QUARTER ONE JULY - OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE NO. 5

Newsletter

NG-CDF BOARD



Bridging the Gap

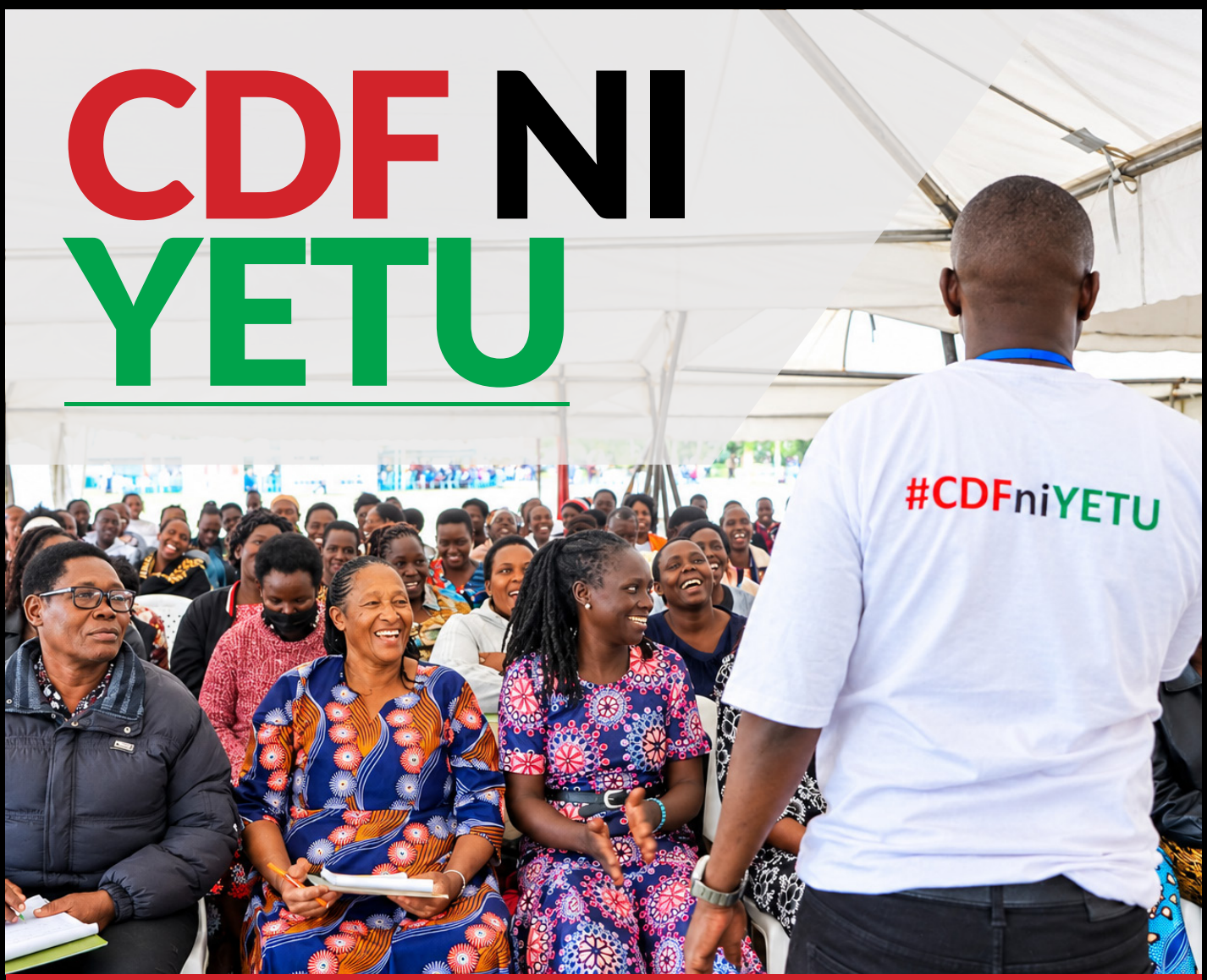
Managing projects across Kenya's 290 constituencies from Nairobi means that distance is measured in more than kilometres.



Inside Kesses' Education Story

Beyond school infrastructure, Kesses NG-CDF provides bursary support to learners from vulnerable and disadvantaged families

CDF NI YETU



Maendeleo kwa wote

The National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) is a decentralised fund established by the Government to promote socio-economic development at the grassroots level and address regional inequality throughout the country.

EDITORS

Note

As we close another quarter, this edition highlights the many ways the NG-CDF continues to transform lives across the country through project that create opportunities, strengthen communities and inspire hope. From new classrooms and bursaries that are keeping more learners in school, to school buses opening doors to experiences beyond the classroom, the stories in this issue demonstrate the lasting impact of investing in education. We also showcase how strategic partnerships are accelerating the rollout of Digital Hubs, bringing skills, connectivity and economic opportunities closer to wananchi.

Beyond projects, this edition reflects the people and partnerships that drive our success. Whether engaging citizens at major national exhibitions, supporting educational causes through the Uzalendo Half Marathon, or promoting staff wellness through sport, the NG-CDF Board continues to strengthen its connection with the communities it serves.

As we celebrate these achievements, we are also mindful of emerging challenges. Our special feature on El Niño preparedness underscores the importance of safeguarding NG-CDF assets and building resilience in the face of climate-related risks.

We hope these stories reaffirm the Fund's commitment to equitable development, accountability and improving the quality of life of Kenyans in all the 290 constituencies. Together, we continue to build stronger communities and create opportunities for current and future generations.

Enjoy the read!

Brenda

EDITORIAL OPINION

FROM BENEFICIARIES TO DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

By Brenda Onyino

Across Kenya, trust in public institutions continues to dominate public discourse. Citizens are increasingly demanding transparency, accountability, and timely access to information on how public resources are utilized. At a time when information travels faster than ever before, public confidence is built not only through the delivery of services and infrastructure but also through open communication and meaningful engagement.

For the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF), this changing landscape presents both an opportunity and a responsibility.

The Fund was established to support grassroots development and improve service delivery at the constituency level. However, the success of development is no longer measured solely by the number of projects completed. Increasingly, it is also measured by how well communities understand those projects, how actively they participate in the development process, and how much confidence they have in the institutions delivering them.

Today, citizens expect more than physical infrastructure. They want information. They want to understand how projects are identified, how decisions are made, and how public resources are managed. This shift reflects a broader national trend towards greater public scrutiny and citizen involvement in governance. Across sectors, institutions are embracing transparency and stakeholder engagement as essential pillars of good governance.

At the same time, the rapid expansion of digital communication has transformed how citizens access and share information. Social media platforms, online forums, messaging applications, and community networks have made information more accessible than ever before. While this has strengthened public engagement, it has also created new challenges. Rumours, misinformation, and half-truths can sometimes spread faster than verified information, shaping perceptions before facts are established.

This reality underscores the importance of civic education and proactive communication. Experiences from public engagements across constituencies have shown that misconceptions still exist regarding the Fund's mandate, governance structures, and operations. Some citizens continue to believe that NG-CDF is solely a bursary programme, while others misunderstand the various roles played by different stakeholders in project implementation and oversight. Addressing such information gaps is essential for strengthening public confidence and fostering informed participation.

Building trust therefore goes beyond delivering projects to continuous dialogue. Communities need opportunities to ask questions, seek clarification, provide feedback, and obtain information from credible sources. Through public participation forums, constituency engagements, community meetings, digital platforms, and official communication channels, citizens can become active contributors to the development process rather than passive recipients of information.

The future of development will belong to institutions that not only deliver results but also communicate openly, listen actively, and earn the confidence of the people they serve.



CDF NI YETU

Inside the journey of an NG-CDF project

By Anne Mwaniki

CDF Ni Yetu, meaning **"CDF is ours,"** reflects a simple idea: communities are not merely beneficiaries of NG-CDF projects. They have a place in identifying the priorities that shape them.

A completed classroom, police post, Digital Hub or other community facility is usually the part of an NG-CDF project that people see.

What is less visible is the process that comes before it.

Long before construction begins, a project moves through a series of stages involving the community, the NG-CDF Constituency Committee, the NG-CDF Board and the Project Management Committees (PMCs) Each has a different role, from identifying priorities to approving proposals, implementing projects and monitoring progress.

And it begins with the community.

It starts with a conversation

Project identification takes place through public participation at the constituency level. Residents take part in open forums where development needs are discussed and priority projects identified. The NG-CDF Constituency Committee then considers those priorities and develops project proposals for submission to the NG-CDF Board. This means that





before a project exists on paper as an approved NG-CDF project, there has already been an opportunity for the community to say what it considers important.

Those priorities will naturally differ from one area to another. One community may identify the need for additional classrooms, another a security facility, while elsewhere the immediate need may be a Digital Hub or another project permitted under the Fund.
The result is a system in which project identification begins close to the people who will eventually use the facility.

From priority to proposal

Once projects have been identified, the NG-CDF Constituency Committee has the responsibility of prioritising them and developing the proposals that are submitted to the NG-CDF Board.

The Board then considers proposals from constituencies and approves those that comply with the requirements of the NG-CDF Act. Once approved and funds are available, disbursements are made to the respective constituency fund accounts.

This stage is important because not every idea raised during public participation automatically becomes a funded project. Proposed projects must fall within the mandate of the Fund and go through the prescribed approval process.

The journey from a community priority to an approved project therefore involves both local decision making and institutional review.

When implementation begins

Approval, however, is not the end of the process. At the community level, Project Management Committees (PMC) play a central role in implementation. PMCs implement projects on behalf of the local community, working with the NG-CDF Constituency Committee and drawing on technical support from relevant government departments where required.
This is where plans begin to take physical form.

A proposed classroom begins becoming a building. A security facility moves from drawings and procurement into construction. Materials arrive on site, contractors undertake the works and the different actors involved have to ensure that implementation remains consistent with the approved project. For the community, this is usually the most visible stage. For the institution, however, another process is happening alongside it: monitoring.

Following the project beyond approval

Monitoring provides an opportunity to establish whether projects are progressing as intended, identify challenges and determine where corrective action may be required.





This quarter, constituencies visited revealed both encouraging progress and areas requiring closer follow up. The visits also identified useful practices, including paperless bursary administration in Molo, ward-based CDF Coordinator Offices in Eldama Ravine, water harvesting systems and disability inclusive facilities.

That illustrates an important part of the project cycle. Monitoring is not only about identifying what has gone wrong. It can also reveal what is working particularly well and what may be useful elsewhere.
The project eventually belongs to the community
The final stage is easy to overlook.

A project may have started as an idea raised during a public meeting, passed through prioritisation and approval, moved through implementation and been subjected to monitoring. But ultimately, its purpose is to be used.

Once completed, projects are handed over for use and sustainability by the beneficiary community or institution. Citizens also have a role beyond identifying projects, including participating in implementation, providing feedback and taking over completed projects.

And that completes the circle.

What began as a conversation about a local need eventually becomes a classroom where learners sit, a facility used by security officers, a Digital Hub opening access to online opportunities or another public asset serving the community for which it was intended.

From the outside, the most visible moment may be the completed building.

Behind it is a much longer story.

Identification. Prioritisation. Approval. Funding. Implementation. Monitoring. Handover.

And before all of those stages, there is a community saying:

This is what we need.



BRIDGING THE GAP

How the BPDP is leveraging Regional Coordination Offices to reach the unreached

By Weldon Langat

Managing projects across Kenya's 290 constituencies from Nairobi means that distance is measured in more than kilometres. It is measured in how quickly an emerging problem is identified, how fast it is resolved, and how closely those responsible for delivery remain connected to the standards expected of every project.

The Best Practice Demonstration Programme (BPDP) is an internal initiative of the NG-CDF Board designed to demonstrate excellence in the implementation of NG-CDF programmes. Since its establishment in the 2015/2016 financial year, it has invested Ksh 3.06 billion in more than 480 projects across constituencies, supporting facilities ranging from tuition blocks, libraries, laboratories and dining halls to police posts and police stations, alongside the delivery of school buses.



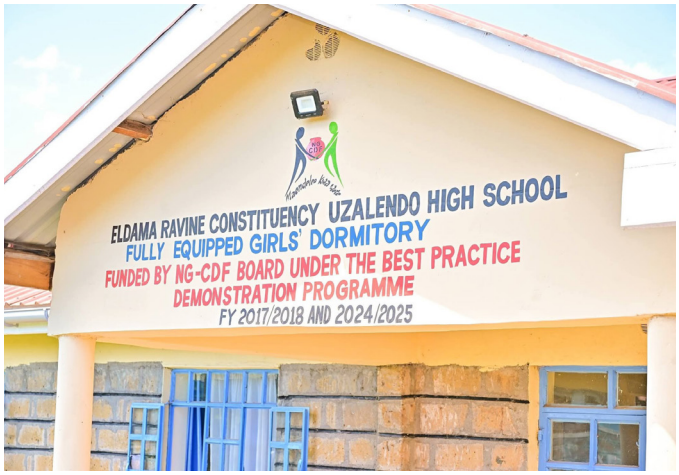
For much of its history, the programme has largely operated through a direct line between headquarters and constituencies, with no structured layer in between. As the range and number of projects grew, the challenge of maintaining close oversight across the wide geographical spread became pronounced. To close this gap, the BPDP is now leveraging Regional Coordination Offices, an existing but underused structure within the NG-CDF Board organogram, giving Regional Coordinators a defined role in program delivery.

The Special Initiatives and Partnerships Department, which houses the BPDP, recently put this approach into practice through structured regional engagement sessions involving awarded contractors, Regional Coordinators, Sub-County Works Officers and Fund Account Managers. The sessions established a common understanding of implementation standards, contract management requirements, site handover procedures and reporting obligations, while clarifying the respective responsibilities of those involved in delivering each project.

Regional Coordinators are the vital link between the Division and the constituencies where projects are delivered. From handover to completion, they track progress and resolve implementation issues before they escalate into larger problems.

Their role also goes beyond BPDP. As the Board strengthens the operationalisation of its Regional Coordination Offices, the structure provides a foundation for closer coordination of the Board's programmes and activities, stronger engagement with constituencies and more responsive service delivery.









Since its establishment in the 2015/2016 financial year, it has invested Ksh 3.06 billion in more than 480 projects across constituencies, supporting facilities ranging from tuition blocks, libraries, laboratories and dining halls to police posts and police stations, alongside the delivery of school buses.



POWERING ACCESS

A partnership that is turning Digital Hubs from construction sites into gateways to the digital economy.

By Weldon Langat

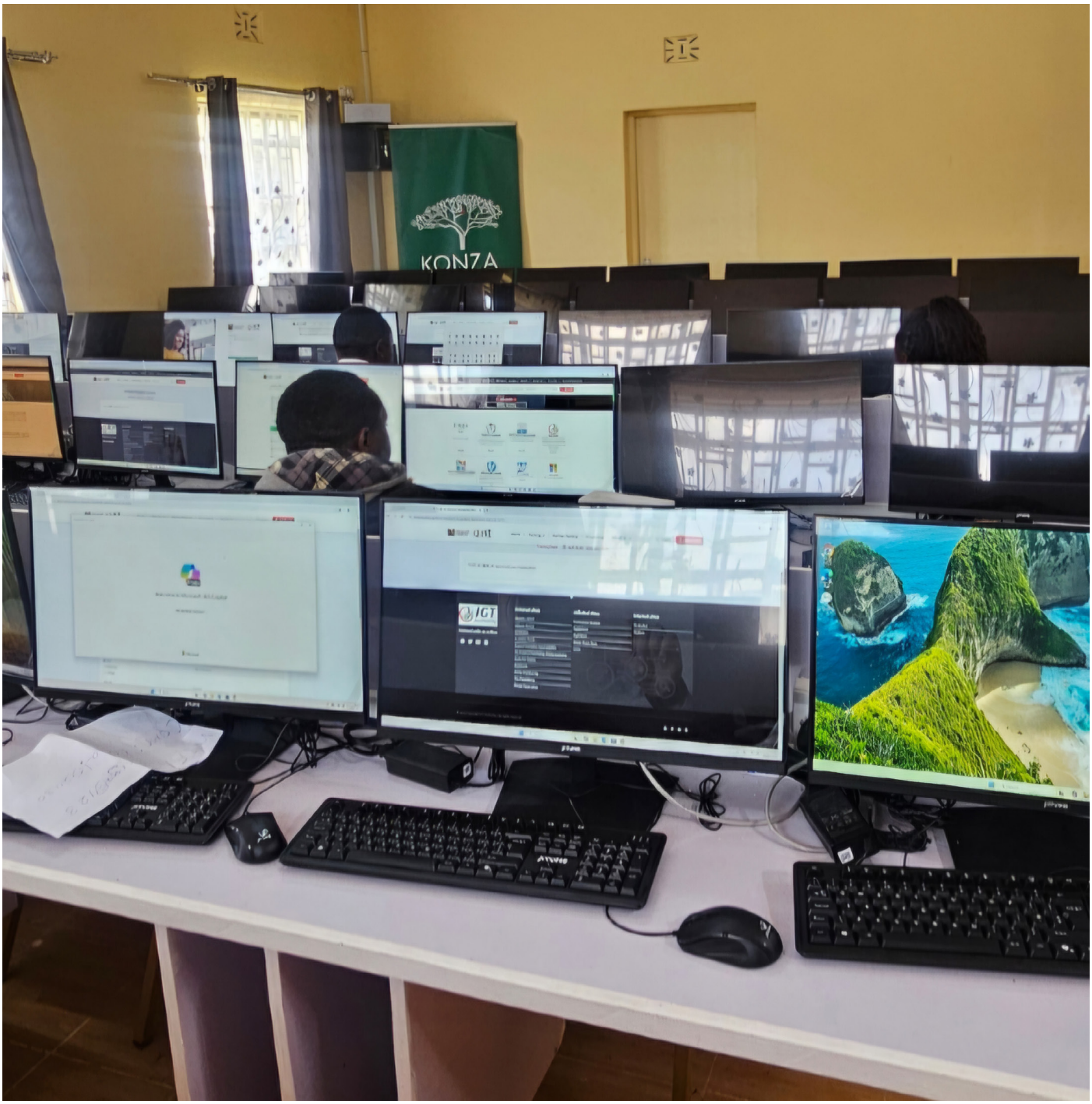
Digital Hubs are becoming gateways to opportunity, bringing digital skills, online services and the benefits of the digital economy closer to communities. What started as a constituency-level construction program is now evolving into a wider national effort to ensure the hubs are equipped, connected and ready to serve the public.

Behind this effort is a partnership between the NG-CDF Board, the Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy, the Technopolis Development Authority (TDA), and the ICT Authority (ICTA). Each partner brings a different strength, with one main goal: connecting people, building skills and expanding access to the digital economy.

The NG-CDF Board is supporting the construction and equipping of 1,450 Digital Hubs, equivalent to one Hub in every ward across the country. So far, 589 hubs have been constructed, with a cumulative NG-CDF investment of KES 4.33 billion. Of these, 234 are structurally complete, with 101 already operational and 133 undergoing the final steps needed to open to the public.

The Ministry provides policy direction and, through the Jitume initiative, is equipping ready hubs with computers. So far, 73 hubs have received 2,080 devices. TDA brings technical and ecosystem expertise to the program and is financing 100 hubs to complement the NG-CDF Board's investment, helping create an environment in which the Digital Hubs can thrive and deliver services to communities. ICTA, meanwhile, is focused on connectivity, supporting the rollout of the national fiber-optic backbone, and leading the nationwide digital literacy curriculum designed to train citizens using the hubs once the doors open.

Together, the partners combine policy, funding, technology and training to make Digital Hubs useful to communities focused on giving people the tools and skills they need to participate and succeed in the digital world.



A STATE OF THE FUND CONVERSATION AT SPEAKERS' KAMUKUNJI

By Anne Mwaniki



On 30 July 2026, Management joined Members of Parliament at the National Assembly Chambers for a Speakers' Kamukunji, where the progress of the NG CDF Fund took centre stage.

The CEO presented the State of the Fund, taking Members through performance since April 2026, the milestones recorded during the period, the challenges affecting implementation and the measures being taken to respond to them.

The session offered Members a broader view of where the Fund stood at the time, bringing both progress and pressure points into the same conversation.

It was also an opportunity for Management and Parliament to engage directly on the issues shaping implementation across the country and the work still underway.

By placing the Fund's progress before all Members in one sitting, the Kamukunji helped keep Parliament informed on both what had been achieved and what still needed attention.

PROJECT MONITORING HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS AND PRACTICES WORTH REPLICATING

By Anne Mwaniki

Project monitoring visits this quarter offered the M&E Division a closer look at how NG-CDF funded projects are performing on the ground, what is working well and where implementation still needs attention.

Overall, the visits found encouraging progress. Most of the completed projects assessed were of good workmanship and were already in use, with benefits being recorded across education infrastructure, security and administrative facilities, digital infrastructure and other community services.

Implementation performance, however, varied across the constituencies, highlighting areas where closer monitoring and follow up remain necessary. The visits also identified a number of practices worth replicating.

In Molo, the use of a paperless bursary administration system showed how technology can make the process easier to manage by reducing paperwork, improving record keeping and making information easier to retrieve.





Eldama Ravine's ward based CDF Coordinator Offices provided another useful model. By placing coordination closer to the wards, the arrangement allows project matters to be followed up closer to where implementation is taking place.

The team also noted projects that had incorporated water harvesting systems. Beyond providing an additional source of water for use within schools, harvested water can support activities such as watering trees and maintaining school grounds. The approach is particularly relevant as NG-CDF continues to incorporate climate mitigation measures within funded projects.

Disability inclusive facilities were another positive feature observed during the visits, demonstrating the importance of ensuring that public facilities can be accessed and used by everyone.

Collaborative project design and inter agency implementation also stood out, particularly where different institutions were able to contribute their expertise towards the successful delivery of a project.

Equally important were projects whose scope had been clearly defined from the beginning. Where planning was realistic and the work clearly set out, projects were more likely to be completed, operationalised and put to use as intended.

For the M&E Division, the visits provided both a measure of progress and practical lessons from the field. While the findings pointed to areas requiring continued attention, they also showed that good planning, appropriate design and practical innovations are already producing approaches that can be replicated in other constituencies.







INSIDE KESSES' EDUCATION STORY

By Martin Mwema

For learners at Chepkoiya Primary School and ACK St. Luke's Cheptiret School, new and improved learning facilities are changing the spaces in which they learn each day.

Between the 2022/2023 and 2025/2026 financial years, Kesses NG-CDF received Ksh. 671.19 million, part of which supported school infrastructure and bursaries for needy learners. At Chepkoiya Primary School, a new six-classroom tuition block was completed at a cost of Ksh. 15 million, funded across the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years.



administrators. The library also gives students an important space to broaden their knowledge beyond the classroom.

Keeping Learners in School

Beyond school infrastructure, Kesses NG-CDF provides bursary support to learners from vulnerable and disadvantaged families who may struggle to meet the cost of education. Over the four-year period, the number of beneficiaries has risen steadily. In 2022/2023, 3,620 students received bursary support. This increased to 4,873 in 2023/2024 and 6,276 in 2024/2025, before reaching 6,607 students in 2025/2026.

At ACK St. Luke's Cheptiret School, a new one-storey facility was completed following an allocation of Ksh. 23.43 million between 2022/2023 and 2024/2025.

The additional classrooms provide pupils with a more conducive environment to learn while giving teachers better spaces to deliver lessons effectively. For the school community, the completed block is an asset that will serve generations of learners.
The facility comprises a classroom, library and administration section with 11 offices, providing dedicated spaces for learners, teachers and school



For these families, bursary support is more than financial assistance. It can mean the difference between a learner dropping out and remaining in school long enough to pursue their ambitions. In the 2025/2026 financial year alone, approximately Ksh. 57.49 million was allocated to bursaries, the highest allocation during the four-year period.

The new learning facilities and bursary support tell different parts of the same story: improving the spaces where learners study while helping more of them remain in school.

WHEN FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPENS THE DOOR TO LEARNING

By Lynex Oloo

Education accounts for approximately 78.2 per cent of NG-CDF's sectoral allocation, covering both bursaries and education infrastructure. Part of this allocation goes to bursaries for needy and deserving learners whose families may struggle to meet the cost of education. Administered at the constituency level through bursary subcommittees, the programme allocates approximately Ksh. 15 billion annually and benefits an average of 1.2 million students each year.

For many families, the cost of keeping a learner in school goes beyond school fees. There is transport to pay for, learning materials to buy, meals, uniforms and other household needs competing for the same limited income. When resources are stretched, meeting all these expenses can become difficult and, in some cases, interrupt a learner's education.

A bursary may not cover every education expense, but for parents and guardians, it can reduce the amount that has to be raised from an already limited household income. This can leave more room for other essential needs.

For learners, bursary support can make a difference in the day to day experience of schooling. When education costs become difficult to meet, attendance can be disrupted and a learner may struggle to participate fully in school. By easing some of that financial pressure, it can help learners attend school more consistently, spend more time in class and concentrate on their studies with fewer interruptions.

The benefits can extend beyond the individual learner. When more young people are able to continue with their education, they have more time to complete their studies, build skills and prepare for what comes next, whether that is further education, training or employment.

Behind every bursary are families making difficult financial decisions, parents and guardians working to provide for their households and learners determined to continue with their education.

The NG-CDF bursary programme is one part of that journey. It does not remove every challenge faced by families, nor does it guarantee academic success. What it provides is financial relief at a point when education costs are competing with other household needs.

For many households, that support means one less education expense to worry about.







BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

A school bus rolling into Maron Senior School is changing what students there believe is within reach.

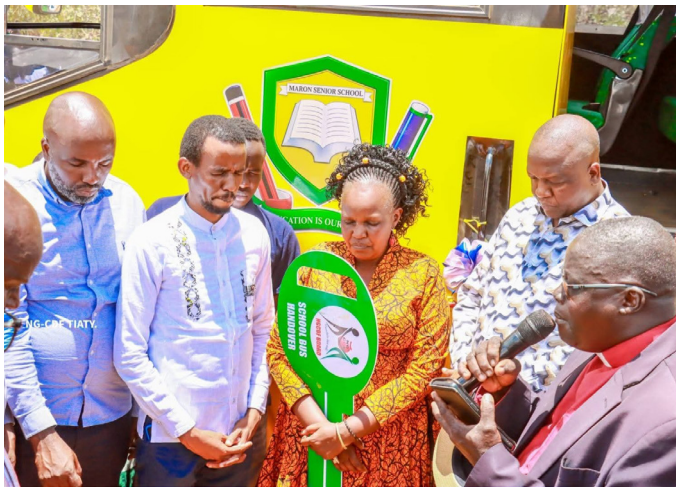
By Weldon Langat

The arrival of a new school bus at Maron Senior School in Tiaty Constituency was more than the sound of an engine pulling into the compound. For students who have long navigated rough terrain and long distances, it marked a quiet but meaningful shift: the world beyond the school gates had drawn a little closer.

In many schools, learning does not end at the gate. Academic trips, sports competitions, music festivals and educational excursions open students to new places and experiences. Yet access to reliable transport can make these opportunities difficult to reach.

Through the National Government Constituencies Development Fund (NG-CDF) Best Practice Demonstration Programme, that obstacle is being steadily removed. It is also part of a wider effort by the Fund to give learners in remote parts of the country access to the same opportunities as their peers elsewhere.





In the 2025/2026 financial year, the BPDP procured 25 school buses. So far, five buses have been delivered, while the remaining 20 are at various stages of fabrication and preparation for delivery. Among the schools that have received buses are Maron Senior School in Tiaty Constituency, St. Paul's Ebusende Secondary School in Matayos and St. Chrispine Samia Girls Secondary School in Funyula.

This bus is more than just transport for our students. It is an opportunity for them to see the world beyond the classroom, learn from new experiences and participate in activities that nurture their talents.

Principal Ms. Tecla Lochom

Her words reflect the reality in a school where distance can turn an ordinary educational outing into a major logistical challenge. For students in the schools that have received buses, the vehicles provide a reliable means of reaching competitions, educational visits and other learning opportunities. They also reduce dependence on hired transport, making it easier for schools to plan activities that take learners beyond their familiar surroundings.

The buses represent a practical investment in something that cannot be constructed with bricks and mortar: exposure. A student who travels to compete, observe, perform, research or learn alongside others returns with experiences that can reshape how they see themselves and what they believe is possible.





SHOWCASING NG-CDF'S WORK FROM ELDORET TO MOMBASA

By Yvonne Michuki

This quarter, the NG-CDF Board participated in the Eldoret International Business Summit and the Mombasa International Show, meeting members of the public and sharing information on NG-CDF projects across the country.

The Eldoret International Business Summit brought together participants from government, the private sector and the business community. Guided by the theme, *"The Gateway to Africa's Trade, Innovation and Economic Future,"* the event featured discussions on trade, investment, innovation and the region's contribution to Kenya's economic growth.

At the NG-CDF exhibition stand, visitors learned how the Fund supports communities through education, security, environmental programmes and digital development. Photographs and information materials gave them a closer look at projects implemented in different constituencies. Board officers also answered questions and explained how the Fund operates at the constituency level.

The Board later participated in the Mombasa International Show, where it continued sharing information about the Fund. The show attracted visitors from different backgrounds, including students, families, government officers, business people and representatives of various organisations.

At the Board's stand, visitors spoke directly with officers, with questions covering how projects are identified, funded and implemented, as well as the responsibilities of NG-CDF Constituency Committees. Officers also explained the role of public participation in ensuring that residents have a say in the projects selected for their communities.

The conversations during the show revealed the areas where the public needed more information about NG-CDF. They also helped clear up some common misunderstandings about the Fund's mandate and how decisions are made.

From the business discussions in Eldoret to the public interactions in Mombasa, the two exhibitions allowed the Board to share its work with a wider audience, helping more people understand how NG-CDF projects respond to local needs and contribute to development across the 290 constituencies.






NITA
KNCCI


DEVELOPMENT
Maendeleo kwa wote
NG-CDF BOARD
MORE THAN
JUST BURSARIES
NG-CDF: Transforming
Lives at the Grassroots
2.5% of National Revenue
290 Constituencies
Did You Know?
The Reality:
Education Bursary and Infrastructure
Security Infrastructure
Climate Change Mitigation Projects
Digital Hubs and ICT Access
Empowering Education.
Enhancing Security.
Driving Development.
NG-CDF BOARD







STREAMLINING CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT:

REGIONAL REVIEWS AND DIGITAL TOOLS ACCELERATE PROJECT DELIVERY

By Lynex Oloo

In a bid to enhance efficiency in its operations and bring the project proposal review process closer to constituencies, management introduced a regional programme to review constituency project proposals for the 2026/2027 Financial Year across the country.

Previously, the review of project proposals was conducted at Headquarters. Moving the exercise to the regions marked a significant change in the process by bringing the review closer to constituencies and allowing issues relating to project proposals to be addressed during the exercise.

The regional engagements involve the review of proposals submitted after public participation to ensure that they comply with the NG-CDF Act and meet the Board's requirements before approval. This approach has allowed emerging issues to be addressed during the review process and reduced delays caused by revisions and resubmissions.

Regional Reviews Bring Quicker Results

The regional reviews have helped address some of the logistical challenges associated with centralised proposal reviews. By moving the review teams to the regional offices, issues relating to the technical aspects and documentation of proposals could be addressed during the review process.

The introduction of the programme has provided some specific results:

- **Quick issue resolution:** Technical and documentation issues relating to proposals could be resolved during the review process, reducing the need for repeated submission of documents and proposals.
- **Reduced delays:** The approach has helped streamline the proposal review process and enabled proposals to move more smoothly from review to approval.
- **Over 280 proposals reviewed:** Through the regional review programme, more than 280 project proposals were reviewed, validated and approved.

The regional approach has brought the project proposal review process closer to constituencies and made it possible for issues to be addressed at the point of review rather than through repeated revisions and resubmissions.

Enhancing Financial Management with VBMS

Alongside the regional review of project proposals, management also rolled out the Vote Book Management System (VBMS) across the regional hubs.

The installation and configuration of the system will support financial management processes including:

- **FY Closing:** Supporting accounting processes for the closure of the 2025/2026 Financial Year.
- **Balance Migration:** Facilitating the accurate migration of closing balances into the 2026/2027 Financial Year.
- **Budget Management:** Supporting real time budget tracking, allocation and management for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

The system will help strengthen financial management and improve the management of budgetary resources at the regional level.

Ensuring Efficiency and Accountability in Project Operations

The introduction of regional project reviews and the rollout of digital financial management tools represent an important step in improving the management of constituency development projects. Bringing project proposal reviews closer to constituencies, while strengthening financial management through VBMS, provides a stronger operational foundation for the 2026/2027 project cycle.







RUNNING FOR A CAUSE:

NG-CDF BOARD JOINS HUNDREDS IN THE 2026 UZALENDO HALF MARATHON

By Allan Toroitich

Before dawn on 18th July 2026, the small town of Eldama Ravine in Baringo County came alive with colour, music and the steady thud of running shoes as more than a thousand athletes gathered at the Koibatek Agricultural Training Centre for the Second Edition of the Uzalendo Half Marathon. Among the sponsors, runners and well-wishers cheering the pack forward was the NG-CDF Board, proud to stand once again behind a cause that turns every kilometre run into an opportunity for a child's education.

The Board's journey to the start line began earlier. Recognising the value of giving back through Corporate Social Responsibility and building on its longstanding support for the Chemususu Dam Half Marathon, which channels proceeds to Uzalendo School and conservation work around Chemususu Dam, the Board committed Ksh. 500,000 to sponsor this year's Uzalendo Half Marathon in the Silver category. Organised by the Eldama Ravine Education Foundation (EREF) in partnership with Uzalendo School and Athletics Kenya's Baringo chapter, the marathon carried the rallying call, "Run with Purpose, Run for Education, Run for Kenya's Future." At the heart of the event is the Ksh. 100 million Uzalendo School Endowment Fund, created to guarantee scholarships for bright learners who would otherwise be locked out of quality education by financial hardship.





The numbers behind the cause are striking. Since its founding in 2016 with only 34 students, Uzalendo School has grown to educate more than 1,000 learners, with over 340 fully sponsored through the Eldama Ravine Education Foundation (EREF) at a cumulative investment exceeding Ksh. 50 million. Many of its graduates are now professionals and community leaders, a living testament to what sustained support can achieve.

Race day itself offered something for everyone, bringing together runners of different ages and abilities in a 2km Children's Dash, a 4km Junior School run, a 6km Senior School race, a 5km Corporate Fun

Run, and the flagship 21km and 10km main races. NG-CDF Board staff took part across the different races, turning the day into both a fundraising effort and an opportunity to promote staff wellness through sport. The occasion drew a distinguished delegation, with Chief Guest CS for Public Service Hon. Geoffrey Ruku leading the proceedings, joined by NG-CDF Board Chair Hon. Olago Aluoch, CBS, Board Director Hon. Naomi Masitsa and NASC Chair Hon. Musa Sirma, EGH, among other dignitaries.

Participation in the marathon also gave the Board an opportunity to interact with participants while supporting local sports development and youth talent in Baringo County. Coverage across mainstream and online platforms before, during and after the event further amplified the Board's message, reaching audiences well beyond those who lined the route.

As the last runners crossed the finish line and the dust settled over the Koibatek ATC grounds, the message from the day was clear: every kilometre covered had helped raise support for education.









A WINNING SPIRIT ON AND OFF THE PITCH

By Yvonne Michuki



"No individual can win a game by himself."- Pelé

New kit. Renewed spirit. Plenty to play for. The Staff Football Team officially unveiled its new jerseys this quarter, bringing the players together and setting the pace for more football ahead.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Mr. Benjamin Magut met the players during the jersey launch and shared in the moment with the team. The new kit is more than a change of colours. It shows the place of sport in staff wellness and gives the footballers an identity they can proudly carry into future fixtures.

The team also gives employees a platform to grow their sporting talent while representing the Board. Not long after the launch, the players headed to the Kenya School of Law for a match against Royal Media Services.

Once the whistle went, NG-CDF let the football do the talking. Three goals settled the contest and secured a convincing 3-1 victory. It was an afternoon of good football and friendly competition, with colleagues coming together to represent the Board away from their usual work setting.

With plans to train three times a week, the players are ready to put in the work. The sessions will give them time to improve their fitness, sharpen their passing and positioning, and build a better understanding of one another's game while keeping up with their normal work responsibilities.

After a busy day, what better way to unwind than to swap office shoes for football boots? For NG-CDF Board staff, sport offers a welcome break from the usual routine and a chance to stay active, recharge and spend time together outside the office.

It also brings out discipline, commitment, communication and teamwork, qualities that are just as useful at work as they are on the pitch. Staff return to their duties refreshed, while the shared experience helps colleagues relate beyond meetings and deadlines.

The new jerseys are out, the score line has spoken, and there is still room on the pitch for one more team.

Ladies of NG-CDF, perhaps it is time for NG-CDF Queens FC. Gentlemen, enjoy the spotlight while it lasts.



DIARY OF A DRIVER: THREE DECADES ON KENYA'S ROADS

By George Kobiero

For over 30 years, and since joining the NG-CDF Board in 2009, George Kobiero has spent much of his life behind the wheel. To him, driving is far more than transporting people from one point to another. It is a profession that has taught him patience, discipline, responsibility and a deeper understanding of people and communities across Kenya. Every journey carries lessons, challenges and stories that stay with him long after the engine is switched off.

Preparation is at the heart of his work. Before any long trip, he carefully checks the vehicle's service status, tyres, fuel levels and mechanical condition. He also considers the terrain ahead, knowing that not every vehicle is suitable for every road. Personal preparedness is equally important. He travels with water, jumper cables, a tow rope, a spotlight, a jack support block and even a matchbox, a habit he attributes to his scouting background and the need to be ready for unexpected situations. Chewing gum and eating oranges help him remain alert during long journeys.

Years of experience have taught George to "listen" to his vehicle. Rather than driving with loud music, he prefers to hear subtle changes in engine sounds that may indicate developing mechanical problems. He has also learnt that concentration is critical. Interesting conversations can distract a driver for a moment, which is why he jokingly says he appreciates passengers who fall asleep during long journeys, allowing him to focus fully on the road.



The road has taught him that appearances can be deceptive. A passenger may see a long, straight road as safe and inviting, while an experienced driver recognizes hidden risks. Speed, changing road conditions, wildlife, junctions and approaching vehicles all require constant attention. With time, George learnt that arriving safely is always more important than arriving quickly.

Among the many journeys he remembers, some stand out because of the dangers involved. One such experience occurred in Kinango Constituency within Shimba Hills National Park. Driving downhill in heavy rain towards a makeshift metal bridge, he discovered that the vehicle was sliding despite repeated attempts to brake. For a moment, he feared the worst. Through skill and determination, he managed to regain control and cross safely. Later, a local head teacher informed him that he had previously lost a vehicle at the same bridge and survived only by jumping out while it was sliding.

West Pokot also left lasting memories. During one

assignment early in his career, he and his team were attacked by bandits. Another unforgettable trip took him to New Jerusalem in Kapenguria Constituency. The road wound through steep escarpments with blind corners and sheer drops. At one particularly narrow section, a broken-down grader blocked much of the road, forcing him to drive dangerously close to the edge. His colleague, Agnes, clearly frightened by the situation, picked up a newspaper and appeared to read it. George later noticed the newspaper was upside down. Rather than looking at the steep drop outside, she was simply finding a way to cope with her fear. Once they safely passed the grader, the tension gave way to laughter.

While difficult roads have tested him, it is the people he has met that remain the most rewarding part of his work. Driving has enabled him to explore Kenya beyond the major highways, exposing him to different cultures, foods and ways of life. He enjoys speaking with people, learning about their aspirations and understanding their challenges. These interactions have broadened his perspective and challenged many assumptions.

His travels in Samburu and Pokot taught him that stereotypes often fail to capture reality. While outsiders may associate these communities primarily with insecurity, George discovered their remarkable hospitality and generosity. He recalls sharing meals with strangers who welcomed him warmly and demonstrated kindness that left a lasting impression. These encounters reinforced his belief that understanding people comes from meeting them, not merely hearing stories about them.

Certain places continue to fascinate him, including Kilima Kiu, where water appears to flow uphill. Despite visiting before, he remains captivated by the phenomenon and is always eager to return. For George, travel is filled with such surprises, where one journey presents hardships while another reveals breathtaking scenery or introduces unforgettable people. Together, these experiences form the richness of life on the road.

Life as a driver also has personal sacrifices. Time away from home can be difficult, especially with young children who often wish he could be present for important family moments. Assignments sometimes extend unexpectedly. What begins as a week-long trip can turn into several weeks away from home. Over the years, he has learnt to prepare for uncertainty because the road rarely follows a strict schedule.

Perhaps the greatest lesson George carries is the responsibility entrusted to him. Every passenger in his vehicle has people who depend on them, and ensuring their safety is a duty he never takes lightly. At the end of every assignment, his measure of success is simple: Did the passengers arrive safely and achieve their purpose? If they did, then he has done his job well.

Looking back, George has no regrets about the profession he chose. His passion for travel, meeting people and discovering new places has allowed him to build a career doing what he loves. He describes his diary as one written not in ink, but in kilometres, early mornings, dusty roads, breakdowns, safe arrivals, laughter and lessons learned along the way. After three decades behind the wheel, he still looks forward to the next journey and the next page in his story.





PREPARING FOR WHAT'S AHEAD

By Zainab Hussein

The Kenya Meteorological Department and Kenya Red Cross have issued warnings of a near 100% likelihood that El Niño conditions will influence this year's short rains. El Niño events typically bring above normal rainfall, increasing the risk of flash floods, riverine flooding and landslides in vulnerable areas. Roads, bridges, schools, health centers and community facilities may also be exposed to damage. Flooding can also disrupt access to essential services, displace families and increase the risk of disease outbreaks such as cholera and malaria. With the short rains approaching, preparedness will be important in reducing these risks.



Why It Matters for NG-CDF

El Niño affects all 290 constituencies across Kenya from arid lowlands to highland areas. Every constituency faces heightened risk of flooding, landslides, and infrastructure damage during the October -December 2026 short rains season. NG-CDF funded assets schools, roads, and community buildings maybe exposed to the effects of heavy rainfall, whether construction is complete or still in progress.

Climate action already forms part of the Fund's mandate. In December 2023, the President assented to amendments to the NG-CDF Act allowing constituencies to allocate up to five per cent of their annual allocation towards climate change mitigation activities. The Act specifically provides for activities including afforestation, reafforestation, grassroots sensitisation and tree seedling production. According to the Fund, approximately Ksh 3.35 billion has been allocated to the environment sector across the 290 constituencies since the 2016/2017 financial year, supporting activities including restoration of tree cover, energy conservation and other climate-related projects.

Immediate Actions

1 Protect Ongoing Projects

- **Move** materials to higher, dry ground
- **Cover** and secure equipment on site
- **Store** project records in waterproof containers
- **Fence** or barricade unfinished structures
- **Document** site conditions with photos
- **Notify** PMC of any vulnerable works

2 Maintain & Improve Drainage

- **Clear** all blocked drains and culverts
- **Protect** building foundations from waterlogging
- **Complete** gabion and stone pitching works
- **Redirect** surface water away from structures
- **Inspect** drainage channels weekly
- **Report** blockages to the constituency office

3 Monitor & Report

- **Conduct** site assessments before heavy rains
- **Keep** a written incident log at each site
- **Report** hazards early to local authorities
- **Follow** Kenya Met Department advisories
- **Escalate** risks to the NG-CDF constituency office
- **Update** project status records regularly

Building Long Term Resilience

Afforestation & Reafforestation

- Prioritise tree planting in degraded catchment areas, riverbanks, and erosion-prone slopes.
- Focus on indigenous species that stabilise soil and support biodiversity.

Tree Nurseries & Grassroots Sensitisation

- Establish community tree nurseries for a steady seedling supply.
- Conduct barazas, school programmes, and local radio outreach on climate risks and the role of trees in flood prevention.

Long-Term Resilience

Elevated Foundations
Raise floor levels above flood lines in all flood-prone project areas.

Improved Drainage & Gabions
Install adequate drainage channels, gabion walls, and stone pitching at all vulnerable sites.

Wind-Resistant Roofs
Use roofing structures designed to withstand strong seasonal winds.

Lightning Protection
Fit lightning rods and earthing systems on all public buildings.

Nature-Based Solutions
Integrate green buffers, wetland conservation, and vegetated slopes into project design.

Preparing for What's Ahead

Before the Rains

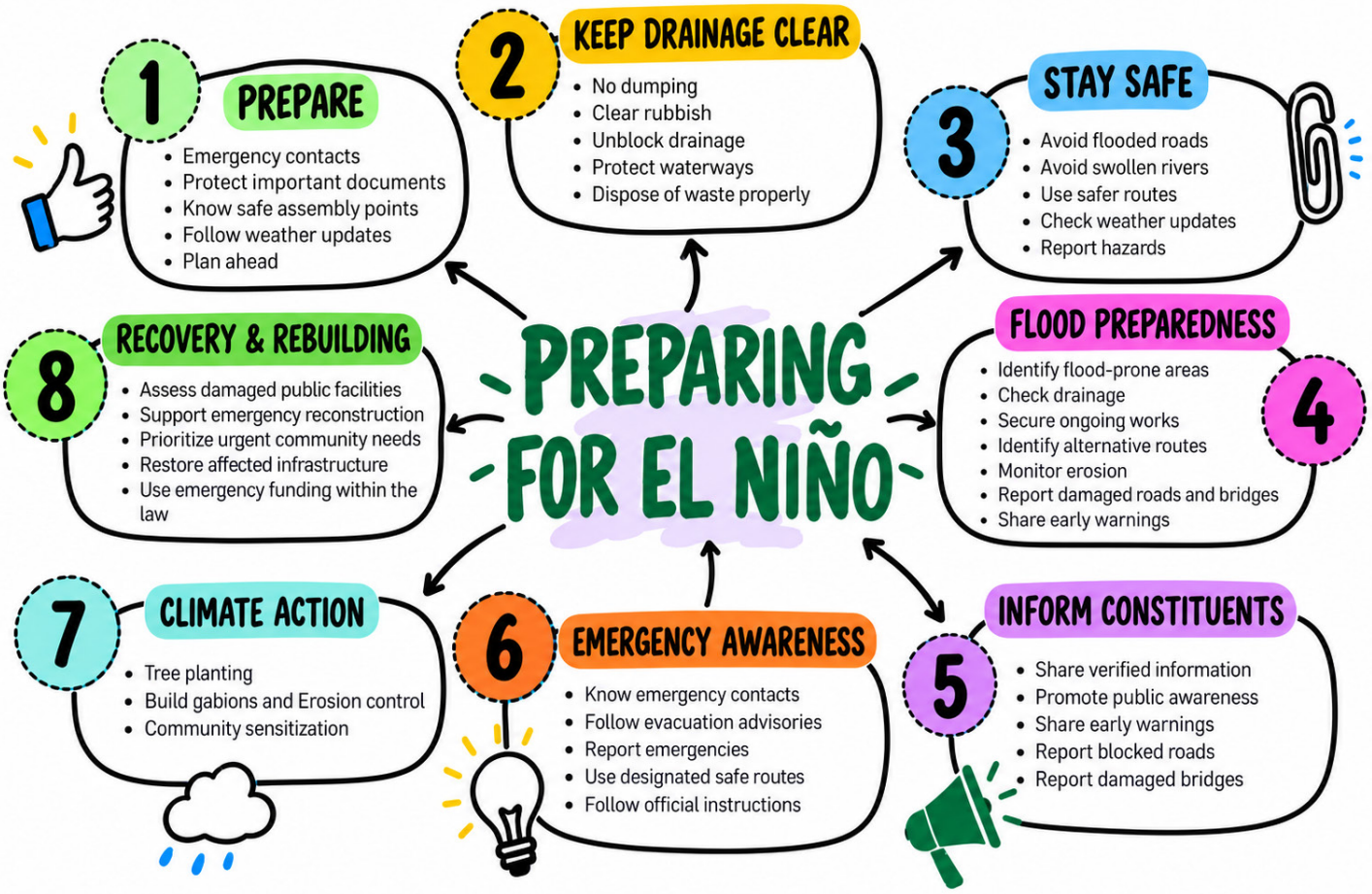
1. **Conduct** site assessments for all ongoing projects
2. **Secure** materials, equipment, and project records
3. **Clear** and inspect all drainage channels and culverts
4. **Complete** gabions, stone pitching, and protective works
5. **Brief** PMC members and site teams on flood preparedness
6. **Identify** safe, all-weather access to project sites

During the Rains

1. **Monitor** weather advisories from Kenya Meteorological Dept
2. **Avoid** travel and site visits during heavy rainfall
3. **Log** all incidents, damage, and hazards promptly
4. **Report** hazards to local authorities without delay
5. **Halt** work at high-risk sites when conditions are unsafe
6. **Prioritise** personal safety of all staff and field teams

Continuous Actions

1. **Sensitize** communities via barazas, radio, and WhatsApp
2. **Support** afforestation and tree nursery activities
3. **Integrate** climate-resilient design in all new projects
4. **Maintain** drainage, foundations, and protective structures
5. **Review** and update constituency preparedness plans


PREPARING FOR EL NIÑO
1
PREPARE
Emergency contacts
Protect important documents
Know safe assembly points
Follow weather updates
Plan ahead
2
KEEP DRAINAGE CLEAR
No dumping
Clear rubbish
Unblock drainage
Protect waterways
Dispose of waste properly
3
STAY SAFE
Avoid flooded roads
Avoid swollen rivers
Use safer routes
Check weather updates
Report hazards
4
FLOOD PREPAREDNESS
Identify flood-prone areas
Check drainage
Secure ongoing works
Identify alternative routes
Monitor erosion
Report damaged roads and bridges
Share early warnings
5
INFORM CONSTITUENTS
Share verified information
Promote public awareness
Share early warnings
Report blocked roads
Report damaged bridges
6
EMERGENCY AWARENESS
Know emergency contacts
Follow evacuation advisories
Report emergencies
Use designated safe routes
Follow official instructions
7
CLIMATE ACTION
Tree planting
Build gabions and Erosion control
Community sensitization
8
RECOVERY & REBUILDING
Assess damaged public facilities
Support emergency reconstruction
Prioritize urgent community needs
Restore affected infrastructure
Use emergency funding within the law

Harambee plaza, 5th & 10th Floor and Ukulima Sacco Building,
5th & 6th Floor, Haile Selassie Avenue Off Parliament Road,
Red Cross Lane
P.O BOX 46682-00100, Nairobi
info@ng-cdf.go.ke | 0709894000

www.ng-cdf.go.ke