

Shimoni Fish Port Project.

This flagship project, which has been funded with a budget of 2.6 billion shillings by the Kenya Ports Authority, aims to harness the potential of the Blue Economy by significantly enhancing fish production, processing, and value addition, both locally and for the export market.

Located in the southeastern coast of Kenya bordering Tanzania, the Shimoni community relies heavily on fishing for daily sustenance. However, for the longest time the community has been limited to subsistence fishing due to challenges with processing and storage leading to wastage and loss of resources.

Kenya Ports Authority embarked on the development of the fish port to tap into the Blue Economy by exploring the immense opportunities available in this sector. With the national government's support, the project's intent is to build structures and transform the industry into a more viable, sustainable and profitable one for the country and region at large. The development of the Shimoni fish port is also to empower the community through creation of jobs both directly and indirectly.

Equally, this project will also enhance trade within the region, by expanding manufacturing and trade.

The industrial fishing port infrastructure will comprise construction of a multi-purpose berth that will incorporate fish and conventional cargo handling. The modern jetty will measure 75 meters by 30 meters, along with a causeway that spans 135 meters in length and 7 meters in width.

Moreover, the facility will house a dedicated warehouse that will serve as a fish processing plant. Additionally, it will feature a fish market, cold storage facilities, reefer stations and an ice-making plant. These amenities are designed to support the entire fish value chain and enhance value addition ensuring that fish can be processed, stored, and transported in optimal conditions. These infrastructure additions will bolster the port's efficiency and capacity.

The existing jetty will also be rehabilitated to continue serving the local fishermen and support tourism. Shimoni, with current volumes of approximately 10,000 metric tons, by far is the largest port of all coastal small ports in the field of coastal trade where destination is mostly to Pemba Island and Zanzibar.

The volumes are anticipated to increase tenfold once the new infrastructure is complete. The current jetty acts as the only facility of community transportation, including tourism, fishing and trade. Shimoni has a wide well-sheltered deep channel for large seagoing vessels and is located along a well sheltered creek with a few patches of mangrove vegetation.

The Shimoni port is projected to handle an annual throughput of 50,000 metric tons upon completion expected towards the end of 2024. The project is anticipated to provide a significant boost to the local economy, creating employment opportunities and driving economic growth in the region.

Furthermore, by promoting fish production and value addition, the port will contribute to the sustainable development of the country's Blue Economy.