

A story of water storage in the ASAL areas of Kenya Kyusini sand dam construction by Thange Water Resource Users Association Makueni county Kenya supported financially and technically by Water Resources Authority

The Arid and Semi-Arid areas in Kenya are characterized by water shortage. Makueni being part of the ASAL area, communities walk miles in search of water for their different uses including for livestock. The area is characterized by sights of dry river beds, women, children digging out sand on the dry river beds in search of water, lorries parked by on the side awaiting sand harvesters to fill the tipper. The sand is harvested carelessly for construction majorly in the city leaving the communities with no water. Water Resources Authority a government agency ensures that the community get funding to develop plans and implement water resources activities to increase storage and improve livelihoods through Water Resources Users Association.

This sand dam construction project was a huge challenge from the design that took one month and its construction that was such a hurdle owing to the complicated design it had. 9 months later Kyusini sand dam complete and during the dry spell it had plenty of water and fish. The sand will settle over it and the community are forever grateful; they have established a committee to ensure they have water in all seasons and maintain the sand dam and more importantly wade off the sand harvesters. For the children and women who suffered long distance and long hours scooping sand hope this brings positive impact to your lives.

By Elizabeth Diego



Kyusini Sand dam increased water storage

