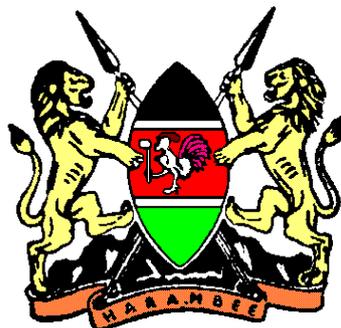


**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**



**THE PRESIDENCY**

**MINISTRY OF DEVOLUTION AND PLANNING**

**FIFTH PARTICIPATORY POVERTY ASSESSMENT (PPA V)  
REPORT**

**LAIKIPIA COUNTY**

**NGOMONGO 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 and devolved funds.

The definition of poverty varies from the 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.

This study found out that levels of poverty from community perspective has been rising despite various pro-poor initiatives undertaken by the government over the years. It is worthy to note many at 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. Communities for example, have come up with diverse coping mechanisms on poverty. Some of these include women merry-go-round and small scale business. This will be upgraded to other notable initiatives like table banking concept and training Counties to benefit from UWEZO and other related funds. They will be a reference point in designing current and future interventions on reducing poverty and regional disparities. I call upon our internal and external stakeholders to utilize the respective PPA V county reports to inform policy and decision-making.

**Ann Waiguru, OGW**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Ministry of Devolution and Planning**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Laikipia 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 amalgamation of COK, 2010 and ultimately the formation of County Governments after the general elections of 2013. It is derived from the fifth National Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPAV) Report whose findings have been published simultaneously with the 47 County Reports.

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

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

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

**Engineer Peter Mangiti**  
**Principal Secretary**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The overall objective of PPA V 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 proper sections of the population especially with regard to social poverty and provision of selected wellbeing services including agriculture, education, health, social protection and social security. The survey sought the community's perspective on poverty and provision of selected wellbeing services including agriculture, education, health, social protection and other devolved funds. In particular, perspectives of the community were sought on the awareness of the availability of services, accessibility and affordability.

Laikipia County report provides a detailed description of the impact of the government initiatives based on the perceptions of the people themselves, especially the poor and vulnerable groups. The report is divided into six (6) chapters with each chapter looking at different areas of policy.

The county has a total projected population of 427, 123 people with the Sub-County share being 223, 335 people. The cluster of study was Ngomongo located in Laikipia West Sub-County. The poverty index for the Laikipia West Sub-County stands at 43%..

The community said that their poverty situation has been increasing and it is impacting a lot on their livelihoods. This was evident from the increased food prices and other necessities. The major causes of poverty in the area include lack of employment opportunities and lack of land ownership by many of the area residents

It was reported that health services are still lagging behind as compared to the other services. The major health concern is mosquito bites due to the high temperatures in the area that favour mosquito breeding. They complained that the services offered were not of good quality which is compounded by the long distance to the nearest government health facilities

The quality of the education services in some schools was reported to be very poor. Poor performance has been recorded from various schools due to the high student-teacher ratio and school absenteeism. It was reported that access to education services has improved since the year 2002. This was attributed to Free Primary Education (FPE), Subsidized Secondary Education (SSE ) and school feeding programme among other initiatives that have been undertaken by the government and other stakeholders.

The status of the livestock production has greatly improved over the last ten years. This was attributed to government interventions such as Njaa Marufuku, Small Holder Horticultural Empowerment Promotion Unit Projects (SHEP-UP) and the National Agricultural and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP). Such initiatives have highly improved the welfare of the community through increased income and

improved nutrition of the farmers. In addition, the farmers are now aware of the services and majority seek for extension services whenever they need them.

The county has access to Cash Transfers programmes though by a few individuals. Most community members feel that the money disbursed is not sufficient enough to cater for the needs of the vulnerable. The targeting was reported to be fair and transparent as the local administration, opinion leaders and some community members are involved during the selection.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ADB	African Development Bank
ALLPO	Alternative Livestock Support Programme
AMREF	African Medical Research Foundation
BOG	Board of Governors
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
DDO	District development Officer
DSO	District Statistical Officer
ECD	Early Childhood Development
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
FPE	Free primary Education
GOK	Government of Kenya
HIV	Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Association
KKV	Kazi Kwa Vijana
KPHC	Kenya Population and Housing Census
LATF	Local Transfer Funds
NALEP	National Agriculture and Extension Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PEV	Post election Violence
PPA V	Poverty Participatory Assessment Five
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
PWDS	People Living With Disabilities
RA	Research Assistants

SCDO	Sub-County Development officer
SCEO	Sub-County Education Officer
SCGCO	Sub-County Gender and Children's Officer
SCLPO	Sub-County Livestock production Officer
SCYDO	Sub-County Youth development Officer
SHEP-UP	Small Holder Horticultural Empowerment Promotion Unit Projects
SSDE	Subsidized Secondary Day education
VIP	Very Important Person
YEDF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YFR	Youth Fund

## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of PPA V**

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.

### **1.2 PPA V Objectives**

The overall objective of PPA-V study was to contribute to Kenya's poverty reduction strategy, by providing a richer and more informative data base on the living standards, aspirations and needs of the poorer sections of the population especially with regard to social protection and social security. More specifically, the participatory assessment sought to:

- 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 and preventing people from falling into poverty;
- iii. To identify and prioritize policies, strategies, programmes and projects which would support poor communities in their escape from poverty, focusing on social protection initiatives;
- iv. To integrate the respective contributions of participatory and qualitative approaches in the M&E strategy for Kenya;
- v. To evaluate impact and identify what outcomes are important to those affected by policy interventions themselves to help untangle complex processes of individual and community change;
- vi. To enrich the 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; and
- vii. To respond to the Bill of Rights and other articles (public participation) enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

## **1.3 County/Cluster Profile**

### **County profile**

#### **1.3.1 Geographical characteristic**

Laikipia County is one of the 14 counties within the Rift Valley region and one of the 47 counties in the Republic of Kenya. It borders Samburu county to the North, Isiolo county to the North East, Meru county to the East, Nyeri county to the South East, Nyandarua county and Nakuru county to the South West, and Baringo county to the West. It covers an area of 9,462 km<sup>2</sup> and is ranked as the 15th largest county in the country by land size.

The county experiences a relief type of rainfall due to its altitude and location. The annual rainfall varies between 400mm and 750mm though higher annual rainfall totals are observed on the areas bordering the slopes of Mt. Kenya and the Aberdare Ranges. North Marmanet receives over 900mm of rainfall annually; while the drier parts of Mukogodo and Rumuruti receive slightly over 400mm annually. The plateau receives about 500mm of rain annually, while Mukogodo Forest receives an average rainfall of about 706mm annually.

The annual mean temperature of the county ranges between 16° C and 26° C. This is as a result of relief and trade winds resulting to cooler conditions in eastern side which is near Mt. Kenya, and hotter in the low-lying areas in the North. The western and southern parts of the county have cooler temperatures with the coolest month being April and the hottest month being February.

#### **1.3.2 Population Size and Composition**

According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC) report, the total population for the county stood at 399,227 people of which 198,625 were males and 200,602 were females. This population was projected to 427, 173 persons in 2012. It is also expected to rise to 457,514 and 479,072 in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

The county has a large youthful population with over half of the county's population being below the age of 35 years. This trend is expected to continue up to the year 2017. This calls for special consideration in terms of provision of goods and services targeting these demographic structures during the 2013 to 2017 period and beyond.

The child bearing age group (15-49) stood at 96,075 which represent 24 per cent of the entire county population in 2009. The population is 102,800 in 2012 and is

projected to increase to 110,102 and 115,290 in 2015 and 2017 respectively. This population group is important in projecting the county's population growth and planning for reproductive health services.

The total labour force in the age 15-64 years was 214,981 persons (comprising 105,734 males and 109,247 females) representing 53.8 percent of the county population. The county labour force recorded 41,450 households being active economically in 2009. This population is 230,030 in 2012 and is projected to increase to 246,368 and 257,977 in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

Approximately 41% (183,684) of the population in the county live in absolute poverty, with 71% of this category in the urban areas while the rest are in rural areas.

### **1.3.3 Main Economic Activities**

Agriculture is a major economic activity in the county. This is due to the volcanic soils in the high altitude areas. In the recent past, most farmers have been shifting from traditional cash and food crops to horticultural production which fetches relatively high prices. Coffee, tea, banana and 'Miraa' (Khat) farming are the major agricultural cash crops in the county. The major food crops include maize, beans, sorghum, millet, yams, arrow roots and cassava among other foodstuff.

The majority of the population is employed in the agricultural sector which contributes 80% of the Households' total income. Wholesale and retail trade also play an important role in the county economy. The area has small trade sectors and industry sub sectors. The sector contributes 20% to the household income.

The county has an intense cover of forest as the volcanic soils favour the growing of trees which are used as the main source of building materials. The county forest cover totals 1,776.1km<sup>2</sup> which is 25.6% of the total county area. The area has 29 forests 10 of which are gazetted and 19 are un-gazetted. Encroachment of the forested areas has resulted to major human wildlife conflicts in the region such as destruction of farm crops by elephants. There are a number of National Parks such as Meru National Park and conservancies that attracts tourists to the region. These are served by numerous hotels and lodges. Opportunities however exist in further development of this sector. Visitors can also sample the local cultural and traditions being showcased.

## **1.4 Methodology**

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

The sampling process was guided by the Fifth National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP IV) maps (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics) which was used to demarcate the boundaries of each of the selected cluster.

A sample of one cluster per county was selected for the detailed study in which all specially designed participatory assessment tools were implemented. Specifically in Laikipia County, Ngomongo cluster was selected to represent the views of the county. The household questionnaire was administered to about 15 households, especially those benefiting from cash transfers.

#### **1.4.2 PPA V Methodology: Process, study instruments, Field work**

This field 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, the mood barometer 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 check lists so that accurate information was received to inform the discussions.

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 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, DDO, Youth officer and CDF manager

#### **1.4.3 Field Logistics**

The PPA-V pilot study was conducted on November, 2012. 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 pilot, 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 Sub-County Development Officer's (DDO) and Sub-County 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.

The training for researchers ran for two (2) days and data collection and report writing was done in four (4) days. During the training, RAs were taken through the introduction to Participatory Poverty Assessment and methodologies, guiding principles for participatory data collection and the data collection instruments.

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

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

The Major challenges encountered during the study, includes; inadequate vehicle to transport the large team during the FGD, sometimes FGD could end at late hours hence the RAs had to be transported to their homes and also, some of the KI had a tight schedule hence the interviews could take long than the initial plan as per the study programme. In addition, some Key Informants could keep on postponing the meetings hence the team was unable to interview them for instance the local government.

### **1.5 Report organization/Outline**

The report is divided into six (6) chapters including chapter one (1) which covers introduction, Chapter two (2) highlights the poverty dynamic and indicators, chapter three (3) presents findings on provision of services in the selected policy areas (health care, basic education, agricultural services and inputs, water and sanitation and housing). Chapter four (4) covers the findings other pro-poor initiatives and Devolved Funds (policies and programmes) such as Cash Transfers (CT), Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV), Roads 2000, devolved funds such as CDF, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), and Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF). Chapter five (5) covers outlines the findings on cross cutting areas & other emerging issues and lastly, chapter six (6) which outlines the conclusions and recommendations.

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

### **2.1 Introduction**

Poverty is the major factor that affects the lives of many people in the county and is described by poor access to land, lack of livestock, and inadequate skills and opportunities of gainful employment. Insecurity is also one of the causes of poverty in the county since some farmers cannot keep livestock or engage in farming for fear of attacks and theft. In the county, 43 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line representing a total of 183,663 poor people.

While some parts of the county are semi-arid with higher poverty levels, others are relatively better due to the diverse economic activities that are undertaken such as horticulture, large and small businesses which are more reliable. The county has 71 and 39 per cent of its urban and rural populations classified as poor respectively. The over reliance on relief food reinforces the fact that almost half the population is food poor.

### **2.2 Definition of poverty;**

Ngomongo community in Rumuruti Sub-county defined poverty in terms of; lack of land, lack employment, Lack of shelter, lack of money to take children to school, lack of food and lack of clothing. They also gave a vernacular term for the poor in the community as "Ekebotonit in Turkana", "Laisinanin" in Samburu, "Mutheni" in Kikuyu.

### **2.3 Classification of poverty**

The community classified poverty into three categories, namely:

**The Rich** -The community members defined the rich as those persons who oppress others especially the poor. These individuals own at least a vehicle, land, have permanent house, they dress well and are healthy.

**The Poor** -They defined the poor as those people in the community who struggle for a living, struggle to educate their children and also struggle to find food.

**The very poor**- The community defined the very poor as people with no food, no land, and totally have/own nothing.

### **2.4 Characteristics of poverty;**

The community gave the characteristics of poverty as; lack of land to live on and cultivate, lack of liquid cash to cater for the family needs, lack of clothing and bad health, lack of food and inability to take children to school.

## **2.5 Causes of Poverty;**

According to the community the major causes of poverty in the area are; lack of employment opportunities, oppression by the bosses (*Kunyanyaswa*), lack of money, lack of land to cultivate, and alcohol which is prominent in the area ("*Chang'aa*").

## **2.6 Coping strategies**

The community said that one of the coping mechanisms they use to get food was to buy on credit and pay when they get money. Most of the poor people work as casual labourers in farms of the rich. Others hawk vegetables, cigarettes sweets, mandazi and other small products. Some houses headed by single mothers, widows and those that were not well off were reported to sometimes engaging in giving sexual favours for money. Finally some said they get assistance from sponsors such as the Catholic Church.

## **2.7 Asset ownership and decision making in the household**

The community said that assets are owned either by the men or women or by both spouses. Some of the assets belonging to men include; land, electronic equipment and livestock. Assets owned by men were said to be of higher value than those owned by women. Some of the assets owned by women were said to include chicken and utensils. The community said that most decisions regarding disposal of the main assets such as land was a preserve for men. Women were left to make decisions on low valued assets

## **2.8 Poverty and Gender**

Majority of women in the community entirely depend on men, as they are sole decision makers on issues concerning money and valuable assets. Accordingly they are categorized to be the poorest in terms of gender. Some female headed households were reported to be engaged in prostitution in order to cater for their basic needs. The girl child is also exposed to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

## **2.9 Poverty over time**

According to the community poverty has been increasing for the past ten years, this was evident from the increased food prices and other necessities such as land prices and shelter demand thus making their lives harder.

## **2.10 Interventions targeting the poor**

The community informed the study team that no programmes have been designed to assist them alleviate poverty. One individual indicated that he gets Kshs. 2,000 monthly to support himself and his kids from the CT-OVC programme. According to the Sub-County Children Officer, Youth Officer and Social Development and Gender Officer, the Sub-County has programmes such as cash transfers, Kazi kwa Vijana (KKV), Roads 2000, Youth Development Fund (YEDF) and Women Enterprise Fund (WEF), among other initiatives.

### **2.11 Recommendations;**

The community felt that needy children should be assisted by the government in getting good quality education. They also requested that the government to undertake projects that are helpful to the poor. Further the government should ensure that all funds are distributed fairly so as to reach the target groups.

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

### **3.1 HEALTH CARE**

#### **3.1.1 Introduction**

The PPA V study 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 (10) years and recommendations for improvement.

According to Laikipia County Integrated Development Profile, the health institutions include four sub-county hospitals at Dol Dol, Rumuruti, Nanyuki and Nyahururu. The county has eight public health centres and 34 public dispensaries. In addition, there are three private hospitals, one nursing home; one private health centre, six private dispensaries and 33 private clinics. Most of the public facilities have been established with the support of the devolved funds particularly CDF.

The average distance to health facilities is six (6) km. About 10 per cent of the households lie in the range of zero to one kilometre from the nearest health facility while 40 per cent lie within the range of 1.1 to 4.9 Km. The remaining 50 per cent of households are found over five (5) kilometres to the nearest health facility. The doctor-population ratio stands at 1:12,500 while the nurse-population ratio is 1:1,000.

The five (5) most prevalent diseases in the county include pneumonia, upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), typhoid, HIV and AIDS, malaria, and diarrhoea. The HIV and AIDS prevalence rate stands at 6.1 per cent.

Ngomongo cluster is about 1km away from Rumuruti Sub-County Hospital which is the main provider of health services to the community. There are other private clinics located within the community though majority of the residents do not use them due to high charges.

#### **3.1.2 Major Health concerns**

The community said that malaria is the most prevalent disease due to the high temperatures in the area that favour mosquito breeding. Most families reported that that they do not use mosquito nets even for their young children as they cannot afford them.

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

According to the community access to the Sub-County health facility is difficult because of the long distance to the facility. Further, there are delays during

attendance by medical officers. Laboratory reports also delay thus discouraging visits. This delays coupled with some hospital charges has seen expectant mothers prefer traditional birth attendants.

The community said that most of them are always not able to pay for hospital charges due to their poverty situation. They complained that the under-fives have to pay Kshs 300 for services in the nearest private clinic as compared to the same services which are free in the Sub-County hospital.

#### **3.1.4 Interventions towards improvement of health services**

The community said that before the year 2003, free mosquito nets were given to women who gave birth in hospitals; but since then that service is no longer available. Free healthcare for children below the age of 5 years was also available but not anymore. The presence of Community Health Workers (CHWs) who visit the community members and assist in meting out preventive services has largely improved health service. These CHWs offer services such as Family Planning (FP), post-natal care, advice on good sanitation practices and paying visits to TB and HIV&AIDS patients.

#### **3.1.5 Decision making on health issues**

Both the spouses were said to be responsible for making health decisions concerning the family as such there are no conflicts experienced within the household on issues of health seeking behaviour.

#### **3.1.6 Ideal family size**

The community members reported that the ideal household family size consists of 3 children which is manageable vis-a-vis the high cost of living. This is contrary to the actual average of household size which has 5 children in the county.

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

The community members are aware of Family Planning initiative through Community Health Workers (CHW) who conduct door to door visits. However, the only form of FP they practice is use of condoms given free by the CHWs. Women indicated that the FP decision mostly belong to them, although they usually consult with their men.

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

The community pointed out that their health status has been worsening since 2003. They complained that the services offered were not of good quality which is compounded by the long distance covered in accessing the nearest government health facilities.

#### **3.1.10 Challenges**

The community members gave some of the challenges they are facing in seeking healthcare services, namely:

- Lack of enough medical supplies in the nearest public health facilities which has worsened the health for the poor because they do not have money to buy medicine prescribed by the medical officers;
- Lack of enough medical staff thus compromising on the quality of the services offered in the Sub-County health facilities;
- Poor health seeking behaviour of the community members. A case in point is where expectant women give birth in their homes rather than travel long distances to the health facilities for better healthcare; and
- The health facilities are not equipped with enough medicine thus forcing patients to purchase them from local chemists.

### **3.1.11 Recommendations**

They recommended that the following should be undertaken to improve on the health standards:

- Children below the age of 5 years should access free health care.
- Mosquito nets should be given to the community freely instead of having to pay the Kshs. 300;
- The main Sub-County hospital should be equipped with enough medical supplies; and
- Community health officers should upscale surveillance by increasing the number of visits to the community to maintain high standards of health and sanitation.

## **3.2 Basic Education**

### **3.2.1 Introduction**

According to the Laikipia County Development Report 2012, the county had 518 ECD centres with a total enrolment of 23,160 pupils. The number of ECD teachers was 881 with a teacher pupil ratio of 1:26. The gross enrolment rate stands at 59 per cent with a completion rate of 95 per cent.

There are 340 primary schools with a total enrolment of 89,018 pupils. The number of primary school teachers is 2,303 giving a teacher pupil ratio of 1:38. The gross enrolment rate is 94.5 per cent and a net enrolment of 69 per cent. The completion rate is 92 per cent.

Primary education is readily accessible since 90 per cent of the population is located between 0 and 4.9 kilometres from the nearest primary school with only 10 per cent located over five Kilometres. .

The population of 15 years and above consists of 86.1 per cent persons who can read and write. The percentage of population above three years who are at school stands at 36.5% while those who have left school stand at 25.2 per cent Only 10.7 per cent of the population above three years have never attended school.

In 2012, there were 96 secondary schools with a total enrolment of 22,939 students. The number of teachers is 857 giving a teacher student ratio of 1:27. (1:37). The gross enrolment rate, retention rate and the completion rate stand at 62 per cent 80 per cent and 79 per cent respectively.

Secondary education is not readily accessible since 60 per cent of the population is located between 1.1 and 4.9km while 35 per cent is located over five kilometres from the nearest secondary school. Only five per cent of the population lies between zero and one kilometres to the nearest secondary school.

The Sub-County Education Officer (SCEO), noted that the Sub-County has 91 primary schools (73 public & 18 private) and 28 secondary schools (24 public & 4 private). According to SCEO, the schools are highly concentrated in areas with arable land and within towns whereas in dry areas, there are fewer schools.

The community plays a key role in the management of these schools through the Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) and the School Management Committees which prioritizes key development issues of schools.

### **3.2.2 Status of education facilities**

According to the Sub County Education Officer (SCEO) the state of the infrastructure of schools in the Sub-County is very poor since some schools lack desks; some have poor quality desks and majority of these schools have dusty floors which make the school learning environment uncodusive. In addition, in some schools the classrooms are constructed using timber which has spaces in between thus exposing the pupils to cold environment that affect their health.

### **3.2.3 Provision of education services**

The community members reported that most of the schools are accessible as they are located in close proximity from majority of their households. The area has two primary Public schools, two secondary schools, two Private primary schools and one Private secondary school.

The SCEO noted that majority of the population lives within town centres and in areas with arable land, where apparently these schools are concentrated and therefore children can easily access them. However, challenges arise in semi arid areas where most of the community members are pastoralists and keep on migrating thus disrupting their children's education.

According to the SCEO, most of the schools are affordable to the parents since the majority are public. However, it was reported that several complaints have been launched by parents who argue that the primary education is not free at all. For instance, some parents complained that they are forced to pay Kshs. 20 for examination fee, and an unspecified amount for co-curricular activities, firewood, water, cooks, procurement of furniture, construction of classrooms and salaries for BOG teachers.

The community while supporting the claims of the SCEO reported that some of the payments made to schools especially for ECDE were not affordable. They pay Kshs. 650 at the start of the term and Kshs. 450 towards the end of the term.

### **3.2.4 State of Education Services**

The community complained that the quality of education services in some schools was very poor. They added that students from such schools record poor performance due to various reasons such as interruption of their studies after being sent home to collect school fee balances and other levies. The community said that the schools are not well equipped. For instance, they said that reading materials such as books are insufficient.

### **3.2.5 Interventions towards improvement of education status**

The SCEO reported that the government has initiated several interventions so as to improve the education standards in the area For instance, the free primary education and the subsidized secondary education have resulted in high enrolment rates in the schools. Further, funds such as CDF and LATF have facilitated the construction of classrooms, laboratories, nursery schools and provision of water

tanks in schools. Some NGOs such as IMC, AMREF have also facilitated construction of toilets in primary and secondary schools, and piping water into these schools.

In addition to the above, the government has also facilitated the allocation of bursaries (both from the Ministry of education & CDF) to students who come from poor families. Some of the schools have also introduced the school feeding programme to support pupils who come from poor families.

The community spoke well of the free primary education saying that it was so helpful that they were able to educate their children. However, they said that they pay Kshs. 450 for the watchman, cooks, sufurias and examinations which are unaffordable to some of them (the poor).

The community also complained that their children are not fed well saying that "*Hata huwa wanatapika maji!*" meaning that "*they even vomit water!*"

### **3.2.6 Education and poverty**

The SCEO noted that education is related to poverty in the sense that if a parent has no income then he or she is not able to pay the extra fee charged in the FPE programme thus leading to school dropouts. In addition, if one is poor and he or she has dropped out of school then he or she will be forced to do casual jobs so as to generate income. On the other hand, the rich can afford to take their children to good private and public schools which offer better quality education to students as compared to some public schools.

According to the SCEO, past injustices have had a negative impact on education in the county. For instance, Post Election Violence 2008 (PEV) resulted to the closure of some schools, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has resulted in early marriages and school dropouts who resort to casual labour. However, this is being discouraged in the numerous campaigns in the area. The community said that due to their poverty status, they are not able to get their children quality education because they are always sent back home for lack of school fees. In the end, they perform poorly and cannot access better jobs.

### **3.2.7 Opinion of Status of education overtime**

The SCEO was of the opinion that, the status of education has improved over the last ten (10) years following the introduction of the FPE and other education interventions.

However, he noted that the quality of education has been declining due to lack of infrastructural development in the schools, poor personal emoluments for teachers, and poor parental guidance. For instance, he noted that the newly employed (young) teachers cannot deliver since they are unproductive (they are not committed to work) despite the numerous trainings they have undergone. He also pointed out that in some schools, student unrests are rampant due to poor parental guidance and moral decay.

The community said that the education services have improved since the year 2002. They attributed this to the FPE, SSE and school feeding initiatives that have been undertaken by the government and other organizations.

### **3.2.8 Recommendations**

To improve the quality of education, the SCEO said that the government should allocate enough resources to the education sector so as to facilitate supervision and conduct guidance and counselling in these schools. The government should also provide adequate teachers in marginalized areas, train and retrain teachers, and embrace the ICT technology (e.g. use of computers where all topics can be captured in a CD and also use of laptops in marginalized areas where student can learn as they graze their cattle).

The community gave the following recommendations for to improve education standards:

- Ensure that teachers do not overstay in one particular school (teacher rotation);
- Upscale the school feeding programme as well as ensure boarding schools provide adequate food; and
- Extra charges that the community pay e.g. the watchman fee, cooks and others should be eliminated.

## **3.3 Agricultural services;**

### **3.3.1 Introduction**

The main crops grown in the county include wheat, maize, beans, potatoes and vegetables. Maize takes about 51 per cent of the total planted area. Crop farming is mainly undertaken in the south western parts of the county due to favourable weather conditions. Efforts are now being put in place to promote resistant crops such as millet, sorghum, sunflower and black beans (dolichos). There is an emerging trend of increased horticulture production both in large-scale and small-scale levels. This constitutes production of cut flowers, tomatoes, french beans, aloe vera, chillies and water melons. There are also pockets of pineapple farms, orange trees and coffee bushes.

Livestock production is dominant in the northern parts of the county. According to the 2009 Kenya Population and Housing Census (KPHC) report on livestock, there were 189,685 heads of cattle and 623,648 sheep and goats. Others types include poultry, camels, donkeys, rabbits and bees. Livestock infrastructure is supported by 50 holding grounds, stock routes and out spans, two public and three private abattoirs, five auction yards and 33 slaughter slabs. The main livestock products include beef, mutton, milk, eggs, and pork among others.

### **3.3.2 Provision of agricultural services and input**

According to the Sub-County Livestock Production Officer (SCLPO), the Ministry provides free extension services to the livestock farmers in Liakipia West Sub-County. He noted that farmers are well sensitized on these services and are free to access them whenever they demand.

### **3.3.3 Intervention towards improvement of agriculture**

Some of the agricultural interventions in the area include:

#### **National Agricultural and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP)**

The programme started in 2005 and is funded by the government through the ministry of agriculture. Its main components are to capacity build farmers on different enterprises and value addition. It is currently being implemented in two divisions, i.e. Rimuruti and Ormoron. The programme targets members who are in groups comprising between 8 and 30 farmers. The community access the funds by formulating proposals that are forwarded to the Nairobi for approval and funding after evaluation by the Sub-County committee.

Currently NALEP is funding:

- Water harvesting techniques for fruit production;
- Promotion of traditional high value crops i.e. beans, pigeon peas and sorghum
- Promotion of farming techniques in 4K clubs targeting schools with every division getting one club funded on small stocks like rabbits, demonstration of drip irrigation and tree nursery establishment.; and
- Agro-forestry through tree planting campaigns to conserve the environment.

#### **Njaa Marufuku**

This programme started in 2005 with funding from the government and African Development Bank (ADB). The programme aims at providing small grants to community members involved in food security. Groups develop proposal and submit to the Sub-County committee and after vetting and evaluation they are forwarded to the headquarters for funding. The funding ranges from Kshs. 120,000 to Kshs. 150,000 depending on the type of enterprise. The evaluation of the groups is done to decide whether to exit the programme. The ministry facilitated 3 dairy goat projects and 2 poultry projects in the area as start-up projects for the needy.

#### **Small Holder Horticultural Empowerment Promotion Unit Projects (SHEP-UP)**

The programme was introduced in 2010 to the Sub-County and targets horticultural farmers through capacity building. The programme is fully funded by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The entry point to the community is through groups that select two crops for funding. Other criteria used in selecting the

groups include; productivity of the crop, level of leadership within the groups, gender balance and cohesiveness of the group.

Other interventions mentioned were Alternative Livestock Support Programme (ALLPO) where the ministry has facilitated two groups in procuring breeding stocks for upgrading their local breeds. The Sub county Agricultural officer also noted that the ministry is in the process of introducing Agriculture Sectors Support Programme (ASSP) that will replace NALEP. The ASSP will not only facilitate extension services and capacity building (as NALEP did) but it will promote value addition in the livestock sector. All the above programmes target all farmers in the area provided that one is a livestock farmer.

### **3.3.5 Agriculture and Poverty**

The SCLPO was of the opinion that livestock production is related to poverty in the sense that, if a farmer is constrained in generating income then he or she will not afford to procure improved breeding stock so as to upgrade his or her breeds. This results to low quality breeds with low quality products which fetch little in the market. On the other hand, if one is rich he or she will not only afford breeding stock to improve his or her local breeds but also afford good health care for his or her breeds.

The community, especially women said that if they had land to cultivate, they could be living in better lifestyles compared to their current state.

### **3.3.6 Status of Agriculture over time**

The SCLPO said that the status of agriculture services has greatly improved over the last ten years. This was attributed to government interventions. Further, the communities formed and registered groups that have been facilitated to undertake dairy and poultry projects. Such initiatives have highly improved the welfare of the community through increased income and improved nutrition of the farmers. In addition, farmers are aware and majority seek for extension services whenever they need them.

### **3.3.7 Recommendations**

To improve on livestock production, the SCLPO recommended that the government should allocate more funds to the sector to facilitate mobility of the staff, especially in provision of extension services. The government should also employ more extension officers in the sector so as to ensure that farmers have regular access to extension services. He also recommended for construction of a leather tanning industry in the area to ensure value addition of leather. Women in the community suggested that the government should offer them land to cultivate and live in.

## **3.4 Water and sanitation**

### **3.4.1 Introduction**

Laikipia is drained by the Ewaso Nyiro River and its tributaries which originate from Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares. The six main tributaries are Ngare Naro, Pesi, Suguroi, Mutara, Nanyuki, and Burguret rivers. There were 30 per cent households with access to piped water in 2009 with the rest of the population accessing water from permanent rivers, wells, springs and roof catchment. Boreholes, pans and dams are also a common feature in the county. They are used to provide water for domestic and irrigation purposes. Rock catchment in the Northern Laikipia is yet to be fully exploited.

The distribution of water sources is uneven across the county with the northern parts experiencing serious water shortages. There are 41 per cent households accessing water from within their dwelling while 12.9 per cent take an average of one to four minutes to reach the nearest water point. Similarly, 20.3 per cent of households take an average of five to 14 minutes while 11.4 per cent of the households take an average of 15-29 minutes. The remaining 4.6 per cent of the households takes over an hour to reach the nearest water point.

There are 78,390 households with latrines in the county. The distribution of main toilet facility reflects that 11.8% use flash toilets, 3.7% use VIP latrines, 72.8% use ordinary pit latrines, 0.7 per cent use buckets whereas 11 per cent use other methods of disposal such as natural bushes.

The community mainly uses piped water supplied by Rumuruti Water Services and Sanitation Company. Other sources of water are rivers, dams and boreholes. There is a seasonal river passing within the cluster village and water from the river is sometimes used for domestic purposes.

### **3.4.2 Provision of water and sanitation services**

The community identified only one project which is run by the municipal council in providing tapped water to the surrounding neighbourhoods, which they cross over to also access. However, during the rainy/wet seasons they draw water from the River Ngare Narok and Mukuri though the water is not clean and safe for drinking.

### **3.4.3 Types of Sanitation facilities**

The community reported that they do not have any water project within the village/cluster. They reported that there is no sewage system within the town, a phenomenon which is in the majority of Kenyan towns. They said that health officers from the Sub-County headquarters visit them and assist in maintaining sanitation by making sure that there are latrines in every homestead.

They community makes no payments for the services since are no longer available. No other water and sanitation interventions have been made in the community and therefore no improvement was could be reported.

#### **3.4.4 Status of water and sanitation**

The community said that water is available from the rivers since taps rarely have flowing water. They said that tapped water was initially available but has since declined.

#### **3.4.5 Recommendations**

The community suggested that tapped water should be made available in their homesteads. They also recommended that an alternative clean drinking water source be made available because they mostly drink water from rivers which is not safe for drinking. They further requested the government to construct a sewerage system in the area to address the overflow of latrines during raining seasons.

### **3.5 Housing**

#### **3.5.1 Introduction**

Majority of the population in the county is sheltered in semi-permanent structures that consist of timber walls, earthen floors and corrugated iron-sheet roofs. Over 80 per cent of the shelters have corrugated iron sheets. Similarly, the largest percentage of walling material is wood recording 46 per cent of total households. The majority of the households have earthen floors as represented by the 65.6 per cent of the total households.

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

According to community members, most of the houses are built of timber and a few are permanent houses.

The building cost is high such that most of the people cannot afford. Most of the buildings are semi-permanent. Some of the households are headed by men while others by women. Very few are headed by the elderly.

There are few households headed by PWDs. Most of the households have been in the same condition for the last 10 years due to economic hardship in the area.

#### **3.5.3 Recommendations**

The community suggested that the government should help them in starting income generating projects for them to improve on their housing status.

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

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

The aim of PPA V study was to assess the pro-poor initiatives that are available and their impact in the community.

#### **4.1.1 Cash Transfer**

The Sub-County Gender and Children Officer (SCGCO) said that the mandate of the children's office was to safeguard the rights and welfare of the vulnerable children. The department implements cash transfer to orphans and vulnerable children under the age of 18 years. The programme was started in October 2010. The first payment to the community was done in June 2011 and backdated to October 2010.

The SCGCO added that the programme started late compared to other Sub-counties. In the Rumuruti Sub-County, 370 households have benefited from the fund covering only three locations out of seven locations each with 131, 103 and 136 beneficiaries respectively. The money that has been paid out to the beneficiaries amounts to Kshs 6.5 million in 2010/2011 and 14.8 million in 2011/2012 financial year. However, it was noted that the disbursement for July to October 2011 has not been done due to delays in release of the fund by the national treasury.

The selection criterion involves use of poverty index and population distribution of OVCs. After selection, sensitisation of the community is done and a committee of 10 representatives is selected from the community. The committee is trained on the selection criteria of the targeted beneficiary. The selected community members are issued with targeting forms which after they fill, a field evaluation to validate the information is carried out.

The SCGCO pointed out that before they start any disbursement, they identify a school, a health centre near the household of the targeted child and the nearest post office. Funds are sent directly from the headquarters to the beneficiary through post office. The beneficiaries must produce an identification to access the funds.

The Sub-County Gender and Children Officer pointed out that the programme has enabled the households to access education, start income generating activities such as merry-go round, goat and chicken rearing. It has also promoted the rights of children. The challenges that the implementers face are high demand of the fund, little funds set aside for creating awareness and capacity building of groups, thin staffing levels at the Sub-County, lack of collaborative stakeholders to partner with in the Sub-County, delays in the release funds, and lack of facilitation for monitoring the programme.

The SCGCO recommended that there is need to get more funds to up-scale the programme to meet its demand, the need for improved coordination of all other stakeholders in the sector, and facilitation especially by provision of vehicles. He

added that for the fund to be successful there is need to sensitise the community and improve on the flow of information to the community.

The community noted that it was aware of the existence of the cash transfer programme to the OVCs, PWSDs and the elderly. They were also aware that the beneficiaries should be the OVCs and the elderly. The amount transferred to the target groups is Kshs. 2,000 every month. The guardians collect the money on behalf of the OVCs while the elderly collects and signs for themselves. The money is usually paid through the post office.

The beneficiaries said that they get the money every month. Some of the beneficiaries felt that the money was sufficient while others stated that it was not enough and needed to be increased. The chief and other opinion leaders are involved during the selection to ensure fairness. Most of the beneficiary said that the cash transfers had uplifted their lives. They supplement this by doing casual jobs.

The community recommended more involvement to ensure that needy are not left out.

#### **4.1.2 Kazi Kwa Vijana (KKV)**

The Sub-County Youth Officer (SCYO) noted that the Ministry engages the youth in labour intensive jobs such as planting and nurturing seedlings in the selected areas such as schools. She noted that the KKV programme was started in 2009 and is still operational to date. According to the officer, the programme accrues benefits to the youths and in some cases it has benefited PWDs through allocation of simple jobs such as watering the seedlings.

She noted that the youths are paid Kshs 250 per day for providing labour. The mode of payment is through cash and on a contractual basis, probably at the end of the month depending on the nature of the job. In her opinion, Kshs 250 paid to the casuals is not enough since prices of basic commodities has persistently increased over time making it difficult for the amount to sufficiently cater for their basic needs.

The selection criteria of the casuals is done by the ministry of youth officers, and is on first come basis. The youth are mobilized by the chiefs and the school heads together with community leaders..

The SCYDO pointed out that the KKV initiative has positively impacted on the welfare of the youth within the community For instance, unemployed youth have accrued a significant amount from the KKV which has facilitated them to initiate small income generating projects in their homes such as poultry and dairy projects.

The community said that it was aware of the KKV initiative but could not recall when it was started. They added that the project mainly focuses on roads repair and clearing of bushes. Those who are employed as casuals are paid between Kshs. 250 to Kshs. 350 per day. The youth noted that the work was sometimes given to older people rather than them. Few youths who got the job complained of delay in payments running up to three months. They added that they are paid in cash and they sign when receiving the payments.

The community was not aware of the criteria used to select the casuals. It emerged from them that majority had no other source of livelihood and others get involved in casual jobs like selling of miraa. Those who had the opportunity of getting engaged in the KKV's programme said that their lives had really improved because this made them busy making them avoid getting involved in crimes and alcohol abuse.

The community suggested that youth from the locality should always be given the first priority during selection since sometimes people are brought from outside the community. Also the selection should be fair and transparent.

### **Recommendations:**

The SCDYO recommended that labour intensive jobs should not be provided on occasional basis but should be done on regular basis so as to provide regular income to the youth. The officer also suggested that the government should revise the rates from Kshs 250 to Kshs 500 to match the high cost living. Lastly, the officer suggested that the government should encourage the use of mobile phone cash transfer so as to minimize on the transportation cost incurred by the ministry.

The community suggested that youth from locality should always be given the first priority during selection. They also suggested that the selection should be fair and transparent i.e. all tribes within the locality should be involved.

### **4.1.3 Roads 2000**

The total classified road network in the county is 1,038.1km of which over 80 per cent are feeder roads. The total bitumen surface in the county is 139.3km, covering mainly the Nyeri-Nanyuki, Nyeri-Nyahururu, and Nyahururu-Kinamba-Rumuruti roads. The gravel surface is 296.9km and the earth surface is 601.9km. Whereas the main urban centres are relatively well served by road communication network; the rural areas have low access hence movement to the major urban centres is hindered. The railway network in the county covers 23km serving Nanyuki Town and a small stretch of about 2km in Nyahururu Town. There are five airstrips across the county majority of which are managed by the private ranching community.

According to the Youth Officer, roads in Rumuruti Sub-County fall under the Kenya Rural Roads Authority since most are in class D and below. The officer noted that the road network in the Sub-County is approximately 700 kilometres with majority being earth and gravel roads. Most roads are constructed through the roads levy administered by constituency road committee. In the 2012/13 financial year, funding from the fuel levy was 20 million. These funds were used in gridding, building drainage systems, periodic graveling, spot improvement and bush clearing. The fund has contributed to poverty reduction by providing casual jobs to the locals.

The Youth Officer said that the roads 2000 initiative is funded by the government and the African Development Bank (ADB). The programme is labour intensive and while haulage and compression is done by machines, other functions are done manually. The community is paid Kshs. 300 per day and paid on weekly basis. The roads are identified and prioritised by opinion leaders selected from Sub-County/constituencies. They consider the potentiality of the area, and the population

among other things. In the 2012/13 financial year five roads covering 81 kilometres were identified and 210 millions used to fund them.

The Youth officer pointed that good roads help in reducing the overhead transportation cost of farm produce, attract many agencies, improve security and expose the community to opportunities in the neighbouring counties. However, the officer noted that there are some challenges which include low funding, converting the existing roads to all weather roads, and fair distribution of the fund without considering uniqueness of some sections of the Sub-County. He recommended that efforts be made to upscale roads to all weather. The roads linking other Sub-Counties should be improved to bitumen standard.

## **4.2 Devolved Funds**

The community reported that it was aware of the devolved funds such as the CDF and Youth Enterprise Development Fund.

### **4.2.1 Constituency Development Fund (CDF)**

The community said that it was not aware of exact amount disbursed. The community members observed that they had no clear channels of reporting complaints. They noted that CDF has helped the community in building day secondary schools and improving infrastructure in already existing primary schools. The money has also helped in building bridges and a maternity wing in the Sub-County hospital.

According to the community, most of the CDF projects were started in 2003 and while some are complete others have not yet been completed. The Community stated that it was not involved and instead their Member of Parliament and the councillors played the managerial and decision making roles. It emerged that most of the CDF employees are not from the local community.

The community recommended that they should be involved in managerial, decision making and prioritization of the projects. They also suggested that job opportunities available should be distributed equally to the youths within the community.

### **4.2.2 Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF)**

The Sub-County Youth officer noted YEDF offers various services which include lending loans to the youth and training the youth on entrepreneurial skills. The fund was initiated in 2007 and is still ongoing.

The officer pointed out that the youth from the area participate during the meetings organized by the YEDF officers and give their views and key recommendations for improving the management of the fund. It was noted that all the youths who meet the minimum criteria set by YEDF qualify for the loans. Further, the youth who have organized themselves into groups have added advantage on accessing these loans.

The Ministry of Youth has sensitized a number of the youth especially during the field training days, on how they can access the funds. According to the officer,

almost all the youth in the area are aware of the fund but they fear applying due to the penalties that might be imposed on default.

The Ministry has an elaborate complaint reporting mechanism at the national level and at the county level. At the Sub-County level, individuals report their complaints through the Sub-County Youth Officer.

The youth officer pointed out that YEDF has really assisted the youth in the Sub-County. For instance, some youth have initiated horticulture, cereal trade and *bodaboda* businesses which are generating income for them .

The officer recommended that the government should increase the minimum loan amount from Kshs 50,000 to Kshs 100,000 to allow the youth expand and undertake profitable businesses/projects. The government should also lower the conditions set in the direct funding programme which has tough requirements especially for youths from low income zones. In addition, the government should encourage individual loaning so as to benefit the youth with personal ideas which may not be realized by forming a group due to conflict of ideas.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: CROSS CUTTING AND EMERGING ISSUES**

The following are some cross-cutting issues identified:

### **5.1 HIV&AIDS**

HIV&AIDS prevalence stands at 6.1% in the county and was ranked among the top five diseases affecting residents of the county. The Sub-County Public Health officer pointed out that the office carries out a lot of awareness and sensitization activities including supply of free condoms to the area residents.

### **5.2 GENDER**

The area still practices female genital mutilation though in secrecy. This physically and physiologically affects the girl child. It exposes them to a myriad of challenges.

It also emerged that early marriages are rampant especially in the households that are extremely poor. Parents are forced to marry off their young daughters for dowry so as to educate their male children and provide for the family needs.

The community members indicated that their girls are sometimes given sanitary towels by Compassion International, though not regularly. Lack of access to the towels, disrupts the learning process for school going girls as they have to remain at home.

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

### **6.1 Recommendations**

Some of the recommendations discussed by the community and the key informants include:

- The government and other stakeholders should undertake projects that specifically target the poor;
- The government should carry out quality control on initiatives such as FPE, free under-five health care and other government initiatives to find out if these services are being provided as expected, and no charges are imposed for those listed as free;
- Classrooms should be built to conform to right standards. In addition schools should have enough desks, books and clean toilet facilities;
- The government should equip health facilities with enough medical supplies and personnel.
- Community health officers should upscale surveillance by increasing the number of visits to the community to maintain high standards of health and sanitation;
- The government should deploy adequate teachers in marginalized areas;
- To improve livestock production, the government should allocate more funds to the sector so as to facilitate mobility of staff, especially in the provision of extension services to farmers; and
- The area needs a leather tanning industry to ensure value addition of leather and create jobs for the youth.

### **6.2 Conclusion**

From the study, services have improved overtime with the exception of the health services which the community says has worsened due to the distance they have to cover to access the nearest government health facility. Initiatives such as FPE, SSE, CDF, YEDF, and NALEP have really gone a long way to improving the lives of the people in the area in the different sectors they serve.

The community perceives land and livestock as important resources and as such they consider themselves poor without them. There is therefore the need to encourage them to diversify to other sources of livelihood.

Various development challenges in the county need a concerted and integrated delivery of inputs from various sectors, these include insecurity, poor land use patterns, human wildlife conflict, squatters, unsustainable way of life such migrations in search for pastures, frequent droughts, youth unemployment and environmental

degradation. Cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, youth unemployment, persons with disabilities, and HIV&AIDS should also be addressed.