

July-September 2024

# Kyeema Newsletter



## Words from our CEO

Dear Kyeema Foundation Community,

I am excited to share that we've had an incredible start to the new fiscal year, marked by some significant milestones and opportunities that will further enhance the impact of our work.

We are thrilled to announce that Kyeema has been awarded funding for two projects by USAID. The first project is in Papua New Guinea, and the second in Mozambique, where we are proud to partner with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). These projects will allow us to continue our mission of improving food security, livelihoods, and sustainable development in these regions.

Additionally, we've secured an extension from the World Wildlife Fund for our fantastic work in the Pacific with our partner Corals 4 Conservation. This extension will carry us through to December 2025, ensuring we can continue protecting and restoring coral reefs while supporting coastal communities.

I'm also pleased to share that three outstanding projects have been selected for this round of the Our Communities grant, which will bring about meaningful change in their respective regions.

In Malawi, our long-standing partner, the Rural Poultry Centre, has achieved a remarkable milestone. Since 2014, they have vaccinated over 1.5 million chickens, benefiting over 108,000 households—a true testament to the impact of small-scale initiatives on improving local livelihoods.

On September 1st, we welcomed two new members to our team in Papua New Guinea, Freda Haihe and Mana Malken. We are excited to have them on board and look forward to their contributions to our growing work in the region.

As we move forward, I want to thank you all for your continued support and belief in the Kyeema Foundation. Together, we can create a brighter, more sustainable future for the communities we serve.

Warm regards,  
Marijke Frantzen  
CEO, Kyeema Foundation



Core Country update

| PAGE 2

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Empowering Communities  
Through 'Village Poultry for  
Better Livelihoods' Project

| PAGE 7

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New Our Communities Projects

| PAGE 9

## Core Country Update

*Our core country programs in Africa and the Pacific continue to champion small-holder farmers to improve their nutrition, health and livelihoods.*

### Mozambique

The AID-I Mozambique project is making significant progress in helping smallholder farmers increase productivity, improve food security, and adapt to climate change. Launched in July 2024, the project targets nine priority value chains across Nampula, Zambézia, and Niassa provinces. Its main goals are to make agricultural innovations more accessible and ensure their adoption for lasting improvements in food security.

Recent achievements include successful inception meetings with agricultural authorities in Nampula, initiating the recruitment of a consultant for the baseline survey, and advancing plans to use community vaccinators to control Newcastle disease. The team has also set up an incubation center in Murrupula and switched to purchasing day-old chicks to overcome logistical issues. Field technician recruitment is complete in Zambézia, with recruitment in Nampula nearly finished.

The Female-led Village Chicken Value Chain Development project, launched in January 2023 in Marracuene district, is empowering women through improved poultry production. Despite initial challenges like high poultry mortality, the project has exceeded expectations. Three local farmers raised 1,500 day-old chicks—15.4% above target—and distributed them to 60 women. Participants have collectively earned 130,048.3 MZN (US\$2,056.1), 120.4% of the projected income, with egg sales alone generating 20,470 MZN (US\$323.6). Households have also benefited nutritionally, with 41.7% consuming an average of 3.2 chickens, and 29 households eating over 1,000 eggs. With 730 chickens now owned by participants, the project is successfully strengthening livelihoods and promoting sustainable poultry farming.



## Malawi

The hot, dry season has arrived in Malawi, bringing wind, dust, and a busy egg-laying period for local chickens. As the season peaks between August and October, farmers are turning their attention to livestock as chicken numbers rise. Despite a shortage of vaccines during this critical time, the Rural Poultry Centre Team continues Newcastle disease vaccination campaigns to safeguard the health of local flocks.

In June, the team received an independent assessment of the Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods Project, conducted by Yvonne Kamanga, a PhD student in Animal Science at LUANAR. More details about the project's impact can be explored [here](#).

The Nkhuku za Thanzi - Banja la Thanzi (Healthy chickens - Healthy families) program has expanded into Dowa West this fiscal year.

The Rural Poultry Centre Team will start in four EPAs, with plans to extend to three more. The Project Field Officer has established an office at the Mponela Agricultural Office and has successfully engaged the community through strategic implementation meetings. A baseline survey is scheduled for completion by the end of September.

Additionally, with support from the Kyeema/Palladium "Our Communities" Fund, initial activities for the Chadza Farmer Field School project will soon begin. Contractors have been contacted, and work will commence shortly.

Despite challenges such as limited vaccine availability, the Rural Poultry Centre Team is making great progress and remains determined to continue delivering positive outcomes. As the year pushes on, we cling to that saying: "A luta continua!"

### Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods: End of Project Results

**40%**

Increase in poultry ownership

**33%**

Increase in poultry production

**46%**

Increase in the percentage of households vaccinating their poultry



**69%**

Reduction in poultry losses to Newcastle Disease (ND)

**Vaccinating households have reported...**

**52%**

higher flock size

**82%**

increase in production

**58%**

increase in livelihoods





## Ethiopia

The "Improving the Livelihoods of Women and People with Disabilities in Addis Ababa" project, funded by the Australian Government's Direct Aid Program (DAP), has seen some exciting progress! The chickens distributed to the project participants have started laying eggs, with production increasing by an impressive 78%. This boost in egg production is already making a positive difference, helping families improve their nutrition and create new income opportunities.

As part of the project, a vaccination campaign was also carried out for the beneficiary households to protect the chickens and ensure their continued health. Keeping the chickens healthy is crucial for the sustainability of this initiative.

In addition, the team recently kicked off the 11th vaccination campaign in two districts in Sidama Regional State. These regular vaccinations are key to protecting flocks from Newcastle disease, which is a major concern for small-scale poultry farmers in Ethiopia. By focusing on preventative care, the project is helping communities build resilience and secure their livelihoods.



## Papua New Guinea

In team updates, Kyeema PNG is delighted to welcome Freda Haihe as the new Country Manager for PNG. Freda, who previously volunteered with Kyeema in 2019, brings extensive experience from her time as a district planner for Gulf Province.

Additionally, Mana Mare has joined the team as the new Admin and Finance Assistant. Mana comes with over 15 years of experience from Partners with Melanesia, where she worked on conservation and eco-friendly community development programs.

August was also an active month, with Kyeema's team partnering with the Haku Women's Association in Buka to conduct village chicken farmer training. A total of 19 participants, representing 12 Local Level Government Wards, completed the training at the Haku Ward Constituency Training Centre. This training is part of Kyeema's ongoing effort to empower communities through sustainable poultry farming.

Further training activities took place in Kavieng, where 69 participants were trained in village chicken keeping, and a coral nursery was established as part of ongoing efforts to enhance food security and environmental sustainability.

In early September, Kyeema Foundation hosted the FAO Acting Director General for Asia Pacific, Jong-Jin Kim, during his visit to Papua New Guinea. He toured Kyeema's village chicken farm and mangrove nursery in Sebora and Tubuserea, where the team showcased their work on income generation, climate change adaptation, and improved nutrition.







## Pacific Regional

This quarter has been an exciting one for Kyeema’s Nature-Based Solutions Program across six Pacific countries. Two coral nursery sites successfully outplanted corals onto degraded reefs, with most nurseries thriving. The team has also gained valuable insights from nurseries that faced challenges, which will guide future improvements.

In Fiji and Papua New Guinea, communities have begun land-based mangrove nurseries. By watering them with a 10% seawater and 90% freshwater mix, the growth process is accelerated. Once the mangroves are large enough, they will be saltwater-hardened and replanted on the reefs to aid in restoration.

In Fiji, Master chicken farmers have been selected in two villages. They are currently building chicken pens and will receive their starter flocks in October. Additionally, Uluibau Village in Fiji has created a new coral nursery, using coral collected during a bleaching event, and a

leader has been identified to oversee both coral and mangrove restoration efforts.

Excitingly, the program has secured an extension until December 2025, ensuring the opportunity to achieve even more impactful results in the coming year.







## Empowering Communities Through ‘Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods’ Project

The “Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods” (VP4BL) project, running from January 2022 to June 2024, has brought significant improvements to the lives of smallholder farmers in the Dowa East District of Malawi. This initiative, supported by the [Australian NGO Cooperation Program \(ANCP\)](#) and managed by Kyeema’s partner the [Rural Poultry Centre](#), aimed to enhance poultry farming practices, thereby improving livelihoods in the community.

The recent end-of-project survey offers a comprehensive overview of the project’s impact. Here’s a closer look at the key findings:

### The Impact of Kyeema's Poultry Project in Mozambique

One of the most remarkable achievements of the VP4BL project is the substantial increase in poultry ownership and production. Compared to the baseline survey conducted in 2022, the number of chickens owned per household saw a 40% increase, and chicken production per household jumped by 33%. The average household now owns 9.4 chickens, with 78% of households survey engaged in poultry farming.

### Reduced Poultry Losses

Newcastle Disease (ND), a significant threat to poultry, was effectively managed through the project’s vaccination programs. Losses due to ND plummeted from 10.8% in 2022 to just 3.4% in 2024. Although there was a rise in losses due to accidents, predation, and theft, the overall effectiveness of the vaccination programs is evident.



## Vaccination's Vital Role

Vaccination proved to be a game-changer for poultry farmers. The proportion of households vaccinating their poultry increased from 11.5% in 2022 to 58% in 2024. These households enjoyed a 52% higher flock size and an 83% increase in chicken production compared to non-vaccinating households. The benefits of vaccination are clear, demonstrating its critical role in enhancing poultry farming.



## Empowering Women and Enhancing Livelihoods

Women and children are at the heart of poultry management in the surveyed households. Women predominantly cared for the chickens, while decision-making was more evenly split, especially in male-headed households. The project also significantly improved livelihoods, with 58% of vaccinating households reporting increased livelihoods compared to just 24% of non-vaccinating households.

## A Pathway to Sustainable Livelihoods

The VP4BL project has successfully demonstrated how targeted interventions in poultry farming can lead to substantial improvements in community livelihoods. By focusing on vaccination, inclusive

participation, and gender dynamics, the project has laid a robust foundation for sustainable development in the Dowa East District. As we celebrate these achievements, it is essential to continue supporting such initiatives that empower communities and foster resilience.

The impacts of the VP4BL project underscores the transformative power of community-driven development and the significant impact of well-implemented agricultural interventions. Thank you to the Rural Poultry Team and the continued support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program.





## New Our Communities Projects

We are pleased to announce the latest projects selected for funding through the Palladium Our Communities Fund, each championed by a dedicated Palladium staff member. The Our Communities Fund focuses on initiatives that use a positive impact approach to create sustainable and effective community benefits.

### Building Integrated Aquaculture Systems for Food Security and Women's Empowerment in Peru

#### *Acate Amazon Conservación*



Palladium has been actively involved with Acate Amazon Conservación and the Kokáma communities since 2020 on a carbon offsetting project. Although reforestation efforts have been completed, Palladium continues to work with Acate and the communities to monitor the social and environmental impacts. A recent visit highlighted the severe drought affecting the community's ability to fish, which led to the conception of this project.

The grant will fund the construction of four integrated aquaculture systems in Kokáma communities along the Marañón River. These systems aim to enhance food security, especially for women and children, by providing a reliable protein source. Additionally, the project will improve climate resilience and support reforestation by integrating fish production with agroforestry

### Farmer Field School at Chadza, Malawi *Rural Poultry Centre*

This project aims to establish a facility at the Farmer Field School (FFS) in Chadza for the incubation of fertile chicken eggs and distribution of day-old chicks (DOCs) to small-scale farmers. The project includes constructing a guardhouse, sanitary facilities, a storage building for incubators, solar power, and space for discussions and demonstrations. This facility will serve as a demonstration and training centre for small-scale poultry producers, addressing the high demand for local chickens.

The initiative also seeks to train at least four local farmers in incubation technology and engage selected individuals in the care and handling of DOCs. This effort will significantly advance the operationalization of the Farmer Field School, providing farmers with practical skills for rural poultry enterprises.



## Roots for Agro-Ecological Resilience in Colombia

### ***Foundation Proyectar Sin Fronteras***

Proyectar Sin Fronteras (PSF) empowers rural and urban communities in Colombia by promoting agroecology and sustainable production. This project targets the regions of Bogotá, Boyacá, and Cundinamarca, where communities face climate challenges and structural inequalities, leading to destructive agricultural practices and food insecurity. The project will support the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) certification for 40 farming families, establish native seed banks, and provide nutritious food to over 1,600 individuals through solidarity food baskets and improved community gardens.

Additionally, the initiative will enhance agro-ecological markets, fostering economic and environmental resilience while improving access to healthy food and supporting local farmers.



Kyeema would like to thank our corporate partner [Palladium](#) for supporting the Our Communities Fund and making these activities possible.

