

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address you all today at the mid to end-term Steering Committee Meeting of the GoBlue Project. I extend my warm salutations to our esteemed guests, including His Excellency the Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy & Maritime Affairs, your excellency the EU Ambassador, Principal Secretaries of relevant State Departments, Heads of Cooperation of the GoBlue Implementing Partners, and DGs of National Agencies.

GOBLUE PROJECTS – KCGS PERSPECTIVE

The partnership between the European Union and the Government of Kenya to advance the Blue Economy Agenda has been a journey of great significance. Since its inception in 2021, the project has aimed at enhancing Kenya's Maritime Security, improving interoperability among maritime security agencies, and fostering cooperation with neighboring countries. The Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) has been an integral part of this journey, contributing to the development of the Blue Economy through various initiatives.

PROJECT STATUS/MILESTONES

Under the GoBlue Project, the KCGS has achieved significant milestones, including the establishment of a KCGS Operation Centre (XOC) and the implementation of a Public Relations Crisis Management system. Additionally, the Community Watch Programme (CWP) has been realized, accompanied by the training of fishers in safety measures and the development of the innovative Usalama Baharini App. These initiatives have not only enhanced maritime security but have also positively impacted the livelihoods of communities reliant on the Blue Economy.

Furthermore, the KCGS has benefited from international outreach programs facilitated by the GoBlue Project, enabling our personnel to engage in crucial engagements and capacity-building exercises. These initiatives have propelled the growth of the KCGS, both locally and regionally, fostering positive relationships with local communities and advancing broader strategic goals.

PROJECT SCOPE – LESSONS LEARNED

Reflecting on our experiences within the project, several lessons have emerged:

- ❖ **User-Driven Approach:** Initiatives driven by user needs assessments ensure the sustainability and impact of projects.
- ❖ **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Collaborative efforts, such as the Safety Training for Fishers program, have demonstrated the potential for cross-agency cooperation and replication of successful models.
- ❖ **Flexibility and Agility:** Adapting to a dynamic environment is essential for successful project implementation. Frequent coordination meetings have proven instrumental in addressing evolving challenges.
- ❖ **Inception Period:** Shortening the inception period can accelerate project gains and mitigate delays in achieving objectives.

As we move forward, it is imperative to incorporate these lessons into our project management strategies, ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving our goals. The GoBlue Project has been instrumental in driving progress in Kenya's Blue Economy, and the KCGS remains committed to furthering this important agenda.

In conclusion, I express my gratitude to all partners and stakeholders for their unwavering support and dedication to the success of the GoBlue Project. Together, we will continue to build a sustainable and prosperous Blue Economy for Kenya and the region.

*******ASANTENI SANA*******