



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**THE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTRY DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**KIAMBU COUNTY PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD .....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	vi
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ix
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS .....	x
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1    BACKGROUND OF PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENTS .....	1
1.2    COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE.....	1
1.3    PPP-V STUDY OBJECTIVES.....	2
1.4    SELECTION OF THE CLUSTER.....	3
1.5    FIELD LOGISTICS.....	3
1.6    PPA-V METHODOLOGY: PROCESS, STUDY INSTRUMENTS AND FIELDWORK.....	4
1.7    REPORT ORGANIZATION/OUTLINE .....	5
CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS.....	6
2.1    DEFINITION OF POVERTY .....	6
2.2    CLASSIFICATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY.....	6
2.3    CATEGORIZATION OF POVERTY .....	6
2.4    CAUSES OF POVERTY.....	6
2.5    COPING MECHANISMS/STRATEGIES .....	7
2.6    ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING IN THE HOUSEHOLD.....	8
2.7    POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME.....	8
2.8    INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR IN THE COMMUNITY.....	8
2.9    RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT .....	8
CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES .....	9
3.1    HEALTHCARE .....	9
3.1.1    Introduction .....	9
3.1.2    Major Health Concerns in the Community.....	9
3.1.3    Provision of Health Services .....	10
3.1.4    Interventions towards Health Services.....	11
3.1.5    Decision Making on Health Issues.....	11
3.1.6    Ideal Family Size .....	11

3.1.7	Relationship between Household Size and Poverty .....	11
3.1.8	Access and Decision Making on Family Planning Services.....	12
3.1.9	Opinion on Status of Health Services over time .....	12
3.1.10	Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement .....	12
3.2	BASIC EDUCATION .....	12
3.2.1	Introduction .....	12
3.2.2	Status of the Education Facilities .....	13
3.2.3	Provision of Education Services .....	13
3.2.4	Relationship between Education and Poverty .....	14
3.2.5	Interventions towards Improvement of Education Standards in the Community.....	14
3.2.6	Status of Education Services.....	15
3.2.7	Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement .....	15
3.3	AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS.....	16
3.3.1	Introduction .....	16
3.3.2	Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs.....	16
3.3.3	Interventions on Agriculture .....	17
3.3.4	Target Group for Agricultural Services.....	17
3.3.5	Relationship between Agriculture and Poverty.....	18
3.3.6	Opinion on Status of Agriculture over time .....	18
3.3.7	Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement .....	18
3.4	WATER AND SANITATION.....	19
3.4.1	Introduction .....	19
3.4.2	Water and Sanitation Programmes.....	19
3.4.3	Types of Sanitation Facilities in the Community.....	20
3.4.4	Provision of water and Sanitation services.....	20
3.4.5	Relationship between Water and Sanitation and Poverty .....	21
3.4.6	Opinion on Status of Water and Sanitation Over time.....	21
3.4.7	Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement .....	21
3.5	HOUSING.....	21
3.5.1	Introduction .....	21
3.5.2	Types of Building Materials.....	22
3.5.3	Types of Housing and Household Headship.....	22

3.5.4	Opinion on Status of Housing Over time .....	22
3.5.5	Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement .....	22
CHAPTER FOUR: PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS .....		23
4.1	CASH TRANSFERS .....	23
4.2	KAZI KWA VIJANA .....	25
4.3	DEVOLVED FUNDS .....	26
4.3.1	Constituency Development Fund .....	26
4.3.2	Youth Enterprise Development Fund.....	28
4.3.3	Women Enterprise Fund .....	30
CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING AREAS AND OTHER EMERGING ISSUES.....		31
5.1	HIV & AIDS .....	31
5.2	PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY .....	31
CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION .....		32

## **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 one which covered selected sub counties.

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 for capture of voices of the poor in the communities with special focus on 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 study found out 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.

These findings from the study will be used as lessons learnt. 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 Kiambu 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 all the 47 County Reports.

Foremost, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge all individuals and institutions who collectively contributed both 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 Ogolla, the Director, Social & Governance Directorate. The Directorate 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), Muia (Principal economist), Joseph Njagi (Senior Economist), Micheal Mwangi (Senior Economist), Samuel Kimote (Senior Economist), Erick Kiilu (Senior Economist), Christatos Okioma (Economist I) and Geoffrey Manyara (Economist I).

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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 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 Mangiti**  
**Principal Secretary**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified groups of people give their own definition and understanding of poverty based on their own perspectives. The government conducted PPA in 1994, PPA-II in 1996, PPA-III in 2001 and PPA-IV in 2005/06.

Between November 2012 and February 2014, the National Government conducted PPA-V whose overall objective is 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 particular, the survey sought the community perspectives on poverty dynamics and diagnostics, and the provision and impact 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 these services, accessibility and affordability.

This report presents the findings of the PPA-V survey in Gathage cluster of Kiambu County which was conducted in November/December 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 were mainly sub-county technical experts in the subject areas of the survey.

Gathage cluster is a rural community in Thika West sub-county, Gatundu South constituency. Kiambu County lies between latitudes 00 25' and 10 20' south of equator and longitude 36° 31' and 37° 15' East and covers a total area of 2,543.5km<sup>2</sup> with 476.3km<sup>2</sup> under forest cover. The county had a population of 1,623,282 in 2009 (802,609 males and 820,673 females) and was projected at 1,766,058 in 2012. It is predominantly rural, with an increasing urban population partly because of rapid growth of Nairobi. Kikuyu are the dominant tribe in the county.

The poverty levels are estimated at 21.7 percent with urban poor at 45 percent and rural poor at 27.2 percent (??). Although the poverty levels are lower than the national levels the county contributes 0.3 percent to the national poverty level.

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in the county and contributes 17.4 percent of the county's income. The main food crops grown are maize, beans, pineapples and Irish potatoes. In the agriculture sector, the major problem was lack of human and financial capital. The community recommended that the government should sustain the provision of subsidized farm input and even upscale the same to include farm equipment and installation of large scale pumps for effective water provision to the farms. They also wanted the government to improve on agricultural services to farmers.

The main causes of poverty in Gathage community were lack of water for agriculture, insecurity, poor roads, high unemployment, lack of access to devolved funds and lack of good turnover in

businesses. As a coping mechanism, the community engages in manual/casual jobs like working in coffee farms, washing clothes, selling cart pulled water and matatu touting.

The major health concerns in the community are high cases HIV/AIDS infection and jigger menace. To address this problem the community recommended that every village should have a hospital and the government encourage other health actors to complements its efforts through funding for health campaigns and promotion.

The community reported that education was improving over time with enough facilities provided through free primary education and devolved funds. They recommended that free education be enhanced to cater for all expenses.

The devolved funds were found to be helping the community though they recommended that more funds be increased to ensure that more people benefit. More facilitation for the field officers involved in monitoring and evaluation for management of the funds should be put in place.

It was established that water for agriculture was a main problem with the community. There is no main sewerage in the major towns in the county. The residents want the government to introduce programs that will see them tap into rainwater harvesting.

The community felt that poverty, education, agriculture and health were improving with time. However, the status of housing has been declining in the area as families are growing and there is no room for expansion. In some cases more than 6 members of a family occupy a one roomed house.

#### **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AIC	Africa Inland Church
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CT	Cash Transfers
DC	District Commissioner
DDO	District Development Officer
DEO	District Education Officer
DPHO	District Public Health Officer
DSDO	Divisional Gender and Social Development Officer
DSO	District Statistics Officer
DWO	District Water Officer
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FPE	Free Primary Education
GDI	Gross Domestic Income
HDI	Human Development Index

HDR	Human Development Report
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LATIF	Local Authority Transfer Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
PLWD	People Living With Disabilities
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PTA	Parents-Teachers Association
RA	Research assistant
WEF	Women Enterprise Fund
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund



## **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 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE**

Kiambu County covers an area of 2543.5km<sup>2</sup> with 476.3km<sup>2</sup> under forest cover. The county lies between latitudes 00 25' and 10 20' south of equator and longitude 36<sup>o</sup> 31' and 37<sup>o</sup> 15' East. The county had a population of 1,623,282 in 2009 (802,609 males and 820,673 females), and was projected at 1,766,058 in 2012. It is predominantly rural, with an increasing urban population partly because of rapid growth of Nairobi. Kikuyu are the dominant tribe in the county.

The poverty levels are estimated at 21.7 percent with urban poor at 45 percent and rural poor at 27.2 percent. Although the poverty levels are lower than the national level, the county contributes 0.3 percent to the national poverty level.

The county is divided into ten sub-counties, namely, Limuru, Kikuyu, Lari, Gatundu South, Gatundu North, Githunguri, Kiambu, Ruiru, Thika East and Thika West. The size of arable land in the county is 1,878.4 km<sup>2</sup> and the non-arable land is 649.7 km<sup>2</sup> and 15.5 km<sup>2</sup> is under watermass. The average land holding is about 0.36 ha on small scale and 69.5 ha on large scale farming. The county has a good road network. It has a 2,033.8 km of roads under bitumen standards, 1,480.2 km under gravel surface and 430.1 km under earth surface.

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in the county and contributes 17.4 percent of the county's income. It is the leading sub-sector in terms of employment, food security, income earnings and overall contribution to the socioeconomic wellbeing of the people. The cooperative movement is well established with societies covering several sectors and boasts of having one of the biggest numbers of registered community-based organisations (CBO's). The county has 254 active cooperatives societies and 22 dormant ones.

The study was carried out in Gathage cluster of Gatundu South Constituency in Thika sub-county. The settlement is peri-urban mainly composed of squatters. The main economic activity is agriculture, with residents mainly working as casual labourers in the coffee and tea farms. The main food crops grown in the county are maize, beans, pineapples and Irish potatoes. The county has a total arable land of 1878.4km<sup>2</sup> of which 21447 ha is under food crops and 35367.41ha is under cash crop such as coffee and tea.

The county experiences bi-modal type of rainfall. The long rains fall between mid March to May followed by cold season usually with drizzles and the short rains between mid-October to November. The annual rainfall varies with altitude, with higher areas receiving as high as 2000mm and lower areas of Thika town receiving as low as 600mm making the average rainfall in the county 1200mm. The temperature in the county is 26<sup>o</sup>c with temperatures ranging from 7<sup>o</sup>C in the upper highlands to 34<sup>o</sup>C in the lower midland zone.

### **1.3 PPP-V STUDY OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the study is 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.

#### **1.4 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 Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and Kazi Kwa Vijana (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 Research Assistants were selected to assist in data collection in the county.

The training for researchers ran for five days and data collection and report writing was done in four days. During the training, RAs were taken through Participatory Poverty 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: PROCESS, STUDY INSTRUMENTS AND FIELDWORK**

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 presents the PPA-V survey findings in Gathage cluster of Kiambu County. The report is divided into five chapters including chapter 1 which covers introduction. Chapter 2 highlights the survey findings on poverty and inequality in Kiambu County while chapter 3 presents findings on provision of public services in the selected policy areas (healthcare, basic education, agricultural services and inputs, water and sanitation and housing). Chapter 4 covers the findings on selected pro-poor initiatives (policies and programmes) such as Cash Transfers (CT), Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV), Roads 2000, and devolved funds such as CDF, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF) etc and any other pro-poor interventions. Chapter 5 outlines the conclusion and recommendations.

## CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS

### 2.1 DEFINITION OF POVERTY

The community in Gathage cluster complained that they have been languishing in poverty for a very long time. They mentioned several terms that they use to refer to the term poverty, namely, *ukiya, muthini, ukombo*. In their translations it means:

- The unaffordability of basic goods and services;
- A situation where one who is trying hard to work to cater for his needs never achieves that at the end of the day;
- Notable to cater for their needs even after being paid the daily wages; and
- Not eating a balanced diet, and in essence one just eats what is available for the sake of survival.

### 2.2 CLASSIFICATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POVERTY

The residents classified people in the community as being poor, very poor and rich. They gave the characteristics of the rich as someone who owns business, employs people to work for him, owns land, has rental houses and some have dairy cows. They characterized the poor as one who cannot be able to educate children, feed them, clothe them, and meet their medical care costs and lives in rented house/squatter. They said the very poor people in the area are beggars and those infested with jiggers.

### 2.3 CATEGORIZATION OF POVERTY

The community said that majority of the residents are poor, while a significant number were very poor, and the rich form a negligible number of their population. According to the community, only 4 percent can be classified as rich since they can meet their basic needs comfortably, 66 percent can be classified as poor since they can only sustain themselves on daily basis, while the 30 percent are classified as very poor since they cannot meet even basic needs.

### 2.4 CAUSES OF POVERTY

The community listed the causes of poverty as lack of water for agriculture, insecurity which discourages investment, poor roads, high unemployment, lack of access to devolved funds, and poor business turnover which is a sign of low disposable incomes in the community. These often lead to problems like drug abuse, unemployment, health problems and poor education attainment. Asked to rank the problem beginning with the most pressing one, the community indicated the following:

#### **Unemployment**

They have to be content with the few manual jobs in the farms and construction as most of them have basic level education and cannot therefore get white collar jobs.

### **Drug abuse**

Drug and substance abuse has rendered most of the residents helpless and senile. The daily routine for most of the residents is to visit chang'aa dens to drink and smoke bhang as a result of being idle and jobless.

### **Education**

It was established that most of the residents in the area are squatters who were working as casuals on the Thika superhighway and have since rented houses in the areas. Majority of the residents either dropped out of school, never proceeded to secondary, or performed poorly to secure college education. Due to this they have done little to motivate their offspring to study, let alone having good jobs to take their children to good schools.

### **Insecurity**

As a result of the high unemployment rates and drug abuse, the youths in the area are engaging in crime due to the fact that the area is a hub for Mungiki adherents giving rise to insecurity. This is impacting negatively on productivity as people are afraid to invest in the area.

### **Infrastructure**

The roads are completely inaccessible during rainy seasons and dusty during the dry seasons, and thus affecting the movement of the residents, animals and farm produce.

### **Lack of water**

The main source of water is Theta River and Gathembere stream which is seasonal. The community raised concerns over the water since they cannot afford to treat it for drinking and cooking. There are no boreholes or water service providers in the village.

## **2.5 COPING MECHANISMS/STRATEGIES**

In order to minimize the vagaries of poverty, the community was engaged in manual and casual labour mostly working in coffee farms, washing clothes at a fee, selling water using donkey-carts, and touting in matatus. Petty crime like *ngeta* among men and prostitution among women were also considered survival options. For the youth, lack of employment has turned them into drug peddlers and running errands for illegal brewers apart from consuming the same illicit brews themselves.

## 2.6 ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Owing to poverty, the community said that they own very few items at household level. The men own *shambatools* such as jembes, pangas and masonry tools while women own household items like *jiko* and *sufuruia*. The negligible number of the rich population own rental houses, land, coffee farms, livestock, shops, vehicles, and motorcycles (which they lease out to the poor).

## 2.7 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME

The residents felt that poverty levels have increased in the last ten years. This they said is because the development projects and programs by the government are not helping the local people but rather the rich citing two examples:

- The rich take their children to national schools through backdoor and so end up getting good jobs while the poor have no jobs; and
- That much money was used to construct the Thika Super Highway which is being used by the rich to take their children to their rural homes during the weekends, while rural access roads still remain undeveloped.

The community finally captured their poor status in the following words:

Kibaki ateithagia itonga no ti athini. Ona kaba Moi nitwariaga kanyama. Itonga igutura iri itonga nake muthini ature emuthini. (President Kibaki helped the rich but not the poor. It is better the former president Moi because you could at least get a morsel; not anymore! The rich will remain rich and the poor poorer).

## 2.8 INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR IN THE COMMUNITY

The residents informed the study team that the anti-jigger campaign in the area by AHADI Kenya and condom use promotion roadshows are some of the visible interventions that have been implemented in the area.

## 2.9 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

The community recommended that the government should do something urgently to address the high rate of unemployment in the area. They mentioned that the biggest employer in the area is the coffee farms where they are hired as casual workers, but with the recent trends of farm owners opting to uproot the crop and construct rental houses, they will soon be left with no work. They also recommended that conditions for qualification for the Youth Enterprise Development Fund should be simplified so as to provide them with capital to initiate businesses.

## CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### 3.1 HEALTHCARE

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

Kiambu County has 364 health facilities spread across, with public facilities including one Level-5 hospital (Thika sub-county Hospital); three Level-4 in Gatundu South, Kiambaa and Kikuyu constituencies; and four Level-3 in Gatundu North, Juja, Kiambaa and Limuru constituencies. There are 20 Level-2 (health centres) and 54 Level-1 also known as dispensaries which are well distributed within the county. The rest of the facilities are private with 17 mission hospitals, five nursing homes, 36 dispensaries and 169 private clinics. The doctor/population ratio in the county is 1:17,000 and the nurse/population ratio stands at 1:1,300. The average distance to the nearest health facility is 7km and the facilities are well accessed since the road network is good.

The community informed the study team that there is only one small private clinic within the area. The nearest public facility was a health dispensary called Ng'enda dispensary which is a walking distance from Gathage cluster. According to DPHO there are three health facilities that are within reach by Gathage community, namely, Ng'enda Dispensary, PCEA Kimunyu Dispensary and a small private clinic. She noted that Gathage area has relatively adequate health facilities as compared to other communities.

#### 3.1.2 Major Health Concerns in the Community

The health concerns that were discussed by the community are high level of HIV/AIDS infection and the jigger menace. According to the community the rate of HIV/AIDS infection is astonishingly high due to poverty that has led to promiscuity due to idleness and ignorance. The DPHO shared that the most prevalent diseases in the sub-county are diarrhea, intestinal diseases, typhoid, malnutrition, skin infections and traces of malaria. She said that malnutrition is as a result of young girls giving birth and not being able to raise their offspring in healthy conditions due to poverty.

She said the jigger cases were a result of low socioeconomic status of some of the community members who are unable to maintain their hygiene standards. Furthermore, the aged who have been abandoned by relatives are infected by jiggers since they cannot take care of themselves properly.

In contrast to the community stand, the DPHO said the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Gatundu sub-county is generally low apart from Mundoro village where it is slightly higher. She attributed this to availability of ARV services to all those affected at no charge, and the Public Health

Department ensures that people living with HIV/AIDS strictly take their prescriptions, while the same also applies to TB cases.

### **3.1.3 Provision of Health Services**

According to the community and the DPHO, the facilities in Thika sub-county can be categorized into 3: public facilities which are managed by the Government, private facilities which are managed by individuals, and facilities which are managed by FBOs like PCEA Kimunyu dispensary. It was noted that a big percentage of the small health facilities are privately owned and managed.

#### **Access**

The community felt that though there are no public health facilities within Gathage area, the ones around are easily accessible as they are a walking distance away. However, according to DPHO, public health facilities are not adequate to serve the large population in the sub-county since there is 1 sub county hospital, 3 health centers, 3 dispensaries and several small private clinics in the sub county. These health facilities are well equipped with medicine and medical equipment. However, there is only 50 percent usage level as it is only women and children who frequented the facilities. Men were reported to be reluctant in accessing the services. In addition, in some areas people have to travel over 5 km to access health services due to the uneven distribution of these facilities.

#### **Quality**

The residents and the DPHO feel that the quality of health services is good due to the fact that the personnel are qualified and equipment and drugs are adequate. A patient spends a relatively short time in the process of seeking health services. The community also felt that since the Ng'enda dispensary introduced a maternity unit, maternal and neonatal mortality rates have reduced.

#### **Affordability**

It was shared that some of the services are free of charge e.g. TB screening, ARV and food supplements to boost their body immunity. The community felt the dispensary is affordable since the highest amount one can be charged is Kshs 80.

According to the DPHO, the health services are very affordable in the case of public facilities, e.g. in a dispensary a patient spends Kshs 10 for registration and an average of Kshs 20 for buying medicine. The rates in health centers are slightly higher at Kshs 20 for registration and same amount to buy medicine. However, for specialized cases like hypertension and diabetes the charges are higher but also subsidized. It was pointed out that consultation is free of charge. There is also a waiver system for the patients who cannot afford to meet their hospital expenses.

### **3.1.4 Interventions towards Health Services**

The community said that the campaign against jiggers by AHADI Trust has reduced the number of infection cases and so has the condom use campaign in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The DPHO informed that there are various interventions by the government and other actors aimed at improving health. The government has introduced level/tier 1 at the community level whereby community health workers are trained by the government to sensitize the community on health issues such as campaigns on importance of clean water and hygiene.

The government provides professionals at all levels hence improving the quality of health services provided to the community. There are also partners who assist in providing healthcare, for example, Aphia Plus Kamili who train and employ health workers on HIV/AIDS, and Center for Health Solutions (CHS) who train and employ people to manage HIV/AIDS epidemic among others.

The government through CDF has built and improved the structures of existing health facilities such as building pit latrines in various locations, fully constructing the Mutate dispensary and the recently introducing maternity wing in Ng'enda dispensary. PSI also does campaigns in the sub-county especially on malaria and provides mosquito nets especially to parents of children under the age of 5 and expectant mothers. As a result, there is at least one mosquito net in each household though still not adequate.

### **3.1.5 Decision Making on Health Issues**

The residents informed the study team that most of decisions concerning health issues in the household were made by the household head, and in most cases that is the man. This they said was entirely dependent on the availability of money and other resources to underwrite the health issues.

### **3.1.6 Ideal Family Size**

The community gave a figure of 2-3 children as the ideal family size. This they said was convenient since it was easy to cater for less people and owing to the fact that most of them were living in rental houses with no land at their disposal.

### **3.1.7 Relationship between Household Size and Poverty**

The residents of Gathage feel that the more the number of children one has the higher the poverty experienced. To the residents a large family size translates to increased needs and lots of stress for the providers.

*Agithie gwetha mutu, kangi gagoka (when the mother goes hunting for food, another kid is conceived).*

This was mostly in reference to single-mothers and their vulnerability due to poverty.

### **3.1.8 Access and Decision Making on Family Planning Services**

The community said that family planning decisions are mostly made by both the man and the woman and they usually access these services free of charge from the dispensaries. Similarly, according to the DPHO, these services are readily available in all public health facilities free of charge and at a cost that is subsidized in the private clinics. He said that the percentage of the people who seek the services is high at about 85% and mostly composed of women. Men tend to avoid these services due to the negative attitude that the FP methods might affect the sex and reproductive life of both their women and themselves.

### **3.1.9 Opinion on Status of Health Services overtime**

According to the community and the DPHO, the health status in the last 10 years has improved and this is due to people starting to appreciate health services provided by the CHWs on level one program as the services are taken to the communities. The trend of disease infection is reducing and this is due to education on proper hand-washing and use of proper waste disposal among others.

### **3.1.10 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement**

Some of the recommendations given were enhancement of level 1 in every village in the sub county to provide access to healthcare to more people; the government should build more health facilities in different areas to ensure that people access healthcare within a radius of 5km; the government and other actors should provide more funds for health campaigns and promotions such as sensitization on diabetes and hypertension prevention and the importance of treating water among others.

It was recommended that the program for provision of free nets be upgraded so that there is at least one mosquito net for every bed in the household. More staff should be employed and deployed to the sub-counties. More drugs should be provided at subsidized prices while drugs for specialized diseases should be made available at all levels. Finally the DPHO felt that the government should avail health services to reach areas that are not covered.

## **3.2 BASIC EDUCATION**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

There are 1,225 primary schools in Kiambu County out of which 576 are public and 349 are private. The teacher-pupil ratio is 1:38. The total number of ECD teachers is 1,843 and the teacher-pupil ratio is 1:40. The number of secondary schools is 303 consisting of 227 public and 76 private schools and the teacher-pupil ratio at 1:25.

The county has one public university (Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology), University of Nairobi (Kikuyu Campus), and five private universities, namely, St. Paul's University, Mt. Kenya University, Greta University, Kiriri Women's University of Science and Technology and Presbyterian University of East Africa. There are two Teacher Training Colleges, namely, Kilimambogo Teachers and Thogoto Teachers colleges.

The percentage of people within the county who can read and write stands at 95.4 percent meaning only 4.6 percent cannot read and write.

The DEO pointed out that there are 13 private primary schools and 57 public primary schools, of which 2 are relatively new in the sub-county. There are three centers of excellence in Thika sub-county, namely, Muthiga primary School, Mbogoro primary School and Kahugu-ini secondary school. The projects in these centers of excellence were completed in 2010.

According to Gathage community, there are no schools within the area apart from a nursery school. The nearest school is Gathage primary school which is about 2km away. There are also 2 private schools around the area affordable only to a few individuals.

### **3.2.2 Status of the Education Facilities**

The residents feel that the state of school facilities has deteriorated over time due to lack of repair and incomplete structures (not plastered and unpainted walls). They also pointed out that building of classes is mostly a parents' initiative while repair and maintenance cost is met by the government. However, the DEO noted that parents argue that since there is free primary education the government should endeavor to meet all costs. In situations where parents are required to meet part of school fees to cater for what has not been budgeted for, they pay inconsistently forcing the schools' administration to send students home for the arrears.

### **3.2.3 Provision of Education Services**

It was noted that out of 106 schools in Thika sub-county, 91 are public and hence government managed. The remaining 15 schools are private hence owned and managed by individuals. There are no schools owned and/or managed by NGOs and FBOs in the area.

### **Access**

The community in Gatundu South has adequate access to education. The community felt that though there were no schools within the area, the distance from the cluster to the nearest schools was relatively near thus ease of access. It was pointed out by the DEO that for every two primary schools there is one public secondary school. According to him, these schools are well distributed in the entire sub-county, hence students only travel relatively short distances.

### **Quality**

Though the level of literacy is high in the area, the community felt that the quality of education in the area has improved. This is consistent with the DEO's statement that since 2008 when Gatundu became a sub-county the mean score in primary education rose to 232 marks out of the possible 500 marks. The sub-county has set a target of an improvement of 5 marks each year. The current mean score in secondary level has also risen to 4.84 points and consequently the sub-county has set a target of an improvement of 0.5 points each year. The improvement was attributed to the downsizing of the sub-county as management, monitoring and implementation of policies is now easier.

### **Affordability**

The residents said that primary education is now affordable because of the various interventions by the government such as FPE and the school feeding programmes. On the other hand, they felt that secondary school is still expensive despite the SSDE. According to the DEO, education is generally affordable to the Gatundu sub-county community. At the primary level, the government meets school fees through FPE, while parents contribute a small amount for maintenance in the cost sharing arrangement. In the day secondary schools, each student has to pay Kshs 2,000 for PTA levy and Kshs 6,000 for lunch programme annually. The PTA levy is used for projects such as sinking toilets, building classes, etc. The school fees for boarding secondary schools vary depending on the specific school and what they offer.

#### **3.2.4 Relationship between Education and Poverty**

It was noted that there exists a thin line between poverty and education. This is brought about by the bad attitude towards education that the parents have due to languishing in poverty. Most of the parents therefore do not instill the importance of education to their children leading to early marriages, and child labour that provides ready money for the children and hence their families. Consequently the community felt that as a result of not educating their children or themselves they are limited in getting good jobs to uplift their wellbeing.

#### **3.2.5 Interventions towards Improvement of Education Standards in the Community**

The community shared that other than the FPE and school feeding programs, the government through CDF also gives bursaries to needy students. The DEO informed that the Ministry of Education awards bursaries such as the Constituency Bursary Fund for secondary

boarding schools under which the sub-county was given Kshs 2.6 m for CBF in year 2012. The beneficiaries receive a bursary award ranging from Kshs 8,000 to 10,000 per annum.

Other than the latter there is the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) programme by the government which awards Kshs 2,000 per pupil in primary schools annually. Other than the Government, Equity Bank has also assisted the children in Gatundu through the Wings-to-Fly programme where a full scholarship is given to pupils who qualify to go to secondary schools with good grades. In 2012, a total of 12 scholarships were given compared to 10 scholarships in 2011. CDF funding has also improved facilities through renovation and building of new schools.

Through the SMASSE programme the government trains teachers in science and mathematics subjects to enhance their skills with an effort towards improvement of the quality of education in science and mathematics. The government funded 5 schools in 2011 and 1 school in 2012 to buy computers and train 5 teachers in ICT integration under the computer for schools program.

Public baraza organized by the DC or the DO on the importance of education have gone a long way in discouraging parents from forcing their children to work for money.

### **3.2.6 Status of Education Services**

The status of education in Gatundu has improved consistently over the last 10 years. This can be shown by the fact that enrollment has increased over the years and this year it stands at 10,606 boys and 10,317 girls at primary school level and 5,114 boys and 4,663 girls in secondary schools. The fact that the sub-county has enough schools distributed evenly indicates that the children do not waste time trekking to school and hence can receive quality education. The average performance of primary and secondary schools has also been improving though gradually.

### **3.2.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement**

The community and the DEO said that the following factors will contribute positively to the improvement of education in Thika sub-county:

- The government to revise upwards the amount given for free primary education. It was noted that the rates have not changed since 2003 and with increasing inflation the money is not adequate to cater for all the school needs.
- The government to employ more teachers. It was noted that there is a shortfall of 35 teachers in primary school and 111 in secondary school in the entire sub-county.
- More stakeholders should be encouraged to participate in education of the children to support government initiatives such as bursary programs and infrastructure support among other efforts.
- Parents should be encouraged to guide their children against drug abuse and other vices.

- The government should put measures in place to address child labor as some parents encourage their children to work in the tea and coffee plantations instead of going to school so that they can supplement household income.

### **3.3 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS**

#### **3.3.1 Introduction**

Agriculture is the predominant economic activity in the county and contributes 17.4 percent of the county annual income. It is the leading sub-sector in terms of employment, food security, income earnings and overall contribution to the socioeconomic wellbeing of the people. Majority of people in the county depend on the sub-sector for their livelihood, with 304,449 directly or indirectly employed in the sector. Coffee and tea are the main cash crops. The main food crops are maize, beans, pineapples and Irish potatoes. These are mainly grown in small scale in the upper highlands of Limuru, Kikuyu, Gatundu South and Gatundu North constituencies.

Farming in Gathage cluster is mainly for subsistence. Small scale coffee farming is practiced and the coffee is delivered to societies such as Gathage Farmers Cooperative Society. Goats are also reared for household consumption as opposed to commercial purposes. Horticulture farming for tomatoes and vegetables is done along riverbeds while bananas are also grown on a small scale.

Commercial farming is done outside the village especially for coffee. The community provides labour for coffee picking thus earning some income.

#### **3.3.2 Provision of Agricultural Services and Inputs**

The villagers complained that they are rarely provided with subsidized farm inputs such as fertilizers and seeds. This has resulted in poor yields. The community raised concern of not being in a position to practice irrigation since they cannot afford to pump water from Theta River.

But according to the DAO, the government provides agricultural inputs to the community. It initially started with subsidizing fertilizers followed by maize seeds. The government offers fertilizers at a cheaper price compared to agro-vet stores in the area.

#### **Awareness of agricultural services offered**

The residents of the sub-county are fully aware of all the agricultural services offered since they are adequately trained and informed on all upcoming projects. They also have an added advantage because if one has a query especially in capacity building or seeking to improve anything in his/her farm, be it soil, livestock or plantation, they are always encouraged to approach the agricultural officers who personally go to their homes and sort out their queries. This is mainly evident in coffee farming.

### **Access**

The residents of Gatundu have to go through a vetting process to be able to access these products and services. This is done to prevent retailers who may want to create easy money from making business out of the cheaper products that the government offers. Accessibility of these products and services is mainly on an individual basis. For instance, if one needs fertilizers and seeds, proper survey is done by the agricultural officers to find out whether it is true or not that that person owns the land he/she claims to have, evaluate all his/her personal details through filling a form and then if it is approved by the agricultural officers, the forms are then take to the cereals board for release of the products.

### **Affordability**

The agricultural products and services are quite affordable because the government offers them at a relatively cheaper price compared to the other providers. An example is DAP fertilizers which is sold at Kshs 2,300 at the Cereals Board compared to Kshs 4,500 at the agrovet stores.

### **3.3.3 Interventions on Agriculture**

The main extension programme that has addressed agricultural issues within Gatundu is the National Agricultural Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) funded through a GOK/SIDA(Swedish International Development Agency) partnership. The main focus of this programme is food security, creating income, reducing poverty and any other factors that may affect productivity. NALEP is very well represented in terms of manpower. Allocation of products is done within vicinity at a time, for instance, the most recent project engaged about 2,000 families in Gatundu for a period of one year and then NALEP moved on to another area. These extension groups mainly use the Common Interest Group strategy as a way of addressing the issues that the community want addressed.

**Njaa-Marufuku-Kenya** is another programme that supports community driven agricultural initiatives that have a bearing on productivity, nutrition, and conservation, and targets severely poor households. It also focuses on up-scaling already existing groups where proposals are presented to NMK, and if approved the groups qualify for credit that range from Kshs 120,000 to 150,000.

### **3.3.4 Target Group for Agricultural Services**

The DAO said that the ministry does not target anyone in particular but rather the entire community. Everyone interested entirely benefits. However, most men seem to show up and are active in participating in agricultural forums though at the end of the day the full implementation of their farming projects is done by women. Apparently the men lag behind because of alcohol and substance abuse and therefore have no time to implement these policies.

### **3.3.5 Relationship between Agriculture and Poverty**

The residents said that they have to lease land for agriculture, and without this resource they cannot access food and thus remain poor.

Contrary to this observation, the DAO was of the opinion that given the high correlation between agriculture and poverty, the residents needed to amend their laziness, ignorance and being alcohol dependent. Most of their time is taken up by these vices making them unable to engage in meaningful life supporting economic activities including agriculture.

The DAO also mentioned that people in Gatundu have an attitude that “Gatundu is rich” and hang on to the mentality that if the late Jomo Kenyatta-commonly referred to as ‘Mzee’ was still alive, they would still be getting handouts.

### **3.3.6 Opinion on Status of Agriculture overtime**

According to the residents and the DAO, the status of agriculture has greatly improved both in quality and quantity. For instance, coffee production was just about 1 kg per tree selling for about Kshs 20. However, by 2012 the same coffee tree could produce about 10kg with a kilogram fetching about Kshs 103 which is a tremendous improvement. This is due to availability of quality seeds, good soils, plenty of water, favorable climate and the fact that coffee collection points in Gatundu are numerous (19 coffee factories and 9 cooperative societies).

### **3.3.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement**

The community recommended to Government that:

- Government to sustain the subsidized farm input provisions and even upscale the same to include farm equipment;
- Government to install large scale pumps for effective water provision to the farms;
- Government to provide backup services to the office of DAO to expand outreach e.g. there were only three motorbikes and one vehicle in the agricultural department and that makes it difficult to commute and move around the community.

The informant recommended to the community that:

- The community should change their attitude towards farming, as most of them depend on handouts reliving the good old days as they say of the regime of the first Kenyan president Mzee Jomo Kenyatta;

- The community should take advantage of the agricultural bodies that educate and benefit farmers like the Coffee Research Foundation in Ruiru and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute station in Thika;
- The community should take advantage of the readily available natural resources like adequate water supply from permanent rivers that traverse the area;
- Take advantage of subsidized seeds and fertilizers; and
- The community should refrain from substance abuse that was prevalent in the area.

### **3.4 WATER AND SANITATION**

#### **3.4.1 Introduction**

About 90 percent of the county's water comprises surface and ground water sources. Most of the households get their water from protected and unprotected water springs and boreholes. About 33.1 percent of the households have access to piped water. The county has experienced expansion of domestic water supply over the last 5 years with 63 percent of the population having access to potable water.

A reported 88.2 percent of the population has access to latrines with 79.6 percent utilizing pit latrines, 8.6 percent VIP latrines and 10 percent flush toilets. Only 1.7 percent of the county residents do not have toilet facilities. There are no sewerage systems in most of the major towns within the county such as Gatundu South, Gatundu North, Kiambaa, Lari, Githunguri, Ruiru and Juja and depend on septic systems. Garbage disposal cover a small percentage of waste/garbage collection as only 2.6 percent of the total population has facilities for proper waste disposal.

#### **3.4.2 Water and Sanitation Programmes**

According to the DWO there is only one water and sanitation programme in the area, namely, Gatundu Water and Sanitation Company (GAWASCO). It caters for four water schemes, namely, Gatundu, Ndarugu, Rwabura and Thiririka water schemes.

The residents said that they once had a water project by a local self-help group that unfortunately stalled middle way due to lack of funds. The council also built a public pit latrine that has since sunk.

The community has benefited from the Water Service Trust Fund which has constructed dams in the neighboring areas. An example is the Kahui dam which was funded through the Water Service Trust Fund which is operated by the Athi Water Services Board.

However, according to the DWO, farming near the natural water sources spoils the water by making it dirty since the soils are washed away during the rains and drained all the way to the rivers or streams.

### **3.4.3 Types of Sanitation Facilities in the Community**

There are five boreholes three of which are community-based situated in Kimunyu, and Muhoho Secondary School. The other two are at the DDO's compound in Gatundu South sub-County. The community boreholes are maintained and catered for by the members of the community. This is done by selling water to the members and utilizing part of the revenue generated for maintenance of the borehole, repair of leaking pipes and salaries for the borehole-steward. According to the informant, the charges are quite affordable as evidenced by the fact that almost all homesteads have water supply.

There are several dams dotting the area used for fish farming.

### **3.4.4 Provision of water and Sanitation services**

#### **Role of the Community and service providers**

According to the DWO, the community contributes 25 percent the construction of the boreholes in the sub-county. This is mainly on labor inputs; and digging trenches where the water pipes are laid.

Although the management and provision of water services is mainly done by GAWASCO, the Ministry of Water facilitates infrastructure development i.e. putting up the main pipes and tanks for the water projects that are not community based.

The community is equally and actively involved in implementation of water and sanitation projects jointly done by the government and GAWASCO. The main role of the community is to maintain the facilities offered to provide water.

#### **Affordability and access**

The residents felt that water is accessible through the donkey-cart provider but at a cost mostly affordable to a few. Those who cannot afford to buy the commodity are forced to fetch it themselves from the nearby river or stream and neighbouring boreholes. They said that water provided by GAWASCO is not reliable as it goes missing for days on end.

The residents said that there was a council latrine which has since sunk and no more public toilets are available. Most of the residents access these toilet services where they have rented houses. Those who do not have these facilities are reported to be using bushes around the area.

The DWO pointed out that for the rest of the sub-county, there is sufficient tapped water and added that the 'very poor' families are not charged for these services and that they are given water free of charge by the water and sanitation programmes. A larger section of the sub-county's residents do get value for their money because besides domestic use, they also use the water for farming especially in their kitchen gardens.

### **3.4.5 Relationship between Water and Sanitation and Poverty**

Though to some extent water is available to the residents, it is not treated and most of the residents end up contracting waterborne diseases therefore affecting their productivity.

### **3.4.6 Opinion on Status of Water and Sanitation Overtime**

The status of water and sanitation has greatly improved in the last ten years and the trend has been going up. There has been water availability because new water programmes have made it possible to construct larger water pipes to the areas that needed extension meaning that the areas that did not have water are now receiving the commodity.

Major rivers in the region originate from the Aberdares Forest and the deforestation of the same directly affects the life of the rivers and thus the community is regularly sensitized on the need to plant trees and not to cultivate near riverbeds.

### **3.4.7 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement**

- It was noted that even though the water is treated by GAWASCO, the few who have not managed to have water in their homes fetch directly from the river and consume without treating it. The informant agreed that sensitization on water treatment has not been done and therefore such activities or campaigns should be emphasized.
- The residents want the government to introduce programs that will support rainwater harvesting.
- The very poor who have not connected water should be facilitated to do so especially those in Gathage village.
- Public toilets should be constructed to prevent outbreak of diseases.

## **3.5 HOUSING**

### **3.5.1 Introduction**

Gathage cluster is a peri-urban sort of settlement where most residents are squatters who live in rental houses. Majority of the houses are semi-permanent with very few permanent structures.

### **3.5.2 Types of Building Materials**

Most of the houses are built using stones for walling and iron sheets for roofing due to availability of building stones from quarries in the nearby Ruiru sub-county. However, the community noted that the price of building materials was already high and unaffordable to the majority. For example, the cheapest you can buy a sheet of iron is Kshs 700 which to them is on the higher side. Few houses are built using mud and bricks.

### **3.5.3 Types of Housing and Household Headship**

In Gathage village, there are four privately owned homes while the rest of the villagers live in rental homes that are mainly behind commercial premises. The houses are poorly designed with no proper sewerage system and dumping site. Most houses are subdivided into smaller units of one room each housing one household. In total one house has up to a maximum of 20 housing units/households.

The residents said that most of the rented households were headed by men and widowed women. The few mud/brick walled houses were being headed by the elderly who in most cases were original natives of the area.

### **3.5.4 Opinion on Status of Housing Over time**

The status of housing has been declining in the area as families are growing and there is no room for expansion. In some cases more than six members of a family occupy a one-roomed house. The toilet and bathroom facility is also constrained since it is shared by different households thus exposing residents to unhygienic conditions.

### **3.5.5 Conclusion and Recommendations for Improvement**

The residents recommended that:

- The need to lower the cost of building materials so as to enable the poor to access affordable housing;
- The government to give them land so that they can build their own houses and do farming.

It is unfair that some people own huge tracts of land that are unused while we suffer in congestion.
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## CHAPTER FOUR: PRO-POOR INITIATIVES AND DEVOLVED FUNDS

### 4.1 CASH TRANSFERS

#### 4.1.1 Cash Transfers to People with Disabilities

According to the DGSDO, cash transfers to PLWD were started in April 2011 in Thika sub-county. Public reporting and complaints regarding PWD are handled by the Ministry of Gender and Social Development in the sub-county. They target PLWD who are most needy and only one person per household can benefit. In a scenario where a household is benefitting from another fund, they should not benefit from PWDs. Priority is given to persons with severe disabilities and those seen to live below the poverty line. Money is collected by the caregiver from the post office by presenting their national identity cards. PWD is currently benefitting 180 people living with disabilities in the sub-county with each receiving Kshs 2,000 per month paid bi-monthly.

The community said that although the program exists in the sub-county, no one in Gathage area was benefitting.

#### **Selection Criteria**

According to the DGSDO they use information from the public meetings (baraza), hospitals and NCPWD to identify the disabled people in the community. Only one severely disabled member is selected in those household with PLWDs.

#### **Impact of CTs to PLWDs**

CT to PLWD has had a positive impact on the beneficiaries, for instance, those suffering from severe disabilities and had jigger infestation have been confined and treated. Consequently, their livelihoods have improved after starting business activities like shoe-shining. Vices have been reported where some caregivers misuse/embezzle funds e.g. by paying their own house rent and taking alcohol.

#### **Recommendation**

It was recommended that the government needs to increase the funds so that more people living with disabilities can benefit from the fund. In addition, the media should carry out sensitization and positive messages to encourage the needy PLWDs to come out.

#### 4.1.2 CT to the Elderly

The residents in Gathage said that none of the elderly persons was benefitting from the CT, yet the neighbouring village had beneficiaries.

According to the DGSDO the elderly fund was initiated in Gatundu sub-county in 2011. The beneficiaries receive a monthly amount of Kshs 2,000 on a bi-monthly basis. This money is collected by the caregivers through the post office. The old persons from age of 65 years and above are targeted, although most beneficiaries are above 80 years and benefit more since the fund is limited. Additionally, the beneficiaries are selected based on type of housing, family status, disability and illnesses. The program has had a great positive impact in the lives of the elderly people in the sub-county, notably through improvement in their livelihoods and reduced ailments. A negative impact has however been noted in that some leaders have politically influenced the fund with their personal interests. It was recommended that there is need to add more officers on the ground so as to handle the fund more efficiently and transparently.

#### **4.1.3 Cash Transfers to OVCs**

As with other cash transfer programmes, the residents said that there are no cash transfers to the OVCs in the area.

According to Children's Officer, the beneficiaries of the cash transfer fund are identified according to the 2005/06 poverty indices provided by the government. The locations are ranked in terms of poverty levels with Ng'enda location ranked as the highest in the sub-county. Each beneficiary is entitled to Ksh2,000 per month but the payment is done bi-monthly.

The caregivers collect the money which in this case is usually grandparents. Payments are done through Equity Bank. The money adequately caters for the needs of the family with children below age of 5 years been able to access healthcare, food and education.

#### **Selection Criteria**

The sub-county children's officer gets a contact person on the ground, and explains the program to them so that they can do mobilization which in most cases involves the area chief. The chief calls a baraza and sensitization on OVCs is done. The community is asked to select people to oversee the committee, who are not supposed to be politicians but rather opinion leaders doing charity work. They are then trained on how to identify OVCs and forward the names to the secretariat, who then select with reference to the neediest. The secretariat trains enumerators who collect more information and take it for ranking and attach testimonials for the final list of beneficiaries.

#### **Impact**

Beneficiaries have come together to form income-generating activities which have consequently enhanced their wellbeing. The money may not be much but it is enabling households to meet the basic requirements of food, education and access to health services. Some beneficiaries have also formed groups that have started income-generating activities e.g. pig-keeping.

#### **Recommendations**

- The program should be incorporated in all the locations as per the requirements of the new constitution in promoting equality and the OVCs should not be left out;
- The orphans have different needs and from different environments and their needs are varied, and hence the resources should be adjusted according to changing times i.e. review the money upwards periodically.

## 4.2 KAZI KWA VIJANA

According to the DYO, the KKV program was started by an Act of Parliament in 2009 and involved various types of public works in Gatundu South sub-county including tree planting and bush clearing along roads.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports oversees the tree planting element of the programme. The Ministry engages the youth in tree planting which is usually done on public land e.g. in schools. This is because the trees can be well taken care of in a school environment and hence their survival rate is high, while at the same time these institutions end up being beneficiaries. It involves first selecting the site, procuring the seedlings, pitting and planting of the trees, and finally tree nurturing is done.

### **The beneficiaries**

The residents said that the program is meant for the youth though people of all ages participate in the activities under the programme.

This contradicted the position of the DYO whose position was that the beneficiaries are the youth aged between 18 and 35 years and inclusive of both gender and also observing the 30 percent gender rule. Further he noted that if there is a youth with disabilities who can be able to do that manual work, he/she is given preference.

However the DYO observed that in most instances a higher number of men turn up for recruitment as compared to that of women though regular emphasis and encouragement is made to women to ensure equal participation. The participants are usually paid a standard amount of Kshs 250 per day and they are made aware of this condition before commencement of the job. The payment is strictly on cash terms and no one is allowed to collect the amount on behalf of the other.

In view of the economic situation of the area, the payment is usually adequate to meet only the minimum day's basic requirement, in reference to the amount they would use on a daily basis since the area is agriculturally rich and this makes most farm products much more affordable. However, the programme is on a short term basis and therefore not sustainable.

## **Selection Criteria**

The community members are aware of the selection criteria but say that it is usually biased. In contrast the DYO stated that, on disbursement of the KKV money by the government, the chief mobilizes local youth in the area who may be interested in the program. Though everyone has an equal chance of getting the job, it is limited to the number of slots available. Youth in well organized groups stand a better chance since they are easy to handle and manage. If the number of both genders is equal to the number required, they are divided equally to observe fairness and ensuring that all are engaged. If the number is higher and all the applicants are well qualified they are requested to do a balloting and the number required is drawn. The ones who qualify are then given the contract.

## **Other sources of livelihood for casuals**

Since the KKV is a short term form of employment for the casuals, they have consequently engaged in other small income generating activities especially practicing small scale agriculture in the small parcels of land given by their parents/leased from land owners because majority of the youth do not own land. Another fast growing activity observed recently is the motorbike business commonly referred to as bodaboda, especially among the male youths which is helping feed their young families. They also work in coffee farms.

## **Impact of KKV on livelihood of casuals and community**

Though the residents feel that KKV is of negligible impact, some youths have started up small income generating activities such as selling groceries and operating small kiosks with the money they got. Some youth groups have earned income by supplying the trees to the program. They have also been able to earn their daily livelihoods. The area has benefited due to positive environmental changes. The residents also get firewood from mature trees as they look forward to maturing others in phases according to the requirements of the program.

## **Recommendations for improvement of KKV**

- Funding and frequency of KKV should be increased to ensure that more youth benefit from the kitty and are able to form long lasting and autonomous businesses;
- The residents felt that the youth should be further assisted in long term activities such as fish farming and other sustainable ventures.

## **4.3 DEVOLVED FUNDS**

### **4.3.1 Constituency Development Fund**

The residents pointed out that the CDF office had awarded bursaries to only a few students who succeeded in joining secondary schools from the community.

According to the CDF fund secretary the total amount of money dispersed to Gatundu for various projects was KShs 86 million for the current year 2012/2013.

### **Mechanism for public reporting and complaints**

According to the secretary, members who could have any problems or complaints are encouraged to express them at the customer care desk after which they are reviewed by the committee and appropriate action taken. This ensures that the voices of the community are heard.

### **Programmes initiated in the community and the sponsors**

The CDF secretary enthusiastically stated that CDF is one of the most successful funds in the entire Gatundu South region having facilitated the establishment of the following projects:

- Building dispensaries and health centers like Mutati Dispensary, Ng'enda Health Center, Gitare Dispensary and others that are in the process of coming up. These health facilities have since been handed over to the Ministry of Health for management.
- Building new schools like Gikobu Primary School and uplifting the standards of the existing ones like building six workshops in Kagumoini Polytechnic, six classrooms in Kiamugo Primary School, two classrooms in Munyoni Polytechnic, a dining hall, library and kitchen in Nembu Girls' Secondary School, a laboratory worth 7 million shillings in Muthururubi Secondary School, and a computer laboratory and administration block in Muthiga Girls' Secondary School, among others.
- Before the introduction of CDF, security had been a major concern in this region. The CDF kitty intervened and set up 14 police posts built from scratch across the region. Some of these posts include Ituru, Nembu and Mutomo.
- Construction of roads connecting ridges for marketing of farm produce. This has been done to compliment the works done by KERA and other bodies. These roads include Waithece Ituru road and Kahahaini road.
- Bursaries were cited to be very effective mainly targeting the poor and the needy. The amount given to each deserving student ranges from Kshs 5,000 to 20,000. This has helped to improve the education standard especially where it has been used to motivate the students to perform well. For instance, every student who is admitted to a national school receives Kshs 20,000, Kshs 15,000 for provincial schools and Kshs 10,000 for sub-county schools.
- To motivate fish farmers, the CDF kitty has been used to build a cooler system in Gatundu town where farmers bring their produce for sale. The cooler has a holding capacity of up to 10,000 fish. This has come as an effort to address the challenges in the entire value chain process. The informant noted that this initiative has been the first of its own kind in the entire country. He also mentioned that as a result of this, fish demand has outweighed supply.

- Through the CDF, sensitization programmes have been taking place to improve agriculture especially to change the conventional way of farming to the use modern techniques and introduction of other crops mostly the ‘orphaned crops’.

All these programmes started with the introduction of the CDF kitty and have been progressively executed on a priority basis according to the mechanism set up by the committee.

Structures have been put in place to ensure that members of the community are involved and represented in various levels. There are project management committees that tackle decision making at all levels and institutions benefiting from CDF e.g. if a project involves a school, the head-teacher is the one that manages the implementation process. In terms of prioritization, every sub-location is allocated KShs 1.5 million in a financial year.

This involves calling the sub-location committee, who bring up proposed projects and give them order of priority. Depending on the available funds, they then gauge on what the community needs most and then funds them. According to the Act of Parliament, the committee comprises of a representation of two elected councilors, an NGO representative, religious leaders, youth representative and a representative for women. All the employees in the CDF office come from the region. However, the project accountant is a civil servant. If and when there are vacant positions, they are advertised, interviews conducted and the best candidates take up the employment opportunities. The CDF is a popular fund in the region and thus the community is well informed of its functions and accessibility.

#### **Opinion on Devolved Funds**

Devolved funds, especially CDF, have had a large impact on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries and the community as a whole. According to the CDF secretary, ‘you can ask anyone’ and they will tell how much CDF has been of assistance to them.

#### **Recommendations for improvement of Devolved funds**

- The key informant noted that with the new government structure, CDF may be managed under the county government, thus limiting the advantages derived from its previous application. The funds should therefore continue to be administered by the central government.
- With the little amount that has been devolved and the related benefits, the fund should be increased as the effect is directly felt by the community.

#### **4.3.2 Youth Enterprise Development Fund**

*The youth in Gathage said that they have heard of Youth Enterprise Development Fund but they have never benefited from the same.*

However, the YDO informed the study team that YEDF is a state corporation under the Ministry of Youths and Sports. It was started 2007 and rolled out in Gatundu sub-county in the same year, and since its inception YEDF has benefitted 93 groups and 8 individuals in the sub-county to a tune of Kshs 4.2 million.

### **Mechanism for public reporting and complaints**

According to the youth officer, the ministry of youth affairs is responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the projects under YEDF. However, the YEDF has recently trained its officers/interns to work on the ground among the youth. These officers have been provided with a motorbike to travel throughout the sub-county in capacity building, monitoring and reporting on the groups' performance. Any complaints are taken to the DYD for action.

The youth are independent to form groups, and elect their leaders who they deem fit to help them achieve their ultimate goals. This is mostly on voluntary basis. YEDF targets the youth between ages 18-35 years, and aims to empower them in starting up their own businesses. All groups have an equal chance of securing a loan from the YEDF, but certain conditions have to be met. The officer informed that majority of the youth in Gatundu sub-county are well aware of the youth fund especially those that live near Gatundu Town and in Ng'enda Division, but moving towards the tea zone the information about this fund is not as adequate as in the rest of the sub-county.

Youths are sensitized through public baraza and sensitization forums conducted by the youth fund and by MOYAS. There are various levels of funding where the first loan to a group starts at maximum of Kshs 50,000 where a management fee of 5% of the loan is deducted upfront, with a three month grace period after which the group repays in one year. After completing repayment of the loan the group can decide to borrow up to Kshs 100,000 or nominate four individuals who will each get a maximum loan of Kshs 25,000. If a group decides to get a loan as a group and complete repaying the Kshs 100,000 after being deducted 5 percent, they can graduate to Kshs 200,000 and so on. After the group finishes repayment of the loan it is given a certificate of loan completion which the group then can use to as evidence of credit worthiness to get more loans from financial institutions.

Thus the YEDF has had a noticeable positive impact among the youth in the sub-county and many youth groups have been able to start small businesses especially agriculture-related activities and boda boda services. There has been marked reduction in vices especially petty robberies since the youths are busy.

### **Recommendations:**

- Increases the loan amount to enable the youth get more funds;

- Train youth to equip them with skills necessary to manage their businesses e.g. bookkeeping and records management;
- Shorten loan processing period since some businesses are time bound; and
- Provide better facilitation to the field officers involved in monitoring and evaluation for the groups' businesses since they have to travel long distances.

#### **4.3.3 Women Enterprise Fund**

The programme was started in 2006 in Gatundu sub-county with the first beneficiaries receiving the money in 2008. Since 2008 the sub-county has received Kshs 18.85 million handled by the Ministry of Gender and Social Development. The program targets women who have formed groups and are ready to start up small businesses or projects and require funding.

The program has had a positive impact in that women have become economically empowered. Women have ventured into tablebanking which has had a negative impact since the money borrowed have a high interest.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Need to have a secretariat to control how the proposal forms filled during applications for the loans since they keep on changing with time; and
- Need for facilitation of the officers performing monitoring and evaluation throughout the sub-county.

## CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING AREAS AND OTHER EMERGING ISSUES

### 5.1 HIV&AIDS

During the discussion of major health concerns in the community, it emerged that the level of HIV/AIDS infection is high in the area. This was, however, disputed by the DPHO who informed that the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Thika sub-county is generally low apart from Mundoro village where it is slightly higher.

*It is recommended that an empirical study be conducted within the cluster to ascertain the facts and hence draw the appropriate policy responses.*

### 5.2 PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY

It was established that the poor PWDs, children and the elderly are mostly affected by the jigger menace although AHADI had tried to intervene in the past. The jigger menace has however refused to go

*The community clearly understood the root cause of the problem as poverty and should therefore be addressed in a holistic and permanent manner in order to get rid of the problem.*

## CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

**The main causes of poverty** in Gathage community were lack of water for agriculture, insecurity, poor roads, high unemployment, lack of access to devolved funds, and lack of good turnover in businesses. As a coping mechanism, the community members engages in manual/casual jobs like working in coffee farms, washing clothes, selling donkey-cart pulled water and in matatu touting.

**The poverty levels** were relatively low as compared to the national levels though the community felt that poverty levels have increased in the last ten years. The community recommended that the government should address the high rate of unemployment in the area, and upscale the devolved fund especially the youth fund to increase its access to the community.

**The major health concerns** by the community are high HIV/AIDS prevalence and the jigger menace. The community recommended the enhancement of level 1 hospital in every village in the sub-county to provide access to healthcare to more people. The government should also build more health facilities and encourage other actors and funding for health campaigns and promotions.

**On education** the community recommended that funding for free primary education be increased and more teachers employed. It was noted that more stakeholders should be encouraged to participate in education of the children to support government initiatives such as bursary programs, and structural support among other efforts.

**In the agriculture sector** the major problem was lack of human and financial capital. They recommended that the government should sustain the subsidized farm inputs and even upscale the same to include farm equipment and installation of large scale pumps for effective water provision to the farms. They also wanted the government to improve on agricultural services to farmers.

**The devolved funds** were found to be helping the community though they recommended that more funds be increased to ensure that more people benefit. More facilitation for the field officers involved in monitoring and evaluation for management of the funds should be put in place.

Unemployment was identified as the main cause of poverty in Kiambu County. It was the feeling of the community that to reduce poverty in the area the government should first and foremost address unemployment. This will provide income to the people and they will be able to provide for their basic needs hence reducing poverty.