

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



THE PRESIDENCY

MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING

PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT V

KERICHO COUNTY SITE REPORT

SINGIRA CLUSTER

OCTOBER 2014

KENYA

VISION 2030

Towards a Globally Competitive and Prosperous Kenya

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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 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 Kericho 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 Mr. Stephen Wainaina, the Economic Planning Secretary (EPS) and Mr. Moses Ogolla, the Director Social & Governance Department (SGD). The Social & Governance Department (SGD) 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,

The following team of officers without whose dedication and enthusiasm, the production of this Report would have been much more challenging deserve mention; Samuel Kiptorus (Chief Economist), James M. Kirigwi (Chief Economist), Leonard Obidha (Secretary, Poverty Eradication Commission), Cosmus Muia (Senior economist), Joseph K. Njagi (Senior Economist), Michael Mwangi (Senior Economist), Kimote (Senior Economist), Eric Kiilu (Senior Economist), Chrisantos Okioma (Economist I) and Geoffrey Manyara (Economist I).

The Ministry also recognizes varied support provided from time to time by the following officers; Mr. Zachary Mwangi (Ag. Director, KNBS) for cluster sampling and identification, Florence Juma (Secretary), Matilda Anyango (Secretary), Florence Natse (Secretary), Evelyn Tallam (driver), Dequize Omg'wen (Driver) and Aphlin Odira (Office Assistant).

The ministry is also indebted to the team of dedicated consultants comprising Mr. Munguti K. Katua, Mr. John T. Mukui and Mr. George Mbate. Their experience and policy guidance was instrumental in the production of key documents and tools that were utilized during the field exercise as well as in the finalization of both the National Report and individual 47 County Reports.

Finally, the Ministry is grateful to the respective County Governments and their staff, National Government staff in the Counties, communities and their leaders as well as key informants especially in their role in community mobilization and laying of logistics for a successful poverty assessment exercise within their areas of operation. Specifically, we thank targeted communities for turning up in large numbers and participating with enthusiasm during Focused Group Discussions (FGD) sometimes often late into the evenings thus making the work of our facilitators a success.

Engineer Peter O. Mangiti
Principal Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The total county population was projected at 817,402 (411,730 males and 405,671 females) in 2012, 881,064 in 2015 and 926,237 in 2017. Of the total population, 41.3 percent are living in absolute poverty and contribute 1.07 of the total poverty incidence in the country. Further, it is worth noting that 38.7 percent of the total population are food poor.

In 2012, the Ministry of Devolution and Planning conducted the fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V). The study aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves. This was meant to broaden the process through which policies are developed by engaging ordinary citizens in real debates to come up with the best ways of reducing poverty. It also aimed at identifying and prioritizing policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.

The findings indicate that poverty has been a major challenge in the county. However, attempts have been made by the government and other development partners to address this problem through the introduction of various interventions in the various sub-sectors. Programmes/projects which are pro-poor have had a great impact on poverty levels. It is worth noting that poverty affects the living standards of the locals.

The findings further indicated that the bulk of the poor is found in rural areas. The most affected categories of persons are mainly the PWDs, women-headed households, slum dwellers, the landless, the aged, the OVCs and unemployed youth. It has also been observed that prevalence of poverty is closely linked to access to health services, water and sanitation, education and agricultural inputs.

To mitigate this situation, there is need to construct/rehabilitate infrastructure facilities in the county, mainly upgrading roads to all weather status. There is also need to sensitize community members on the availability of devolved funds and other services. This further calls for the need to build capacity of youths on entrepreneurial skills, coordination, and participatory monitoring and evaluation of government programmes/ projects. Together with this, efforts should be made to construct/rehabilitate and equip health centres, provide insecticide treated nets/ or and water treatment tabs to communities.

On education, there is need to employ more qualified teachers to mitigate on shortage, introduce school feeding programmes to increase retention rates and rein on unscrupulous teachers who impose illegal levies thus hindering access to education. Under agriculture, there is need to provide extension services to the community, in addition to provision of adequate and subsidized farm inputs to spur agricultural growth. The government should further create awareness on water harvesting and conservation. Due to the ever increasing cost of living, there is need to increase the amount and coverage given under the cash transfers programmes to meet basic needs. To enhance public participation as enshrined in the Constitution,

there is need to involve the community in making decisions affecting them when it comes to selection of beneficiaries of government programmes/projects.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AMREF	Africa Medical Research Foundation
CBO	Community Based organization
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHW	Community Health Worker
CT	Cash Transfers
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
ESP	Economic Stimulus Programme
FBO	Faith Based organization
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FPE	Free Primary Education
KCPE	Kenya Certificate of Primary Education
KCSE	Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
KESP	Kenya Education Support Programme
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
LATF	Local Authority Transfer Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NACC	National AIDS Control Council
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NCPB	National Cereals and Produce Board
NGO	Nongovernmental Organizations
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEC	Poverty Eradication Commission
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
RA	Research Assistant
STI	Sexually Committed Infections
TOWA	Total War against AIDS
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

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 disparity 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 equality, 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.

The first Participatory Poverty Assessment was carried out in 1994 and covered 8 districts (seven of the poorest districts and two low income areas in Nairobi). Its objectives were to understand poverty from the perspective of the poor and those providing service to the poor and start a process of dialogue between policy makers, district level service providers and the poor.

The second PPA was carried out in 1996 and covered 7 districts with the purpose of providing a deeper understanding of poverty from the perspective of the poor and to fill gaps that quantitative studies could not readily explain.

The third PPA carried out in 2001 covered 10 districts with the objective of enriching the quantitative information collected countrywide for the preparation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The fourth PPA was conducted in 2005/06 alongside the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS). The two were meant to complement each other. PPA-IV focused on three main policy areas: poverty diagnosis and dynamics; pro-poor policies regarding service delivery and wellbeing; and voices of the poor among the communities which included analysis of the impact of the various policies on the poor.

Since the fourth PPA, the government has initiated a number of programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, inequality and ameliorating the suffering of the vulnerable sections of the Kenyan citizens. The fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment mainly focused on the impact of the various pro-poor policies, strategies, programs and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare.

1.2 PPA-V OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the study was to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy by providing a richer and more informative database 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:

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities to improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.
- iv. Integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the M&E strategy for Kenya.

- v. 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.
- vi. 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.
- vii. Respond to the Bill of Rights and other articles enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010 e.g. public participation.

1.3 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the total county population was 758,339. The population is projected at 817,402 in 2012 (411,730 males and 405,671 females), 881,064 in 2015 and 926,237 in 2017. Of the total population, 41.3 percent are living in absolute poverty and contribute 1.07 percent of the total poverty incidence in the country. Further, it is worth noting that 38.7 percent of the total population are food poor.

The county covers a total of 2,479 km². The major part of Kericho County is characterized by undulating topography. The overall slopes of the land is towards the west, consequently drainage is in that direction. The county forms a hilly shelf between the Mau Escarpment and the lowlands of Kisumu County. The county is well drained with a good number of rivers that include Chemosit, Kiptaret, Kipsonoi Timbilil, Maramara, Itare, Nyando, Kipchorian and Malaget. Some of these rivers are characterized by rapids and falls which could be harnessed for hydroelectric power generation. Some of the rivers with waterfalls include Maramara, Itare and Kiptaret.

The main economic activities in the county are agriculture-related. The county is endowed with fertile soils and receives reliable rainfall throughout the year hence making it conducive for agricultural activities. The county produces both cash and food crops. The main crops grown include tea, coffee, sugarcane, potatoes, maize, beans, pineapples and horticultural crops such as tomatoes, vegetables among others.

The county has moderate temperatures of 17⁰C and low evaporation rates. The rainfall pattern is such that the central part of the county where tea is grown receives the highest rainfall of about 2,125mm while the lower parts of Soim and parts of Kipkelion receive the least amount of rainfall of 1400 mm. The county experiences two rainy seasons: the long rains occur between April and June while the short rains occur between October and December. The driest season is mostly from January to February.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 Selection of the Cluster

For the purpose of collecting information, Singira cluster was selected to represent the county. This 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 the County. The fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP-V) maps maintained by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics were used to demarcate the boundaries of each of the selected clusters.

1.4.2 Process, Study Instruments, Fieldwork

This study used PPA tools and instruments including semi-structured oral interview questionnaires, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), 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. Attempt was made to identify households 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 and vital 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.

1.4.3 Field Logistics

The PPA-V was conducted in two phases. Phase one was conducted between November and December 2012 while phase two was conducted between November and December 2013. Information from the clusters 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 Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV).

In preparation for the Survey, the supervisors were introduced to the use of survey tools by the consultant. Advertisement for Research Assistants (RAs) was done one week prior to recruitment through the former 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. RAs were deliberately recruited from the local community to ensure that they clearly understood the local languages, culture, traditions and the lifestyle and patterns of the people.

The training for researchers ran for four days and data collection and report writing was done in four 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. This report, therefore, presents the PPA V survey findings. It uses poverty perceptions as recorded from Singira to draw inferences about the county.

1.5 REPORT ORGANIZATION/OUTLINE

The report is divided into six chapters including chapter 1 which covers introduction. Chapter 2 highlights the survey findings on poverty diagnostics while 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 (policies and programmes) such as Cash Transfers (CT), Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV), Roads 2000, devolved funds such as CDF, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) etc and any other pro-poor interventions. Chapter 5 covers crosscutting and emerging issues while chapter 6 outlines the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Kenya recorded an impressive economic growth rates in the past ten years. However this growth was adversely affected by the postelection violence of 2007/08, high commodity prices and increased oil prices globally. Despite the impressive growth rate, poverty still remains a challenge, inequality has continued to increase and there have been insufficient job opportunities for the youth. To make development more inclusive and equitable, the government has rolled out interventions and programmes to improve service delivery to the poor and vulnerable groups and eradicate poverty. Some of these interventions include setting up of poverty eradication fund, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) fund, Cash Transfer (CT) for the elderly and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) among others. The main objective of the survey was to assess the impact of various government pro-poor initiatives and getting the voices of the people themselves, get their understanding of programs and for them to suggest ways of improvement.

2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

According to the Singira community, poverty is defined as lack of basic needs for survival. According to them, the basic needs include money, water, shelter, food, sanitation services and information. They also defined poverty as lack of land, livestock, education and employment as a source of income.

2.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POOR

According to the community, poor persons can be characterized by lack of basic needs such as shelter, food and water, have no voice in the community, and those that cannot access opportunities and information.

2.4 CLASSIFICATION OF POVERTY

Poverty can be classified into three categories, namely, the rich, the poor and the very poor.

The Rich

The rich are those that access quality education, healthcare, shelter, clean water, reliable and adequate information, adequate security, opportunities, those that possess big chunks of land, have livestock, and those that are able to cater for their basic needs and education. According to them, there were few rich people in their area.

The poor

The poor and the very poor formed the majority of the people. The poor are characterized by having small piece of land where they do small-scale farming for subsistence, have few livestock, and work for wages in people's farms. A few are also employed by the government. They are about 50% of the total population.

The very poor

The very poor who form about 40% of the population are those people characterized by lack of basic needs such as food, shelter, clean water, education and even sanitation.

2.5 CAUSES OF POVERTY

Generally, the major causes of poverty are illiteracy, poor health, lack of access to factors of production, lack of access to farm inputs and poor infrastructure. Various categories of people have different causes of poverty.

Men

According to the community, the major cause of poverty among men is excessive consumption of alcohol.

Women

Some of the causes of poverty among women are gender inequality, retrogressive cultural practices, lack of education of the girl-child, lack of reliable and affordable credit to do business, and lack of ownership of assets and thus collateral as security.

Youth

Youth are poor as they lack adequate entrepreneurial skills, drug abuse and lack of property ownership.

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

The cause of poverty among PWDs is discrimination and lack of disability mainstreaming during implementation of programmes/projects.

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs)

The cause of poverty among orphans and vulnerable children is lack of support mechanisms and care.

2.6 IMPACT OF POVERTY

The high poverty rates in the community have led to loss of livelihoods and the ability to seek services. It has made some community members unable to take their children to good schools, to seek health services and access other basic amenities.

2.7 COPING MECHANISMS

Some of the coping mechanisms include starting small businesses, small scale farming, and casual works which pay low wages. PWDs and OVCs rely on cash transfers, but they noted that it is not adequate. Others sell bricks, groceries and other farm products, illicit brew and firewood, while women initiate merry-go-rounds. Those who have donkeys and carts hire them out to transport water, tomatoes, onions and vegetables to the market for a small fee. Some engage in hawking of wares.

2.8 ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP

The community identified the following assets in their households.

Asset	Ownership	Decision Making
Utensils	Woman	Woman
Bicycle	Man	Man
Radio	Man	Man
House	Man	Man
Furniture	Woman	Woman
Land	Man	Man
Clothing	Man and woman	Woman
Poultry	Woman	Woman

2.9 POVERTY AND GENDER

Women are the most affected by poverty in the community because men make decisions concerning property in the household. Women only make decisions concerning poultry, clothing and utensils.

2.10 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME

Over the last ten years, there has been a significant decline in poverty because of devolved funds programmes. However, the community still faces the challenges of poor infrastructures, lack of access to farm inputs, lack of adequate information to do and manage businesses, lack of affordable credit, lack of transparency and

accountability on governance (corruption), diseases, lack of food, lack of education, farm inputs and unemployment.

2.11 INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR

The government and other stakeholders have put in place the following interventions to mitigate poverty in the community:

- The government rolled out the poverty eradication revolving fund which is can be accessed by groups;
- The Women Enterprise Fund is a programme which is rolled out for women access credit for businesses and does not earn interest but an administrative fee; and
- The Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

Other interventions under implementation include:

- Subsidized fertilizers, seeds, spraying of livestock and de-worming by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries;
- Nongovernmental organizations such as Trends of Cordiant, Tenwek Community Initiative, Action Aid, Red Cross and Walter Reed have assisted in training the community and offering support in building houses especially after the postelection violence and provision of clean water. Catholic Church, African Inland Church and AGC have done training/capacity building, construction of education facilities and water projects.

2.12 RECOMMENDATION

The following are some of the recommendations given by the community:

1. The government should improve infrastructural facilities. Roads should be upgraded to all weather status;
2. There is need to sensitize community members on the availability of devolved funds and other services;
3. There is need to build capacity of vulnerable groups on entrepreneurial skills, and on coordination and participatory monitoring and evaluation of government programmes/ projects; and
4. Provision of subsidized fertilizers, seeds and other farm inputs to spur agricultural growth.

CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

3.1 HEALTHCARE

3.1.1 Introduction

The PPA-V aimed at generating information on availability of health facilities and where they are located in the communities, management of the facilities, awareness of the kind of services offered, affordability and other health interventions which have led to improvement in the health standards of the community. It also sought to establish the trend of health services for the past ten years and recommendations for improvement.

As presented in the Kericho County Development Profile 2013-2017, there are 11 hospitals, 12 health centres, 128 dispensaries, 30 private clinics and 2 nursing homes. The nursing homes are located in Ainamoi Constituency. The average distance to the nearest facility is 5 km. The doctor-patient ratio is 1:65,000 and nurse-patient ratio is 1: 2,000.

The HIV&AIDS pandemic still remains a key challenge although efforts have been made to reduce the prevalence. Among the stakeholders playing major role in the fight against the pandemic are Walter Reed project which is mainly in research for AIDS vaccine though they have a component of VCT, and AMREF-Maanisha among others. The National AIDS Control Council supports civil society organizations (CSO) to carry out various HIV&AIDS activities under Total War against AIDS programme (TOWA).

3.1.2 Major Health Concerns

According to the Singira community, some of the major health concerns include malaria, common flu, waterborne diseases and minor injuries. Malaria is caused by mosquito bites because households do not have mosquito nets, making them vulnerable. The common flu is caused by allergies or cold.

3.1.3 Provision of Health Services

The government is the main service provider of health services. Some of the services provided include maternity services, treatment of diseases like malaria and minor injuries. Maternity services are offered in Kericho District Hospital and Londiani and are free. Households have to meet the cost of treating other ailments like malaria.

There are also family planning services provided at the health centres but both men and women decide on seeking family planning.

Most women go to the health centres, but men only go to health centres when they are critically ill. Some even commit suicide.

The most commonly used mode of payment is cash. However, they are aware of other payments like NHIF which is regarded as a service for the rich.

3.1.4 Interventions to Improve Health Standards

The community was of the opinion that there is minimal intervention on the ground to improve the health standards. However, there are Community Health Workers (CHWs) who have encouraged households to seek health services.

3.1.5 Household Involvement in Decision Making Process on Health

In this community, both men and women discuss matters of health affecting their families, though women tend to take the lead more often. Men always have the thought of the costs involved.

3.1.6 Ideal Family Size

The average family size in the community is 4 members. However, some families have more than 8 children and others less than 4.

3.1.7 Relationship between Family Size and Poverty

A large family is associated with high poverty, although it can be relative depending on one's income. The key informant noted that health and poverty are inseparable since poverty is a determinant of health because the larger the family size the harder it becomes to provide for their basic needs. Most people who have large families are usually poor. Disease control cannot be achieved if people are poor. Unhealthy population cannot engage in developing the community. He indicated that when defining poverty, people talk about good meals which are an issue of nutrition.

3.1.8 Access to Family Planning Services

Despite the fact that family planning services are provided in nearly all the health centres, women are the ones who use the facilities. Most men are reluctant to use them saying that children are a blessing. Both pills and injectables are available and are accessed for fee. They pay Kshs. 90 for three-month pills and Kshs 200 for the injectables. At times women decide secretly fearing that if they inform men, they will bar them from using the services.

3.1.9 Status of health in the last ten Years

The community members observed that the status of health services in the area has gone down over the last ten years and is worsening every day particularly after the post-election violence. The community called for government intervention to correct the problem. The challenges that have contributed to this state include inadequate

health centres to serve the community; inadequate medicine in the available health centres; poor road network linking the community to the health centres; expensive healthcare services; few CHWs; and low morale among healthcare staff.

3.1.10 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made:

1. Construct/rehabilitate and equip health centres;
2. There is need to provide insecticide treated nets or treatment tabs to community members;
3. There is need to construct/rehabilitate roads to upgrade them to all weather status; and
4. Consider supporting CHWs to encourage uptake of the services.

3.2 BASIC EDUCATION

3.2.1 Introduction

The PPA-V aimed at generating information on availability of education facilities and where they are located in the communities, management of the facilities, awareness of the education programmes, affordability and other education interventions which have led to improvement in the education standards of the community. It also sought to establish the trend of education services for the past ten years and recommendations for improvement.

According to the Kericho County Development Profile 2013-2017, the county has 737 ECD centres with an enrolment of 36,570 pupils. The population of pre-school children is 72,622 comprising 36,925 boys and 35,697 girls. This means that 50.4 percent of children aged 3-5 years attend school. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:29. In 2012, the numbers of primary schools was 660 with a total enrolment of 191,000 pupils comprising of 93,877 boys and 97,123 girls. The net enrolment rate is 89 percent which is attributed to the introduction of Free Primary Education. Despite the impressive enrolment rate there is a dropout rate of 15 percent while the retention rate is 83 percent. The transition rate from primary to secondary education is 51 percent. There are 4,281 primary school teachers giving a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:43.

3.2.2 State of Educational Facilities

In Singira, most of the educational facilities are public although there are private ones. Most of the structures are in good state with piped water although not in all. Most of them are built using timber for walling and iron sheets for roofing. The

facilities are managed by the community and the Ministry through the district education board. The role of the community is to see that the facility is well maintained and to financially support where the government is in deficit. The community often employs teachers due to shortage. The management is in the hands of both the Ministry and the community.

3.2.3 Provision of Education Services

The government through the Ministry of Education provides educational services alongside other partners in the community. The community is aware of Free Primary Education (FPE), but they complained that the so called FPE does not fully make education free because they are forced to cater for additional fees such as for computer studies i.e. Kshs 150 per child. They also pay an additional Kshs 300 per parent for teachers' tea per term and Kshs 1,300 for tuition and hiring of additional teachers. Such charges are not affordable to all people since it depends on the ability of the household. For the able families, either parent can pay the fee.

3.2.4 Interventions Facilitating Improvement of Education Standards in the County

There are several interventions to improve the standard of education in the area which include:

1. Free Primary Education (FPE);
2. Kenya Education Support Programme (KESP) which supports schools in construction of facilities, though currently it is not operational;
3. ICT programmes where the government provides computers to schools. This programme is funded through the District Education Boards (DEB's) prioritization. The programme usually funds schools on annual basis. It also facilitates training teachers through capacity building on computer information;
4. Laboratory equipments, which was an Economic Stimulus Programme initiative where the District Education Board prioritized the schools to be funded under this programme. It has done the infrastructure (building) for five schools in the district and earmarked Kipkelion Girls as a centres of excellence.
5. Pocket of poverty programme is funded by the government to improve education for poverty prone areas. The DEB prioritizes the schools to be funded by the Government and the African Development Bank. Through this programme, Moran Secondary School was a beneficiary where a laboratory, classrooms and sanitation (latrines) were constructed;
6. A nongovernmental organization programme initiated by the Friends of Londiani. It has provided water tanks to schools and has currently targeted seven schools;

7. The Constituency Development Fund has constructed almost about 60 percent of schools in the constituency. It funds construction of classrooms, offices, tanks and toilets. Apart from construction, it has paid school fees for students through bursaries. The beneficiaries of these bursaries are students who are not able to pay their fees and are from poor families. The students should be in either boarding or day secondary.
8. Canadian Friends programme was rolled out by the Canadian friends to assist students in day schools with bicycles and in construction of buildings at Cheseon Complex Primary School;
9. The tea estates like the James Finlays offer scholarships to pupils/students from poor families who have performed very well after their KCPE/KCSE;
10. Equity Bank funds the best student in KCPE every year. These are children from vulnerable families;
11. The Provincial Administration plays a role of ensuring that parents send their children to school through chiefs and making follow-ups of the school dropouts.

3.2.5 Opinion on the Status of Education Services over the Last ten Years

According to the community, the status of education services has improved. This is evidenced from parents' commitment to pay fees for their children. School enrollment, retention and transition rates have increased as well as reduction in school dropouts. However, several challenges have been faced in the education sector including understaffing in schools, inaccessibility of some facilities as most of the schools are far away from the communities, poor road network, and non-response to complaints by authorities. For example, in case a child gets pregnant or defiled, justice may never be done.

3.2.6 Relationship of Education and Poverty

Education is directly related to poverty in that educated people use the skills acquired to improve their livelihoods and earn income through employment. Educated people act as role models and enlighten the community on good hygiene.

3.2.7 Recommendations

The community recommended that;

1. Road infrastructure leading to education facilities should be improved;
2. There is need to employ more qualified teachers to mitigate on shortage;
3. There is need to introduce school feeding programmes to increase retention rates; and
4. There is need to motivate teachers by recognizing their efforts.

3.3 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS

3.3.1 Introduction

According to the Kericho County Development Profile 2013-2017, crop and livestock production are the major activities in the county. Majority of the people in the county depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Over 70 percent of the labour force is engaged in crop and livestock production. The greater part of county's income comes from this sector, accounting about 70 percent of household incomes. The sub-sectors also provide raw materials such as timber, coffee, milk and meat for industries within and outside the county. The cooperative sub-sector plays a key role in mobilizing resources for small-scale farmers while also availing marketing channels for their produce.

PPA-V sought to gain a deeper understanding of the major agricultural activities in the area, including major crops and livestock breeds kept. It also sought to understand the level of farming; whether done for both commercial and/or subsistence. The study also sought to understand the challenges faced by local farmers. Finally, the study aspired to make recommendations based on the opinions of the community members.

In the county, the average farm size for small scale farmers is 0.9 ha while for large scale farmers is 14 ha. The large scale farms are dwindling due to land fragmentation. The main storage facilities include maize cribs, stores and warehouses. The county has three National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) centres, in Kedowa, Fort Ternan in Kipkelion Constituency and Kericho in Ainamoi Constituency.

3.3.2 Status of Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs

According to the Singira community, there were no agricultural programs from the government and even from nonprofit organizations. Likewise, the community reported no provision of inputs from state or non-state actors.

Most of the roads in the area are poor and impassable. This is because the landscape is hilly. Transportation of agricultural produce is mostly done using donkeys, bicycles and motorbikes. This makes it difficult to access markets making their produce to spoil.

Community members store their produce in individual houses due to fear of being stolen, as there are no government stores in Singira even though there are three National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) centres in the county.

3.3.3 Interventions towards Improvement in Agricultural Productivity

According to the Singira community, there were no agricultural programs from the government and even from nonprofit organizations. Likewise, the community reported no provision of inputs from state or non-state actors.

3.3.4 Relationship between Agriculture and Poverty

Without good agricultural harvests, the livelihood of many households is not assured. With good rainfall coupled with adequate provision of farm inputs, poverty would be a thing of the past. To the community, agriculture serves the majority of households and many of them slip to poverty when production is inadequate.

3.3.5 Status of Agricultural Services over the Last ten Years

According to the community, agricultural services have been declining over the last ten years. This is due to lack of services from the government as well as the impacts of the postelection violence. Poor road network in the area that makes produce to spoil before reaching the market and lack of extension services were cited as some of the reasons for the dwindling performance.

3.3.6 Recommendations

The community made the following recommendations:

- The government should improve the road network in the area;
- The government should provide extension services to the community in addition to provision of adequate and subsidized farm inputs.

3.4 WATER AND SANITATION

3.4.1 Introduction

According to the Kericho County Development Profile 2013-2017, the main water sources in the county are roof catchment (6,493 households), shallow wells (10,721 households) and springs (415 households). Households with piped water are 50,126. Supply of treated and piped water mainly covers the urban centres and multinationals tea estates. The average distance to the nearest water point is 1 km. Water-related issues are under Lake Victoria South Water Service Board as per the Water Act 2000.

The PPA-V aimed at generating information on availability of water facilities and where they are located in the communities, management of the facilities, affordability and other water interventions which have led to improvement in the water standards of the community. It also sought to establish the trend of water services for the past ten years and recommendations for improvement.

3.4.2 Status of Provision of Water and Sanitation Services

In Singira, the main sources of drinking water are streams and trenches, wells and occasionally rainwater. The villagers are aware of the meaning of safe drinking water and most of them defined safe drinking water as water stored in a tank and treated. Reliability of water in the community was uncertain and they are forced to travel long distance to look for water. The community was also aware of the dangers of drinking unsafe water.

3.4.3 Water and Sanitation Programs

The community noted that there were no major water programs in the area and they depended mostly on water from the streams. However, they reported that there was construction of water tank in the nearest village which they hoped will help them also. This project was being funded by the CDF.

3.4.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and water Availability

The community noted that there is a relationship between environmental degradation and water availability. They noted that deforestation has been a major cause of water un-availability in the area. Poor health due to consumption of unclean water leads to low productivity because they spend most of their resources seeking for treatment thus making them poor.

Sanitation facilities available in the community include pit latrines. Most of the households have access to such facilities. They however noted that lack of this facility leads to health related diseases through contamination of drinking water through water runoffs, causing cholera and diarrhea.

3.4.5 Relationship between Water Availability and Poverty

According to the community, water is related to poverty citing poor health and hence low productivity. They were able to define sanitation and hygiene as having pit latrines, utensils racks and rubbish pits. They are also aware of sanitation facilities such as pit latrines and waste disposable. Most households have access to sanitation facilities funded mostly by their local church.

3.4.6 Opinion on the Status of Water Availability of the last Ten Years

The community noted that clean drinking water has been declining over the last ten years. This was due to long drought seasons which forced people to use the same stream with their animals. This has led to rise in waterborne diseases. The community cited expensive construction materials and inadequate safe drinking water as some of the reasons for not having pit latrines.

3.4.7 Recommendations

The community made the following recommendations:

- The government should create awareness on water harvesting and conservation;
- The government should make available water treatment tabs.

3.5 HOUSING

3.5.1 Introduction

According to the Kericho County Development Profile 2013, the distribution of households by main roofing materials were corrugated iron sheets (81.6 percent), grass (14.7 percent), asbestos sheets (1.2 percent), and concrete (1.2 percent) while tiles, tin, grass, makuti and mud/dung constitute less than one percent each. A reported 49 percent of households use mud/wood as the main wall material, 13.4 percent use brick/block, 12.4 percent use wood only, 10.6 percent use stone and 7.7 percent use mud/cement. Others use corrugated iron sheets (6 percent), grass straws (0.1 percent), tin (0.1 percent) and other materials (0.8 percent). A reported 49 percent of households use mud/wood as the main wall material, 13.4 percent use brick/block, 12.4 percent wood only, 10.6 percent use stone while others use corrugated iron sheet (6 percent), mud/cement (7.7 percent), grass straws (0.1 percent), tin (0.1 percent) and other materials (0.8 percent).

3.5.2 Building Materials

The community access building materials within the community. Such materials include grass, timber and iron sheets which they get from the nearby shopping center which is about 30 km away. Construction is normally done using loam soil mixed with cement which is also found within the area. In most of the households, men are the heads except single family households. Others households are headed by PWDs, the elderly and OVCs.

3.5.3 Types of Housing and Household

People Living With Disabilities

In the community, people living with disabilities are normally helped by members of the community to build their houses. However, some get assistance from the government. They receive allowances which help them meet their basic needs.

Elderly

Some elderly people benefit from cash transfers for the elderly. The elderly participate in decision making on how and where to construct houses. They use the money to meet their basic needs.

Orphans

The orphans live in houses built by members of the family. Their heads are their caregivers who get the money on their behalf and provide the basic needs though some have other sources of money like farming.

3.5.4 Opinion and Trend on Housing

The community noted that housing in the area has greatly improved over the last ten years. Before, majority of houses were grass-thatched which have greatly reduced significantly. Most of the community members currently use iron sheets as roofing materials. However, there are slums within the community. Over the last 10 years, there has been a government programme on slum upgrading and renovation and building of new government houses. The locals have been embracing the slum upgrading programme and committees had been formed to identify the beneficiaries of funding from partners, namely, World Bank, CIDA and ADE. The government has also established Appropriate Building Technology (ABT) centers across the county to help the community to have access to cheaper building materials produced locally. Their major problem is poor road network which makes transportation of building materials difficult.

3.5.6 Recommendations

The community recommended that the government should improve on the road network so that they can transport their materials easily. The government should also reduce the cost of building material so as to make them affordable;

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS ON PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS

PPA-V sought to establish the availability and accessibility of pro-poor initiatives in the county and in particular, Singira cluster. It also sought to determine the level of awareness of these services and the impact they have had in the community.

4.1 CASH TRANSFERS

Cash transfers were introduced as a welfare program aimed at assisting the poor or those at the risk of falling into poverty. There are several programmes under the social protection initiatives and include cash transfers for the elderly, for the vulnerable and orphaned children and for those with severe disabilities.

The Singira community noted that a few members of the community benefit from the cash transfer programme. However, they felt that the money was inadequate to meet their basic needs and requested the amount to be increased. The only problem which was noted was the selection criteria as they did not know how the beneficiaries were selected since they had never been involved in identifying the beneficiaries. They noted that there was a lot of favoritism.

The community was of the opinion that it has had no impact on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and community as a whole. They also cited various flaws in the selection criteria of the beneficiaries. The criteria are not clear and there are skewed allotments and favoritism for orphans. An example was given of an orphan who had been neglected despite calls by the villagers to have the child supported yet some orphans from a neighbouring village are getting full support from the orphan's kitty.

The community recommended that the following:

1. Due to the ever increasing cost of living, there is need to increase the amount of the cash transfer to meet basic needs;
2. The government should increase the coverage as they noted that there were many elderly people, OVS and PWSDs who qualified to benefit from the programme but were not considered; and
3. The selection criteria for the beneficiaries should be made open and transparent and the local leaders be made accountable.

4.2 KAZI KWA VIJANA

Kazi Kwa Vijana initiative started in 2010 with the aim of empowering the youth. However, the community noted that the programme only benefited a few youth before it came to an end. Most of the activities involved planting of trees which had been distributed to schools for afforestation. They were paid Kshs 250 per day. The payments were timely and were paid in cash.

The community noted that the program was highly politicized by the local leaders and this ended up terminating the programme. Some local leaders were against the programme and more older men turned up for the jobs forcing out the youths. The majority of the youth lacked the necessary tools and this made them lose their opportunity. However, the major problem was misuse of the money particularly for drinking. The youth did not put the money into good use.

The following were the recommendations:

- There is need for continuity of the programme and to raise the wage; and
- There is need to involve the community in making decisions affecting them when it comes to selection of the beneficiaries.

4.3 ROADS 2000

The Roads 2000 programme is a labour intensive program that started in year 2000 with the objective of community participation in ensuring that the road networks in the rural areas were done. It involved clearing of bushes along the roads. It employed both skilled and unskilled people. They were required to have tools of work and were paid Kshs 150 per day after every two weeks. They were paid cash after signing against their names. They felt that the money was not enough compared with work they were doing.

The major challenge with the programme was political influence on its administration. This led to supervision being a problem. Again, funds allocated to the contractor of the roads did not reach the community at times.

According to the community, over the last ten years the government has tried to improve on the road network connecting farms and the market. However, due to the nature of the landscape, the roads are often washed by rains during the rainy season.

The following recommendations were made:

- There is need to engage the community before commencing any project so as to give their priorities ;
- The community felt the need to reintroduce the Roads 2000 since it benefited the youth greatly.

4.4 DEVOLVED FUNDS

There are a number of devolved funds available in the community. Notable funds available include community grants, national funds for PWD, Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), CDF bursaries, LATF bursaries, HIV & AIDS fund, PEC revolving fund and MDGs. The community has not been benefiting fully from these funds due to lack of information on how to access them.

The community has not been benefiting from the National Fund for Persons with Disabilities due to lack of information despite having people with disabilities.

The community was aware of the Women Enterprise Fund and some groups had applied for the money.

The youth have not benefited from the Youth Enterprise Development Fund because they lacked the willingness and motivation to apply for funding citing lack of information and collateral.

The Economic Stimulus Programme was initiated by the government to boost economic growth and creation of employment, improving infrastructure, quality education and healthcare, conservation of the environment, and capacity building. The community noted that their leaders were reluctant to implement some of the programmes.

CDF was one of interventions known to almost everyone in the community. It had supported programmes under roads, water, education, health, markets and electricity. Decisions on what projects to be implemented come from the community. Awareness creation is normally done through radios, phones, SMS and notice boards. So far, CDF has benefited over 500 projects in the community.

The community said that they are not aware of funding for HIV&AIDS and have not heard anybody who has received the fund. The fund seems not to have benefited the community.

The majority of the community members were aware of the Uwezo fund and had formed groups, although the disbursement of the funds had not commenced. They have been sensitized and encouraged to form groups through various public forums.

The government has rolled out a project where 30 percent of government contracts are given to the youth, women and PWDs, though a great number of the youth are not aware of this programme.

The challenges noted included lack of awareness on the available funding programmes, unequal distribution of the programmes in the community, lack of knowhow on how to access the funds, and most community members do not know where the respective offices to find help are situated.

Recommendations:

- Sensitization of the community on various devolved funds and how to access them;
- Increase the funds so as to increase coverage.

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING AREAS AND EMERGING ISSUES

The following crosscutting and emerging issues were raised.

5.1 HIV&AIDS

HIV&AIDS and poverty are intertwined and one impacts negatively on the other. The impact of HIV&AIDS include increased number of orphans, increased child-headed household, loss of active labour-force, increased dependency, and strain on the government budget on healthcare provision among others. The major causes of HIV&Aids are behavioral change, poverty, and conservative society among others. Despite all these, according to the SAPR held in 2007, the government, through the National AIDS Control Council, initiated activities to address the problem with an objective of reducing the scourge. The activities/interventions undertaken have led to HIV&AIDS prevalence being reduced in the county.

These interventions include Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT), STI Management and post-exposure prophylaxis which was incorporated in the activities carried out by Ministry of Health. A good number of CBOs and NGOs were funded by NACC to undertake HIV&AIDS related activities as per priority areas in the strategic plan.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The county has several degraded hilltops especially in the lower altitude areas and efforts are being made in afforestation. The wetlands in the county have similar problems of ownership and uncertainty thus causing encroachment and sub-segment destruction. Individual farmers often encroach on riverbanks to the extent of collapsing the banks. Few industries mainly the tea factories have incorporated environmental costs in their management practices especially in the areas of pollution, emission control and waste management. There is need to enlighten other local industries to understand the impacts of their processing activities on the environment and how they can mitigate against them.

Trading activities pose a major challenge to environment. Packaging materials used in industries e.g. polythene bags and plastics are unfriendly to the environment. Most urban centres within the county have been left with a difficult challenge to handle the issue of waste paper which has been used as packaging material. People dispose them in unsafe manner leading to blockage of storm drains and act as breeding places for disease vectors. Another challenges related to environment is

overdependence on wood fuel. This has led to reduced vegetation cover. Emphasis on alternative sources of energy and sustainable forest harvest is necessary.

5.3 CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change have clearly manifested in the county. The main climate change events are associated with rising temperatures and increased precipitation. These have particularly become frequent and more severe in the past two decades presenting huge additional burden towards sustainable development of the county. Rising average temperatures have made the county a favourable habitat for anopheles mosquito. This explains the increasing cases of malaria in areas hitherto unknown for the disease.

Further, climate change is attributed to variations in rainfall patterns and shifting seasons. These are likely to have implications on productivity as the levels of awareness on these changes among communities remain relatively low. Climate change effects are clearly not confined to a single sector. The government has already recognized the risks of climate change and has formulated a climate change response strategy to provide a framework for addressing these risks. Focus will need to be directed towards building community resilience through adaptation measures.

CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the community perceptions, the following are the key recommendations:

1. The government should construct/rehabilitate infrastructure facilities especially roads to all weather status;
2. There is need to sensitize community members on the availability of devolved funds and other services;
3. There is need to build capacity of youths on entrepreneurial skills, coordination, and participatory monitoring and evaluation of government programmes/projects;
4. The government should construct/rehabilitate and equip health facilities;
5. There is need to provide insected treated nets or treatment tabs to community members;
6. There is need to employ more qualified teachers to mitigate on shortage;
7. There is need to introduce school feeding programmes to increase retention rates;
8. The government should provide extension services, in addition to provision of adequate and subsidized farm inputs to spur agricultural growth;
9. The government should create awareness on water harvesting and conservation;
10. Due to the ever increasing cost of living, there is need to increase the amount of cash transfers and the coverage to meet basic needs; and
11. There is need to involve the community in making decisions affecting them when it comes to selection of beneficiaries of government programmes/projects.

From the findings of the survey, the bulk of the poor in the county are found in the rural areas. The most affected categories of persons being the PWDs, women headed households, slum dwellers, the landless, the aged, the OVCs and unemployed youth. The findings also indicate that prevalence of poverty is closely linked to access to provision of services. The study therefore recommends that efforts should be made by both the county and national government to ensure implementation of the community recommendations so as to graduate them from poverty.

6.2 CONCLUSION

Poverty has been a major challenge in the county. Attempts have been made by the government and other development partners to address this problem through introduction of various interventions in the various sub-sectors. Poverty affects the living standards of the locals. Developing projects and programmes which are pro-poor has greatly reduced poverty levels nationally.

The bulk of the poor is found in rural areas. The most affected categories of persons are mainly the PWDs, women-headed households, slum dwellers, the landless, the aged, the OVCs and unemployed youth. It has also been observed that prevalence of poverty is closely linked to access to health services, water and sanitation, education and agricultural inputs.

In Kericho, the poor population are scattered all over the county, with Kipkelion Constituency, urban areas and the lower zones of Ainamoi Constituency being the most affected. It is important that strategies in all the sectors be geared towards poverty eradication. To lower the poverty levels, higher economic growth rate must be achieved and sustained. Entrepreneurial skills should be imparted to unemployed youths while farmers should be encouraged to diversify their agricultural production. At the same time, policies and programmes should be initiated and executed to benefit the majority.

Annex: **Pair-wise Matrix**

	Education	Roads	Housing	Health	Food	Employment	Water	SCORE	Rank
Education		Education	Housing	Health	Food	Education	Water	2	5
Roads			Housing	Health	Food	Road	Water	1	6
Housing				Health	Housing	Housing	Housing	6	1
Health					Food	Health	Health	4	3
Food						Employment	Food	4	2
Employment							Water	1	7
Water								3	4