to businesses in the sectors of manufacturing and value addition, aligning with the project's objectives.
Gender Inclusivity: Special consideration was given to MSMEs that were women-owned or led, in line with the commitment to promoting gender diversity in business.

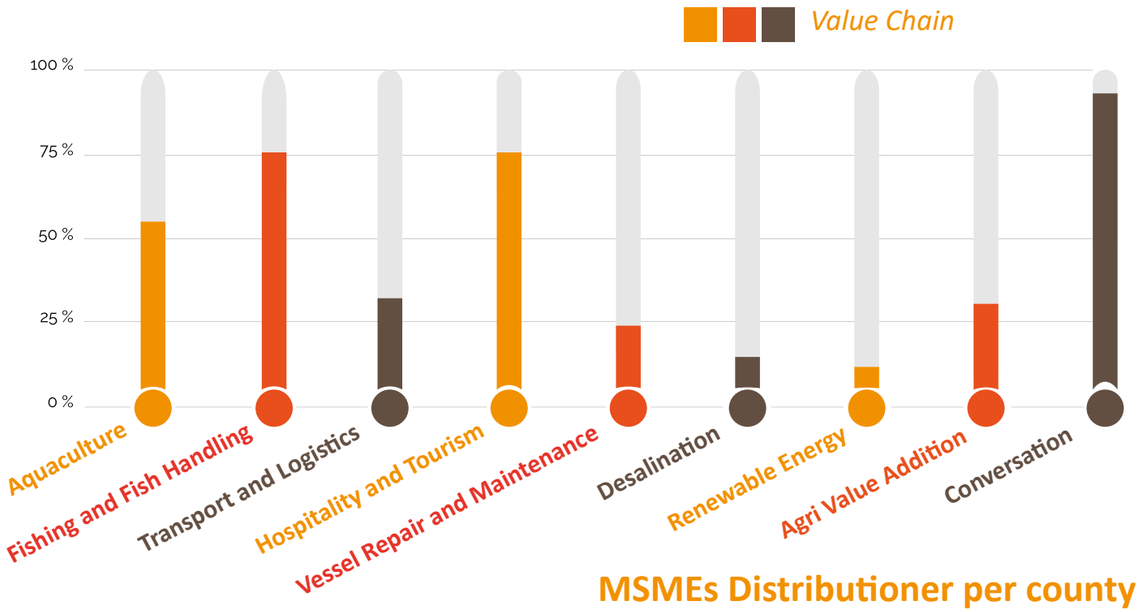
MSME Onboarding

On May 9, 2023, the critical stage of the online MSMEs onboarding process took occurred. This session acted as a thorough introduction, making sure the chosen businesses understood the goals of the programme, the resources at their disposal, and the established support system. The onboarding process established the framework for a cooperative and significant journey, preparing the participating MSMEs for the ensuing training and mentorship sessions that aimed to improve their capacities and sustainability. The initiative aims to support individual businesses and advances the overall objective of promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth within the chosen sectors by strategically combining gender inclusivity, scalability considerations, financial benchmarks, and alignment with blue economy sectors. The methodical approach guarantees customised assistance for every MSME, optimising their possible influence and supporting a healthy environment in the blue economy.

FACTS & FIGURES

Gender Distribution

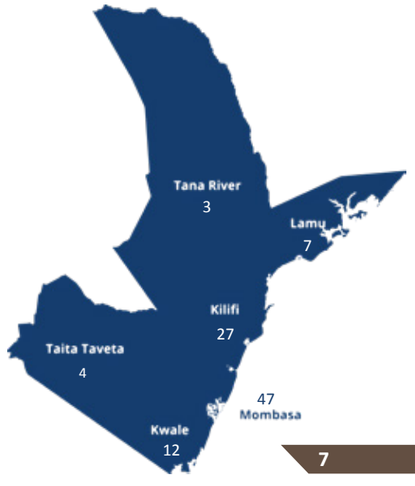
MSMEs Distributioner per Value Chain



Selected Criteria

- 100k turnover per month
- Focus on female-owned/female-led businesses
- High scalability
- Alignment with blue economy sectors

MSMEs Distributioner per county



TOTs SELECTION AND ONBOARDING

On March 21st, we initiated the Training of Trainers (TOTs) Call for Applications, drawing interest from a diverse pool of applicants. Among the applicants, 70 individuals expressed their interest in becoming Business Mentors, while 40 aspired to take on the role of Environment Sustainability Trainers. Following a meticulous selection process, 10 exceptional Business Mentors and 2 proficient Environment Sustainability Trainers were chosen to be part of the TOTs program. The onboarding session for the selected TOTs took place on May 10th, 2023, marking the commencement of their training journey. During this onboarding process, these trainers underwent a comprehensive training program covering essential aspects of their roles. Key components of the training included:

Toolkit Familiarization: TOTs were equipped with a thorough understanding of the Market Fitness Assessment Toolkit, empowering them with the necessary tools to assess and enhance the market readiness of the businesses they would be mentoring.

Mentorship Process: TOTs were trained on effective mentoring strategies and methodologies. This encompassed understanding the unique needs of the businesses they would be supporting, fostering productive relationships, and guiding the mentees towards sustainable growth.

Reporting Skills: TOTs received training on accurate and comprehensive reporting procedures. This aspect was crucial to ensure that the impact of their mentorship and training efforts could be adequately documented and measured.

TOTS PROGRAM

The TOTs program was designed not only to impart knowledge and skills but also to cultivate a community of trainers dedicated to fostering business growth and environmental sustainability. The selection of TOTs was a strategic process, ensuring that individuals with the right expertise and passion for mentorship and sustainability were chosen to guide and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs and environmental stewards.

OUTCOME

As a result of this initiative, we had a multiplier effect, with the trained TOTs becoming catalysts for positive change within their respective spheres, furthering the goals of the program and contributing to the overall success of businesses and environmental sustainability efforts.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

In pursuit of fostering sustainable practices within the blue economy value chains, a rigorous needs assessment survey was conducted as part of Activity 4. This involved a diverse range of stakeholders, including 10 key representatives (25%) and 30 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) (75%) spanning different value chains.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT:

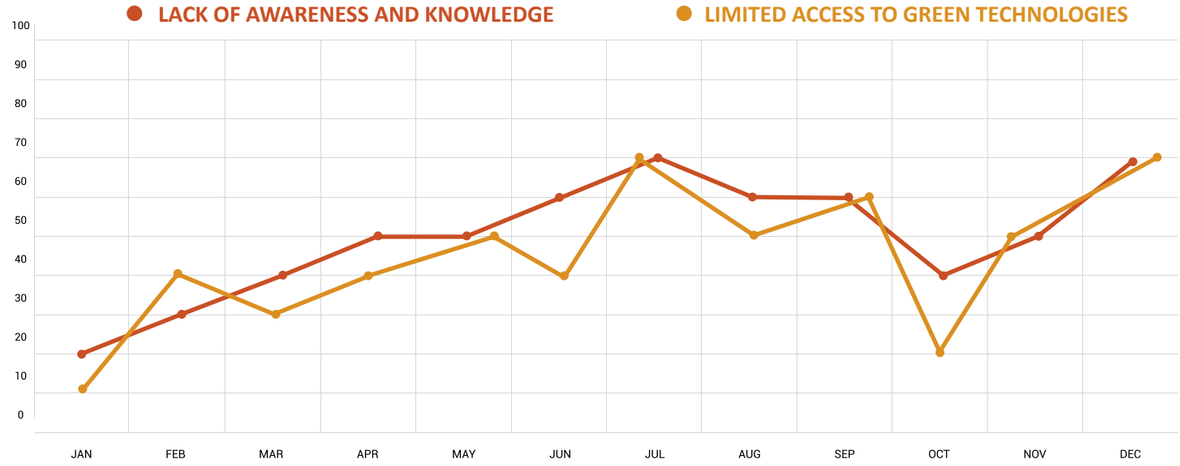
Identifying Challenges: Evaluate the challenges hindering MSMEs in the implementation of environmentally friendly practices.

Assessing Current Environmental Practices: Understand the current state of environmental practices within their businesses.

Determining Green and Greening Needs: Identify the demand for green and greening environmentally friendly practices.

Vision of the Ideal Blue Economy Situation: Understand the vision that MSMEs harbor for an ideal scenario within the blue economy value chains.

Outcomes



i) Lack of Awareness and Knowledge: A staggerin 92.3% of MSMEs expressed a prioritization of environmentally friendly practices, but a closer look revealed a substantial lack of awareness and knowledge regarding the benefits of green practices. This knowledge gap hampers their ability to identify and seize green opportunities.

ii) Limited Access to Green Technologies: While MSMEs are acknowledged as pivotal players in economic growth, limited access to green technologies poses a significant hurdle. Collaborative efforts among governments, businesses, and organizations are essential to provide the necessary resources and support for MSMEs to adopt eco-friendly practices.

iii) Financial Constraint: MSMEs, integral to blue economy value chains, grapple with substantial financial constraints hindering the adoption of environmentally friendly practices. Addressing this challenge requires a collective effort, involving stakeholders, governments, financial institutions, and the private sector to provide incentives and support for sustainable practices.

iv) Market Challenges: Limited market access and knowledge of markets for eco-friendly products or services pose challenges for MSMEs, impacting their revenues and profitability. Enhanced market awareness is vital for promoting environmentally friendly practices.

MARKET FIT TOOLKIT

Sote Hub pioneered an application within the tech-driven MSME mentorship landscape. This innovative toolkit harnessed the capabilities of PowerApps, Power Bi, SharePoint Lists, and Power Automate to empower business mentors in collecting authentic data, providing tailored support, and ensuring sustainable growth for MSMEs.

KEY TECHNOLOGICAL FEATURES AND ADVANTAGES:

Agenda and Objectives Tracking: Enabled business mentors to efficiently input and monitor specific goals and topics during mentorship sessions, ensuring a systematic and focused approach.

Comprehensive Market Assessment: Incorporated robust tools with financial analysis, market research, and business planning questions, offering a holistic view for mentors to guide MSMEs effectively.

Geospatial Mentorship Tracking: Utilized advanced location tracking, allowing Sote Hub to map and visualize all mentorship visits, enhancing strategic planning and impact assessment.

Visual Documentation with Photo Upload: Facilitated real-time documentation by allowing mentors to upload photos from field visits, providing a visual context for mentorship progress.

The toolkit empowered mentors to guide 51 MSMEs, yielding remarkable success. Authentic data from the app underscored the imperative for MSMEs to revamp their branding and pricing strategies, enhancing visibility and competitive positioning.

Key Outcomes and Sustainability

Mentorship sessions concentrated on implementing recommended changes, with a vigilant eye on tracking their impact on MSMEs' business performance. The toolkit's guidance spanned critical areas such as business strategy development, target customer identification, and informed decisionmaking for sustained growth and market advantage.

By addressing foundational business aspects, defining market expansion goals, and establishing competitive pricing models, the Market Assessment Toolkit empowered mentors to drive MSMEs toward sustainable success. The toolkit set a clear roadmap for market expansion goals over the next 1-3 years, aligning MSMEs with a trajectory of strategic growth and prosperity.

THE LAUNCH

Brenda Kibiku - Technical Lead Advisor GIZ

The Go Blue Project kicked-off with a launch on May 12, 2023, at the Mombasa Continental Resort. The event was honored by the presence of partners, including GIZ, the donors for the project, and key stakeholders such as County Government officials, representatives from the Embassy of Finland/Business Finland, KNCCI, Jumuiya ya Kaunti ya Pwani (JKP), VSO, Kimisitu Sacco just to mention but a few. These partnerships underscored a collective commitment to the project's objectives, setting the stage for a collaborative journey towards sustainable development and positive change.

Workshops

As part of our capacity building strategy, we organized various workshops aimed at building sustainable business ventures amongst the supported MSMEs. As part of these workshops, we organized a session with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) on standardization and quality marks that help participants gain a clear understanding of the role of KEBS in standardization and quality assurance, as well as the significance of adhering to standards for both businesses and consumers in Kenya. We also organized roundtables with financiers and forums with sector specific experts over a period of 10 weeks.

FACTORY VISITS AND FISH & FISH HANDLING VALUE CHAIN

A.WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management MSMEs had were facilitated to YU CHENG INVESTMENT in Mtwapa and ECO WORLD in Watamu. The primary objectives were to provide inspiration and motivation, have a deep understanding of best practices and create networking opportunities. These visits not only opened doors to valuable knowledge and expertise but also allowed the MSMEs to connect, share experiences and insights that undoubtedly contributed to their growth and success in the dynamic field of waste management.

B.MSME's WHO ATTENDED

- BAUS TAKA,MOMBASA
- COBWAMM LIMITED,MOMBASA
- FINAL ENTERPRISE,MOMBASA
- JIKUZE BUSINESS,MOMBASA
- OXBOW TECHNOLOGIES,KILIFI
- KIPEVU WASTE MANAGEMENT,MOMBASA
- GO GREEN HUB,KWALE

MSMEs in the fish and fish handling value chain visited Alpha Group Factory, Nyamone Sted Enterprise Farm, and Nuru Rahmat Fish Shop. These trips aimed at providing inspiration and motivation, emphasizing the aspects of sourcing and supplier evaluation, quality assurance and control, supply chain assessment, innovation and new product development, market insights, and trends. The visits not only fostered a deeper understanding of the industry but also paved the way for networking and partnerships. The collaboration that emerged during these visits promised exciting business prospects, as participants discovered shared interests and opportunities for mutual growth. This activity not only enriched knowledge but also catalyzed a ripple of business partnering and collaboration, setting the stage for a dynamic future in the fish and fish handling value chain sector.

Who attended:

- IRINDE SELF HELP GROUP,TAITA TAVETA
- COASTAL WOMEN IN FISHERIES,MOMBASA
- ANGELIC SHIP CHANDLERS ENTERPRISES LIMITED,MOMBASA
- TAMU SEA FOODS,KILIFI
- DRY FISH SELLING,MOMBASA
- MUM NAIMA'S FISH SHOP,TAITA TAVETA
- GROECO,MOMBASA
- NURU RAHMAT FISH SHOP,MOMBASA
- NYAMONE STED ENTERPRISES,KILIFI
- FURAHA UTANGE SELF HELP GROUP,MOMBASA
- MULEA SHIPCHANDLERS ENTERPRISE,MOMBASA
- WUZURI BEZED FARMS,KILIFI
- B.M FISH SHOP,KILIFI

GO BLUE GRADUATION

The Go Blue Graduation, held at the City Blue Hotel in Mombasa on November 16, 2023, stood as a testament to the completion of the Go Blue Project an initiative aimed at fostering sustainable development within the blue economy. This significant event not only acknowledged but also celebrated the relentless dedication of 100 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) who had successfully completed the program.

Amidst the gathering of distinguished guests and stakeholders, Brenda Kibiku from GIZ, the project's esteemed sponsor, graced the occasion. Her presence underscored the invaluable support provided by GIZ and emphasized the collaborative efforts essential for the project's success. As the ceremony unfolded, it became evident that the Go Blue Graduation was more than just a milestone it symbolized a collective commitment to harnessing the potential of the blue economy for sustainable growth and development.

Throughout the event, the air was filled with a sense of excitement and anticipation, reflecting the shared enthusiasm for advancing the blue economy agenda. The graduates, hailed as pioneers in their respective fields, were lauded for their unwavering dedication and vision. Their achievements not only exemplified the transformative power of entrepreneurship but also served as inspiration for future endeavors.

GRADUATION SPEECHES

Brenda Kibiku
Technical Advisor-GIZ Kenya

The Go Blue Project has seen impressive results and we're very proud as an organization to have been a part of it. I want to appreciate all enablers. We've had KEBS, The County Government, we've had the Chamber and everybody that has played a part in supporting MSME's. To all SME's, Asante Sana (Thank you very much) for being part of this

Emmanuel Nzai
CEO-Jumuiya ya Kaunti Za Pwani

You would not be here if it was not the work of many different organizationscoming together in a very very complex web. Out of this program thereare hundred of you. Most of you are at a revenue level of 5 to 10 million. The top 1 is closer to 40 million.

David Ogiga
Director - Sote Hub

The success of your business is; Work hard, Work smart and Be Consistent. Be flexible and adaptable as things go by.

Naimah Jaradi
Kenya National Chambers of Commerce and Industries

Today marks a significant milestone in our lives. We gather here, not just as individuals, but as a community of learners and achievers who have embarked on a transformative journey.

GERMANY TRIP

On the 28th of September, six of our top of the class entrepreneurs participated in an exchange visit to Berlin, Germany. This trip gave them the opportunity to engage in meaningful networking activities, and forge Interntional connections. The exchange visit not only provided our entrepreneurs with exposure to German markets, best practices and technologies but also served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. This initiative underlines the Go Blue project's commitment to empowering and expanding opportunities for MSMEs, fostering a global perspective that contributes to their growth and sustainability. It was also coordinated by Westerwelle Foundation Foundation took us to Siemens Foundation, Solar Kiosk, Climate KIC among others.

PROJECT TWO

Mango Value Chain Project

The mango project was lauched in the last quarter of 2023 and is dedicated to empower 1000 mango farmers in Kilifi County through a comprehensive approach. This initiative is made possible through the generous sponsorship of Innocent Foundation, aiming to enhance the livelihoods and agricultural practices of the local farming community.

First, the farmers will have access to high yielding grafted mango trees, Good Agricultural Practices, organic training that leads to audits and certifications.

Second, we're establishing vital connections by linking farmers with essential service providers, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources for successful cultivation. This include input, insurance, finance and offtakers.

Last, we're building an interactive digital platform that serves as a collaborative space for farmers and service providers, fostering a dynamic community aimed at mutual growth and learning.
Together, these objectives form a comprehensive strategy to elevate mango farming in Kilifi County and create a sustainable and connected agricultural ecosystem.

Green House Project

People In Need - Slovakia is dedicated to empowering communities in kilifi County by providing three Greenhouse to support local women‘s farming groups. The primary focus is on eradicating poverty and fostering job creation within the region. Through this initiative, we are creating sustainable opportunities that not only uplift these womenbut also contribute to the overall economic development of Kilifi County. By donating Greenhouses, we aspire to cultivate a positive impact, providing a foundation for financial independence and community growth.

PROJECT TESTIMONIALS

Maureen Ibrahim Ngala

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible impact of the greenhouse project on our lives. We have faced numerous challenges in cultivating crops, including unpredictable weather and pest infestations. However, since we now have a greenhouse, our farming practices will be transformed. The controlled environment provided by the greenhouses will allow us to grow a variety of crops throughout the year, ensuring a steady income for our families. Not only will we see an increase in our crop yields, but we have also gained valuable knowledge through the training sessions provided. We are now equipped with the skills and resources to sustainably manage our farms and improve our livelihoods. We extend our sincerest thanks to all involved in making this project a reality.

Mariam Mwagandi,Kaza

Being part of the greenhouse project gives me much hope. Before, we struggled with unpredictable weather and limited resources, which often hindered our crop yields. However, since we now own the greenhouse, we will see a remarkable improvement in our farming practices and outcomes. We can now grow crops year-round. Not only will our yields increase, but we will also gain a sense of security knowing that we can rely on our greenhouse produce to sustain our families and generate income. We are immensely grateful for this opportunity. Thank you People In Need and Sote Hub.

Naomi Karisa

I am happy to be part of the Greenhouse Project. This greenhouse is truly a beacon of hope for me. Now I have the means to secure my livelihoods and provide for my family. Thanks to the generosity of the donor People in Need Slovakia, we are now equipped with the tools and resources necessary. This greenhouse will not only enable us to put food on the table but also afford us the opportunity to pay school fees for our children, ensuring they receive the education they deserve. The impact of this project will extend far beyond our group; it goes throughout our community, building economic stability and growth. We are very grateful for the support and belief placed in us, and we remain committed to maximizing the potential of this greenhouse to transform our lives for the better.

Purity Bendera

As a proud member of the Neema ya Bure Self-Help Group, I am honored to be part of the Greenhouse Project, which is a game-changer for me and my community. Thanks to the generous support of the donor. Through the Greenhouse, along with my fellow group members, we have the opportunity to provide for our families in ways we never thought possible. These greenhouses are not just structures; they are lifelines that enable us to put nutritious food on our tables, pay school fees for our children, and secure a better future for generations to come. The impact of this initiative is profound and far-reaching. With each harvest, we will witness the fruits of our labor flourish, both literally and figuratively. We are not just growing crops; we are growing hope, opportunity, and resilience. I want to express my deepest gratitude to People in Need Slovakia for their incredible generosity and support. Your belief in us and your commitment to empowering communities like ours is truly inspiring. Thanks to your kindness, we are not only improving our livelihoods but also building stronger, more sustainable futures for ourselves and our families.

Mercy Kabibi Thoya

Because of this greenhouse, we will grow more food to feed our families. This means we don’t have to worry about going hungry anymore. We can also sell some of the extra vegetables to earn money. With this money, we can pay for school fees for our children and other expenses. We want to say a big thank you to People in Need Slovakia for helping us. Your kindness is changing our lives for the better. Because of your support, we can improve our lives and provide a brighter future for our families. Thank you so much.

Alice Sidi

We are incredibly thankful to People in Need Slovakia and Sote Hub for their generous support. Beyond just giving us the physical greenhouses, they’ve also helped us learn valuable skills through training sessions. These skills have empowered us to make the most of the greenhouses. Now, we can grow fresh, healthy food right where we live.

Youth – Digital Entrepreneurship Exchange Program (Y-DEEP)

Two staff members from Sote Hub (Luke Kibiku & Lucia Muthoni) Were selected to go to South Africa for six months to represent not only Sote Hub but also to represent Kenya.

Y-DEEP aims to empower young people and foster entrepreneurship through development of analytic ability, communication skills and leadership attitude. Participants are trained and coached in personal development and productivity, entrepreneurship, financial management, project management, UN Sustainable Development Goals, creative leadership, becoming a Change Agent and youth educational environmental services. The exchange gives young people a unique opportunity to learn more about themselves and the world and to develop entrepreneurship and leadership skills through real life experience.

Diamond Challenge

With a focus on identifying 40 outstanding innovations, this initiative aims to provide a platform for students to showcase their creative solutions to real-world challenges. From this pool of talent, the best innovations will be granted the exceptional opportunity to represent Kenya in the USA, serving as ambassadors of ingenuity on an international stage. This initiative not only recognizes and supports the innovative spirit of Kenyan youth but also opens doors for them to connect with global networks, fostering a culture of creativity and entrepreneurship in high school education.

PROJECT THREE

Nairobi Innovate Week

Several of our enterprenuars in the Go Blue project showcased their impactful businesses at the Nairobi Innovation Week. This notable event provided a platform for these businesses to spotlight their sustainable practices and innovative solutions, contributing to the overarching goal of promoting environmental sustainability and resilience. Dennis Onkangi from Kuza Freezer, Faith Mwende of Tamu Chicks and Simon Kupalia from Syngap Energies recently participated in the Nairobi Innovation Week, yielding promising outcomes for their ventures. Dennis showcased the innovation in manufacturing and selling pay-as-yougo solar-powered freezers, contributing to sustainable and off-grid cooling solutions.

Faith Mwende's Tamu Organics displayed her innovation in animal feed production, specializing in chicken, fish, pig, and pet feeds, addressing the evolving needs of the agricultural sector.

Simon Kupalia of Syngap Energies presented his innovation in the production of briquettes and the installation of energy-efficient equipment, aligning with the growing demand for eco-friendly energy solutions. The exposure at Nairobi Innovate Week provided these MSMEs withvaluable connections, potential partnerships, and insights into scaling their innovative solutions for a more sustainable and impactful future.

Africa Startup Conference - Algeria

Four of our dynamic startups recently had the honor of pitching and exhibiting at the Africa Startup Conference 2023 in Algeria, from the **5th - 7th of December 2023**. This unique opportunity provided a spotlight for our entrepreneurs to present their cutting-edge solutions on a continental stage. The conference not only amplified their visibility but also allowed them to connect with industry leaders, potential investors, and fellow innovators. This experience reflects our ongoing commitment to nurturing a supportive ecosystem that propels startups towards global recognition.

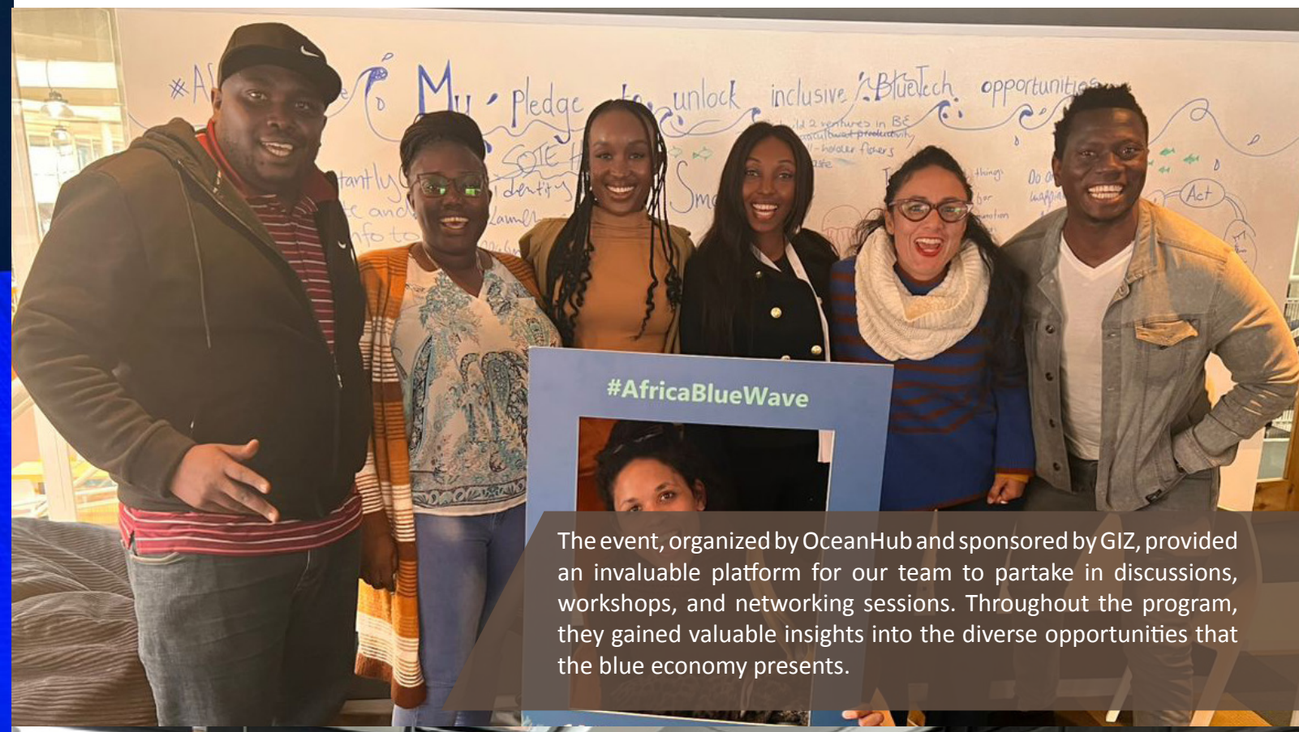
DAVID OGIGA NOMINATED AS BOARD MEMBER OF AFBAN

Algeria December 07, Our Director, Mr. David Ogiga, hasreceived a distinguished nomination to serve on theinitial board, for African Federation of Business Angel Networks (AFBAN) during the African Startup Conference in Algiers, Algeria organised by Algeria Ventures.

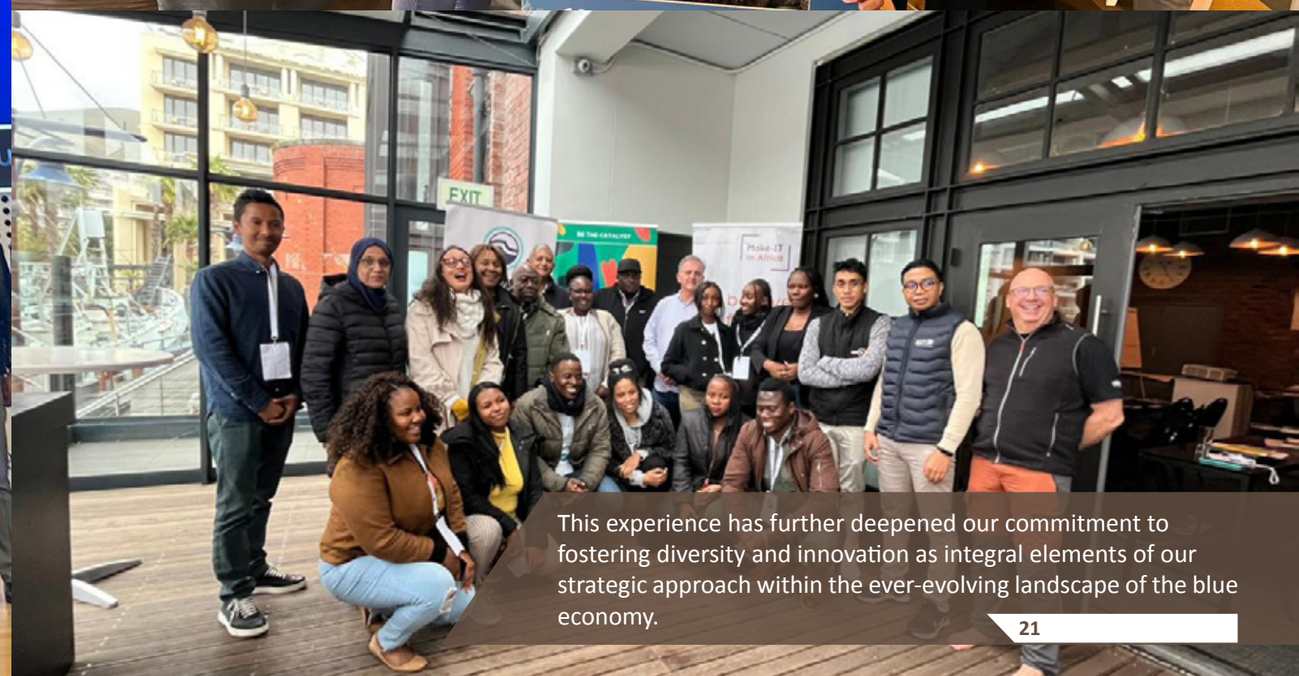
AFBAN is on a mission to revolutionize early-stage startup financing which has remained a challenge for majority of startups in Africa. This honor is a testament to Mr. Ogiga's expertise and leadership, as well as our organization's commitment to contributing significantly to the success of startups ecosystem in Africa. We extend our sincere congratulations to Mr. Ogiga for another esteemed opportunity and elevation to the African Body.

GENBLUE PROGRAMME

Our Head of Innovation, Kenneth Njihia, and Finance Manager, Grace Aluora, participated in a one-week visit to South Africa as part of the GenBlue program, which centers on Gender Inclusivity in the Blue Economy.



The event, organized by OceanHub and sponsored by GIZ, provided an invaluable platform for our team to partake in discussions, workshops, and networking sessions. Throughout the program, they gained valuable insights into the diverse opportunities that the blue economy presents.



This experience has further deepened our commitment to fostering diversity and innovation as integral elements of our strategic approach within the ever-evolving landscape of the blue economy.

THE BLUE ECONOMY INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2023

Blue Economy, Circular Economy, Cybersecurity, Climate Change and Digital Economy

THE SUMMIT

In the dynamic coastal city of Mombasa, Kenya, a groundbreaking event unfolded,leaving an enduring mark on industries and communities alike. From October 26th to November 3rd, 2023, the Blue Economy Innovation and Investment Summit, organized by Sote Hub, illuminated the region's dedication to sustainable development. Set against the backdrop of Mombasa's stunning coastal landscape, the summit, themed '**Seas of Innovation**: Technology in the Blue, Circular Economies,' offered a week-long spectacle of knowledge exchange,collabortion, and visionary discussions.

Continuing the success of the previous year, Coastal Ecosystem players took a giant leap forward with the Blue Economy Innovation and Investment Summit.

"The week-long endeavor aimed at unlocking the immense potential of the Blue Economy value chains, positioning it at the heart of the region's growth".

The summit, designed to harness the ocean's potential for livelihoods and employment, foster innovative solutions, encourage green and circular economy practices, and facilitate interactions between innovators and industry leaders, featured diverse events crafted to enhance participants' skills.

WOMEN IN BLUE ECONOMY

BY DALI SPACES

On October 26th, an empowering session marked the establishment of a vibrant community comprising over 70 women hailing from the six Coastal Counties, united by a common interest in the Blue economy. This dynamic assembly served as a catalyst for networking and fundraising, providing a platform for these women to share insights, experiences, and expertise. The gathering proved instrumental in fostering a sense of solidarity among the participants, transcending geographical boundaries and bringing together diverse perspectives.

The shared commitment to the Blue economy emerged as a driving force, empowering these women to collectively address existing gaps and challenges within the sector. Beyond the establishment of this formidable community, the impact rippled far and wide. The session became a nexus for collaboration, opening avenues for joint initiatives, research projects, and advocacy.

The network facilitated knowledge exchange and skill-sharing, enriching the collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities within the Blue economy. As a result, the community evolved into a powerhouse of innovation and resilience, with the potential to influence policies and practices for sustainable development in the coastal regions.

KILIFI INNOVATION WEEK

On October 27, 2023, a delegation from Sotehub, in collaboration with Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) embedded in the Blue Economy value chain, actively participated in the Kilifi Innovation Summit organized in partnership with the County Government of Kilifi. This joint endeavor was a component of the overarching Blue Economy Innovation and Investment.

The objective behind Sotehub's team engagement in the Kilifi Innovation Summit was to fortify connections, exchange knowledge, and delve into potential collaborations within the spheres of innovation and sustainability.

This inter-event collaboration facilitated a more profound comprehension of the opportunities that exist for innovation and investment within the expansive domain of the Blue Economy.

PROCESSION, CYCLING AND BEACH CLEAN UP

BY BAUS TAKA, CRITICAL MASS, BIKE IS BEST, EARLY BIRDS BANDA & MOMBASA WALK MOVEMENT

The third day of the Blue Economy Innovation and Investment Summit witnessed a remarkable convergence of environmental activism and community engagement, exemplified by a dynamic collaboration of a procession, cycling event, and beach clean-up.

This multifaceted initiative, held on the 28th of October 2023 from 7:30 am, not only exceeded expectations but also underscored the collective dedication to environmental conservation, climate mitigation, and adaptation. The primary objective was to involve 200 participants in the activities, focusing on the removal of plastic waste from Nyali Beach. About 250 people participated.

A significant achievement of this initiative was the impressive collection of over 400 kilograms of plastic waste during the beach clean-up. This tangible impact highlighted the tangible strides being made in addressing the urgent issue of marine pollution.

Beyond the sheer volume of waste collected, the event served as a poignant symbol of unity among a diverse coalition of partners. These included Baus Taka, Bike is Best, Critical Mass Mombasa, Mombasa Walk Movement, Early Birds Banda, Kenya Wildlife Service, and Rotary Club Mombasa, all working in harmony to promote a cleaner and more sustainable coastal environment. What made the event even more noteworthy was the presence and active participation of three ministers from the County Government of Mombasa. Waziri Emily Achieng, responsible for Climate and Water, Waziri Osman Mohamed, overseeing Tourism and Trade, and Waziri Mohammed Hussein, in charge of Lands, demonstrated a shared commitment to the cause. Their involvement not only added prestige to the event but also signaled governmental support for suchgrassroots initiatives.

"Approximately 5 trillion tons of plastic waste are in the ocean, with an addition of 10 million tons every year. This event played a significant role in addressing this pressing environmental issue."

HACKATHON

The same weekend, an invigorating Cyber Security hackathon convened 70 forwardthinking innovators in a rapid 48-hour sprint, generously sponsored by the Slovak Embassy in Kenya. This dynamic event served as a fertile ground for creativity, fostering an environment where participants could channel their skills and expertise into generating cutting-edge solutions to contemporary cybersecurity challenges. The hackathon, held as part of the Blue Economy Innovation and Investment Summit, not only showcased the collaborative potential within the cybersecurity domain but also underscored the significance of international partnerships in propelling technological advancements. The outcome of this intensive collaboration was a host of exciting and innovative solutions that emerged from the hackathon.

These solutions not only reflected the ingenuity of the participating teams but also demonstrated the practical applicability of their ideas to address pressing cybersecurity concerns. Beyond the immediate success of the event, the strategic vision extends into the post-summit phase. Sote Hub, recognizing the potential and promise encapsulated in these ventures, has committed to providing a 6 months incubation program for the winningstartups. This forward-thinking initiative aims to nurture and guide these budding enterprises, offering a tangible growth path that extends beyond the hackathon's intense timeframe and transforms promising ideas into sustainable, market-ready cybersecurity solutions.

BEII SUMMIT 2023 SIDE EVENTS

During these insightful sessions, the partner hubs delved into the matters of Sustainable Tourism, shedding light on how businesses can align their practices with environmentally conscious principles. This approach not only serves as a catalyst for positive environmental impact but also positions these enterprises as responsible contributors to the global tourism landscape. Simultaneously, the focus on MSMEs fundraising underscored the role these small and mediumsized enterprises play in economic development. The events offered a platform for entrepreneurs and stakeholders to explore innovative fundraising strategies, emphasizing the significance of sustainable financial models that empower MSMEs for long-term success.

NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

From October 30th to November 1st, a collaborative effort among partner hubs, such as Yepi, Tech Bridge, Sinapis, SBDC (Strathmore University), Hazina Accelerator, Bei Hub, Swahili Box, Enkomoko, IOME254, and Nia Ventures, unfolded in a series of side events. These gatherings were strategically designed to spotlight Sustainable Tourism and the imperative aspect of fundraising for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The participating hubs brought together a diverse range of expertise and resources, fostering an environment conducive to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by businesses in the realms of sustainability and financing. The Youth Empowerment Program Initiative (YEPI) spearheaded a significant event, “Local dialogue towards sustainable tourism - pioneering change’.

This collaborative effort, in partnership with Sote Hub, Hazina Microfinance, and SlovakAid, provided a crucial platform for dialogue, sharing experiences, addressing challenges, and promoting best practices in sustainable tourism. We were joined by a distinguished panel ofexperts.

Hamid Shehan, the Chief Officer of Blue Economy, Ms. Saadu H Rashid, the Coordinator and Training Manager at the National Museums of Kenya Heritage Training Institute (NMKHTI) in Mombasa, added her expertise in heritage preservation and training. Finally, Mr. Barua Mshenga, the Marketing Manager of Safari and Holiday Masters, provided insights into sustainable marketing strategies in the realm of travel. Together, they promised a rich and diverse discussion, moderated by the capable Khadija Abdalla.

STARTUP FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

TechBridge Invest orchestrated an engaging event on October 30, 2023, centered around “SMEs & Startups Fundraising.” The session, led by speakers Lilian Wambua and Mercy Mkulu, with Roselyne Gombe as the moderator, delved into crucial facets of the fundraising journey tailored for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups.

The speakers provided a comprehensive overview of the fundraising journey, outlining the steps entrepreneurs need to navigate, from preparing a compelling pitch to negotiating with potential investors.

Lilian Wambua and Mercy Mkulu delved into the diverse fundraising options available to SMEs and startups. This included insights into angel investment, venture capital, crowdfunding, and strategic partnerships.

PITCHING EVENT ON THE 2ND NOVEMBER 2023

The apex of innovation unfolded in a riveting spectacle as the top performers from both the Cybersecurity Hackathon and the Innovation Challenge converged on center stage to present their ideas.
This high-profile event, graced by the presence of Her Excellency Katarina Leligdonova, the Sovak Ambassador to Kenya, served as a platform where the intersection of cybersecurity and entrepreneurial ingenuity took the spotlight.

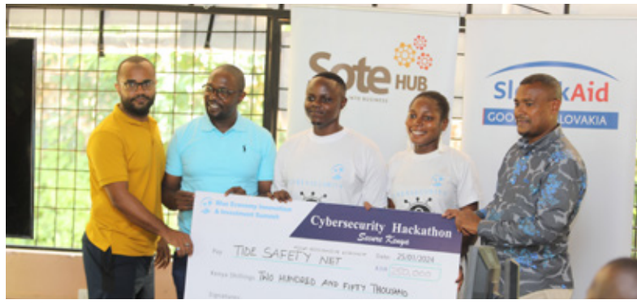
Cybersecurity Hackathon’s Top 5 Teams pitched their solutions. Simultaneously, the Top 5 Startups from the Innovation Challenge showcased a diverse array of pioneering ideas, representing the vanguard of entrepreneurial creativity.

Top hackathon winners

1.Tide Safetynet

Solution:

To address this issue, STARTUPS offers a solution called “Tide Safetynet, “ a website and mobile app. It provides real-time ocean wave information, warning fishermen about high or low tides, and assisting swimmers in identifying safe days for swimming, effectively reducing the risk of accidents.



1.Tide Safetynet

2.Bio Secure

3.Data Baiters

2.Bio Secure

Solution:

Bio Secure is aimed at creating a higly secure biometric system to replace traditional credit cards for ATM access. The system uses iris scanners and also fingerprints to ensure that you are the authorized person to access the bank ATM. The solution is not only for banks but also for stores that uses ATM cards.

3.Data Baiters

API Development: Create APIs for data requests, Notification System: Send SMS alerts to citizens when data is requested.

Features:

- Data Protection Policies: Define policies for third-party data access.
- Data Encryption: Ensure data transfer security.
- Monitoring & Logging: Enable audit and detection capabilities.
- specifying authorized data types.
- Security Audits & Compliance: Test and comply with regulations.

BEII SUMMIT 2023: MAIN SUMMIT EVENT

On November 3, 2023, the Blue Economy Innovation and Investment Summit reached its crescendo, uniting participants from a spectrum of events, including Women in Blue Economy, Beach Clean-Up, Cybersecurity Hackathon, Startups Fundraising, Sustainable Tourism, and Startups Pitching, drawing a crowd of over 300 attendees.

The summit offered a platform for insightful talks and keynote speeches, delving into critical aspects of the Blue Economy and fostering a comprehensive understanding of its dynamics.

The event summit unfolded as a dynamic convergence of thought leadership, featuring a myriad of activities such as keynote speeches, engaging panel discussions, exhibitions, and showcases. This event served as a bustling crucible for ideas and innovation, where diverse stakeholders converged to explore, discuss, and celebrate advancements across various sectors.

With over 300 delegates, including innovators, startup founders, representatives of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), manufacturers, and discerning investors, the summit proved to be a resounding success. Its impact was evident in the meaningful connections and collaborations forged among this diverse assembly, underscoring the summit's effectiveness in fostering a cohesive ecosystem within the Blue Economy.

The event also drew the attention of the United Nations, with the presence of His Excellency Michal Mlynar from UN-Habitat, further underlining the event's alignment with global initiatives. Youth Champion Charlene Ruto brought a dynamic perspective to the gathering, representing the enthusiasm and innovative spirit of the younger generation. The extensive representation from various government ministries and agencies underscored the collaborative and cross-sectoral nature of the occasion, emphasizing the importance of concerted efforts in advancing youth affairs, sports, and the arts.

This assembly of dignitaries and representatives from diverse backgrounds not only elevated the event's profile but also emphasized the collective commitment to fostering youth development.
The diverse representation served as a bridge between local and international perspectives, fostering a holistic dialogue and collaboration that transcends borders and sectors.

Government officials, including County Executive Committee Members (CECMs) from Kilifi and Mombasa counties, along with Emily Achieng, the CEC for Water, Natural Resources, and Climate Change Resilience, shared valuable insights into regional initiatives for sustainable development. Charleen Ruto, acknowledged as a Youth Champion in Kenya, emphasized the pivotal role of the youth in influencing the trajectory of the Blue Economy and shaping its future.

The presence of representatives from Governors H.E Gideon Mung'aro (Kilifi), H.E Fatuma Achani (Kwale), and H.E Abdullswamad Sherrif Nassir (Mombasa)underscored the regional leadership's commitment to advancing the Blue Economy agenda. Key topics covered during the talks included the Capacity for Data Collection and Information Management in the six Coastal Counties, emphasizing the critical need for accurate and accessible data to drive informed decisions. Sustainable tourism and conservation were central themes, with discussions exploring strategies for preserving coastal ecosystems.

His Excellency Michal Mlynar, Deputy Executive Director of UN Habitat Nairobi, contributed a global perspective on the significance of sustainable practices.

"Regional leaders united for a sustainable Blue Economy! Insights on data capacity, coastal conservation, and global perspectives from UN Habitat set the stage for informed and impactful decisions".

We can all work towards harnessing the potential of cities to benefit from the Go Blue economy such as through sustainable livelihoods, green and blue job creations, sustainable housing and infrastructure, waste management, ecological protection and restoration of the coast and are still working on and where innovations play an extremely important role. Many Urban Centers are located along coastlines and waterfronts around the world. It is crucial that they harness the tremendous opportunity, a sustainable Blue Economy presents. We at UN-HABITAT together with the UN have been so happy to actually have one of our flagship initiatives here in Kenya in the Go Blue Project, which we do together with Germany, France, Italy, and we implement it within 6 counties of Kenya.

PANEL DISCUSSION

During the Summit, an eminent panel, guided by Brenda Kibiku, the Technical Advisor of the Go Blue Component from GIZ, undertook an insightful exploration into "Unlocking the Potential of an Inclusive Blue Economy for Coastal Communities." The panel, comprising distinguished figures such as Martha Mghendi, from the European Women Payments Network, Amanda Louise Skaar, advisor for Afro Climate at Stripe Ireland, Dr. Stephen Mbithi, an Executive from the Office of the President, and Mr. John Omingo, the Director of Maritime Trade and Investment at the Kenya Maritime Authority, collectively brought diverse expertise to illuminate strategies for maximizing the Blue Economy's benefits for coastal communities.

The panelists- (From Left) Mr. John Omingo - Kenya Maritime Authority, Ms. Amanda Louise Skaar - Afro Climate Advisor, Martha Mghendi Fisher - CEO/Founder of EWPN and Brenda Kibiku (Moderator) - GIZ Kenya

01

The panel explored innovative approaches to harness the potential of the Blue Economy, emphasizing the need for inclusive economic strategies that directly benefit coastal communities.

02

The discussions, enriched by the insights of Amanda Louise Skaar, underscored the importance of crosssector collaboration. The panel highlighted the significance of forging partnerships between diverse entities to ensure sustainable and impactful initiatives within the Blue Economy for coastal communities.

03

Dr. Stephen Mbithi and Mr. John Omingo contributed to the discourse by delving into the necessary policy and investment frameworks. Their insights emphasized the importance of creating robust structures to support and propel the development of the Blue Economy, ensuring long-term benefits for coastal regions.

04

Martha Mghendi, championed the cause of inclusivity, stressing the pivotal role of women in the Blue Economy. She highlighted the importance of empowering women and fostering their leadership within coastal communities, recognizing their significant contributions to sustainable development in the Blue Economy.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

On the remarkable day of November 3, 2023, the Blue Economy Innovation and Investment Summit culminated in a grand finale and reached its climax, bringing together participants from various events, including Women in Blue Economy, Beach Clean-Up, Cybersecurity Hackathon, Start Ups fundraising, Sustainable Tourism, and Start Ups Pitching with over 500+ attendees. The summit featured insightful talks and keynote speeches that delved into the critical aspects of the Blue Economy.

Charlene Ruto,
Youth Champion,Kenya

This event is not only a testament to the power of innovations and collaboration,but are sounding testament, the incredible potential of cybersecurity.

Michal Mlynar,
Deputy Executive Director of UN Habitat Nairobi

Many Urban Centers are located along coastline and waterfronts around the world. It is crucial that they harness the tremendous opportunity, sustainable Blue Economy presents.

Katarina Zuffa Leligdonova,
Ambassador Slovakia

For this to be positive, we have to consider technology as a tool of empowement and self expression...

Ababu Namwamba,
Cabinet Secretary for Sports and Youth Affairs

The Blue Economy has become a whole frontier for development.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Sote Hub Honored by GIZ

Award for successful implementation of the Go Blue project Sote Hub was honored by GIZ in recognition of the successful implementation of the Go Blue project. The award ceremony, held at Serena Hotel on November 28th, 2023, celebrated the impactful efforts made by Sote Hub in advancing the goals of the project. This achievement highlights our commitment to sustainable practices in the blue economy. We are grateful for the acknowledgment and remain dedicated to fostering innovation and positive change in our community.

David Ogiga elected as Board Member in Afrilabs

Heartfelt congratulations are in order for our Director, Mr. David Ogiga, who was elected as a Board Member, Afrilabs representing Eastern Africa.
The election took place during a Afrilabs AGM held in Kigali, Rwanda. This significant achievement reflects Mr. Ogiga's leadership and dedication to Africa innovation Ecosytem. We celebrate this milestone with immense pride and look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly bring to the Afrilabs board and our broader community. Congratulations, Boss, on this well-deserved accomplishment.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Kenneth Njihia elected as Secretary Technical and Trainer

We are happy to announce Kenneth Njihia, our Head of Innovation, as the newly elected Secretary Technical and Training at the at CountrywideHubs for the next 2 years! Kenneth's passion for innovation and commitment to growth will undoubtedly drive positive change.

Grace Aluora nominated as Committee Member for Women

A heartfelt congratulations to Aluora Grace, our exceptional Finance Manager, for her well-deserved nomination as a Committee Member for Women in Business at Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mombasa Chapter for the next three years.

OUR PORTFOLIO

Sea Ventures produces quality organic animal feeds and fertilizers made from Fish waste. They reutilize the disregarded fish waste working with the fisher folk up-cycling to animal feeds which include chicken feeds, fish feeds, pig feeds and pet feeds.

Her Motivation:
Being a Marine Biologist in the fish industry value chain I could see a lot of post-harvest losses in the fishing sector from bycatch to aggregation centers to markets and processing units. Did you know that 60-70% of a fish goes into waste and only 30-40% is processed or consumed at any given time? On the other hand, there is dire scarcity of animal feeds in Kenya. I was really motivated to help farmers to get animal feed using readily available materials,which is actually waste.

Pepson Logistics Limited, trading as GoPark Safaris is a tour operator based in Kenya Incorporated in 2015 providing customized holiday options to tourists in Kenya and East Africa. Additionally, they provide corporate transportation services for companies and NGOs.

Some key Milestone:
Emerged as the winners of the Kenyan edition of the pitch camp organized as part of the Tourism Recovery Programme by enpact, a German non-profit in collaboration with Tui Care Foundation receiving mentorship, financial support and networking events in Berlin, Germany.
We grew our B2B client base from 25 to 37. This saw our total number of travel days grow from 487 in 2022 to 608 in 2023. We were therefore able to bring more employees on board and to keep our driver-guides reasonably busy for most of the year.

Crab shack is a unique ecotourism facility which was started by Dabaso creek conservation group in 2018 to provide an alternative source of livelihood to the Mida- Dabaso community. We are found in Kilifi County Malindi Sub County in Mida creek Watamu. The group was objectively started to conserve the Great Mida creek which was miserably destroyed by communities because of over dependence on it for trees for charcoal and timber sales. Crab shack started several livelihood projects which supported over 2000 residents in Dabaso through employment, community support programs. Today, they have replanted over 300,000 mangrove trees in the once degraded area. By visiting the restaurant, you directly promote conservation and community.

Milestones:
Crab Shack has been one of the success stories of the Go Blue Project. The company has continued to plant more mangroves passing the 300,000 mark. Tourism is booming and the number of employees today stands at 53. The annual income increased from Ksh. 35 M in 2022 to Ksh 50 M in 2024. We also managed to expand our restaurant from 100 setter to 150 because of the increased number of clients achieved from the good network and marketing done. Thank you Sote Hub and your team.

Kuza Freeze is a startup company based in Kenya officially registered in the year 2021. We currently offer two core products. The cold storage units for small-scale business in the fish value and supply chains, as our primary target and mobile clean cooking solutions.

MOBILE COLD STORAGE UNITS (ColdBox)
Cool on the: 60-liter freezer embedded on motorbikes for door-to-door fresh fish distribution. The cold storage has an inbuilt 5-hour battery and a system enabling remote monitoring.

STATIC FREEZER
This is a 150-liter solar powered freezer, operated using a 200AH battery. This solution is commonly used by businesses in the fish supply chain, dairy farmers and households. We have distributed 400+ products in Kenya for the last 2 years.

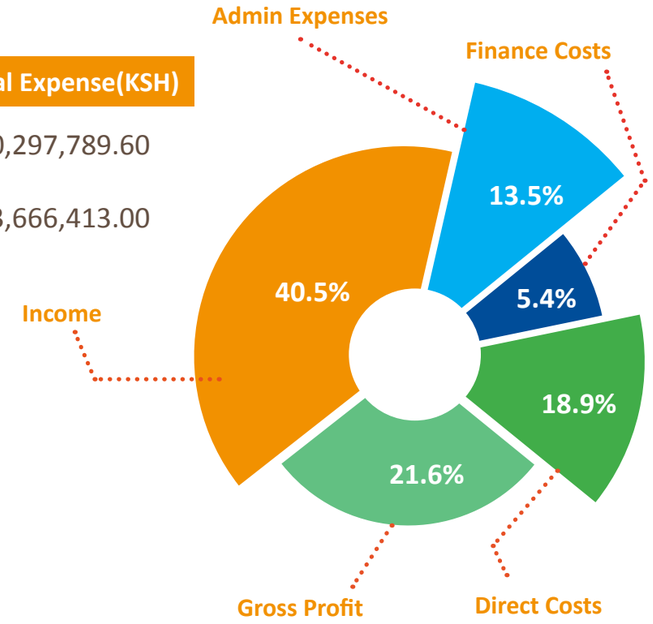
ECOHEAT INNOVATION
EcoHeat is an innovative solution dedicated to revolutionizing the street food vendor industry. We provide a clean, sustainable, and mobile cooking solution powered by solar energy to mobile street food vendors, particularly those specializing in smokies. We aim to replace the traditional and environmentally harmful practice of using charcoal with our eco-friendly solution.

FINANCIAL REPORT SOTE HUB 2023

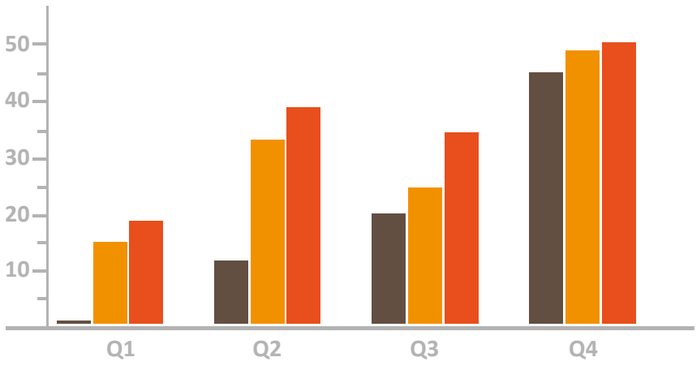
OUR TURNOVER

2023 Increased
By 74.4%

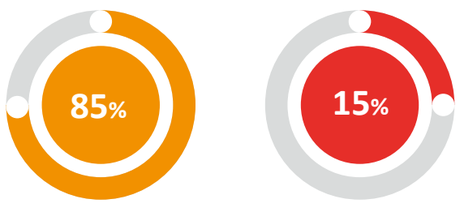
Year	Total Income(KSH)	Total Expense(KSH)
2022	31,031,441.00	30,297,789.60
2023	54,117,132.25	43,666,413.00



QUARTERLY DATA 2023



OVERVIEW



OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

DONORS

SUPPORTING PARTNERS

THE TEAM

David Ogiga
Co-founder/Director

Ivana Ulicna
Program Manager/ Board Member

Alvin Chole
Head of Programs

Kenneth Njihia
Head of Innovation

Grace Aluora
Finance & Admin Manager

Mejumaa Bakari
Finance & Admin Assistant

Lucia Muthoni
Project Officer

Shadrack Lang'at
Technical Lead

Luke Kamunyu
Technical Assistant

Emmanuel Madanga
Program Assistant / Trainer

Alvinah Mwithi
Communications Officer / Program Assistant

Pamphilian Adhiambo
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Expert - Finance & Project Management

Grace Omusula Sembe
Expert - SIYB Trainer

Anthony Maina
Expert- BDS Trainer and Mentor

Jannat Araphat Abdallah
Expert - Business Marketing

David Muye Mwangome
Expert - Microfinance

2023 GALLERY

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2024

Month	Event	Description	Engaged Partners
20th January	Eco Heat Launch by Kuza Freezer	Eco Heat is providing a solar solution heating alternative to charcoal used by smokies vendors in our urban areas and towns. This mobile, clean cooking solution not only offers a sustainable alternative but empowers users to combat	• Kuza Freezer • Nyali Capital • Hatua Networks
23rd-25th January	Cyber security bootcamp with Award ceremony	Top 10 cyber security innovations from last 2023 hackathon will pitch with top 3 winning 5000 $ Day 1 & 2 will have a training bootcamp on cybersecurity.	• Slovak Aid • Esset
12th February	Tunga	Tunga is a connecting with the developers in Mombasa and they will be having a session at Sote hub with developers from the coastal region	• Tunga • GDG pwani
24th February	Atlassian	More details will be shared	• Attlassian
27th February	Mind the gap Series	Bi monthly workshops held at Sote Hub for youth and women led entrepreneurs on demand driven topics and to be hosted by industry players and expert. Export markets, financial literacy, compliance and regulations, fund-raising, business technologies, processing etc.	
22nd February	Startup10 Launch - Accelerator program	The project aims to promote food security and youth employment in 10 partner countries (Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya Uganda, Ethiopia, Albania, Bosnia,) through the strengthening of business incubators to foster the development of local startups active in the green & blue economy sectors . Sote will run a 12 month incubation program for	• Italian Cooperation • CIHEAM Bari
26th - 29th February	Mango Farmers Organic Training	The Mango Project is advancing sustainable agriculture practices in Kilifi County This specialized training will focus on organic farming Linkage to service providers and carbon markets.	• Innocent Foundation

Month	Event	Description	Engaged Partners
08th March	Women in Blue Economy Work-shop	These workshops celebrate and promote the role of women in shaping and advancing the sustainable blue economy. Through keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, participants explore a range of topics, including women's contributions to marine conservation, leadership in maritime industries and fostering gender equality in the blue	
08th March	KIEP-SKIES Project Launch	Acceleration of 20 startups in Agro Processing and Agriculture. The startups will be sourced from all over the country.	• World Bank
16th March	Youth Engagement Event work-shop	This is an inclusive workshop designed to inspire, empower and connect youths in a collaborative setting. These events provide a platform for young people to explore diverse interests, share ideas and cultivate skills. Leadership, entrepreneurship and social impact, to interactive activities that promote creativity and teamwork	
28th March **Venue: TBC**	Mango Value Chain Stakeholders' Engagement and Project Launch	To strengthen the mango value chain in Kilifi County. Will involve key stakeholders, including farmers, processors, distributors, and other relevant partners, to join us for a collaborative discussion and the official launch of this transformational project.	• The innocent Foundation
06th April **Venue: Nyali Beach**	Green, Clean City - Beach Clean up	Sote Hub will join the environmentally conscious Mombasa community to restore and preserve the coastal ecosystem. We will join forces to remove accumulated litter, debris, and plastics from the shorelines, contributing to the mitigation of marine pollution. We will have a	• Bike is Best • Baus Taka • Mombasa Walk Movement
03rd May **Venue: Sote Hub**	Women in Blue Economy Work-shop	These workshops celebrate and promote the role of women in shaping and advancing the sustainable blue economy. Through keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, participants explore a range of topics, including women's contributions to marine conservation, leadership in maritime industries and fostering gender equality in the blue	• Open
3rd - 4th, July **Diani, Kenya**	Blue Invest - Investor pitch event	2 days of pitching and deal making- To be attended by 30 high capacity startups in Blue Economy from all over Africa. They will pitch to Angels, VCs, Funds & MFIs drawn from Africa and EU.	• European Commission • GIZ

Month	Event	Description	Engaged Partners
07th August **Venue: Sote Hub**	Blue Economy Summit Soft launch: August	A one-week series of events that seeks to expand knowledge and opportunities that will foster growth of the blue economy. A meeting of all key stakeholders, actors Government and private sector in the blue economy. • Startups pitching • Panel discussions • Keynote speeches • Hackathon and fireside chats • Marketplace	
03rd September **Venue: Sote Hub**	Women in Blue Economy Workshop	These workshops celebrate and promote the role of women in shaping and advancing the sustainable blue economy. Through keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops, participants explore a range of topics, including women's contributions to marine conservation, leadership in maritime industries and fostering gender equality in the blue	
3rd October 17th October	Graduation	Graduation week for various acceleration/incubation programs	
4th – 8th November 2024 **Venue: TBC**	Blue Economy Innovation & Investment Summit	A one-week series of events that seeks to expand knowledge and opportunities that will foster growth of the blue economy. A meeting of all key stakeholders, actors Government and private sector in the blue economy. • Startups pitching • Panel discussions • Keynote speeches • Hackathon and fireside chats • Marketplace	

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