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**THE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**KILIFI COUNTYREPORT**

**PALAKUMI CLUSTER**

**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 out that poverty level from a community perspective has been rising despite various pro-poor initiatives undertaken by the government over the years. It is worthy to note many in the clusters visited did not understand how the pro-poor initiatives operate. On Cross-cutting 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**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

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

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**Engineer Mangiti**

**Principal Secretary**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

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

Kilifi County covers an area of 12,609.7 km<sup>2</sup> and the population was estimated to be 1,222,928 in 2012 and is projected to reach 1,336,121 in 2015 with a growth rate of 2.89 percent per annum.

The county remains one of the poorest in the country with an absolute poverty level of 71.7 percent (KIHBS 2005/2006). The main causes of poverty in the county include low levels of productivity due to low uptake of technology especially in the agricultural sector which provides most of the employment and a large share of the county's output, high illiteracy and population growth rates, frequent natural disasters like floods, and inadequate infrastructure.

Generally health services are available, accessible and affordable to the community except for referral cases where one has to be taken to Kilifi district hospital which is 15 km away.

Education services are generally accessible and affordable. However, the education facilities are in poor state, the classrooms are overcrowded due to the introduction of Free Primary Education, and the schools are also understaffed.

The community is aware of the agricultural services which they reported were accessible and affordable with extension services being demand-driven. Agricultural services provided are targeted to individual farmers, farmers groups and other institutions. Palakumi community does not have title deeds and therefore members do not practice large scale farming. Erratic rains have affected production despite the fact that the area has good fertile soils. Consequently, livestock keeping is the most preferred agricultural activity as compared to crop farming.

The community has access to drinking water from a water pan constructed by the World Vision (Fila Water Pan). Clean piped water is available though 8 km from Palakumi. A few households have pit latrines while the majority is comfortable using the bush.

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

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

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACK	Anglican Church of Kenya
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CHW	Community Health Worker
CT	Cash Transfers
DAO	District Agricultural Officer
DDO	District Development Officer
DGSDO	District Gender and Social Development Officer
DSO	District Statistics Officer
DYO	District Youth Officer
ECDE	Early Childhood Development Education
FGDs	Focus Group Discussion
FPE	Free Primary Education
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
KARI	Kenya Agricultural Research Institute
KEMSA	Kenya Medical Supplies Agency
KI	Key Informant
KIDP	Kenya Italy Department for Development
KIHBS	Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey
KKV	Kazi kwa Vijana
KMTC	Kenya Medical Training College
KNBS	Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NALEP	National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme
NASSEP	National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme
NCPD	National Cereals and Produce Board
NGO	Nongovernment Organization
NHIF	National Hospital Insurance Fund
OBA	Output Based Approach
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PTA	Parents-Teachers Association
PWD	People with Disabilities
RA	Research Assistant
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency

SSDE	Subsidized Secondary Day Education
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
URTI	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection
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 exists 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 PPA-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.

### 1.3 COUNTY/CLUSTER PROFILE

Kilifi County is one of the six counties in Coast region. The county lies between latitude 2° 20' and 4° South, and between longitude 39° 05' and 40° 14' East (???). It borders Kwale County to the southwest, Taita Taveta County to the west, Tana River County to the north, Mombasa County to the south and Indian Ocean to the east. The county covers an area of 12,609.7km<sup>2</sup>. It has six administrative sub-counties, namely, Bahari, Ganze, Malindi, Magarini, Kaloleni and Rabai. It is sub-divided into seven political constituencies, namely, Kilifi North, Kilifi South, Ganze, Malindi, Magarini, Kaloleni and Rabai.

The county has four major topographical features. The first one is the narrow belt which forms the coastal plain and varies in width of 3km to 20km. The coastal plain lies below 30m above sea level with a few prominent peaks on the western boundary including hills such as Mwembetungu. Across this plain run several creeks resulting in excellent marine swamps that are endowed with mangrove forests and present potential for marine culture. This zone is composed of marine sediments, including coral, limestone, marble, claystones and alluvial deposits that support agriculture.

The average annual rainfall ranges from 300mm in the hinterland to 1,300mm at the coastal belt. The coastal belt receives an average annual rainfall of about 900mm to 1,100mm with marked decrease in intensity to the hinterland. Areas with highest rainfall include Mtwapa and to the north of the coastal strip around the Arabuko Sokoke Forest. Evaporation ranges from 1,800mm along the coastal strip to 2,200mm in the Nyika plateau in the interior. Highest evaporation rate is

experienced during the months of January to March in all parts of the county. The annual temperatures range between 21 °C and 30°C in the coastal belt, and between 30°C and 34°C in the hinterland. The county experiences relatively low wind speeds ranging between 4.8 km/hr and 12 km/hr.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, the population was projected at 1,222,928 in 2012 composed of 590,150 males and 632,778 females. Males represent 47.5 percent while females represent 52.5 percent of the total population, indicating a male-female ratio of 1:1.07. The population is projected to rise to 1,336,121 in 2015 and 1,411,583 in 2017 at a growth rate of 3.05 percent per annum.

Palakumi is a rural cluster in Ganze West District, Kilifi County and is made up of 86 households. This being a casual cluster, community members involve in small-scale businesses and casual jobs. The roads in the community are in bad condition because when it rains even four-wheel drive vehicles cannot access the community.

#### **1.4 SELECTION OF THE CLUSTER**

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

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

#### **1.5 FIELD LOGISTICS**

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

The report is divided into six chapters including chapter one which covers introduction. Chapter 2 highlights the survey findings on poverty and inequality in Kilifi 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 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) and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Chapter 5 outlines the findings on crosscutting areas and other emerging issues, while chapter 6 outlines the recommendations and conclusion

## **CHAPTER TWO: POVERTY DYNAMICS AND INDICATORS**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Despite various efforts carried out both by government and nongovernmental agencies, Kilifi County remain one of the poorest counties in the country with an absolute poverty level of 71.7 percent (KIHBS 2005/2006). The main causes of poverty include low levels of productivity due to low uptake of technology, especially in the agricultural sector, which provides most of the employment and a large share of the county's output; high illiteracy and population growth rates; frequent natural disasters like floods; inadequate infrastructure; and excessive dependence on a narrow range of cash crops for income earnings. Gender inequality in access to productive assets and social services has also contributed to sluggish growth in output and widespread poverty.

Due to poverty many children drop out of school forcing many parents to marry off their daughters at a tender age to get wealth. This further leads to a multiplier effect of poverty and illiteracy since an uneducated and poor labour force cannot earn enough for savings and investment that translates to development.

Many of the indigenous residents in the county are employed in low paying jobs. This is despite a number of measures having been undertaken to address these issues. Long-term sustainable solutions remain elusive. Issues pertaining to land, security, increased education and gender participation in the development of the county must be addressed. There is need to ensure that the level of literacy of the people in the county is increased in order to adequately address poverty.

### **2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY**

The Palakumi community defined poverty as the state of lacking jobs, money, food, shelter, clothing and education. They also defined poverty as "the state of being unable to support oneself in life".

### **2.3 CLASSIFICATION OF POVERTY**

The community categorized poverty into three groups, namely, the very poor, poor and rich. The very poor were said to be in more problems than those in the other levels. They were described as those with no chicken, clothing and mostly depend on government relief. Their children have no education; they barely have one meal in a day.

The poor were said to be those leaving in makuti and mud houses, and those that have vibada as houses. Their children attend public schools. They earn very little from casual jobs and like the very poor, depend on government relief in the absence of casual jobs. The rich were described as those with several heads of cattle (100), good houses (permanent house), dress well, and their

children attend private schools in Kilifi. They were also able to seek treatment from private hospitals and have clean piped water in their houses.

## **2.4 CAUSES OF POVERTY**

The causes of poverty were said to be different for men, women, youths, PWDs and OVCs. In men, it is caused by lack of land for farming, lack of title deeds thus they cannot access loans, low literacy levels, hereditary poverty, and drought affecting livestock and food crops. In women, poverty is caused by lack of jobs, illiteracy, and lack of agricultural inputs. As a single parent, it is hard to take care of the family by providing food, shelter and clothing.

Due to poverty, girls enter into relationships and get children while living with their parents. This increases the dependency ratio and in turn drives many households into poverty. The Palakumi community members explained that an ideal family size consists of about 4-5 children.

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) do not access devolved funds to help them in starting businesses and therefore stay poor. Their state of being physically challenged makes them unable to work or be productive. The poor state of roads in the community hinders them from accessing most essential services.

The youths are poor due to lack of jobs and idleness, and only use the pay they get from casual jobs to buy drugs. Most of the casual jobs are in farms and fetching water for rich households. These make them less productive, irresponsible and therefore become poor. They also spend time idling by watching videos and politicking. Youths have also inherited poverty from their parents. Many youths also rely on inheritance from parents who have nothing to leave behind.

## **2.5 IMPACT OF POVERTY**

Women were said to carry the burden of sustaining their families. Women suffer more in cases where the husband runs away leaving his family behind.

## **2.6 COPING MECHANISMS**

To cope, men search for casual jobs in farms although the pay is very little to cater for household needs. Some men also run away and leave their families to suffer. Women do laundry work for the rich, farm, and do small business such as selling charcoal and firewood. Women also form merry-go-rounds and contribute money to share among themselves. They also turn to prostitution when the going gets tough. The youth and especially girls engage in prostitution in order to get money for sustenance while others search for casual labour and others become house-helpers.

## **2.7 ASSETS OWNERSHIP**

In this community assets include coconut trees, motorbikes and bicycles. Men make majority of the decisions about the assets since they own most of them.

## **2.8 POVERTY AND GENDER**

The Palakumi community reported that there were major gender disparities in term of poverty. Women are mainly the providers of the household needs especially in term of food in most of households. Men seem to be less concerned on what the family will feed on as they spend most of their time politicking and some in alcohol parlours. This puts a lot of burden on women to an extent of having no time to carry out some chores which would benefit the household such as casual labour. There are PWDs in Palakumi while some households are headed by PWDs. Such households are very poor as there are no government interventions hence they are taken as a burden to the families and relatives.

## **2.9 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME**

The Palakumi community reported that poverty over the past years has slightly reduced due to various interventions by the state and non-state actors. For instance the Free Primary Education (FPE) and Subsidized Secondary Education (SSE) have freed some resources for other household needs. However, to them, FPE is not entirely free even though it has enabled many households to reduce the expenditure on educating their children. Some classes in Vitsapuni Primary School are in poor state and at time parents are required to part with monies for repairs and new constructions. Programmes by non-state actors have had some impact on their livelihoods. World Vision, a non-state actor, has been involved in empowering women and the youth economically through provision of relief food, while the ACK church has provided the community with a water pump.

## **2.10 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The Roads 2000 programme should be expanded as most parts of the community are not accessible;
- All groups (OVCs, PWDs, men, women, youth and children) should be sensitized on the importance of education;
- All groups need to be educated and awareness created on how to access the available devolved funds like Women Enterprise Fund and the Youth Enterprise Development Fund, among others.

## CHAPTER THREE: FINDINGS ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### 3.1 HEALTHCARE

#### 3.1.1 Introduction

The County has five level 4 public hospitals, 12 level 3 public health centres, 69 level 2 public dispensaries, one mission hospital, two private hospitals, one Armed Forces hospital, five private nursing homes and 107 private clinics. The bed capacity in hospitals, health centres and nursing homes is 498, 30 and 16, respectively. The doctor/patient ratio is 1:42,625, clinical officer/patient ratio is 1:30,194 while the nurse/patient ratio is 1:3,396. Malindi, Kilifi and Mariakani district hospitals are the only referral hospitals in the county. Kilifi District hospital hosts KEMRI that is involved in various health research activities. The inpatient bed capacity in health facilities in the county is 508 beds (do your arithmetic as it is supposed to be  $498 + 30 + 16$ ).

The average morbidity rate in the county is 12.9 percent with females having a higher morbidity rate at 15.4 percent as compared with men at 9.9 percent. The most common health concerns in the county are malaria/fever, upper respiratory tract infections, stomachache, diarrhea and flu.

The population under 5 years was estimated to be 211,788 in 2012. Stunting and wasting in children less than 5 years is quite high with 48.8 percent of the children being stunted. The stunting could be linked to the poor infant and young child feeding practices. The county needs to strengthen projects and programmes that are aimed at reducing this trend. The county will need to increase nutrition services to increase coverage and manage children who are malnourished. There is need to establish community units where they havenot been established as this will increase case referrals for malnourished children.

The national immunisation coverage is 77 percent compared to that of county which is 78.7 percent. Advocacy and mobilisation of community members is required to improve the immunisation coverage.

#### 3.1.2 Major Health Concerns

The common ailments in the community include malaria, scabies, TB and HIV/AIDS. According to the key informant, the common ailments in the district include malaria, upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), HIV/AIDS, diarrhoea and ringworms.

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

There is only one dispensary in Palakumi that is located 10 km away and serves a population of 2,700 community members. The dispensary was said to be congested and lack essential drugs. Patients are required to pay Kshs20 for registration (cost sharing). If one is referred, the community reported that they get services from Bamba Hospital which is 15 km away or visit Kilifi District Hospital. The level of access to both hospitals was said to be hectic and that community members were expected to pay Kshs 150 when travelling in a Matatu or Kshs500 while on a motorbike. The hospitals donot have enough qualified health personnel and as such healthcare is not sufficient.

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

Output Based Approach (OBA) was said to be present although uptake is low and the nearest hospital where it is applied is Kilifi District Hospital. The services of traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) were said to be widely used and sourced mainly from mother-in-laws and experienced mothers. The respondents pointed out the introduction of free healthcare for under-five had greatly impacted on their health seeking behavior.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) were said to be fully active in Ganze. Most of them are women volunteers and they create awareness on health seeking behaviour in addition to circulating male condoms and chlorine tabs in their areas of jurisdiction. They also distribute condoms to bars and youth centres. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) is practiced in the Bamba although the majority who practice it are old women. It was reported that youngmen and women fear it.

Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) are also said to be prevalent during the months of January to March due to dust.

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Palakumi is high as community members still practice retrogressive cultures such as wife inheritance.

Services that are offered in the dispensary include vaccinations and malaria treatment. There are mobile services for diseases such as measles and polio. The service is offered at Vitsapuni Primary School.

The dispensary lacks equipment such as gloves and syringes. The dispensary has no electricity. To them, the idea of boiling these equipments exposes them to risks of contracting diseases like HIV/AIDS.

Among the challenges faced by the public health sector in Ganze include poor supply of drugs which they claimed delay and patients are at times referred to chemists to buy. The community claimed that staffing was also inadequate.

### **3.1.5 Ideal Family Size**

The Palakumi community members explained that an ideal family size consists of about 9 members including the parents. This was said to be the case as big family sizes are able to provide cheap labour.

### **3.1.6 Relationship between Poverty and Health**

Youths abuse cheap drugs and alcohol and as such the health of the youths has deteriorated. Girls on the other hand end up dropping out of school, engaging in prostitution and early marriages just to be able to afford healthcare. This coupled with the HIV/AIDS scourge has affected productivity in the community thus making them even poorer.

### **3.1.7 Access and Decision making on Family Planning**

The dispensary in Palakumi was said to lack family planning services although the services are available in Bamba and in Kilifi District Hospital. The community admitted the failure to use family planning was due to low awareness, access and availability of the services. Propaganda on the side effects of the services was also cited as a factor that has negatively contributed to minimal use. Women were said to be more aware and some were practicing without the knowledge of their husbands.

### **3.1.8 Opinion on the status of Health Services over time**

The poor and very poor have found healthcare largely inaccessible in the last ten years. The costs are high hence few people can afford. Health services have deteriorated in that, in the past, there were enough medicines in the hospitals and even in the dispensaries, but these days people pay for treatment and medicines separately and hence some end up not buying drugs.

### **3.1.9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

The community recommended the following:

- Construct a health facility near them and staff it with qualified health personnel;
- Create awareness on the health services being offered;
- Construct pay latrines and improve the sewerage systems.
- Promote the use of appropriate technology in water logged areas in construction of pit latrines;
- Create awareness on the importance of NHIF even to those in the informal sector;
- Timely supply of drugs by KEMSA;

- Create awareness on the need to boil drinking water as chlorine tabs that are supplied by CHWs are not sustainable.

## **3.2 BASIC EDUCATION**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

The county has 935 ECDE centres with a total of 1,732 teachers, 418 primary schools and 86 secondary schools as well as 277 adult literacy centres. The county will need to emphasize a lot on advocacy of the importance of ECD education so as to increase the gross enrolment rate from the current 59 percent.

In primary schools, the teacher/pupil ratio is 1:59 which is higher than the recommended 1:50. The gross enrolment rate is 95.8percent with boys being more than girls in primary schools. The completion rate is 83.7percent but the transition rate is only 50.2 percent thus implying that there are a high number of pupils who complete primary school but do not proceed to secondary school. The proportion of the population that is 5 km or more from the nearest primary school is 65.1percent and thus there is need to invest in more primary schools.

The literacy level, i.e., those who can read and write,for the population aged 15 and above is 65.5percent. The adult literacy level in the county is 65.3 percent.

The gross enrolment rate in secondary school is very low at 42.5percent while the net enrolment rate is 34percent with boys having a higher enrolment rate than girls. Within the county, 72.4 percent of the students travel for an average of 5 km or more to access the nearest public secondary school. There is therefore need to emphasize on the girl-child education and invest more in boarding secondary schools in order to reverse this trend.

The county has one public university (Pwani University) in Kilifi, nine private accredited colleges, one middle level college (KMTC Kilifi) and 13 youth polytechnics.These institutions absorb many of the youth who may not get opportunities to join universities.

### **3.2.2 Status of Education facilities**

There is one primary school (Vitsapuni Primary School) with an enrollment of 474 pupils, and is located about 1km from the community.The school has 8 teachers employed by the government, 2 ECD teachers and one teacher employed by the PTA. The school is overcrowded since the introduction of FreePrimary Education (FPE). Each student pays Kshs50 per termfor the PTA teachers, watchman and cook. The students pay for all the examinations except the end term examination. In addition, the respondents explained that they buy furniture such as desks and often pay development levy to repair classes and for new constructions. There has been improvement in

the performance of the primary school since 2003. In 2010 and 2011, the school was ranked positions 2 and 5, respectively, in the whole district. The community has a day-secondary school(Palakumi Mixed Day School) which is 5 km away. The school has a shortage of teachers thus forcing parents to employ four PTA teachers.

### **3.2.3 Status of Education services**

The community has knowledge of FPE but they claimed that it was only effective when it started. They claimed initially the pupils were provided with books, pens and desks but the services were no longer being provided.

The school has a school feeding programme sponsored by World Vision.This has helpedthe pupils be retained at school thus improving in retention rates.However, the payment of the Kshs50 for the PTA teachers, watchman and the cook, and the devolvement fee has made some of the pupils dropout.

Few community members have benefited from CDF bursaries.Most of the community members explained the reason for not benefiting was not being fully aware of the procedure for application.Most of the beneficiaries were said to be the rich. OVCs have also benefitted from the CDF bursaries, although the assistance is up to primaryschool level.

### **3.2.4 Interventions towards Improvement of Education Standards**

According to the KI, both FPE, SSDE, bursaries from CDF and Ministry of Education, among others, have improved the education standards of many pupils and students within Ganze.Employment can now be accessed with less difficulty than earlier before. World Vision,anongovernmental organization, has also chippedin terms of provision of relief food in support of the school feeding programme and buying school uniforms to the less fortunate.

### **3.2.5 Impact of Poverty on Education**

Some children are sent home due to lack of funds that is levied by the school. This has contributed to low turnout and concentration in learning.

### **3.2.6 Opinion of the Status of Education over Time**

Within the past 10 years, education standards have improved due to the introduction of FPE.Retention, enrollment and transition rates have all improved courtesy of FPE and the Subsidized Secondary School Education.

### **3.2.7 Conclusion and Recommendations**

The community recommended that:

- FPE should be entirely free, as development fees coupled with other payments burden parents;
- The school feeding programme should be supported by the government to ensure sustained retention rates;
- Bursaries should target the less fortunate and not the rich;
- More qualified teachers need to be employed to ease the burden on parents as they have to employ PTA teachers to bridge the gap;
- The government should strive to provide adult education to enable the elderly engage in meaningful economic activities in Palakumi;
- The government should fully fund Early Childhood Education (ECD).

## **3.3 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND INPUTS**

### **3.3.1 Introduction**

The main crops grown for subsistence are maize, cowpeas, green grams and cassava. The major cash crops in the county include coconut, cashewnuts, pineapples, sisal and mangoes. The acreage under food crops and cash crops are 52,519.4 ha and 47,681 ha, respectively. The county's arable land is estimated at about 6,891.2km<sup>2</sup> with non-arable land of 5,407 km<sup>2</sup>. This indicates that 56 percent of the land is useful for agriculture while 44percent could be made useful through irrigation and this would help achieve and sustain MDG goal 1 which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. Farming of food crop is practiced in all parts of the county but cash crop farming is practiced in Kilifi South, Kilifi North, Malindi, Kaloleni, Rabai and Magarini constituencies.

The average farm size is 3.04ha for small scale farms and 8.09 ha for large scale farming activities. This means that farmers are not able to produce large quantities of crops to warrant large storage facilities at the household level.

Livestock is a major economic activity in the county providing income and food especially in the hinterlands of Ganze, Langobaya and Magarini. The main type of livestock in the county includes cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. Upgrading of livestock products would play a major role in the growth of the subsector because majority of the livestock in the county are indigenous.

Fishing is an important economic activity that provides employment to the communities along the coastline and at the creeks. Over 5,085 families depend on fishing for survival with an annual catch of about 443.689 tonnes. The major fish are sailfish, tilapia, cat fish, parrot fish, lobster prawns, rabbit fish, marlins, swordfish, sharks, yellow fin tuna, trevally, wahoo and kingfish. The sub-sector

is not fully developed as fishermen use traditional equipment (dhows/boats, line, nets, hooks) in shallow waters to fish. Lack of better fishing gears is the major factor in low production of fish in the county. The county has not utilised fully the available market as an outlet for the locally produced goods. Large quantities of fish are lost as a result of lack of proper storage and handling. There are only 185 stocked fish ponds in the county which covers an area of 222,300m<sup>2</sup>.

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

It was reported that community members of Palakumi do not have title deeds of the land they own and therefore do not practice large scale farming. They only grow crops for basic consumption and keep few livestock. The community members explained that they depend mostly on free seeds by the government, which are always supplied late when the rains have already fallen. If not available, they heavily rely on what they have stored. Due to poor road network, the community reported to not being able to access farm inputs, and especially those in the hinterland.

The average farm size is 5 acres. Drought and lack of farm inputs seriously affect farm produce. Production is still at subsistence level while storage is done using the traditional methods where maize is stored still in cobs and hanged in the kitchen. Some households have built the traditional granaries (*ushaga*). According to the key informant, erratic rains have affected production despite the fact that the area has good fertile soils. Due to this, livestock keeping is the most preferred agricultural activity as compared to crop farming. Small irrigation schemes exist in the district but the production is also affected as most of the rivers are not permanent.

### **3.3.3 Intervention towards improvement of Agricultural Standards in the Community**

According to the key informant, several programmes are being implemented in the community. This includes the National Agricultural and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) sponsored by SIDA. It involves mobilization of farmers into groups and creating awareness on opportunities and strategies. Njaa Marufuku concentrates on linking farmers with research such as KARI. Farmers write proposals on what they would wish to be done in the area for possible funding.

Farmers normally get farm inputs from NCPB although non-state actors like World Vision are also involved in the provision of seeds to farmers. Government extension services are available and mostly involve demonstration farms and field days. The only challenge affecting the dissemination of information to farmers is lack of adequate transport and the poor state of roads, thus farmers call for the services and have to facilitate the officer.

The Anglican Church of Kenya was said to be equipping farmers with skills on animal husbandry and have already trained three persons, one per division.

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

The key informant noted that the programmes are not targeted to any specific group or individuals but are offered on a need basis.

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

According to the DAO, agriculture in the region is related to poverty in most households since low farm output leads to high poverty levels and overreliance on relief food.

In few cases it was clearly stated that sometimes when the living standards go up especially during the dry seasons; husbands are not able to consistently provide; while women and girls/daughters turn to prostitution in order to acquire money for survival.

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

It was noted that there has been improvement in production on some crops and decline in others due to climate change.

### **3.3.7 Conclusion and Recommendations**

The community recommended that:

- There was need to reduce/subsidize farming inputs such as seeds and fertilizers;
- There is need to fast-track the issuance of title deeds in order for farmers to undertake serious farming activities;
- There is need to encourage the planning of drought-resistant crops and other traditional crops for food security;
- There is need to encourage planting of cash crops such as mangoes which can withstand drought and provide good returns.

## **3.4 WATER AND SANITATION**

### **3.4.1 Introduction**

Water for domestic use, livestock and irrigation remains a problem in the county. The county has 1,205 shallow wells, 135 water pans, 90 small earth dams and 50 boreholes. The proportion of households with access to piped water is 48.1 percent while the proportion with access to potable water is 63.3 percent. Baricho water works and Mzima springs are the only schemes in the county.

The water sources include permanent rivers such as Sabaki, shallow wells, protected springs, unprotected springs, water pans, dams and boreholes. The average distance to the nearest water point is 5 km.

Sanitation is a challenge as the latrine/toilet coverage is 50.25 percent and there are no proper systems of managing liquid and solid wastes. Less than 10 percent of the households dispose their garbage or solid waste through an organised system such as a local authority or private firm with farm garden at 44.65 percent, burning 22.75 percent and public garbage heap at 8.35 percent. Most of the urban areas in the county have poor drainage and become flooded during the rainy seasons leading to destruction of houses and upsurge of waterborne diseases.

### **3.4.2 Status of Provision of Water and Sanitation**

The community has access to drinking water from a water pan constructed by the World Vision (Fila Water Pan). Clean piped water is available though 8 km away where one is charged Kshs 5 for a 20 litre jerrican. There is a seasonal stream in the community known as *Kwa Ngoa*, and is only used for livestock.

The Fila water pan is located near the community making access easy. However, despite availability of clean water, there are waterborne diseases due to sanitation challenges. The community members pointed out that there is poor waste disposal and lack of toilets.

They further explained that women collect water from various water points though men do it if it is for pay. At times, mothers are assisted by their daughters.

### **3.4.3 Types of Sanitation Facilities**

The community has no mechanisms for waste disposal and this has led to several health concerns which include typhoid, dysentery and amoeba which are all related to hygiene. The community has no dumping sites (refuse collection system) and this has brought up many rodents and flies, and hence diseases are common. Few households have pit latrines while the majority is comfortable by using bush. This has been aggravated by the fact that the soils in the areas are loose and thus pit holes collapse during rainy seasons.

### **3.4.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and Water Availability**

The community members are very much aware of the effects of environmental degradation. However, charcoal burning is the leading source of income and thus difficult to stop felling of trees.

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

The community perceives that for the last ten years, the situation has worsened due to increase in population and the change of weather patterns.

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

The community is fully aware of the relationship between poor sanitation and poverty since community members get sick due to poor waste disposal. This makes them less productive and hence the level of poverty goes up.

### **3.4.7 Conclusion and Recommendation**

The community recommended that:

- The government should give farm inputs. In this way, community members will farm and thus reduce the felling of trees;
- The government should construct gabions and other water conservation mechanisms along the seasonal river to ensure sustained supply even during the dry season;
- The government should supply them with water treatment tabs to ensure that they will take safe clean drinking water.

## **3.5 HOUSING**

### **3.5.1 Introduction**

Majority of the houses in the county have walls made of mud/wood at 59 percent, followed by brick/block at 22.05 percent and mud/cement at 5.95 percent. Earth floors take up 73.5 percent, cement 25.05 percent, and tiles 1.15 percent. On roofing, makuti leads with 41.4percent, corrugated iron sheets at 32.9 percent and grass at 20.2 percent. There are informal settlements coming up in the major urban centres in the county especially Malindi and Kilifi.

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

The housing in the community mostly comprises of semi-permanent and mud walled houses. The houses are concentrated within a certain area according to the size of family.

### **3.5.3 Status of the Provision of Housing**

Due to the lack of secure land ownership, most houses have no proper sanitation facilities. Despite this, most houses are overcrowded and people are in dire need of proper housing in the community.

Due to overpopulation and scarcity of housing there are people who have no places to sleep or stay in. Therefore, one may find people sleeping in shanties.

#### **3.5.4 Opinion on Status of Housing Overtime**

The community indicated that housing has been deteriorating over time due to increased cost of construction and building materials. They noted that most of the families cannot afford the materials a situation that has also led to lack of adequate housing in the main towns.

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

The housing types evident in the cluster include permanent housing categorized by the community as those houses built with stones; semi-permanent housing built with mud, timber, iron sheets and can easily be brought down by heavy rains and strong winds. The main types of household headship identified were male-headed and few which are female-headed.

#### **3.5.6 Conclusion and Recommendations**

The community recommended that more support should be provided to assist the locals to construct more and better houses through the government subsidizing building materials to reduce cost; and improve on the road network in the area to facilitate transportation of materials.

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

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

### **4.1 PRO- POOR INITIATIVES**

#### **4.1.1 Cash Transfers**

The community has heard about the cash transfers to the elderly, the PWDs, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) but have not benefited from them.

According to the key informant, there are cash transfer programmes available for the elderly and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).Cash transfers programmes in the district started way back in 2009. The beneficiaries are located all over the district and chosen using well specified criteria without bias. Initially, the beneficiaries were getting Kshs 1,500 but now receive Kshs2,000per month.In most cases the funds come two months late and payment is made through Post Bank. There are 7 beneficiaries for the disability fund and 70 severe cases. The CT for the elderly is financed by the Government while the disability is supported by the World Bank. For one to benefit from the elderly fund, he/she should be 65+ years and should be the poorest of the poor, not a pensioner and should prove that no assistance is available either from siblings or offspring.

The caregivers are the ones who collect this payment. The money received is usually inadequate to meet the needs of the elderly or persons with disabilities.

The selection of the beneficiaries is coordinated by the District Gender and Social Development Officer (DGSDO). The key informant reported of few cases of misuse but the DGSDO office is mandated to intervene and change caretakers. According to him, several positives have been reported and gave an example of an old man who is a beneficiary and whose clothing, beddings, house and health has improved. However, one is dropped once his/her status changes.

#### **Recommendation**

- The community needs to be sensitized and educated more on cash transfer programmes.
- Additional manpower for the programme to run smoothly.

#### **4.1.2 Kazi Kwa Vijana**

The community has heard about this programme and have even seen people working but not from the Katofeni community.According to the District Youth Officer (DYO), the youth in Ganze are

very much involved in this programme. The projects being implemented include “*trees for jobs*” programme which covers the environment sector.

The trees for jobs programme started in 2010 and only benefits the youth. In this programme the youths are paid Kshs250 per day and the work involves planting of trees in different public areas, schools such as the prisons and leisure public areas, among others.

During the selection of the youth to work on the project, balloting method is used where youths are picked randomly, and gender representation is considered such that a third of those picked are women. PWDs are also picked depending on the challenge they have e.g. those with no arms can become supervisors, etc.

The KKV has encountered some challenges. The tree planting projects is affected when rainfall is not sufficient. There are also delays in receiving the money to pay the youth.

Some of the recommendations made includes increase of the money which the youth is paid per day and the DYO be incorporated in all KKV projects being implemented in other sectors.

#### **4.1.3 Roads 2000**

The community has heard about this project but it has only benefited those outside the community, mostly in Katofeni.

#### **4.2 DEVOLVED FUNDS**

The community members are aware of both the Youth Enterprise Development Funds and the Women Enterprise Fund although there has been no beneficiary. Lack of collateral has hindered access to the funds.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: CROSSCUTTING AREAS AND OTHER EMERGING ISSUES**

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

### **5.1 HIV&AIDS**

The community gets HIV/AIDS services from the nearby dispensary which is located a few kilometers away. They reported that HIV testing services are offered but the counseling services are lacking.

### **5.2 DISABILITIES**

The community reported that there are families with people with disability(PWD), some of whom are family heads. Since there are no interventions, PWDs tend to be a bother to their families and relatives.

### **5.3 GENDER**

The community perceived that many men are the heads of the family and decision-makers. Although the assets can be bought by any member of the family, men have the final word over the assets. They also perceive that among men, women and children, women are the most affected by poverty.

## CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

### 6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The community recommended the following:

- The government should give farm inputs. In this way, community members will farm and thus less felling of trees;
- The government should construct gabions and other water conservation mechanisms along the seasonal river to ensure sustained supply even during the dry season;
- The government should supply them with water treatment tabs to ensure safe drinking water;
- There was need to reduce/subsidize farming inputs such as seeds and fertilizers;
- There is need to fast-track the issuance of title deeds in order for farmers to undertake serious farming activities;
- There is need to encourage the planting of drought-resistant crops and other traditional crops for food security;
- There is need to encourage planting of cash crops e.g. mangoes which can also withstand drought and provide good returns;
- FPE should be entirely free, as development fees coupled with other payments burden parents;
- The school feeding programme should be supported by the government to ensure sustained retention rates;
- Bursaries should target the less fortunate and not the rich;
- More qualified teachers need to be employed to ease the burden on parents as they have to employ PTA teachers to bridge the gap;
- The government should strive to provide adult education to enable the elderly engage in meaningful economic activities in Palakumi;
- The government should fully fund Early Childhood Education (ECD);
- Construct a health facility near them with qualified service providers;
- Create awareness on the health services being offered;
- Construct pay latrines and improve the sewerage systems;
- Promote the use of appropriate technology in water logged areas in construction of pit latrines;
- Create awareness on the importance of NHIF even to those in the informal sector;
- Timely supply of drugs by KEMSA;
- Create awareness on the need to boil drinking water as chlorine tabs distributed by CHWs is not sustainable.

## 6.2 CONCLUSION

The main conclusions drawn from the report shows that poverty has been a major challenge in the county. It also shows the attempts made by the government and development partners to address this problem through pro-poor development projects and programs that are reducing the poverty levels in the country. These include:

### **Cash Transfer**

The community has heard about the cash transfers to the elderly, the PWDs, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) but have not benefited from them.

### **Kazi Kwa Vijana**

The community has heard about this programme and have even seen people working but not from the Katofeni community.

### **Roads 2000**

The community has heard about this project but it has only benefited those outside the community, mostly in Katofeni.

### **Devolved Funds**

The community members are aware of both the Youth Enterprise Development Funds and the Women Enterprise Fund although there has been no beneficiary. Lack of collateral has hindered access to the funds.

Although the pro-poor initiatives have been seen to mainly focus on poverty alleviation, the most affected categories of persons are mainly the disabled, women-headed households, 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, type of housing and agricultural inputs.