



Udgoon
Sustainable
Development
Initiative



FEBRUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Strengthening the capacity of the Ward Climate Change Planning Committee (WCCPC) and the Ward Water Stakeholders Forum (WWSF) in Garissa Township ward through capacity building workshops and demonstration projects.



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Activity supported by the
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Canada

**The Garissa Township Water Management Demonstration Project was Implemented by
Udgoon Sustainable Development Initiative (USDI)
through the Generous Support from the
Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)**



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Executive Director's Remarks

This month has marked a pivotal transition in our project from planning to meaningful action. With the construction of two water pans now complete, we're witnessing real change take root in Garissa Township Ward. These aren't just structures they're symbols of progress, resilience, and hope. What began as a strategy on paper is now transforming lives on the ground.

The success of this phase is a true reflection of collective effort. I extend my deepest appreciation to our steadfast partner, the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), as well as to the WCCPC, WWSF, and the wider community members who have walked this journey with us. Their active participation during the construction phase and capacity-building sessions has shown that community-led action is not only possible—it is powerful.

We've seen women and youth take the lead, acquiring practical skills and stepping into roles as changemakers. From youth data collectors contributing valuable insights, to women whose daily burdens have been eased by improved water access, this project is creating real, lasting impact.

These water pans are more than infrastructure; they are the result of trust, collaboration, and shared purpose. As they begin to serve over 500 households, they also stand as living proof that when communities are empowered, they can drive transformative change from the ground up.

We remain committed to supporting these structures not just physically, but by continuing to strengthen the people behind them.



Abdullahi Mohamed Hassan
- Executive Director, USDI



Together, we are shaping a future where Garissa Township is not just prepared for climate challenges, but thrives in spite of them.



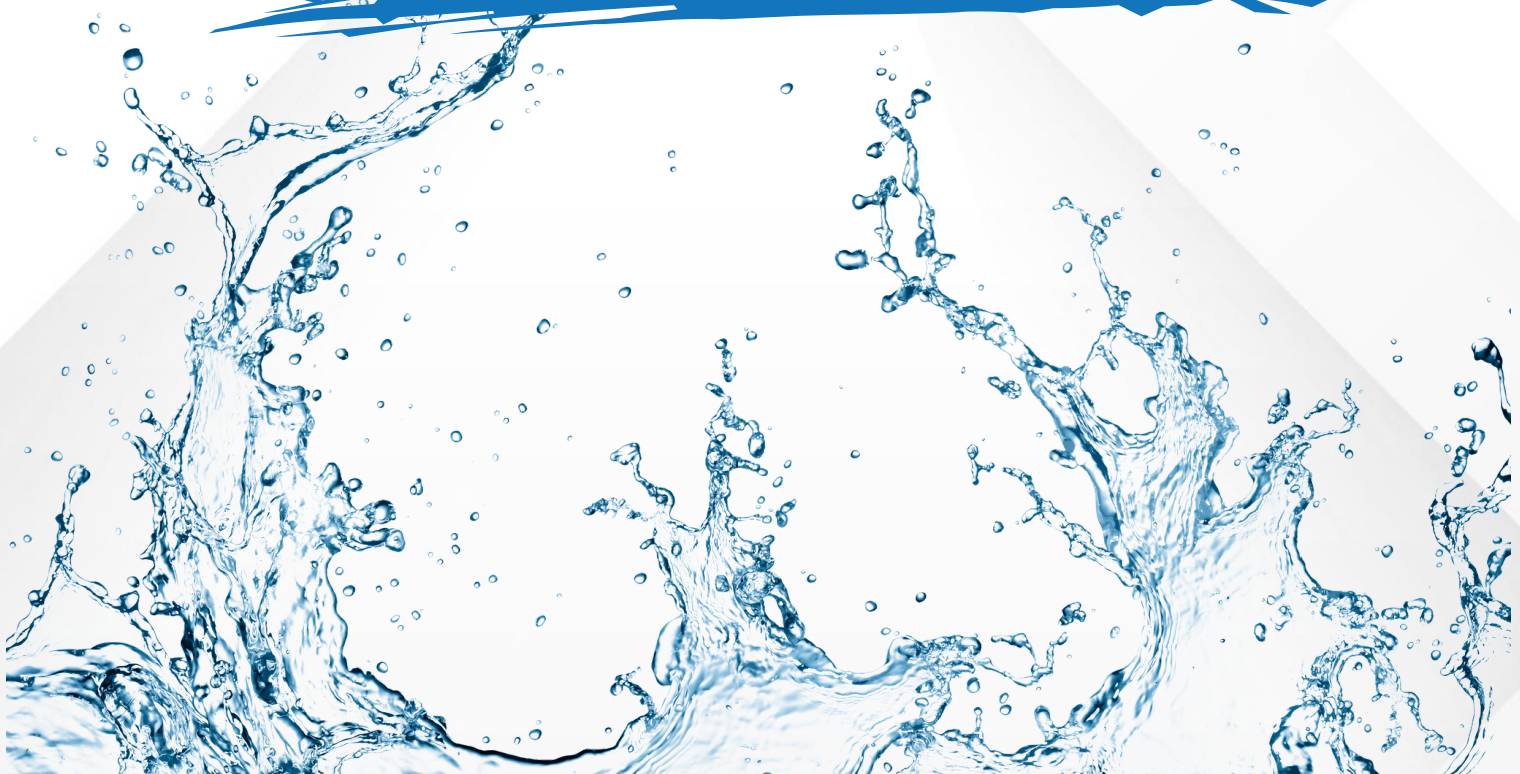
Project Manager's Remarks



Vanessa Ngunjiri - Project Manager

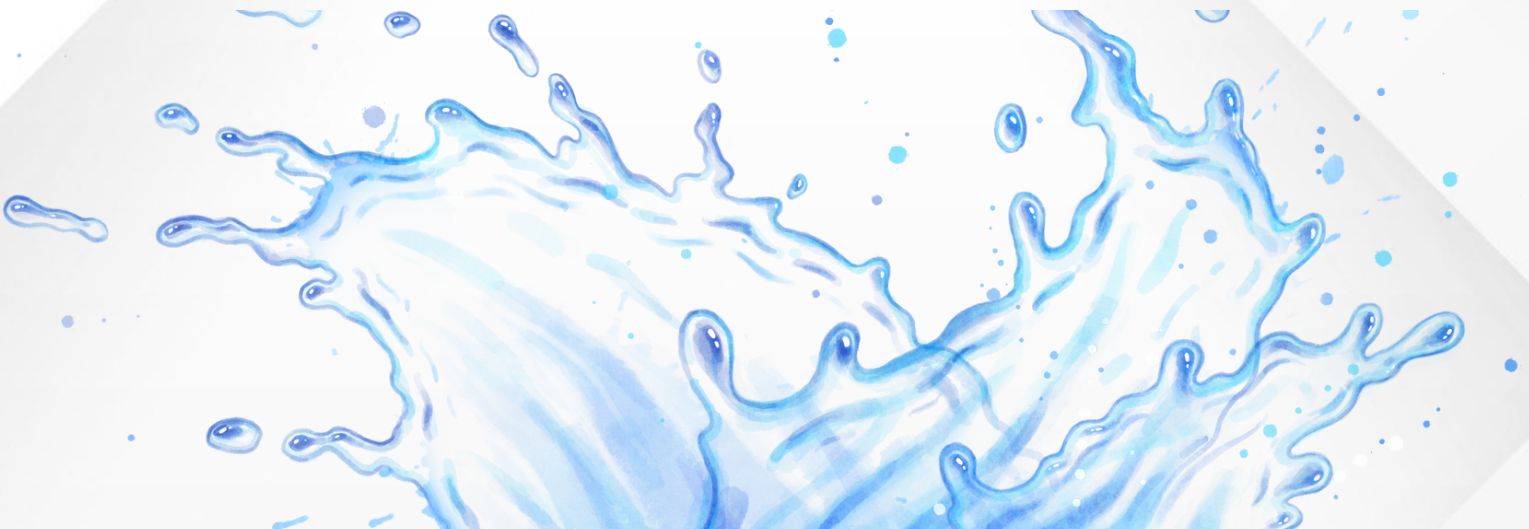
This phase of the project marks such a crucial phase-the practical aspect. With the successful construction of these two water pans, we move from planning to tangible action. This achievement is a direct result of the collaborative spirit and dedication of our partner CFLI, the project team, community members, WCCPC, and WWSF. These water pans will provide a reliable water source, directly addressing a critical need identified during our baseline assessments. But this is more than just infrastructure; it's a demonstration of sustainable practices that we hope will inspire and empower the community to take further action.

We're excited to witness the positive impact these pans will have on the lives and livelihoods of families in Garissa Township.



ACTIVITY RECAP

Between February 12 and February 26, 2025, the construction of two water pans in Garissa Township Ward involved several key activities. First, suitable sites that had been identified were prepared, considering proximity to communities facing water scarcity and prioritizing small farmer women groups.. Excavation work was carried out utilising manual labour from the communities to create the pan structures, followed by lining to minimize water loss. Throughout the construction period, community members, WCCPC, and WWSF members actively participated, gaining practical knowledge of water conservation techniques. The final step involved a thorough inspection to ensure quality standards were met. These activities culminated in the completion of the pans, providing an accessible and reliable water source for the community.



PROJECT SUCCESS STORIES....

Building skills and collective action

In Garissa Township Ward, the implementation of the Climate Action and Water Management Strategy has been a testament to the power of skill-building and collective community action in addressing climate change and water management challenges.

The project began by equipping a group of young people with essential skills in data collection. These youth data collectors underwent intensive training sessions that included the use of digital tools, survey techniques, and climate literacy. This training not only enhanced their technical expertise but also instilled a sense of purpose as they became active contributors to their community's climate resilience efforts.

Armed with these skills, the youth were able to collect critical data on water resources, climate vulnerabilities, and community needs, from the community which informed the development and implementation of the strategy.

One youth participant shared, "Before this project, I never thought I could play a role in solving such big challenges like climate change. Now, I feel empowered and proud to be part of something that is helping my community." Their involvement has demonstrated how investing in young people can create a ripple effect of positive change.



Strengthening Community Structures

Simultaneously, members of the Ward Climate Change Planning Committee (WCCPC) and the Ward Water Stakeholders Forum (WWSF) were engaged in capacity-building workshops. These sessions focused on enhancing their ability to plan, implement, and monitor climate adaptation and water management initiatives. By strengthening these community structures, the project has paved the way for more effective collaboration among stakeholders and active participation in decision-making processes at both ward and county levels.

The capacity-building efforts have also fostered a culture of collective action. WCCPC and WWSF members are now better equipped to lead initiatives such as water conservation projects, drought preparedness plans, and advocacy for sustainable resource management. Their strengthened capacity is ensuring that local insights and needs are at the forefront of decision-making, resulting in more sustainable interventions.



Collective Impact



The combination of youth engagement and strengthened community structures has created a powerful synergy. Together, they are driving efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change while improving water management practices. The demonstration projects, such as the construction of two water pans, have become tangible symbols of what can be achieved through collective action. These pans not only provide reliable access to water but also serve as learning hubs for sustainable practices.

By empowering youth and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the project is creating a resilient foundation for Garissa Township Ward to face future challenges head-on.

Creating A Roadmap for Climate Action

The Garissa Township Ward Climate Action and Water Management Strategy is a vital roadmap for building a resilient future in the face of climate change and water scarcity. As highlighted in the strategy document, Garissa Township faces significant climate challenges, including rising temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns, which exacerbate existing water management issues such as over-reliance on seasonal rivers and limited water infrastructure.

This strategy is crucial because it provides a clear framework for action that prioritizes sustainable water management practices and climate resilience initiatives.

It directly addresses the pressing need for improved water security by outlining plans to enhance access to reliable and safe water sources through sustainable infrastructure development. It also promotes community empowerment by fostering awareness, knowledge, and participation in climate action, enabling residents to make informed decisions.

The strategy's focus on strengthening local institutions and governance ensures that climate action and water management are effectively managed at the local level. By fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, the strategy aims to create a unified and sustainable approach to addressing the unique challenges faced by Garissa Township Ward, making it a cornerstone for building a climate-resilient community.





In one of the communities where we built a water pan, a moment of pure joy and relief unfolded, capturing the essence of our project's impact on the lives of those who needed it most. As women gathered to fetch water from the newly constructed pan, their faces lit up with smiles and gratitude. Amidst this scene, one of them pointed to a young woman, barely 35 years old, who had recently faced the unimaginable loss of her husband. This young widow was left to care for five young children on her own, a daunting task that weighed heavily on her shoulders.

Before the water pan was built, her daily routine was a testament to her resilience and determination.

Every day, she would embark on a long and arduous journey to the river to fetch water, carrying her youngest child on her back while leaving the other children at home, often without supervision, as she couldn't always find a neighbour to watch them. This gruelling task not only drained her physically but also filled her with worry about the safety and well-being of her children left behind.

The construction of the water pan near her home was more than just a practical solution; it was a lifeline. It brought water closer to her doorstep, relieving her of the exhausting journeys to the river. The impact was immediate and profound. With the water pan nearby, she could now fetch water quickly and easily, ensuring that her children had access to clean drinking water and that she could maintain a clean home. This simple yet significant change freed her from the burden of long walks, allowing her to spend more time with her children, care for them better, and even pursue small income-generating activities to support her family.



As she fetched water from the pan, her face reflected a mix of relief and gratitude. She was no longer alone in her struggle; the community and the project had come together to support her in a time of need. The water pan became a symbol of hope and resilience, reminding her that even in the darkest moments, there were people and initiatives working to be effective.



IN CONCLUSION.....



The successful conclusion of this project is worth celebration as it leaves a legacy of empowered communities and strengthened resilience. The project journey began with a comprehensive baseline assessment to understand local needs, followed by capacity building workshops for the Ward Climate Change Planning Committee (WCCPC) and Ward Water Stakeholders Forum (WWSF). A draft strategy review incorporated community feedback, culminating in a successful strategy launch to share goals and implementation plans. The tangible outcome of the project was the completion of two demonstration water conservation pans, which now provide reliable water access to over 500 households.

This impactful achievement has been made possible with the collaborative efforts of, and thanks to, the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), the Udgoon Sustainable Development Initiative (USDI) Management and Staff, the dedicated members of the Garissa Township Ward community, and the committed representatives of the WCCPC and WWSF.

Their collective action has fostered skills in mitigating climate risks, promoting sustainable water management practices, and laying a solid foundation for Garissa Township's long-term climate resilience.

By Vennesa Ngunjiri





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