



**Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP)
Timiza Ugatuzi
2021-2025**

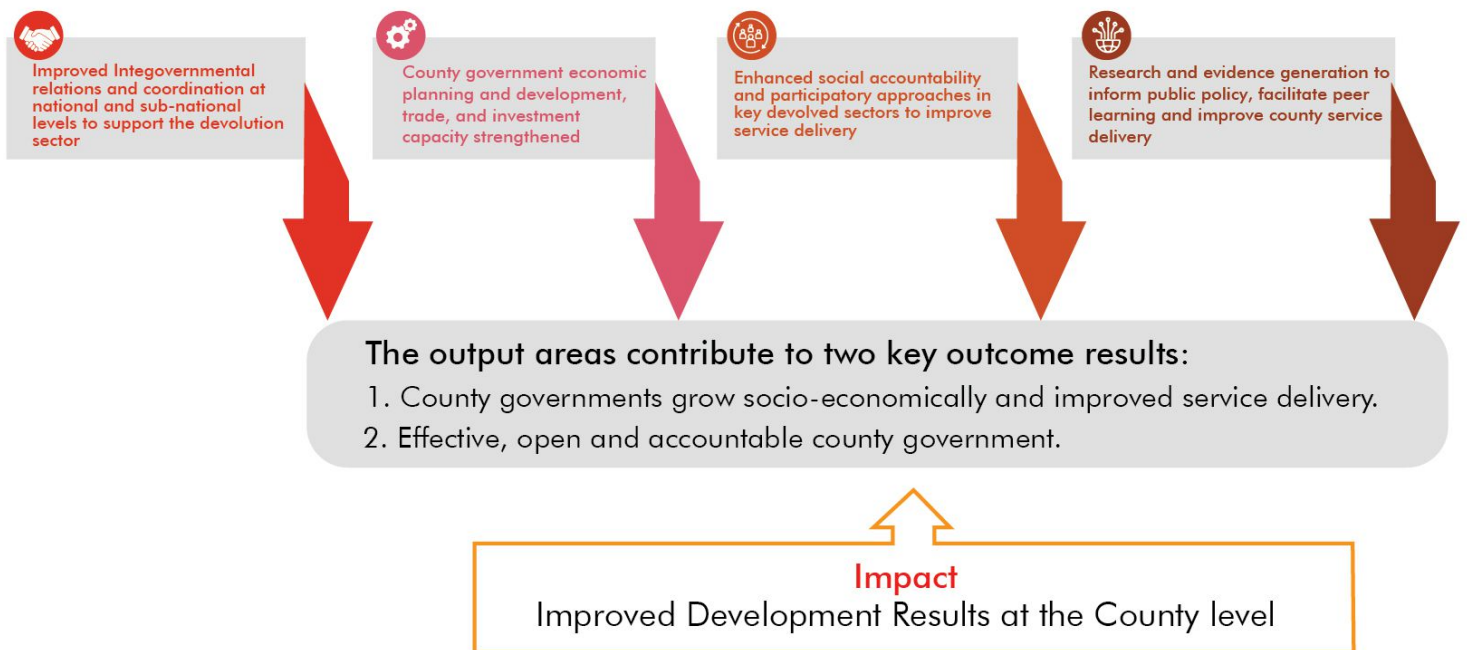
Technical Assistance to Lake Region Economic Bloc Counties



Introduction

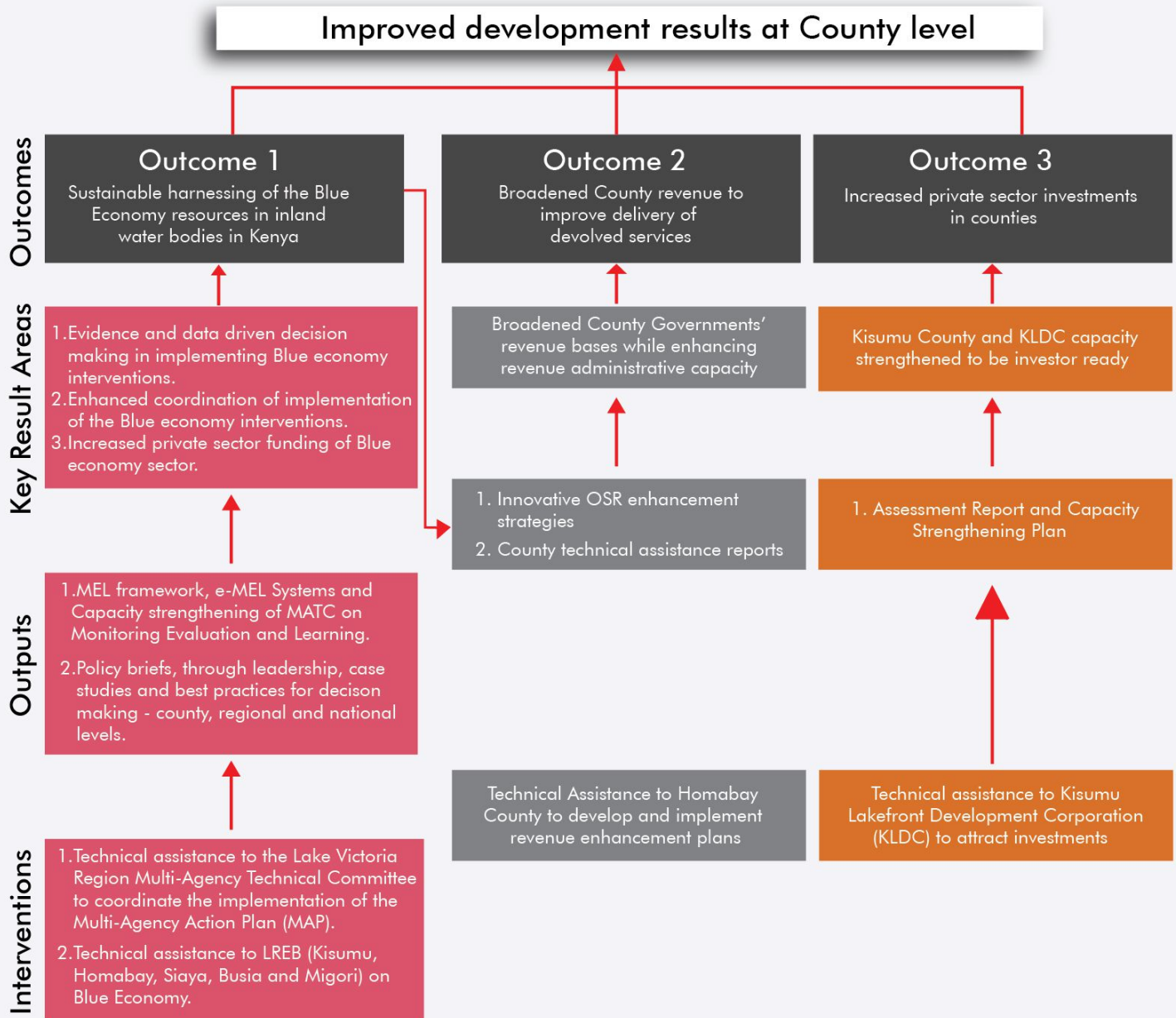
The Kenya Devolution Programme (KDP) is a 4 Year National Programme (2021-2025) funded by the UK Government through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The Programme is implemented by a consortium led by Act Change Transform (Act!). It builds on successes and lessons from previous FCDO and other donor investments in devolution in Kenya, including the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) and the Agile Harmonized Assistance for Devolution Institutions (AHADI). KDP – Timiza Ugatuzi will contribute to making devolution more effective in Kenya, with particular emphasis on improving service delivery and accountability.

The Programme output areas include:



Technical Assistance to the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB)

KDP through PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), is providing technical assistance to select Lake Region Economic Bloc counties on Blue Economy, Own Source Revenue and Trade and Investments as illustrated below;



Blue Economy work - key highlights and opportunities for potential investors

PwC conducted a comprehensive blue economy capacity assessment in the five counties (Kisumu, Homabay, Siaya, Busia and Migori). The primary objective of this assessment was to gain a comprehensive understanding of the current capacity landscape and identifying gaps where necessary. The key highlights and opportunities include but are not limited to:

- i. The five counties have a significant geographical and economic connection to inland water bodies such as Lake Victoria, Rivers and Wetlands which offer a wide range of BE resources that can be harnessed for sustainable development.
- ii. Opportunities for both public and private investment exist in Fisheries and Aquaculture, Tourism and Recreation, Water Transport and Logistics, Renewable Energy, Research and Innovation, Infrastructure, Waste Management and Pollution etc.
- iii. Collaboration with the private sector and national government to develop transport networks, ports, harbors, roads, and railways to facilitate trade and the movement of goods and services. In addition, development of tourism infrastructure, such as hotels, resorts, and recreational facilities, will attract visitors and boost local economies.
- iv. Robust policy and regulatory frameworks are instrumental in instilling confidence among domestic and international investors by offering a level playing field. All the five counties have prioritised in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), development of policies and regulations. Homabay County Government has prioritised development of Blue Economy Policy, Blue Economy Master Plan, Fisheries Regulations and Management Plan and County Blue Economy Strategy (CIDP 2023-2027).
- v. Homabay and Migori Counties have established Fisheries and Blue Economy Directorates that oversee BE initiatives. The directorates serve as central hubs for coordination, facilitating effective communication, collaboration, and sharing of information among stakeholders.

viii. Collaboration among counties around Lake Victoria is paramount for the success of BE sectors. There is need to strengthen the existing Lake Region Multi-Agency collaboration framework which brings together the Lake Region Economic Bloc counties, National Government Agencies, Private Sector projects each with a capacity of supplying 100 households and a school with adequate water (Lake Basin Development Authority).

Key areas for additional support to harness the potential of blue economy.



Infrastructure development such as cold storage facilities, fish processing plants and transport networks to enhance efficiency of the blue economy initiatives.

Capacity building and skill development to strengthen skills and capacity of county staff, local communities, fisherfolk and entrepreneurs.



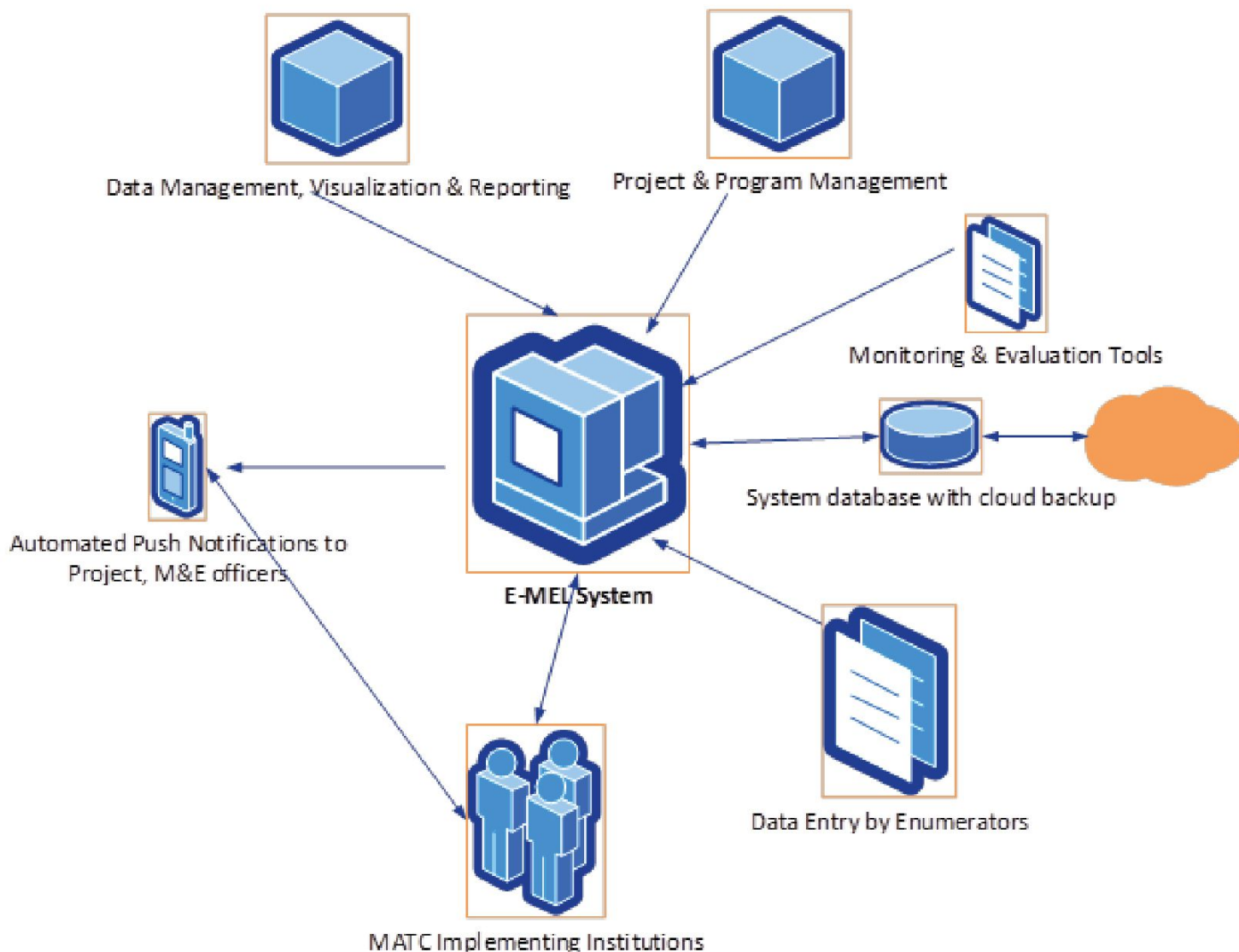
Implementation of sustainable fisheries management practices such as regulations enforcement, anti-illegal fishing measures and ecosystem conservation efforts to ensure the long term-health of fish stocks in Lake Victoria.

Policy and regulatory support to promote sustainable blue economy practices and create a conducive environment for investments in blue economy sectors.



The e-MEL System as a Catalyst to Spurring Investments

The e-MEL System has been developed and for implementation for results-based reporting and information management at the institutional level to capture and report on project progress.



The e-MEL system is further expected to play a crucial role in spurring investments along the Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB) by providing evidence-based information that helps attract investors and guide investment decisions in the following Six (6) key identifiable areas

01

Identification of Opportunities within the LREB that have high potential for investment based on data and analysis of economic trends, market demand and resource availability.

02

Assessment of Investment impact of the Projects on the local economy, job creation, infrastructure development and other relevant factors is provided from the e-MEL system. This information can be used to attract additional investments by showcasing the success of existing projects.

03

Through providing Risk Assessment the e-MEL system identifies and assists in providing direction on mitigation on risks associated with investments, such as regulatory challenges, market fluctuations, or environmental concerns. This can provide assurance to investors and encourage them to invest in the region.

04

Investor confidence is built when there is the e-MEL system that provides real-time performance monitoring allowing for timely adjustments to ensure that investments are on track to achieve their objectives.

05

The data and insights generated by the e-MEL system will inform the development of policies and strategies to promote investment and economic growth in the LREB in alignment with the County Integrated Development PLANS (CIDPs). This creates a conducive environment for investors and enhance the region's competitiveness.

06

Engagement of stakeholders, including investors, local communities and government agencies as actioned on the Multi Agency Action Plan (MAP) and implemented in the e-MEL system provides a digitized process that builds trust and collaboration, leading to more effective investment planning and implementation.

The insights emanating from the vast data collected from the e-MEL system is invaluable especially as there will be much more injection of Artificial Intelligence to cater for more decision-making solutions that will be required for stakeholders within the MATC and future investors.



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