

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**THE PRESIDENCY  
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT V**

**KITUI COUNTY REPORT –NGULINI CLUSTER**

**OCTOBER 2014**



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## **FOREWORD**

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) V 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 voices 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 on; health, education, agriculture, housing, water and sanitation, pro-poor initiatives including 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.

From the community perspective poverty level has been rising despite various pro-poor initiatives undertaken by the government over the years. It is worthy to note that many at the clusters visited did not understand how the pro-poor initiatives operate. The study further established that Cross-cutting issues such as HIV/AIDS, drug and substance abuse, gender disparity on property ownership, environmental degradation, poor governance on devolved funds and pro-poor initiatives were on the rise.

The findings from the study will be used as lessons learnt in designing County based programmes. Communities for example, have come up with diverse coping mechanisms on poverty. Some of these include women merry-go-round and small scale business. These will be upgraded to other notable initiatives like Revolving loan, table banking concept and training Counties to benefit from other funding windows like 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**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Isiolo County Participatory Poverty Assessment Report is the first of its kind that has the County as the key reference point on poverty profiling since the promulgation of COK, 2010 and the formation of County Governments after the general elections of 2013.

Foremost, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank and acknowledge all individuals and institutions who collectively contributed their time and resources towards the production of this Report. In particular, valuable leadership and policy guidance was provided by Stephen Wainaina, the Economic Planning Secretary and Moses Ogola, the Director Social & Governance Department. The Department 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 PETER O. MANGITI**

**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY-PLANNING  
MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

## **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-I in 1994, PPA-II in 1996, PPA-III in 2001 and PPA-4 in 2005/06.

Between November 2012 and February 2014, the Ministry of Devolution and Planning conducted the fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA-V). The study aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups. This was meant to broaden the process through which policies are developed by engaging ordinary citizens in real debates to come up with the best ways of reducing poverty. It also aimed at identifying and prioritizing policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.

This study used PPA tools and instruments including semi-structured oral interview questionnaires, Focused Group Discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews and observations. In Kitui County, the study was conducted in Ngiluni community, Ndakani sub-location, Ndakani location, Mutha Division in Mutomo sub-county.

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

However, attempts have been made by the government and other development partners to address this problem through various interventions in various sub-sectors. Programmes/projects which are pro-poor have had a great impact on poverty levels.

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

On education, there is need to employ more qualified teachers to mitigate on shortage of teachers, introduce school feeding programmes to increase retention rates, and rein on unscrupulous teachers who impose illegal levies thus hindering access to education. Under agriculture, there is need to provide extension services to the community, in addition to provision of adequate and subsidized farm inputs to spur agricultural growth.

The government should further create awareness on water harvesting and conservation. Due to the ever increasing cost of living, there is need to increase the amount and the coverage given under the cash transfer programme to meet basic needs. To enhance public participation as enshrined in the Constitution, there is need to involve the community in making decisions affecting them, for example when it comes to selection of the beneficiaries of government programmes/projects.

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census, Kitui County had a population of 1,012,236 persons (481,038 males and 531,198 females) and was projected to increase to 1,077,359 in 2012, 1,146,664 in 2015 and 1,195,330 in 2017. The population growth rate of the county is 2.1 percent per annum which is slightly lower than the national average of 2.6 percent.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

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



## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background**

Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) is a mechanism through which identified communities give their own definition and understanding of poverty based on their own discourse. Hence PPAs are aimed at understanding poverty from the perspectives of poor people including gaining a clearer notion of what their priorities are for improving their livelihoods. There is therefore 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 study was necessitated by the fact that inequality and poverty remain among key development challenges that the Government of Kenya continues to confront and address.

Further, whereas 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 disability, youth, people living with HIV and AIDS, orphans and the elderly.

### **1.2 History of Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPAs) in Kenya**

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

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

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

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

Since the fourth PPA, the government has initiated a number of programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, inequality and ameliorating the suffering of the vulnerable sections of the Kenyan citizens.

The Fifth Participatory Poverty Assessment mainly focused on the impact of the various pro-poor policies, strategies, programs and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare.

### **1.3 PPA V Objectives**

The overall objective of the study was to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy, by providing a richer and more informative database on the living standards, aspirations and needs of the poorer sections of the population. In this context, the fifth Participatory Poverty Study (PPAV) focused on two main areas:

- i. The impact of the various policies, strategies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty and improving welfare; and
- ii. 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:

- i. To gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the pro-poor initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups.
- ii. To 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. To identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities improve their wellbeing, focusing on pro-poor initiatives.
- iv. To integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the M&E strategy for Kenya.
- v. Monitoring impact to identify what outcomes are important to those affected by policy interventions to help untangle complex processes of individual and community change.
- vi. Enriching 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.

### **1.4 Methodology**

#### **1.4.1 Selection of the Cluster**

For the purpose of collecting information, one cluster, *Ngiluni* was selected to represent the county. This was done using two-stage purposive sampling that was super-imposed on agro-ecological zones to cover common characteristics across similar zones. The aim was to capture as much variation as possible among the poor communities in the County. The Fourth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP IV) maps (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics) were used to demarcate the boundaries of each of the selected cluster.

#### **1.4.2 Process, Study Instruments and Field work**

This study used PPA tools and instruments including semi-structured oral interview questionnaires, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and observations. Specific tools which were used included resource mapping, wealth ranking, Venn/chapatti diagrams and pair wise ranking. The Village Resource Map was introduced before the introduction of other PPA tools, and Wealth Ranking was used to establish how the community categorizes itself economically. Attempt was made to identify households benefiting from the cash

transfers so that they could participate during the administration of the specific data collection check lists so that accurate information was received to inform the discussions.

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

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

### **1.4.3 Field Logistics**

The PPA-V study was conducted in two phases; Phase one was conducted between November and December 2012 while phase two (2) was conducted between November and December 2013. Information from the clusters was provided by the community members through Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and household questionnaire and was complemented by the information from key informants who are the technical experts in the subject areas of the survey. The main policy areas of focus were Health Care, Basic Education, Agricultural Services and Inputs, Water and Sanitation, Housing, Cash Transfer (CT), Roads 2000, Devolved Funds such as Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) and Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV).

In preparation for the Survey, the supervisors were introduced to the use of survey tools by the consultant. Advertisement for Research Assistants (RAs) was done one week prior to recruitment through the District Development Officer's (DDO) and District Statistics Officer's (DSO) office. The recruitment interviews were conducted for two days. Out of the applicants who were interviewed, six (6) research assistants per county were selected to assist in data collection in that specific county. RAs were deliberately recruited from the local community to ensure that they clearly understood the local languages, culture, traditions and the lifestyle of the people.

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

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

Other key areas covered during the training included data collection logistics, data storage, compilation of the site reports and the format of the cluster report. This report, therefore, presents the PPA V survey findings. It uses poverty perceptions as recorded from *Ngiluni community* to draw inferences about the county.

## **1.5 County/Cluster Profile**

Kitui County borders Machakos and Makueni counties to the west, Tana River County to the east, Taita-Taveta County to the south, and Embu and Tharaka-Nithi Counties to the north. It is located between latitudes 0<sup>0</sup>10' and 3<sup>0</sup>0' South and longitudes 37<sup>0</sup>50' and 39<sup>0</sup> East. It covers an area of 30,570.30 km<sup>2</sup> including 6,369 km<sup>2</sup> occupied by Tsavo East National Park.

The county comprises of 16 administrative sub-counties, namely, Kitui Central, Lower Yatta, Kitui West, Kisasi, Nzambani, Mutitu, Mutomo, Ikutha, Katulani, Matinyani, Mwingi Central, Mwingi East, Tseikuru, Muumoni, Kyuso and Migwani. The County is further divided into 41 divisions, 52 locations and 404 sub-locations. Ngiluni community, where the study was conducted is in Ndakani sub-location, Ndakani location, Mutha Division in Mutomo sub-county.

### **Population size and composition**

Population dynamics form an integral part of socioeconomic and cultural development. The county's population was 1,012,236 according to 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (531,198 females and 481,038 males) and is expected to grow to 1,077,359 in 2012. The population growth rate of the county is 2.1 percent per annum which is slightly lower than the national rate of 2.6 percent.

### **Education**

The county has 1,094 primary schools which are fairly spread within the county. In terms of physical infrastructure, the county is characterized by inadequate classroom space, desks and chairs; poor/low quality teaching materials; and inadequate sanitation facilities. This is despite the significant increase in investment in primary school infrastructure through the Free Primary Education (FPE) programme, CDF and LATF funds in the last five years.

There are 178 secondary schools in the county. Like in primary schools, the state of physical infrastructure in many secondary schools is generally characterized as poor. This is mainly in terms of inadequate infrastructure such as classrooms, administration blocks, dormitories, science laboratories, dining halls as well as sanitation facilities. Nonetheless, the last five years has seen up-coming huge investments in secondary school infrastructure financed mainly by CDF, free subsidized secondary education and bursaries programmes.

The county has four university colleges, namely, SEUCO, Kenyatta, Nazarene and Karatina; 76 youth polytechnics and the Kenya Water Institute (KEWI). There are two national schools, namely, Muthale Girls High School and Kitui High School.

### **Climate**

The climatic condition varies across the county in terms of rainfall and temperature. The rainfall pattern is bimodal with long rains falling during March to May. These are usually very erratic and unreliable rainfall. The short rains fall between October and December and is a bit reliable. The annual rainfall ranges between 300mm-1050 mm per annum with 40 percent

reliability for the short rains and 66 percent reliability for the long rains. **Need to counter check these statistics- if short rains are more reliable, why is reliability % the opposite**

The county experiences high temperatures throughout the year, which ranges from 14<sup>o</sup>c to 34<sup>o</sup>c. The hot months are between mid- July and September and January and February. The maximum mean annual temperature ranges between 26<sup>o</sup> C and 34<sup>o</sup> C whereas the minimum mean annual temperature ranges between 14<sup>o</sup> C and 22<sup>o</sup> C. Early July is the coldest month with temperatures falling to a low of 14<sup>o</sup> C while the month of September is normally the hottest with temperature rising to a high of 34<sup>o</sup> C.

Athi River is the only perennial river in the county and flows along the border with Machakos County. The county has no lake, but has several dams and pans that play a significant role in providing water. However most of the dams dry up during the dry season due to high evaporation rates of between 1800 – 2000mm/year. Spring water is generally found in the hilly areas of the county, namely, Mutitu Hills, Endau hills and Mutha hills. The springs vary in their flow regimes and some dry up during extended drought. Underground water sources supplement the scarce surface water sources through drilling of boreholes.

## **1.6 STUDY LIMITATIONS**

A major limitation in the PPAs design is the fact that they are not designed to collect quantitative information, and the qualitative information collected during the study in a cluster is not representative of the County or even the sub-county. However an aggregation of findings in a national report is expected to fairly represent the socio-economic problems, challenges and opportunities facing the Country.

## **1.7 REPORT ORGANIZATION**

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

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

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

The main objective of the survey was to assess the impact of various government pro-poor initiatives and getting the voices of the people themselves, get their understanding of programs, and for them to suggest ways of improvement.

### **2.2 DEFINITION OF POVERTY**

According to the Ngiluni community, poverty is called “*ukya*” a Kamba language term, meaning lack of basic needs which include food, shelter and clothing; while the focus group discussion described poverty as lack of satisfaction in terms of money/finances, food, water, education, transport, healthcare and road networks.

### **2.3 CLASSIFICATION OF WEALTH GROUPS**

According to the community, wealth groups can be classified into three categories, namely, the rich, the poor and the very poor. These groups can be identified in terms of asset ownership.

### **2.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF WEALTH GROUPS**

#### **The very poor**

According to the Ngiluni community, the very poor own nothing, and totally lack basic needs which mostly include food, water and clothing. They go for a whole day without food and they get a little amount of water. They lack basic education and most of the respondents in this category have never gone to school. The few who have gone to school did not finish school due to high cost of education. The very poor (*thialu*) can also be identified as those who own nothing in the society, and are also the squatters e.g. Kitui south game reserve squatters.

#### **The poor**

The poor cannot access enough food, water and education. The community noted that most of the families or households survive under only one meal a day. The poor own land but lack title deeds.

#### **The Rich**

According to community, a rich person is the one who owns two to five goats and one to ten chickens. However, they noted that they have never possessed cows as their main asset. Some very rich people own big businesses and greenhouses in the community.

## **2.5 CAUSES OF POVERTY**

### **Insufficient rainfall**

According to the community, among the major causes of poverty is insufficient rainfall. The community noted that harsh climatic conditions have affected them greatly. They noted that the amount of rainfall received annually was not enough and sometimes it never comes. They also indicated that there were no permanent rivers which they can use even as source of domestic water.

### **Access to education**

The community noted that there was only one primary school within their community (Nzoani). There are many children enrolled and had only five government teachers who were not enough to handle the pupils. They also indicated that the nearest secondary school was 10 km away, making it inaccessible for most of the children. The students end up giving up their studies due to long walking distances to school.

### **Access to healthcare**

Access to health care services was noted as a major problem by the community. They noted that they travel for long distances to seek health care. This they said has contributed to increased poverty in the region.

### **Inaccessible roads**

The roads in the locality are poor. The respondents pointed out that the roads are such that no vehicles reach or passes through their village. It is also hard to access the nearest market which is about 10 km away.

### **Clean water**

Poverty is largely caused by lack of water in the region. The community noted that they are forced to walk for long distances in search for water. Women mostly fetch water daily and others end up waking up very early and also spending the night waiting for water. There was no piped water in the community and the few boreholes dry up during dry seasons. There are no community tanks for storing water.

### **Poor political leadership**

The community noted that misuse of funds meant for projects, uneven allocation of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), and lack of political will has made the county to lag behind in many development aspects.

## **2.6 IMPACT OF POVERTY**

The community noted that increased poverty levels have affected them greatly. Some of the impacts include:

- Increased school dropout rates due to lack of money for fees and other charges;
- Selling of their assets like cattle to meet their basic needs.

## **2.7 COPING MECHANISMS**

It was pointed out in the FGD that different groups of people have different coping mechanisms.

### **Men**

They are mostly the owners of the assets in the homestead. They dispose the few goats and chicken available to buy food for the family, and also engage in charcoal burning, borrowing and casual work.

### **Women**

Women survive by borrowing food from shops, burn charcoal, while others walk long distances to fetch water for sale to others. They do manual jobs to raise some income, and also rely on relief food commonly known as "*katulu*".

### **Youth**

The youth migrate to towns in search of jobs and others work as touts. They also burn charcoal and sell water to local hotels.

## **2.8 ASSET OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DECISION MAKING IN THE HOUSEHOLD**

Most residents of Mutomo District own donkeys which help them in transportation of water from rivers. They also own land though unproductive and lack title deeds. A small number of livestock is also a characteristic in most of the families.

## **2.9 POVERTY TRENDS OVER TIME**

The community was of the opinion that poverty has generally increased over the last ten years. This is because of unpredictable rains. They noted that between 2003 and 2007 it used to rain but from 2008 to 2012, they have been receiving very little or no rainfall in a year. This has led to reduced yields from their farms.

There has been an increase in price levels that has contributed to increase in poverty. They pointed out that they used to buy goods at low prices which is not the case at the moment.

The villagers pointed out that in the early part of the last ten years (2003 to 2005), they used to get jobs without education documents, but in the most recent six years they have not been getting jobs since they are asked for education certificates.

## **2.10 INTERVENTIONS TARGETING THE POOR IN THE COMMUNITY**

Various interventions from the government and other partners have been targeted towards reducing poverty in the area. These include nongovernmental organizations like World Vision which provides nutritional services and water tracking services, Plan International helps in the school feeding programme, faith-based organizations (Catholic Diocese of Kitui) gives people cash handouts and relief food, and Government through buying their animals during the dry

periods. Other partners include German Agro Action (GAA) which gives civic education on how to utilize food they get from farming, Njaa Marufuku programme which used to give grants to people in form of money, Samaritan programme which deal with soil and water conservation, Kazi kwa Vijana (KKV), and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) which gives women funds to start their own businesses.

## **2.11 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The community gave various suggestions on poverty eradication that included:

- The government should assist them in drilling more boreholes, earth dams and in supplying them with piped water;
- The government should assist in building hospitals near them and ensure that there is adequate personnel;
- The government should facilitate supply of electricity to the community as this will help them to start small businesses;
- The government should build more schools and employ more teachers to cater for the increased number of pupils as well build more secondary schools to reduce the distance traveled by students;
- The government should improve the road network so as to facilitate easy accessibility to the markets;
- The government should improve the mobile phone network connectivity in the area.

## **CHAPTER THREE: FINDING ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

### **3.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter brings forth the findings on the provision of government services (from the perspectives of the community) in the healthcare, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, and housing sectors

### **3.1 HEALTHCARE**

#### **3.1.1 Introduction**

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

Kitui County generally experiences inadequate facilities such as low doctor/nurse to patient ratio, few operative health facilities, and long distances to health facilities. On average, the distance to the nearest health centre is 10.2 km while doctor-population ratio is 1:70,862 and nurse-population ratio is 1:2,652.

According to Ngiluni community, health means physical, social, mental and political wellbeing of a human being and not necessarily being free from diseases. However, some community members defined healthcare as going to hospital, getting medicines and getting better, while others defined healthcare as accessing services quickly in a nearby place and making one's body to be healthy by an experienced doctor.

#### **3.1.2 Major Health concerns in the community**

According to the District Public Health Officer (DPHO) the major health concerns in the area are malaria/fever, flu, HIV/AIDS particularly in urban centres, and respiratory diseases. However, the officer pointed out that there were various interventions to address the problems which included inpatient and outpatient services, maternity services which include antenatal and postnatal services, family planning services which include sterilization, condoms, intrauterine devices (IUD), vaccine and pills.

They also offer mobile campaigns against polio, measles and malaria, VCT services and CCC services, free healthcare for children under 5 years, and provision of ART and TB treatments. Majority of healthcare services are obtained from dispensaries which are at a distance to many. Dispensaries offer a variety of outpatient services for those who reach them. The nurses are few in the dispensaries so the sick queue for long hours.

### **3.1.3 Provision of health services**

The community noted that services offered at the hospitals were not free. They indicated that they pay Kshs 20 when they seek the services. However services offered to under-five children, VCT, ARV and family planning services are free.

According to the DPHO, the health centers in the area are managed by Clinical Officers and Nurses. They give outpatient services and refer the patients whenever there is need. The community also has Community Health Workers who help in providing health services at the community level.

The dispensaries offer a wide range of services which includes outpatient services like immunization against measles and polio to infants (children under 5 years), antenatal and postnatal maternal services, family planning services like sterilization (vasectomy and tubal ligation), family planning pills, syringes and implants, treatments for TB and malaria, ART, VCT services, dressing of wounds, fight against venoms, and referrals where necessary, among others.

There is a service charge in accessing some of the services. According to the community, they pay Kshs 50 each time one visits the clinic, Kshs 600 for one to deliver (give birth) in the health centre with the help of a nurse, Kshs 20 for malaria treatment, Kshs 1,500 for snake bites in the form of anti-venom treatment, and Kshs 250 for dressing wounds, although they are not provided with receipts.

### **3.1.4 Interventions towards health services in the community**

The community noted that there are several programmes that have contributed towards improvement of healthcare. They include:

- Liverpool Volunteer Counseling and Testing (LVCT) which provides free civic education on AIDS awareness, and free HIV testing and counseling. They also fund administration of ARV, ART and advice HIV positive people on their wellbeing;
- The World Vision is an NGO that provides healthcare to under-five year old children and pregnant and lactating mothers through provision of plum nuts, beans, oils, maize and yellow flour. It also gives funds to de-worm children below five years;
- The government helps in building health facilities and stocking them with drugs.

### **3.1.5 Decision making on health issues in the family and community**

The community noted that they consult each other and agree within the family on issues touching health in the family.

### **3.1.6 Ideal family size among the household in the community**

According to the community, the ideal family size is between five and twelve. This is because most of the households are polygamous families and they believe that large families will offer a large labor force and will act as votes during elections.

### **3.1.7 Relation between household size and poverty**

The community noted that the larger the size of the family, the higher the poverty level. They said that, with large families, one strains to provide for them. They noted that large family sizes in the area have led to draining the economy. People sell their livestock and assets and are left with nothing.

The community further noted that poor healthcare contributes to poverty of the area as sickness weakens people such that they cannot work hard to get their basic needs. Diseases like HIV/AIDS kills people and drains their earning in the form of seeking expensive treatment, special diets and other needs for patients.

### **3.1.8 Access and decision making on family planning**

The community was aware of family planning services offered at the health facilities. However, they noted that these services are offered at varying prices. They said that vaccines for sterilizing for three months is charged at Kshs 20 and pills and tablets are given at the rate of Kshs 20, while implants are also available in nearby dispensaries at a cost of Kshs 100. Condoms are given to them for free. Family planning guide and counseling is done for free. Sterilization lasting for 5 years for ladies is done at the rate of Kshs 100 by external clinical officers. Family planning services are accessible to the community.

Women do not consult their husbands when seeking family planning services because their husbands will not allow them because of the perceived FP side-effects which are believed to cause ill health like excessive bleeding, irregular bleeding and menstrual cycles, all which calls for extra cost to undergo treatment. They argued that FP drugs make some women slim and others become excessively fat, thus losing the shapes the husbands desired earlier. Other men said women using FP become immoral while others lose libido, and become sexually unresponsive. Male respondents said that for these reasons, their women sneak into the dispensary and get FP without informing anyone.

### **3.1.9 Opinion on status of health services over time**

There has been improvement in the provision of health service as pointed out by the district health officer. The respondent pointed out that healthcare services and centres have increased for the past 10 years. In the recent past there were nine health centres and the nurses used to attend to more than 200 patients. Currently the district has 23 health facilities, which means that more facilities have been put up. However, the community felt that their expectations have not been met but acknowledged that the government is working towards better service delivery.

The community noted that previously they used to travel long distances seeking health services which has now changed. They also said that they are currently accessing family planning services at local dispensaries but in the past they used to get services at Kitui District Hospital which is very far. ART administration and HIV/AIDS issues are now being addressed by local dispensaries unlike ten years ago. Generally most of the services like fighting malaria, e.g. through provision of mosquito nets, is now available.

### **3.10 Conclusion and recommendation for improvement**

The community gave the following recommendations:

- Hospitals/dispensaries need to be built near or in the village so as to bring service closer to the people;
- Recruit and deploy more nurses to reduce time taken in the dispensaries;
- Community Health Workers (CHWs) need to be employed so as to address emergencies and guide people (villagers) on health issues; and
- Civic education on family planning issues need to be done as most people lack knowledge about what is family planning, dangers of family planning, and importance of family planning to address most of the misconceptions.

## **3.2 BASIC EDUCATION**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

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

Kitui county has 1,094 primary schools with an estimated enrolment of 293,507 pupils. The county has 1,336 early childhood development centres with 1,695 teachers. The teacher/pupil ratio stands at 1:43, which is higher than the recommended standard of 1:25. The overall performance of the county has been poor. The county is characterized by poor physical infrastructure which are poorly maintained. There is inadequate classroom space, desks and chairs, and poor/low quality building structures with inadequate sanitation facilities.

### **3.2.2 Status of education facilities in the cluster/county**

According to the District educational Officer, Mutomo District, most of the public and private primary and secondary schools have permanent physical structures. A few primary schools and ECDE centers have semi-permanent and temporary structures, while others learn under trees due to inadequate facilities.

In Ngiluni cluster, there is only one ECD center/nursery school, one primary school and no secondary school in the whole community. The ECD centre is located in a church building where the young children were taught by the pastor of that church whose highest level of education was Standard Eight. The centre is communally owned and had an enrolment of 63 pupils (25 boys and 38 girls). It does not have enough teaching and learning resources since the parents were the ones who provide for these resources; and it has only a blackboard and the children sit on the church chairs.

The community indicated that the transition rate from primary Class Eight to secondary Form One was very low. The secondary school lacked many facilities e.g. classrooms, books and any other teaching resource, in addition to inadequate number of teachers.

### **3.2.3 Provision of educational services**

The respondents noted that the government and other stakeholders (e.g. NGOs) provide education services to the community. The government employs teachers, provides free primary education and school feeding programs. The government, through the Ministry of Education, also offers bursaries and grants for construction and improvement of primary and secondary schools in the district. Some of the NGOs include World Vision, Compassionate, Sweden Mutomo Group and German Agro Action, (GAA). These NGOs have assisted in provision of education through building of tanks (World Vision, GAA, Sweden Mutomo Group), and sponsoring the needy and the vulnerable children in the society by paying for their school fees and offering food assistance and tuition for those children. Faith-based organizations and religious bodies help school children to grow and develop spiritually and in all other aspects of their development. They also perform functions similar to that of the NGOs.

Parents and the community members help in building of school structures, and paying for teachers (ECD and PTA) and reading materials.

### **3.2.4 Status of education services**

According to the community there has been an increase in status of education services over the years. This is evidenced by increased enrollment rates and relatively high transition rates from primary to secondary level. However, despite the increase in enrolment, performance has remained poor in most schools. Transition rates from primary to secondary schools were low in the area since there were only three children in the community who were in secondary school.

Transition to college was also poor since there were no children from the community who were in colleges and universities. The community also said that the village has high number of school dropouts due to high poverty levels.

### **3.2.5 Interventions towards improvement of education status in the community**

The community noted that there have been a number of interventions to improve education in the community that includes the following:

- After the introduction of free primary education, enrolment in public primary schools went up while that of private schools declined. However, those of ECDE centers went down as parents kept their children at home until they attained school-going age so that they take them to Standard One. This necessitated employment of more PTA teachers to cater for the increased enrolment.
- Some of the schools in the district offer boarding facilities for Class Seven and Eight so as to improve educational standards. In addition, there are also morning and evening preps for both primary and secondary schools that help teachers to cover the syllabus.
- The government has built more secondary schools to cater for secondary schooling.

There are also polytechnics and other tertiary institutions e.g. Mutomo Youth Polytechnic and Kyatume Youth Polytechnic which provide short courses. However, Ngiluni community noted that there were very few interventions to improve education in the village. The community members are not even aware of the CDF, LATF and other funds for developing school facilities. The community also noted that the provincial administration does not participate in ensuring that all children go to school, and therefore many children do not go to school.

### **3.2.6 Relationship between education and poverty**

The community noted that there is a relationship between poverty and education. Low levels of education lead to poverty since one cannot get good employment. The community also noted that high poverty levels are the root cause of low levels of education as many people cannot afford to pay for education of their children.

### **3.2.7 Opinion on status education over time**

The community noted that there has been increase in enrolment since the introduction of free primary education. However, the performance has been going down which has led to low transition rates from primary to secondary and secondary to colleges or universities. The poor performance and the low transition rates are as a result of high levels of poverty, shortage of trained teachers, poor school management, teenage pregnancies, and lack of adequate finances.

The community noted that dropout rates in the district are low when there are school feeding programmes but increase when the programme is not there.

### **3.2.8 Conclusion and recommendations for improvement**

The community recommended employment of enough trained teachers, improvement of the FPE, provision of school feeding programmes, and establishment of more schools offering short courses like computer, secretarial and accountant courses. Other recommendations include:

- Provision of water to the community to avoid girls traveling longer distances to look for water and also avoid early pregnancies or reduce dropout rates;

- The residents proposed for reintroduction of school feeding programmes to increase enrolment and retention rates;
- Community awareness and mobilization on the importance of education.
- The community was not aware of the CDF, LATF and other funds from the government. They should therefore be educated on availability and the use of these funds. They also proposed that there should be equality, fairness and transparency in the allocation of CDF and LATF funds.
- The members proposed for additional trained teachers so as to ease the work of the teachers and ensure proper performance in the schools. They also proposed for follow-up to ensure that all the children who have attained school-going age benefit from the free primary education program.
- They recommended construction of more ECD, primary, secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

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

#### **3.3.1 Introduction**

PPA-V sought to gain a deeper understanding of the major agricultural activities in the area, including major crops and livestock, and the scale of farming e.g. whether done for commercial or subsistence. The study also sought to understand the challenges faced by local farmers, and provide recommendations based on the opinions of the community.

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy and a major source of livelihood of the community members in Mutomo District, though there have been no or very little rains in many parts of the district for the last four years. Many people still depend on livestock which they sell to get money to buy food, acquire all their basic necessities, pay school fees and meet all their livelihood needs.

#### **3.3.2 Status of Provision of Agricultural Services and inputs**

According to Deputy District Agricultural Officer and the District Animal Production Officer (DAPO), there are a number of agricultural services that are provided by the government to the community. These services include provision of seeds to farmers during rainy or onset of rainy season, training community members on proper crop and livestock farming, water harvesting through construction of earth dams and water pans, postharvest management, seed bulking (hiring farmers to plant and multiply seeds), provision of traditional high value seeds (e.g. millet, cassava, sorghum, ndengu/green grams, cowpeas, etc), linking farmers to markets, crop damage assessment, micro-migration (e.g. greenhouses), provision of relief seeds, and kitchen gardening.

Other services provided under the Ministry of livestock include technology transfer which include crossbreeding, conducting training and seminars in marginal areas mainly for groups, and introduction of emerging livestock like crocodiles, monkeys, and camel/setu. There are also marketing aspects which involve formation of commercial villages to sell their products as

a group. They also attach farmers to higher offices at Kitui District so that they may get tractors.

There are also destocking and restocking services done by the Ministry of Livestock, mainly during the dry season to reduce and compensate for losses incurred by the farmers. Destocking involves disposing of cattle which are not able to cope with drought by purchasing them from the farmers and slaughtering them. Restocking involves replacement of goats and cattle to farmers after all their animals die.

However the community noted that they used to get trainings from agricultural extension officers which had ceased.

### **3.3.3 Intervention towards improvement of agricultural standards in the community**

According to a key informant, there are a number of services that are carried out to address the challenges experienced in crop and animal production. These include destocking and restocking, vaccination, training on farming methods, upgrading of cattle, giving pastures and seeds to farmers, training farmers on postharvest management, establishment of commercial villages, water harvesting, seed bulking, educating farmers and giving grants to groups where each group gets between KShs 120,000 to 140,000. In the district, 14 groups so far have benefited.

However, the community noted that they have not been benefiting from the services and when it comes, only a few benefits from the programmes.

The community noted that the only intervention was from a faith-based organization (Catholic Diocese of Kitui) which gives them chance to work in their farm and gives them either food or pay them cash.

### **3.3.4 Target group for Agricultural services**

Different services target different age groups. Njaa marufuku is given to already established and registered groups. Grants are also given to registered groups, and relief seeds are given to less fortunate and vulnerable people in the community. Water harvesting is done for registered groups; and and technology transfer is done for farmers keeping livestock for beef. There are also marketing aspects carried out for commercial villages. Some of the above services are provided by the Mission Hospital and the Government.

The community was in agreement that the target groups are youths and vulnerable groups. The youth get training on how to improve productivity while the vulnerable groups are given seeds to plant.

### **3.3.5 Relation between agriculture and Poverty**

According to the key informant, many people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. During periods of bumper harvest, people get a lot of money through the sale of crop produce (e.g. ndengu), animals and animal products. When the rains are low, they get very little agricultural produce making life hard due to lack of things that they can sell and get some cash for paying school fees or buying food.

Thus there is a very big relationship between agriculture and poverty since during drought periods, farmers get a lot of losses as their crops and animals die, thereby bringing down the region's economy.

The community also acknowledged that recurrent droughts in the village reduces agricultural production and hence poverty. In addition, as agriculture is their strength, lack of water has stopped many activities in the village, thus increasing poverty levels. Lack of pasture has also led to reduction in animal products like eggs, meat and milk leading to lack of money. Poor agricultural production in the village has also led to lack of continuity of many agricultural projects. Due to recurrent drought, charcoal burning in the area has increased leading to low productivity.

### **3.3.6 Status of Agricultural Services over Time**

Crop production in the district has been declining over the last four years due to lack of adequate rains for a long period of time. However, **the respondent (was this a KI????)** indicated that livestock production has been both increasing and decreasing since there are deaths and births of animals but mostly the death rates are high during the dry periods.

The community said that due to continued drought in the last 10 years, agricultural production has gone down. They added that despite their productivity being very low, they also face challenges in farming such inadequate knowledge and poor farming methods in conditions of poor and unreliable rainfall, lack of extension services, and lack of adequate arable land. There is also a lot of illiteracy in the community as their highest level of education is Form Two. These challenges have made agricultural productivity to be low and led to soil erosion.

### **3.3.7 Challenges**

Agricultural production in the community is faced by a large number of obstacles that include recurrent drought leading to low crop production and lack of food for livestock, diseases and pests that lower crop and livestock production both in quality and quantity, high cost of agricultural inputs (bale of grass costs Kshs 400), high poverty levels, poor infrastructure, unorganized marketing systems, inadequate skills in farming, overgrazing due to overstocking, reduced animal productivity, indiscriminative breeding/mating leading to low productivity, environmental degradation, lack of adequate personnel as there are only 11 technical officers in the Agricultural Ministry to serve 16,400 farm families, poor communication, and low agricultural technology.

### **3.3.8 Recommendation**

Some of the recommendations given include improvement in security, water harvesting in many areas, digging of more boreholes, more training for farmers to improve agricultural production, provision of machines to the farmers, accessing agricultural inputs at subsidized prices, and educating farmers on modern farming methods.

In order to increase productivity it is important for farmers to receive education on proper farming methods, follow-up of agricultural services offered, provision of certified seeds, provision of farm machinery, bringing agricultural service providers closer to the people (e.g. agrovets), introduction of farm loans, and construction of boreholes.

## **3.4 WATER AND SANITATION**

### **3.4.1 Introduction**

The county has inadequate water for both domestic and agricultural use. The rainfall is inadequate and unreliable while majority of the rivers are seasonal except Athi River and Tana River. Majority of the population depend on surface and subsurface dams which often do not hold sufficient water due to low rainfall and high evaporation rates during the dry seasons. The main source of water include 150 dams, 153 water pans/ earth dams, 683 shallow wells, 264 boreholes, 33 protected springs, two permanent rivers (Tana and Athi) and five unprotected springs. A total of 4,774 households have roof catchment systems.

### **3.4.2 Status of provision of Water and Sanitation Services**

According to District Water Officer, the sources of drinking water include boreholes, wells and rock catchments. Most of these sources are not reliable due to unpredictable weather conditions. This is because there is not enough water to fill these sources.

The Ngiluni community noted that their main sources of drinking water are boreholes and wells. They said that they wake up very early in the morning at 4:00 pm and walk long distances (about 25 km) to reach boreholes as they are drilled far from the community. They said wells are not reliable as most streams are seasonal.

### **3.4.3 Types of sanitation facilities**

According to the key informant, sanitation facilities within the district are in pathetic condition because most families do not have pit latrines. This is due to some cultural beliefs where, for example, children do not go to the same toilet with parents even if the family has a toilet. He also said that most people do not wash their hands or even bathe due to inadequate water. He said that the Tana and Athi water programme is providing water to the people within the district. The government is also drilling boreholes within the communities and encouraging the communities to build toilets.

The community noted that most of them do not have pit latrines and mostly dispose their waste in bush.

#### **3.4.4 Relationship between Environmental Degradation and water availability**

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

#### **3.4.5 Relationship between water and sanitation and poverty**

According to the community and the key informant, water is related to poverty citing poor health due to drinking unsafe water which makes them weak and less economically productive. They were also able to define sanitation and hygiene as having pit latrines, utensils racks and rubbish pits. They are also aware of sanitation facilities such as pit latrines and proper waste disposal.

Most of the families have poor sanitation facilities leading people to become sick, and a family which does not have a toilet can easily get sick due to spread of waste all over the holding.

The community noted that water is related to poverty as it affects farming since the area is dry throughout the year. They also indicated that keeping livestock becomes a challenge because there is no pasture for animals. They said that lack of water makes them waste a lot of time searching for it which makes them not to do productive work.

#### **3.4.6 Opinion/trends on status of water and sanitation over time**

Both the community and the key informant were in agreement that water and sanitation for the last ten years has been decreasing due to unreliable rainfall and unpredictable weather conditions.

#### **3.4.8 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- The government should channel more funds to water projects as most parts of the district do not receive enough rainfall;
- Water treatment programmes should be emphasized to avoid consumption of unfit water;
- Piped water from a reliable source like Athi or Tana River should be brought to the community;
- More dams should be constructed to increase water availability;
- The government should consider rock catchments programmes in the community as there are rocks surrounding the community;
- Boreholes should be drilled in the community to bring water near the people.

## **3.5 HOUSING**

### **3.5.1 Introduction**

According to a key informant, the key functions of the Ministry of Housing includes managing government estates, facilitating leasing of privately-owned houses to government ministries and departments, negotiating cases and solving disputes that may arise between tenants and landlords, and building government houses and offices.

The main types of housing in the county can be grouped into five according to size and where the houses are constructed: house/bungalow, traditional huts/manyatta, Swahili, shanties, and flats. In terms of spatial distribution, 75 percent of all the houses are traditional types found in rural areas while the rest are found in urban centers. The county is predominantly rural. Due to anticipated economic activities like coal mining, limestone and iron ore extraction, and commencement of the county government, there is need to improve the existing houses and construct new ones.

### **3.5.2 Types of building materials**

In Ngiluni community, the types of building materials were mud, bricks, stones, iron sheets and timber.

### **3.5.3 Status of provision of housing**

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 because of poverty.

### **3.5.4 Opinion/ trends**

Both the community and the key informant reported that housing provision has not improved in the last 10 years due to increased cost of building.

### **3.5.5 Types of housing and household headship**

The following housing types are evident in Ngiluni cluster: (a) permanent housing categorized by the community as those houses built with stones, bricks, cement, sand, concrete and iron sheets; (b) semi-permanent housing built with mud, timber, iron sheets and can easily be brought down by heavy rains and strong winds; and (c) temporary housing built with makeshift materials like cartons, polythene papers and sacks, and can easily be brought down by heavy rains and strong winds.

The main types of household headship identified were male-headed, female-headed, child-headed, and elderly-headed households.

### **3.5.6 Conclusion and recommendations**

- The government should subsidize building materials to reduce cost;
- Improve on the road network in the area to facilitate transportation of materials;
- Adequate equipment like brick maker and vehicles should be provided to facilitate greater reach by the public.

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

### **4.0 INTRODUCTION**

The government initiated programmes to protect the vulnerable from extreme poverty and deprivation. The programmes include but not limited to cash transfers to the OVCs, PWD and the elderly, Kazi Kwa Vijana, Road 2000, and the Devolved Funds. Below are the findings on the implementation and impact of these initiatives

### **4.1 CASH TRANSFERS**

Cash transfers entail money which comes from the national government targeted at improving the living standards of the elderly and the most vulnerable. These include money for the disabled/challenged people, to the elderly people and to orphans.

#### **4.1.1 Cash Transfers for Elderly People**

The community noted that they were aware of the cash transfers for the elderly. However they indicated that their community has not benefited from the programme despite having elderly people. Most of the respondents reported that they do not know the procedure/criteria which are followed in selecting the beneficiaries as this is mostly done by the Chiefs and they are not consulted.

#### **4.1.2 Cash transfers for disabled People**

The community reported that they are aware of the cash transfer for disabled persons. They reported that one person who was disabled had been benefiting from the program although the said beneficiary denied having benefited from the program. The community reported that beneficiaries receive Kshs 2,000 per month but the delivery of the money was not timely.

#### **4.1.3 Cash Transfers for Orphans**

The community reported that the programme was not there in their community and had not heard of any beneficiary even from the nearby communities.

#### **4.1.4 Impacts of the Cash Transfers**

According to the KI the old people who do not have a lot of strength to work are provided with cash which they use to sustain their lives and boost their living standards. They use it to buy food and can extend others as school fees for their children, thus making them self-reliant.

Cash transfers for the disabled benefit the community because it reduces their burden of taking care of the disabled people. However, cash transfers for disabled/challenged people have not had any big impact in the Ngiluni community because there is only one recorded beneficiary who claimed that he has never received any cash transfer. They have not

benefitted since such transfers do not exist in the village and they are not aware of the programme.

#### **4.1.5 Challenges of Cash Transfers**

The people who qualify for the programme are many yet the amount of money for cash transfers is not enough to cater for all the old and disabled people.

#### **4.1.6 Recommendations**

The community and the Gender Officer gave the following recommendations:

- The government to increase the amount of cash transfers so that many aged/elderly people and challenged/disabled persons benefit from it. This is because many people complained that they are entitled to benefit from the programme as they have reached 65 years and are poor.
- The government to create more employment opportunities so that people can be self-reliant.
- The number of beneficiaries should be increased so that at least a big number of people benefits from the community.
- Streamline criteria for selection of beneficiaries, e.g. public meetings (baraza) should be held.
- There should be a clear communication to create awareness of the existence of such funds and the criteria used in selection.
- Follow up be done to establish that the rightful people benefit from the program.

### **4.3 ROADS 2000**

The Roads 2000 programme is a labor intensive program started in year 2000 with the objective of community participation in ensuring that the road networks in the rural areas were done. It involved clearing of bushes along the roads and employed both skilled and unskilled people. However, the program ended in 2005. However, the community reported that they did not benefit from the program.

### **4.4. KAZI KWA VIJANA**

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

KKV started in 2011/2012 fiscal year and was about planting of trees and fish bond projects. The youths were planting seedlings and then taking care of them. Other programmes include fish ponds. The programme targeted youths between 18-35 years. They mainly planted trees on public land like schools and were paid Kshs 250 per day on a daily basis. However,

according to the community, when they participated in the KKV they were paid Ksh 160 per day which they felt was not enough.

The following recommendations were made with respect to KKV:

- They should be involved in selection of programmes so as to come up with programmes which can do well in the district;
- More money be channeled to the youths so as to add more programmes to help them;
- The Government should provide civic education to the people on Kazi Kwa Vijana programmes; and
- There should be follow-up activities by the government to make sure that Kazi Kwa Vijana programmes are implemented at the grassroots.

#### **4.5 DEVOLVED FUNDS**

Devolved funds include community grants, National Fund for Persons with Disabilities (NPWD), Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), Constituency Development Fund (CDF) bursaries, and HIV and AIDS funds.

##### **4.5.1 Constituency Development Fund**

According to the CDF Projects Manager, this is the money which is channeled through their office to assist in some projects. It is targeted to several sectors e.g. education, health, environment and agriculture, among others. Some of the projects that had benefited from CDF include schools (building classes, dormitories), health (building dispensaries), agriculture (establishing greenhouses) and bursaries to the poor and the needy.

However, according to Ngiluni community, nobody has ever benefitted from this fund, although it exists in other communities. They reported that they were not aware of the procedure used to access the kitty, and there was no programme supported by the fund in their area. In addition, CDF faces political influence whereby political leaders interfere with the CDF projects and convinces people not to participate because the CDF is supposed to do the work alone.

##### **4.5.2 Local Authority Transfer Fund**

According to the respondents, this kind of devolved fund does not exist in their community. They also reported that they were not aware of the program.

##### **4.5.3 Women Enterprise Fund**

According to the district gender officer, the fund is available in the district. He reported that the money is given to women groups who have come together to start small businesses. The money is in form of loans and they are expected to repay. However, Ngiluni community

reported that they had not benefited from such funds and there were no women groups formed or benefitting from such funds.

#### **4.5.4 Youth Enterprise Development Fund**

These funds are given to the youth to enable them boost their businesses. Youths are advised to come together and do some businesses together e.g. growing some crops together which they can later sell to the community. This has helped to improve the lives of the youth as well as the community at large.

According to the respondents, these funds exist in the district, although there is no member from Ngiluni village that has benefited. According to them they sent the proposal but they never received the fund and therefore did not benefit from it. They also said there is a youth enterprise fund supporting a business in the Kyatuni village.

#### **4.5.6 National Fund for Persons with Disability**

These are in form of cash transfers given to disabled/challenged people in the community. Most of the disabled people from the community benefit from this fund even if it is something very little. Chiefs help in identifying the beneficiaries.

#### **4.5.7 Community Grants**

According to the Gender Officer, these funds are given to groups with projects which are ongoing and even to schools with the aim of facilitating accomplishment of their plans. Community grants are either from the governments or from NGOs like World Vision.

These funds are not refunded which means that they are not loans. Follow-up is made from the Gender Office since they need to know if the grants given were used for the intended purposes or some people used it for their personal interests. This has helped boost the community a lot e.g. World Vision gives seedlings to farmers.

#### **4.5.7 Recommendations**

- People should be educated on how to access these funds since they are not aware on how to access them;
- The Government should improve on the allocation of funds for disabled persons and make follow-up to ensure that only the rightful people benefit.

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

### **5.0 INTRODUCTION**

The county has seven crosscutting issues, namely, high population growth rate, high poverty levels, gender inequality, environmental conservation and management, disaster management, high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and disaster risk reduction. This chapter captures how the issues have been addressed.

#### **5.1 HIV AND AIDS**

The HIV/AIDS scourge has in the recent years affected major sectors of the economy. The disease has weakened the economically productive population. The most affected age group is between 15 and 49 who constitute the majority of the workforce. Prevalence of the scourge is highest in Kitui, Mutitu, Kabati, Wikililye and Mutonguni urban centres. Its prevalence rate is about 6.0 percent in the county.

The scourge has contributed significantly to high incidences of poverty. The greatest impact has been on widows, grandparents and older orphans who are left with the heavy burden of caring for the children of the departed. This explains the increasing number of female and orphan headed households in the County. Prevalence levels are particularly high in towns than in the rural setup.

#### **5.2 GENDER**

There are fundamental challenges of gender equity within the county, as women provide most of the agricultural labor. It is the women who are involved in cultivation, weeding and harvesting of crops. However, majority of them do not have control or access to the benefits realized from the sale of farm produce. Land ownership is mainly by men, as women have little control over land.

The domestic and social burden also falls upon women. The women have the added burden of feeding their families. To address the gender imbalance, action should be taken to ensure that women are given control over land and other assets, and new agricultural technologies are disseminated to them first since they are the ones involved in farming. They should also be given opportunities of decision making both at the family and community levels.

## **CHAPTER SIX: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

### **6.2 CONCLUSION**

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

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

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