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THE PRESIDENCY

MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT V

BUSIA COUNTY PPA V REPORT

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FOREWORD

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified communities give their own definition and understanding of poverty. This PPA covered 47 counties unlike previous ones which covered selected districts.

The main objective of this exercise was to establish the impact of various Government policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty. It further sought to capture the voice of the poor in the communities with special focus on the impact of social protection initiatives. In particular the study covered the following broad issues: poverty dynamics and indicators; provisions of government services in health, education, agriculture, housing, and water and sanitation; and pro-poor initiatives and devolved funds.

The definition of poverty varies from one community to the other. From their point of view, poverty was generally defined as inability to meet basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education and health.

The study found out that poverty level from a community perspective has been rising despite various pro-poor initiatives undertaken by the government over the years. It is worthy to note many in the clusters visited did not understand how the pro-poor initiatives operate. On crosscutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse, gender disparity on property ownership, degradation and poor governance on devolved funds and pro-poor initiatives were reported to be on the rise.

The findings from the study will be used as lessons learnt in designing County based programmes. For example, communities have come up with diverse coping mechanisms on poverty. Some of these include women merry-go-round and small scale business. This will be upgraded to other notable initiatives like table banking concept and training Counties to benefit from UWEZO and other related funds. They will be a reference point in designing current and future interventions on reducing poverty and regional disparities. I call upon our internal and external stakeholders to utilize the respective PPA-V county reports to inform policy and decision-making.

Ann Waiguru, OGW
Cabinet Secretary
Ministry of Devolution and Planning

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Busia county Participatory Poverty Assessment is the first of its kind that has the County as the key reference point on poverty profiling since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and ultimately the formation of County Governments after the general elections of 2013. It is derived from the fifth National Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V) Report whose findings have been published simultaneously with the 47 County Reports.

Foremost, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge all individuals and institutions who collectively contributed their time and resources towards the production of this Report. In particular, valuable leadership and policy guidance was provided by Stephen Wainaina, the Economic Planning Secretary and Moses Ogola, the Director Social & Governance Directorate. The Directorate of S&G provided the secretariat that was charged with the responsibility of undertaking the exercise and finally the production of both the National Report and the County specific Reports covering the 47 Counties,

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Engineer Mangiti
Principal Secretary

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMPATH	Academic Model for Prevention and Treatment of HIV and AIDS
ANC	Antenatal Clinic
ARV	Antiretroviral
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHV	Community Health Volunteers
CT	Cash Transfers
DAO	District Agricultural Officer
DDO	District Development Officer
DEO	District Education Officer
DGSDO	District Gender and Social Development Officer
DMOH	District Medical Officer of Health
DPHO	District Public Health Officer
DSO	District Statistics Officer
DWO	District Water Officer
DYO	District Youth Officer
ESP	Economic Stimulus Program
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
FBO	Faith Based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FP	Family Planning
FPE	Free Primary Education
GOK	Government of Kenya
ITN	Insecticide Treated Net
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KESSIP	Kenya Education Sector Support Program
KI	Key Informant
KKV	KazikwaVijana
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
LATF	Local Authority Transfer Fund
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Program
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OVCs	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PALWECO	Program for Agriculture and Livelihoods in Western Communities
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
PWDs	Personswith Disabilities
PLWHA	People Living With HIV and AIDS
RA	Research Assistant
RTI	Respiration Track Infection
SDSE	Subsidized Day Secondary Education
SFP	School Feeding Programme
TB	Tuberculosis
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund

URTI	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified groups of people give their own definition and understanding of poverty on their own perspectives.

The overall objective of the PPA-V is to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy by providing a richer and a more informative data base on the living standards, aspirations and needs of the poorer sections of the population especially with regard to social protection and social security. The survey sought the communities' perspective on poverty and provision of selected wellbeing services including agriculture, education, health, social protection and other devolved funds. Perspectives of the community were sought on the awareness of the availability of services, accessibility and affordability.

This report presents the findings of the PPA-V survey in Nalera of Busia County which was conducted in November/December 2012. Information from the cluster was provided by the community through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaires and was complemented by the information from the key informants (KI) who were mainly technical experts in the subject area of the survey.

Busia County covers an area of 1694.5 km² and the population was projected to be 809,988 in 2012 and 882,263 in 2015 with a growth rate of 2.89 percent per annum.

Nalera cluster is a rural community in Bunyala west location, Budalangi division in Bunyala sub-county.

Poverty is prevalent across the county but the degree and causes vary. The population living below the poverty line in the rural areas is 64 percent.

Some of the causes of poverty include retrogressive cultural practices, food insecurity, unemployment, low literacy levels, poor health and inherited poverty.

Generally health services are available, accessible and affordable to the community except for referral cases where one has to be taken to Port Victoria district hospital which is 3 km away.

Education services are generally accessible and affordable. However, the education facilities are in poor state and the schools are also understaffed.

The community is aware of the agricultural services which they reported were accessible and affordable with extension services being demand-driven. Agricultural services provided are targeted to individual farmers, farmers groups and other institutions.

There are four major water schemes in the county. Two of them are run by the government while the other two are run by the community. Water services in this community are accessible through the borehole and river Nzoia. An estimated 70 percent of the county population has access to latrines while 25 percent use the bush.

There is awareness of the existence of several pro-poor initiatives and devolved funds in this community including Cash Transfers, YEDF, WEF and CDF. However, procedures for accessing these funds and general attitude towards loans affect the uptake of these funds.

On crosscutting issues the community reported that HIV and AIDS had affected them as it had left many homes without breadwinners. A lot of resources and time is also spent in taking care of persons infected with HIV and AIDS.

CHAPTER ONE:INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENTS

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified communities give their own definition and understanding of poverty based on their own discourse. Hence PPAs are aimed at understanding poverty from the perspectives of poor people including gaining a clearer notion of what their priorities are for improving their livelihoods. There is need to conduct regular PPAs in order to inform policy makers on decision making process regarding various interventions that help to get the poor out of poverty.

Participatory approaches add value in policy formulation and planning by enriching understanding of the realities of poverty and formulation of policies which address the plight of the poor. They increase the confidence and 'voice' of the poor while also acting as a learning process for the non-poor and often resulting in the creation of new networks. In addition, participatory approaches influence the images of poverty and public debate.

The PPA-V was necessitated by the fact that inequality and poverty remain among key development challenges that the Government of Kenya continues to confront and address. While substantial attention has been placed on poverty alleviation, there exists a huge gap between the poor and non-poor in the entitlement to delivery of services. There also exist large disparities in incomes and access to education, health, and to basic needs including clean water, adequate housing and sanitation.

In addition, there exist other remarkable intra- and inter-regional and gender disparities in quality, accessibility, affordability and availability of services. These disparities become more pronounced among vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, orphans and the elderly.

1.2 PPP V STUDY OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the study will be to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy by providing a richer and more informative data base on the living standards, aspirations and needs of the poorer sections of the population. In this context, the fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V) focused on two main areas:

- The impact of the various policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare; and
- Capture the voices of the poor among the communities with a special focus on social protection initiatives to inform policy planning and targeting.

More specifically, the participatory study sought to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups.

- Broaden the process through which policies will be developed by engaging ordinary citizens in real debates to come up with the best ways of reducing poverty.
- Identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities to improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.
- Integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the M&E strategy for Kenya.
- Monitor impact to identify what outcomes are important to those affected by policy interventions themselves to help untangle complex processes of individual and community change.
- Enrich understanding of the lived realities of poverty and arriving at policies which make sense to those affected to ensure equity and improvement of wellbeing in a clean and secure environment.

1.3 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE

Busia county is situated at the extreme western border of the country. The county borders Bungoma County to the north, Kakamega County to the east, Siaya County to the southwest, Lake Victoria to the southeast and the Republic of Uganda to the west. It lies between latitude 0° and 0° 45 north and longitude 34° 25 east and covers an area of 1694.5 km². The 2009 population was 743,635 (355,934 males and 387,701 females), and was projected at 809,988 (387,693 males and 422,295 females) in 2012.

Most parts of Busia County fall within the Lake Victoria Basin. The altitude is undulating and rises from about 1,130m above sea level at the shores of Lake Victoria to a maximum of about 1,500m in the Samia and North Teso Hills. The central part of the county, especially Butula and Nambales sub-counties, are occupied by a peneplains marked by low flat divides of almost uniform height, often capped by lateritic and a shallowly incised swampy drainage system.

The County receives an annual rainfall of between 760mm and 2000 mm. The county experiences two rain seasons, the long rain season which is at its peak between late March and late May and the short rains occurring between August and October. The dry season with scattered rains falls from December to February. The annual mean maximum temperatures range between 26°C and 30°C while the mean minimum temperature range between 14°C and 22 °C.

Agriculture is the key economic activity in the County but production has been declining due to declining soil fertility levels, change in weather condition, low use of modern farm inputs, and slow adoption of modern farming technologies.

The study area was Nalera cluster which is located in Bunyala West location of Budalangi Division in Bunyala District. The main economic activity is fishing and agriculture, with cassava, millet, sweet potatoes, beans and maize being the principal cash crops. Though most residents of Busia County are ethnically Luhya, there is also a substantial population of Luo and Iteso residents.

The district is usually heavily hit by floods which at times forces residents to relocate to higher grounds for safety.

1.4 SELECTION OF THE CLUSTER

The selection of the cluster was done using two-stage purposive sampling that superimposed on agro-ecological zones to cover common characteristics across similar zones. The aim was to capture as much variation as possible among the poor communities in a given County. The fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP-V) maps from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) were used to demarcate the boundaries of the selected clusters.

One cluster per county was selected for the detailed study in which all specially designed participatory assessment tools were implemented. In the cluster, a household survey was undertaken and a household questionnaire administered to selected households, especially those benefiting from cash transfers and those in extreme poverty.

1.5 FIELD LOGISTICS

The PPA-V pilot study was conducted during the month of November 2012. Information from the cluster was provided by the community members through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaire and was complemented by the information from key informants who are the technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were Healthcare, Basic Education, Agricultural Services and Inputs, Water and Sanitation, Housing, Cash Transfer (CT), Roads 2000, devolved funds such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and KaziKwaVijana (KKV).

In preparation for the survey, the Research assistants (RAs) were introduced to the use of survey tools by the supervisors/trainers. Advertisement for Research Assistants (RAs) was done one week prior to recruitment through the District Development Officer (DDO) and District Statistics Officer (DSO). The recruitment interviews were conducted for two days. Out of the applicants who were interviewed, six (6) Research Assistants were selected to assist in data collection in the county.

The training for researchers ran for five (5) days and data collection and report writing was done in four (4) days. During the training, RAs were taken through the introduction to Participatory Poverty Assessment and methodologies, guiding principles for participatory data collection and the data collection instruments.

To ensure the data collection instruments/tools were thoroughly understood, the research assistants conducted role plays. They were taken through the roles they were expected to play while in the field which included note taking, facilitating, observing and administration of the household questionnaires.

Other key areas covered during the training included data collection logistics, data storage, compilation of the site reports and the format of the cluster report.

1.6 PPA-V METHODOLOGY

The study used PPA tools and instruments including semi-structured oral interview questionnaires, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observations. The specific tools used included resource mapping, wealth ranking, Venn/chapatti diagrams and pair-wise ranking. The Village Resource Map was introduced before the introduction of other PPA tools, and Wealth Ranking was used to establish how the community categorizes itself economically. There was an attempt to identify households which were benefiting from the cash transfers so that they could participate during the administration of the specific data collection checklists.

The checklist was mainly used to elicit specific information on selected policy areas from the community. It was divided into two sections, namely, Poverty Diagnostics, and Assessment of the Impact of Pro-poor Initiatives. The trained RAs administered the tools/instruments under the guidance of the supervisors to ensure quality of the data collected. The data collection process was similar for all selected sample sites as well as the format for data recording and analysis. This standardization was critical for overall data analysis and report writing.

The key informants provided technical information about their particular areas of operation. Those interviewed included officers responsible for Public Health/Medical Services, Water, Agriculture/Livestock, Gender and Social Development, Basic Education, opinion leaders, DDOs and the District Commissioner.

1.7 REPORT ORGANIZATION/OUTLINE

This report is divided into six chapters including chapter 1 which covers introduction, Chapter 2 highlights the poverty dynamic and indicators. Chapter 3 presents findings on provision of services in the selected policy areas (healthcare, basic education, agricultural services and inputs, water and sanitation and housing). Chapter 4 covers the findings other pro-poor initiatives and devolved funds (policies and programmes) such as Cash Transfers (CT), KaziKwaVijana (KKV), Roads 2000, and devolved funds such as CDF, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Chapter 5 covers the findings on crosscutting areas and other emerging issues and lastly, chapter 6 outlines the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

According to the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey 2005/06, 64.2 percent of the County population is poor with rural poverty at 64.2 percent and urban poverty at 42.3 percent (check these figures???). This contributes 2.83 percent to the national poverty.

Poverty in Busia County manifests itself in food insecurity, unemployment, low literacy levels and poor health. There is low utilization of agricultural land due to low levels of farm wages to attract the required unskilled labour, low investment in industries, poor marketing strategies for agricultural products and cash crops such as sugarcane and cotton, low levels investments in commerce and trading activities, and inadequate marketing cooperatives among others.

This manifestation of poverty in the County is more pronounced in health and education, with high incidents of malnutrition among children, high rates of school dropouts especially in secondary schools, and low transition rates from primary to secondary schools. Various national surveys indicate that the County is characterized by poor health, low incomes, poor housing conditions, subsistence farming, high dependence ratio, high rates of migration to towns, insecurity, child labour, chronic unemployment and underemployment, limited access to social amenities, brewing and drinking of illicit brews, and effects of HIV/AIDS among other effects.

2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

The Nalera residents in Bunyala District defined poverty as failure to access adequate food, clothing and education. Others considered it as the destruction of food and shelters by floods, poor access to services such as education and health, and lack of money to meet other basic needs.

2.3 CLASSIFICATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY

The community reported that most of the households were very poor mostly arising from losses they have suffered over years resulting from flooding and effects of HIV/AIDS which have left behind many OVCs. Though the poverty rate is alarming, the community said that there are a few poor people and a negligible number of the rich in the area.

They gave characteristics of the very poor as those households with no source of income, live in dilapidated houses, have children wearing tattered clothes, take at most two meals per day, and do not proceed to secondary school. On the other hand, they said a rich person was able to live comfortably, owned a vehicle or motorcycle, wore nice clothes, owned a large piece of land and was able to take his/her to children to school up to university or polytechnic levels.

2.4 CATEGORIZATION OF POVERTY

The residents said that 96% of their population consists of the very poor, 3% are poor and 1% is rich.

2.5 CAUSES OF POVERTY

The Nalera community noted that their number one problem was floods that destroy crops, wash away houses and results in disease outbreaks. Political influence instigates violence and handouts resulting to overdependence. Other causes of poverty include wildlife conflicts whereby wild animals mainly monkeys and wild pigs usually destroy the little food planted in the farms, poor education, lack of food, and droughts. Poor health was also given as a contributing factor more so since some of the households had lost their breadwinners to diseases such as HIV and AIDS, whereby the HIV prevalence is aggravated by the fish-for-sex kind of dealing at the lakeside. This leads to a big number of orphans, widows and vulnerable children.

In addition, men emphasized that insecurity, poor planning (failure to budget and save), unstable income generating activities and government negligence as the major causes of poverty among them. Women named overdependence, illiteracy and floods as the causes of poverty among them.

2.6 IMPACT OF POVERTY

According to the community, the most affected people by the high poverty levels are women and children. The PWDs and OVCs shoulder a double burden due to poverty since they are vulnerable, marginalized and sometimes neglected. However, the community members felt that men have a "don't care" attitude and most of the time they desert their families due to poverty.

2.7 COPING MECHANISMS

The community named various coping strategies depending on the different causes of poverty. In combating the floods menace, they had opted to lease and move to land on raised grounds since they believe that with this they will not face the havoc. They blamed the government for failure to consult them before initiating projects to counter floods. The community further said that in order to cope with poverty, women form groups in which they come up with mechanisms of gaining livelihoods such as vegetable planting and selling while men engage in fishing activities, sand harvesting, casual jobs in construction sites and *boda-boda* business.

2.8 ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING IN THE HOUSEHOLD

The community was in agreement that whatever is within the homestead belongs to both the wife and husband since they both contribute to buying of the assets in one way or another, though men were of the opinion that their wives are the most hardworking, hence owed all they have to the women. They further shared that

decisions concerning disposal of assets are made in consultation between man and woman.

2.9 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME

The community's point of view is that poverty has increased in the last ten years mostly due to the flooding problems. In addition, they said that their children who had gone to school are still at home with them and consuming their commodities instead of being employed. They said that the prices of commodities are very high and yet it is very hard for them to get money to buy, hence they do not feel any improvement. The community members said that in the past 5 years there has been no aid like it used to be and hence their poverty situation is worsening.

2.10 INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR IN THE COMMUNITY

The community identified programs such as FPE, SSDE, school feeding programs, distribution of free treated mosquito nets, rural electrification though expensive, and cash transfers to the elderly and OVCs as the government lead initiatives. Non-state actors like FBO, CBO and the oil exploring company have come up with strategies by way of paying fees to help the needy. Other NGOs named were BABA Foundation that funds farmers, AMPATH that deals with the PLWHAs and farmers, APhiA Plus that has helped raise student level of education by providing bursaries, and the money-maker pumps that were brought by the government to help in irrigation. LIFESTRAW had also distributed filters that have helped them curb some waterborne diseases. Lastly they noted that in the past USAID and the Red Cross had stepped in to give them relief food during floods and droughts.

2.11 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The community members made the following recommendations:

- The Kenya Wildlife Service should come to their aid and address the issue of wild pigs and monkeys which destroy the little food they have;
- They do not need relief services, but rather a permanent solution to the flooding. If the menace is addressed they will be able to fend for their needs without external help;
- They felt that their status does not require loans, as they are usually not able to repay, but rather grants which can uplift their living standards without fear of auctioning their belongings.

CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

3.1 HEALTHCARE

3.1.1 Introduction

According to Busia County Development Profile, the county has poor access to healthcare services where 10.3 percent of the population is within less than 1 km from the nearest health facility, while 19 percent are within a radius of 1.2-4.9 km and those covering more than 5 km make 70.7 percent of the population. The doctor-population ratio stands at 1:41,200 and there are four Level 4 hospitals, one private hospital, twelve health centres and three nursing homes. The five most common diseases in order of prevalence are malaria, fever, respiratory tract infections (RTI), skin diseases, diarrhea and typhoid. Malaria and fever combined take a lion's share of 42.15 percent of the cases. In 2010, immunization coverage for the under-fives was over 95 percent with all sub-counties reporting good response to all immunization campaigns carried out.

About 46.5 percent of the females aged 18 years and above in the county have accepted family planning and have access to family planning services. The various types of contraceptives are easily available at social places, kiosks, retail shops and pharmacies which are dotted all over the county.

3.1.2 Major Health Concerns in the Community

The community considered malaria, HIV/AIDS, typhoid, cholera, measles, TB, bilharzias and meningitis as the most prevalent diseases in that order. This was also reflected in the discussion with the DPHO as he named pneumonia, diarrhea, upper respiratory tract diseases and HIV/AIDS as the most prevalent diseases in the district in that sequence among under-fives. Among adults above the age of 15 years, the DPHO noted that HIV/AIDS comes second after malaria. He added that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Bunyala district is much higher than the national prevalence. According to the community, malaria and cholera are as a result floods that leave plenty of stagnant water hence a breeding zone for mosquitoes. In addition, it is difficult to construct a latrine in the study area because the soil is sandy hence most latrines usually collapse, which compounded with flood water causes various waterborne diseases.

3.1.3 Provision of Health Services

Nalera community members informed that there is no health facility within the area though there are two dispensaries in the neighbouring communities. In addition, Port Victoria district hospital is the health facility most frequently visited by the community. The DPHO informed that the district has one district hospital, one health center and six dispensaries. Of the six dispensaries, 5 are governmental while one is faith-based. These health facilities are well spread within the district enhancing accessibility.

The community said that when commuting from Nalera village to the nearest health facility (PortVictoria district hospital) 3km away, it usually costs them Kshs50 on motorbikes during the day and Kshs200 at night one way to travel to the facility. This they considered as unaffordable during times of health emergencies. On top of being inaccessible, the community considered the service charges such as laboratory tests and drugs among others to be very expensive. They also emphasized on the inadequacy of the equipment within these facilities which causes delay and poor services.

The DPHO pointed out that majority of the health facilities are run by the government except one dispensary which is managed by a faith-based organization. In contrast to the community, he stressed on the fact that the facilities are accessible. In concurrence, he noted that the facilities are not well equipped hence the quality of services is inadequate. The DPHO clarified that the charges for services provided within these facilities are cheap and affordable. e.g. they pay a maximum of Kshs100 for outpatient and a maximum of Kshs 400 per day for inpatient.

3.1.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Health Services in the Community

The community identified free mosquito nets program, TB treatment, HIV tests and counseling, children's clinic and vaccination as other free services offered by the government and that have improved on their health.

In the discussions held with the DPHO, it came out that they have trained CHWs whom they call community health volunteers (CHV) who are in charge of 100 households housing about 500 people. In addition, he noted that they have initiated many activities to promote health which include provision of ART, creation of awareness, and training of the local people on the most prevalent diseases through the use CHVs.

3.1.5 Decision Making on Health Issues in the Family

At the household level, the community informed that most of the decisions are made by men since they are the ones who give money for medication services. The DPHO stressed on the advocacy they carry out to encouraging men to participate in matters of health given that majority of people participating in health education are women. Despite their low knowledge about health, the DPHO noted that most decisions are made by men.

3.1.6 Ideal Family Size among the Households in the Community

Whereas men in the community said seven members is an ideal size of the family though they would not mind having eight. Men contradicted women's view where women considered six members basing it on the high cost of living.

3.1.7 Relationship between Household Size and Poverty

The community members said that the size of their families have led to their high poverty levels. This is because the larger the family, the more the needs given the kind of challenges they face and are therefore not able to fully meet their needs. The DSC stressed that health and poverty are related because health standards among the poor people are very low as they experience many cases of malnutrition and other diseases as compared to those who are well-off.

3.1.8 Access and Decision Making on Family Planning Services

Women admitted to practicing FP secretly because most men object to it. It was reported that the FP programs have been initiated through the community facilitators (CHWs) who are in charge of creating awareness on FP and provision of contraceptives to the local people.

3.1.9 Opinion on Status of Health Services overtime

The community noted that the health standards have been dropping for the last ten years due to high rate of inflation. The community blamed the government and donors for failing to take seriously their health issues. In contrast the DPHO noted that for the last 10 years there has been an improvement in the health sector. Cases of malaria and HIV/AIDS had reduced and provision of more health facilities and CHWs has improved accessibility to better healthcare.

3.1.10 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The community recommended the need to increase the subsidies for health services and bring the health facilities closer to the people. They emphasized on the need to consider the aged in other special programs like free mosquito nets. The residents want the floods to be controlled due to the effect it has on their food, health, infrastructure and housing. As such they request the government to intensify the supply of mobile latrines to save them from disease outbreaks due to poor waste disposal.

In addition the community recommended that the government puts up a dispensary within the cluster where they can get health services, since this would help in reducing the distance and thus increase access to medical services in times of need.

The DPHO recommended that, in addition to increasing health facilities, the government should increase the number of staff. In light of this, he emphasized on the need for other services like dentist, opticians, and referral ambulances among others. The DPHO added that they should consider increasing the funds allocated to the local health facilities like dispensaries. He also stressed on the need of including community strategy approaches to allow communities select programs they consider good for them.

3.2 BASIC EDUCATION

3.2.1 Introduction

According to the Busia CDP, the county has 459 public and private ECD centres. The teacher-pupil ratio stands at 1:37. The county had a population of 51,160 attending preschools according to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, a preschool population of 171,649 for the year 2012 and is projected to 154,608 children in 2015 and 197,928 in 2017. The proportion of these children attending preschool is estimated at 65.3 percent.

The percentage of children attending school as a proportion of the total number in the age cohort of 6-13 stands at 81%. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (???), the teacher-pupil ratio in primary was 1:64. By 2009, the total population of children who were of primary school-going age was 432,088. There are 450 primary schools in the county with an enrolment of 220,101 pupils. This indicates that more than 50 percent of the eligible population is attending primary school.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, 75.3 percent of the population aged 15 years and above in Busia County have the ability to read and write.

In Busia County, there are 105 secondary schools with a total enrolment of 23,100 students. The teacher to student ratio is 1:33. Of the total in age cohort of (14-17 years), 82 percent are attending school.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, 18,681 persons in the County have attained tertiary education. The County has no University but has three satellite campuses of the major universities. There are 17 youth polytechnics, eight private colleges and one farmers training centre.

3.2.2 Status of the Education Facilities

The community members said that there is only one primary school nearby which is not well constructed to match the current educational standard though CDF and LAF have managed to do some renovations. Whereas the two private ECDs have permanent buildings, the public ECD is in the worst condition and therefore the learning environment is not conducive.

The DEO pointed out that the classrooms (buildings) are in good condition courtesy of CDF and KESSIP renovations.

3.2.3 Provision of Education Services (Access, Affordability, Availability)

There are no schools within the Nalera area though there are 3 ECDs and one primary school close by. The nearest primary school is about 1-1.5 km away while the nearest secondary school is 2-2.5 km away. The community emphasized that of the 3 ECDs, 2 are privately owned hence very expensive despite the fact that they are near. In

comparison with the population, they pointed out that the one primary school that is near is not enough for the community given that it is understaffed and with few equipment.

According to the DEO, Bunyala District has educational facilities ranging from ECD to vocational training level. It has 52 primary schools, 10 secondary schools and 2 youth polytechnics.

The community said that out the four education facilities around the area, two are public while the other two are private. In addition, parents are involved in decision-making.

Primary schools and ECD centres are under school management committees selected by parents while the secondary schools are under boards of governors. The DEO shared that the government hires and deploys teachers, facilitates FPE funding and selectively provides infrastructure under the KESSIP initiative programme while the District Education Office collects education-based data and does other functions. The community is also expected to provide land and other small contributions needed due to delay and inadequacy of FPE, and to hire extra teachers. Failure on the part of parents to cooperate with the government in keeping their children in school has led to high dropout rates.

Quality

The quality of education in the district is showing an upward trend more so after services have been brought closer to the people through service devolution. The DEO cited FPE and CDF as some measures that have helped the economically disadvantaged to access education.

Affordability

The residents reported that educating their children was costly as they pay from Kshs 300 to 3,000 per term for primary education depending on the class one's child is. This money is used for employing part-time teachers and examination fees.

3.2.4 Status of Education Services

The community felt that education has been politicized when it comes to allocation of funds to schools and OVCs. This has led to imbalanced development within the society.

The DEO noted that the problem in the area was the attitude of dependency that is deeply rooted in the local's minds due to the previously experienced floods. They are not willing to make the slightest contributions to support what the government is offering through FPE. This attitude has derailed so much to the point that they are blind to the vast natural resources at their disposal.

The community members said bursaries have benefitted few members of the community e.g. through CDF, APHIA II Western and AMPATH. The assistance from these channels is mostly used to educate their children and buy food. Though the FPE was in place, the residents said it had done little to make education affordable.

3.2.6 Relationship between Education and Poverty

The community admitted that education in the household is inversely related to poverty in that the increasing rate of poverty has lowered the standards of education and vice versa. The DEO clarified that households with low levels of education continue to live in poverty since they lack resources to take their children to good schools, and their children drop out of school or never go beyond secondary education.

3.2.7 Opinion on Status of Education Overtime

Since the decline in fishing industry, the community members said that majority of the people have prioritized education hence the standards are gradually increasing. Overall the residents said that the education status has improved because non-state organizations such as APHIA II and AMPATH have boosted the OVCs and free primary education has enabled many children to attend school. The education standards have gone up with the realization of FPE, SSDE, CDF, LATIF and NGOs which are supporting the needy students to access education.

3.2.8 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The residents requested for an educational facility to be constructed within the area so as to reduce walking distances in seeking education. In addition, the government should add the number of teachers so that the community members can at least be relieved by not paying the PTA teachers.

The DEO recommended that there is need to collaborate with education stakeholders, upgrade infrastructure in the schools, improve on teacher management skills in terms of promotions and discipline, and uphold co-curriculum activities as a way of harnessing and nurturing the existing talents. The DEO raised concern over the current quality of testing in schools which is rather commercialized than being syllabus-oriented. He attributed this to the low teacher-pupil ratio in the district.

3.3 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS

3.3.1 Introduction

According to Busia CDP, the main food crops grown in Busia County include maize, cassava, finger millet, beans, sorghum, rice, sweet potatoes, cowpeas, groundnuts, bananas, green grams, sesame and soyabeans, while cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, palm oil and pepper are the main cash crops. There are also horticultural crops including pineapples, tomatoes, kales, cabbages, water melons, local vegetables, papaya, amaranth, onions and mangoes, among others. The total acreage under food crops is 58,871 ha with 13,624 ha under cash crops. Cotton is grown in Samia and Teso sub-counties, while sugarcane is grown in Nambale and Butula. The average farm size in the county is 2.34 ha for small holders and 6 ha for large scale holders. Large scale farms are mostly in Teso, Nambale and Butula sub-counties.

The main livestock in the county is the zebu cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and free-range local chicken. Fish capture from Lake Victoria is a main activity in Bunyala and Samiasub-counties. All sub-counties carry out aquaculture where tilapia is the main fish farmed in 1,500 ponds. Other species of fish captured from the lake include cat fish, Nile perch, *omena* and lung fish.

The Nalera community said that most agricultural services are provided by NGOs. They noted that the government imposes most of their projects to the community and hence they fail.

The DAO reported that the extension workers pass extension information on what is available to the farmers and they also mobilize farmers into groups for proper training to take place.

3.3.2 Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs

Access

Only few members of the community access the agricultural services provided by the government. The DAO said that the agricultural extension services were being coordinated from Busia and it was decentralized to Bunyala District in the year 2008. Presently Bunyala has 2 field extension workers, though not adequate since there is a shortfall of field extension workers.

Affordability

Majority of the farm inputs are very expensive hence the community cannot afford them. This was supported by the DAO. Maize being the main grown crop, the DAO said that most people cannot afford the hybrid maize seeds packets since their prices range from Kshs300 to 400. The use of fertilizer is also low in the district despite having subsidized fertilizer offered by the government since the fertilizer stores are not available.

3.3.3 Interventions towards Improvement of Agricultural Standards in the Community

The community pointed out that they have not had any intervention to facilitate farming because the extension officers are far and few as compared to the population.

The DAO mentioned that the ESP mainly focused on rice production and fish farming. He noted that only 1,600 acres of land grow rice under irrigation although they have a potential of up to 8,000 acres. Further he pointed out that the NjaaMarufuku programme has enabled the government to fund groups to start up agricultural enterprises. So far the government has supported 14 groups since the year 2005.

Other than funding the groups, the government has so far disbursed 6 million shillings to schools under the NjaaMarufuku Programme where schools such as Mukhobola, Busagwa, Runyu and Budubusi primary schools have

benefitted. Kilimo Biashara programme is not being implemented in Bunyala District since the stores are not available in the area and those around are not registered.

3.3.4 Target Group for Agricultural Services

Though majority of farmers are women, the community reported that they have not had any initiatives targeting them. Those targeted, according to the DAO, are youth farmers, individuals, men and women, and school boys and girls through the 4K clubs. Prioritization of programs is done by the community deciding on the agricultural project and the office gives advice on how they are going to implement them.

3.3.5 Relationship between Agriculture and Poverty

Both the community and the DAO stated that farmers lose a lot of their yields hence the poverty levels go up. In addition, some farmers cannot afford fertilizers hence this limits their crop yield, while unfenced farms end up being destroyed by wild animals hence leading to low yields.

3.3.6 Opinion on Status of Agriculture Overtime

The community members pointed out that with the current trend in agriculture and rainfall patterns, the sector will continue declining. For the last 10 years, the community informed that they have not had any improvement in farming. The DAO said that the services have improved, since they now have more stakeholders unlike initially where the government was the only service provider. He was positive that the emergence of players like PALWECO and NGOs like BUCODEV, GAPP and the decentralization of activities will help give better services to farmers and help increase the production levels.

3.3.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The community made the following recommendations:

- The government to give out incentives to boost farming;
- Rather than providing manual man-maker pumps, the government should bring electric pumps to enhance provision of water during dry seasons;
- Block the artificial channel that they have dug since they have enhanced flood;
- Involve the community in flood control initiatives;
- Research and improve on the current crop varieties.

The DAO stated that the government should:

- Expand the areas under irrigation, for example, by putting more land in Sisenye under irrigation;
- Subsidize farm inputs especially fertilizer so as to make it more affordable to the farmers;
- Increase the number of extension support/field workers, and facilities and funds;

- Increase on the remuneration of the civil servants who are being paid low salaries and are hence demoralized.

3.4 WATER AND SANITATION

3.4.1 Introduction

According to Busia CDP, the County has several rivers crisscrossing it and Lake Victoria which borders Bunyala and Samia sub-counties. Malaba and Malakisi rivers, whose source is Mt. Elgon traverses the county through the Teso sub-county, while the Sio River traverses Nambale and Samia sub-counties. River Nzoia which originates from the Cherangani hills empties its waters into Lake Victoria through Bunyala sub-county. There are 237 springs, 458 shallow wells and 154 boreholes.

All headquarters of the seven sub-counties have operational water supply schemes including the major urban centres such as Sio Water Supply for Busia town and its environs and the Bunyala Supply Scheme for Port Victoria town. More water supply schemes are ongoing in the respective sub-counties coordinated by Ministry of Water and Irrigation and CDF.

The major water sources in the county include Lake Victoria, the nine rivers, shallow wells and unprotected springs used for domestic and other purposes. The average distance to a watering point is 1.5 km.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, about 70 percent of the county population has access to latrines while 25 percent use bush. Busia town is the only area with a modern sewage system.

3.4.2 Status of Provision of Water and Sanitation

According to the community, the few available projects are managed by the local administration and others by private entities. This was also reflected by the DWO's opinion concerning the management of these projects. He said that facilities are managed by the community committees, who are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the facilities. This is made affordable by the community members paying a monthly fee of as low as Kshs 50 depending on how the committee deems affordable by the members, except for the government owned pipe schemes where the community members pay for the services that are being offered.

The community has the role of manning the facility and protecting the water from contamination. The community members are trained on water pollution, treatment and storage hence the community has the duty to protect and conserve the water sources.

Affordability

The community considered water services to be very expensive and unaffordable. The DWO was of the view that if the community members pay an average of Kshs 50 per month for the use of the boreholes, and they end up drawing as much water as they want throughout the month then that is affordable. The Kshs 50 is collected by the

committee and is used for maintenance of the facility, and to make the community members feel that they own the project. The distance is relatively short since the shallow wells are situated in such a way that they could serve an average of 200 households unlike in the 1980s where one borehole would serve close to 500 households.

The community felt that the amount they pay does not match the value of water services they receive since even the tapped water is very dirty. Both the community and the DWO said that they have not had any other water intervention programme apart from harvesting rainwater which is not sustainable.

The DPHO shared that the CHVs go round the community sensitizing them on the importance of having toilet facilities such as latrines within the households. He also pointed out that the government provided mobile toilets to the community.

The challenges in water availability

The community pointed out the unavailability of clean water in the area due to frequent flooding and high levels of underground water levels which get contaminated by latrines. They further said that floods and raised water levels have been a major challenge. The DWO said that there is lack of resources or funds to enhance development and sustainability of water sources. He said that the community's failure to pay for water services has derailed the development of water resources and demoralized service delivery. The notion/perception of the community is that water was God given and should be availed freely. He added that incitement from politicians that they have brought the water and they should not therefore pay for it has demoralized service delivery in the community.

3.4.3 Types of Water and Sanitation Facilities

Some of the sources of water cited by the community members were taps, rivers, boreholes, lake and springs. The community said that they are being served by one borehole and water from river Nzoia. The borehole water has proved inefficient due to frequent breakdowns and lack of frequent servicing.

The DWO said that the main sources of water in the district are the lake, shallow wells, boreholes and pipe schemes. He added that Bunyala District has 4 pipe schemes with two run by the government (Busia hills pipe scheme and Port Victoria hills pipe scheme), and two by the community (Amatsi pipe scheme and Osieko pipe scheme). He said that all the pipe schemes are usually chlorinated hence safe for drinking. There are boreholes which are also chlorinated but those in North Bunyala are salty. All the water sources in the District are reliable unless the distribution system is corrupted or vandalized. The programmes are very reliable unless the shallow wells dry up as a result of drought.

The community were not sure on when the program started but they were like it started sometime in the 1980s. This program was started by KEFINGO in collaboration with the World Bank. As per the DWO, the GOK/UNICEF wash programmes started in 2008 and is funded by the government, UNICEF, United Kingdom and the community. Though this programme was set to end in 2012 its life was extended to 2013.

Busia hills pipe scheme and Port Victoria hills pipe scheme are funded by the community while Amatsi and Osieko pipe scheme are community based. The DWO said the boreholes and the shallow wells are usually funded by the government, and various NGOs in collaboration with the community.

3.4.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and Water Availability

The community did not give a relationship between environmental degradation and availability of water.

3.4.5 Opinion on Status of Water and Sanitation Overtime

With the worsening environmental conditions, the community informed that the issues of water and sanitation have been worsening. This has escalated due to increased rates of flooding. However, the DWO told the study team that the government has been expanding the piping scheme after every 20 years and thus the state has been improving in the district. There are almost 200 people per one shallow well unlike in the previous years such as 1980s when over 1,000 depended on one shallow well. He said that the community is also finding it necessary to pipe water or connect tap water to their homes, where he said that an average of 130 persons are connected to tap water annually. The DWO indicated that the reason for this positive interest towards pipe water is as a result of the development in water facilities and infrastructure.

3.4.6 Relationship between Water and Sanitation and Poverty

There was no relationship given between water, sanitation and poverty.

3.4.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The community recommended that:

- All stakeholders in the sector to carry out community awareness on sanitation;
- Protection of water catchments so as to control the floods;
- Incorporate the water and sanitation skills in educational curriculum;
- Find out ways of cleaning the tap water;
- More resources need to be invested towards water and that more staff need to be employed;
- The beneficiaries should pay for the service being given i.e. the community needs to be educated to pay for the services.

3.5 HOUSING

3.5.1 Introduction

According to the Busia CDP, the distribution of main dwelling units by type of wall material used in construction was 0.7 percent for stone, 9.45 percent bricks/blocks and

81.1 percent wood and mud. For roofing, 46.4 percent of the population use iron sheets while 53.05 percent use grass.

3.5.2 Types of Building Materials

According to community members, housing structures within the area are made of grass, mud and papyrus reeds. These are for the very poor, while semi-permanent and tiled houses are for the rich. Though these materials are locally available, they are expensive and few and hence not easily found.

3.5.3 Status of the Provision of Housing

The housing in the community comprises semi-permanent houses which are located within small plots. The community builds the houses using mud, grass and papyrus reeds. These materials are locally available.

3.5.4 Opinion on Status of Housing Over time

The community said that World Vision has helped improve the standard of housing within Nalera. The NGO took an initiative of building semi-permanent houses to the OVCs and the elderly. The community pointed out that heavy rains and floods often ruin and damage their structures, but they have now come to terms with this menace. The community often comes together to assist each other build better houses.

3.5.5 Types of Housing and Household Headship

Most of the households are headed by men, elderly grandmothers, adult children and some widows and widowers. Most elderly, widowed and child-headed households have structures that are dilapidated due to wear and tear while men-headed households have fairly good structures due to the manpower in renovation.

3.5.6 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement

The community recommended the government to start a housing program for the poor and elderly people.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS

This chapter presents the findings on some of the pro-poor initiatives such as cash transfers (CT), KaziKwaVijana (KKV) and Roads 2000. It also highlights the findings on some devolved funds.

4.1 PRO-POOR INITIATIVES

4.1.1 Cash Transfers

The community members named OVCs and PWDs as the two cash transfers benefiting some of them, though they pointed out that these funds have been politicized and are used as campaign tools. According to the DGSDO, the groups benefiting from the cash transfer programs in the district are the elderly, PWDs and OVCs, and the program was started in November 2011 in the district. Of the three mentioned above, he emphasized that the elderly and PWDs groups are funded through the DGSDO's office while the OVC group is funded through the AMPATH which is financed by USAID which is a non-state actor.

The beneficiaries

There are few beneficiaries. The members of the community said that village elders are used to identify them but only those who are allied to the current political leaders are the ones selected. It was noted that PWDs and the elderly people who benefit through the DGSDO's office are well spread within the district. There were 23 elderly beneficiaries and 70 PWDs who benefit through DGSDO's office. In addition, each beneficiary receives Kshs 4,000 after two months in cash through the Post Office where the beneficiary goes to collect the money by himself or herself. There is a vetting committee in every sub-location that helps identify the beneficiaries. Through the DGSDO's office the filled forms of the beneficiaries are forwarded to the ministry headquarter for funding.

Opinion on cash transfers

The community members and the DGSDO reported that the funds have enabled the beneficiaries meet their basic needs though still not adequate. On the challenges facing these programs, the DGSDO mentioned that the beneficiaries are fewer than the number they had forwarded to the ministry headquarters. The community complained that 115 elderly people had forwarded their forms to the government but only 23 people were considered.

Recommendations for improvement of cash transfers

The community and the DGSDO requested the head office to include all beneficiaries and to upscale the fund to match the current inflation rate. Furthermore, they recommended that there is need to revise the standardized requirements for the beneficiaries as they lock out many eligible people for the funds.

4.1.2 KaziKwaVijana

The community members said that this program started in 2009 within their community but they are not included in the program. They named tree planting, road maintenance and dyke repair as some of the programs run by KKV funds.

The District Youth Officer (DYO) informed the study team that this program was initiated in 2008 and since then it has gained popularity among the people. In the district, he noted that they are most concerned with the environmental conservation through a program called tree for jobs and another initiatives being implemented by the Ministry of Roads on maintenance and repairing of roads.

The beneficiaries

The community said that both men and women are included in the program but there is no exact age limit for this program since even the old people are included but PWDs are not considered in the program. Youths requested the DYO office to educate them on ways of winning tenders within the KKV programs. They emphasized that the few that are considered within the program are paid Kshs 200 per day.

The DYO noted that 35 years and below is the age of the beneficiaries for both men and women. In this program, he emphasized that women and PWDs are given a special attention. In the second quarter of the financial year 2010/2011, of the 40 beneficiaries, 19 were men while 21 were women. He reported that they are paid Kshs 250 per day in cash which is done within a fortnight. With the current trends of inflation, he stressed that such amount is not adequate to meet their basic needs. On the mode of selection, he informed the study team that they use the ballot criteria and each location is given its quota and each gender allocated a specific number with a special consideration of PWDs.

Opinion on KKV

The members of the community feel that this program should be scrapped because it is used as a channel through which the politicians use to sell their policies.

The DYO noted that the program has improved the living standards of the beneficiaries and as such some have been able to build permanent houses and initiated income generating projects for themselves. In addition, he noted that the program has helped improve the environment through trees that have been planted in public areas. Some of the challenges he noted were that this program has had political interference, inadequate funding, high population of unemployed youths, and environmental and climatic conditions.

Recommendations for improvement of KKV

The community recommended the following:

- Stop politicizing this program;
- Cover all areas within the district rather than for few selected individuals;
- Revise guidelines of this program to be to include all active groups;

- The DYO pointed out that this program should be consolidated under one department with a single management. He also stressed on the need to upscale the beneficiaries' payment considering the rate of inflation.

4.2 DEVOLVED FUNDS

The community was aware of the following devolved funds: CDF, LATIF, Road Levy, WEF and YEDF. The residents reported that they did not know any benefits whatsoever of the LATIF and it had not had any impact in the area. On the other hand they said that CDF has had a great impact on improving the state of the roads and education in the area.

4.2.1 Youth Enterprise Development Fund and Women Enterprise Fund

According to the DYO, the YEF was introduced in the district during the fiscal year 2007/2008 and WEF in 2010. The district had received about Kshs 900,000 during financial year 2011/2012. Part of this amount was not disbursed because there was misconception that their property was to be auctioned if they borrowed the money.

The DGSDO reported that they had received Kshs 1000,000 for fiscal year 2011/2012 which funded 20 women groups. The requirements for application of the loans include a registered group with a certificate, list of members who should be active, and with an active bank account.

Members of Nalera community reported that they are not involved in decisionmaking on the management of these funds. They alleged that this was being handled by the political leaders. In addition, they felt that these funds have not been of help to the community since they have not realized any impact.

According to the DGSDO, the women groups are doing well and able to sustain their programs after payment of the loans. In contrast, the DYO informed that the YEDF has not had any positive impact to the beneficiaries.

Some of the challenges experienced include political interference, minimal funds, delays in sending the funds, and no clear plan of the individual funding program. It was noted that the WEF has had adequate money but applicants are few as few people are willing to apply for the loans.

The members urged the government to involve the local people on decisions concerning the distribution of these funds within their community. In addition, the members proposed that there should be a management committee at the community level to facilitate allocation of these funds and that such committee should be nonpartisan and should not be politicized.

The DYO recommended that the government initiate clear individual funding programs. He further said that the government should involve the community before initiating the programs. The DGSDO added that the government should train people to create awareness of these programs at the community level and that such a person

should be salaried to assist him or her carry out her duties rather than doing them on voluntary basis.

4.3 OTHER PRO-POOR INTERVENTIONS

The community reported other pro-poor programmes in the district not funded by Government to include AMPATH which is funded by the USAID, APHIA PLUS, Baba Foundation, PSI and Lifestraw and that the programs were implemented in 2001, 2002, 2005, 2004 and 2011, respectively. In addition, they pointed out that these organizations are very fair as compared to the government ones and they cover all areas within the community.

The community members appreciated that these organizations have taken an initiative of involving them in management and decision-making concerning their projects. They also employ local people to run their programs.

Members of the community indicated that projects driven by NGOs have had more impact than government programs. Through their sponsorship, they have been able to educate students up to tertiary level, created more awareness on health issues, and funded income generating projects for individuals hence elevating their living standards.

It was recommended that the government consider funding the community through these NGOs since they can reach them well up to the grassroots level.

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING AREAS AND OTHER EMERGING ISSUES

This chapter covers the crosscutting areas and any emerging issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender and disability among others. These issues came out throughout the discussion with the community and the key informants.

5.1 HIV and AIDS

HIV and AIDS awareness in the community stands very high. High prevalence rates have been attributed to outdated social-cultural practices such as polygamy, wife inheritance and night time discos at funerals. The community reported that HIV and AIDS had affected them as it had left many homes without breadwinners leaving them in poverty. Due to the fishing business taking place in the nearby lake, most women are willing to sleep with the fishermen in exchange for fish.

5.2 Disability

It was reported that PWD were more vulnerable to poverty. People living with disabilities for a long time have remained poor and disadvantaged because they did not have access to education and skills trainings

5.3 Gender

The major causes of gender disparities include ignorance, illiteracy and cultural practices. The consequences of this are under-development and high rates of poverty. Men dominate most development committees from the Community. Women also rarely attend public barazas convened to make resolutions on local development concerns. Very few women take part in political activities hence leadership is dominated by men.

In terms of contributions of economic activities, there is a general disempowerment of women in the Community. In most cases, active involvement of women is confined to women group activities at the village level. Gender inequality is therefore observed in property ownership.

5.4 Poverty

In the community, large population is poor resulting to food insecurity, unemployment, low literacy levels and poor health. There is low utilization of agricultural land due to low levels of farm wages, poor health and gender disparity.

CHAPTER SIX:

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Kenya Wildlife Service should address the issue of the wild pigs and monkeys which destroy crops;
2. There is need for a permanent solution to the flooding;
3. The community recommended the need to increase subsidies for health services and bring the health facilities closer to the people;
4. The residents requested for educational facilities to be constructed within the area so as to reduce walking distances;
5. The government should recruit more teachers to relieve parents from paying for PTA teachers;
6. The government to give out incentives to boost farming;
7. Involve the community in flood control initiatives;
8. Research and improve on the current crop varieties;
9. All stakeholders to carry out community awareness on sanitation;
10. Protection of water catchments so as to control flooding;
11. The government should start a housing program for the poor and elderly people;
12. There is need of up scaling pro-poor funds and have clear and transparent allocation criteria;
13. There is need for sensitization on all devolved funds to the community.
14. Measures to promote gender equality at the Community level should target improved access to education among the women and girl child by all the stakeholders.
15. Increased access to credit by women, provision of legal awareness services to women and capacity building to reduce this disparity.

6.2 CONCLUSION

The main conclusions that can be drawn on Busia County are:

1. The level of poverty has continued to rise despite various interventions put in place by the government over the years;
2. The definition of poverty can be summarised as inability to meet one's basic needs;
3. There several coping mechanisms including merry-go-rounds, leasing land, sand harvesting, fishing and boda-boda business;
4. There has been a lot of development in terms of physical facilities for schools, hospitals and roads. This has not been matched with personnel to manage the facilities;
5. The community is aware of various developed funds and pro poor initiatives in the county. The uptake has however been low due to information gaps on how to access these funds;
6. There is a lot of gender inequality manifested in ownership of property and decision-making at household level;
7. Management and disbursement of devolved funds and pro poor initiatives were reported to be shrouded with corruption.

